Perpetual Investment Funds

PERPETUAL ESG CREDIT INCOME FUND - CLASS A

October 2026

FUND FACTS

Investment objective: To provide investors with regular income and consistent returns above the Bloomberg AusBond Bank Bill Index (before fees and taxes) over rolling three-year periods by investing in a diverse range of income generating assets that meet Perpetual's ESG and values-based criteria.

Benchmark: Bloomberg AusBond Bank Bill Index
Inception date: June 2018
Size of fund: $114.0 million as at 30 September 2026
APIR: PER1744AU
Mgmt Fee: 0.59% pa*
Benchmark Yield: 4.716% as at 31 October 2026
Suggested minimum investment period: Three years or longer

FUND BENEFITS

Provides investors access to an actively managed credit and fixed income fund and the opportunity to align their investments with their personal values and ESG preferences.

FUND RISKS

All investments carry risk and different strategies may carry different levels of risk. The relevant product disclosure statement or offer document for a fund should be considered before deciding whether to acquire or hold units in that fund. Your financial adviser can assist you in determining whether a fund is suited to your financial needs.

TOTAL RETURNS % (AFTER FEES) AS AT 31 October 2026

	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	1 YR	2 YRS PA	3 YRS PA	5 YRS PA	7 YRS PA	INCEPT PA
Perpetual ESG Credit Income Fund – Class A	0.28	1.08	3.01	5.45	6.19	7.29	5.59	4.69	4.41
Bloomberg AusBond Bank Bill Index	0.37	1.11	2.23	4.14	4.12	4.23	3.41	2.51	2.38

Please note: Performance for Perpetual's complete list of investment funds is available on www.perpetual.com.au. Past performance is not indicative of future performance.

POINTS OF INTEREST

•Most government bond yield rally from multi-year highs; French yields continue to rise;
•Inflation accelerates; Early November RBA hike while Fed, ECB and BoJ hold;
•Credit spreads wider, led by hybrids and AI-exposed issuers;
•Robust primary market volumes meet increasingly selective demand;
•Credit outlook deteriorates further into negative territory.

ESG APPROACH

Before being considered for investment, companies or issuers must pass a series of exclusionary screens. The screening processes is designed to limit the investible universe to only those companies or issuers that meet minimum values-based and ESG standards. The Perpetual ESG Credit Income Fund first applies a values-based and ESG exclusionary screen. Sovereign issuers are subject to a separate exclusionary screen. Please refer to the Perpetual Investment Funds PDS for further information.

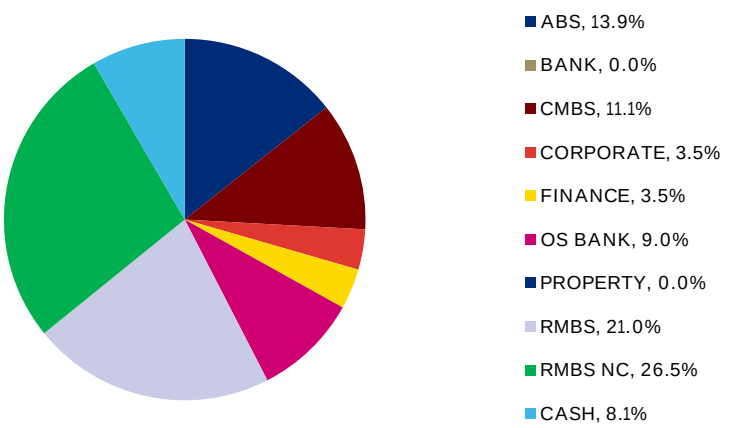
PORTFOLIO COMPOSITION

	BREAKDOWN
Senior Debt	11.54%
Subordinated Debt	71.90%
Hybrid Debt	16.55%
Running Yield#	6.32%
Average Credit Rating	A
Portfolio Weighted Average Life (yrs)	3.69 yrs
No. Securities	115
Modified Duration	0.12

* Information on Management Costs (including estimated indirect costs) is set out in the Fund's PDS.

^The methodology used to calculate Running Yield is derived from FactSet, and calculated as follows: The coupon rate of the security / the capital price of the security. Note that the exception is discounted securities, where a Yield to Maturity calculation is used.

PORTFOLIO SECTORS



MARKET COMMENTARY

Credit markets weakened in October as investors reassessed the sustainability of debt-funded AI investment and higher sovereign yields reduced risk appetite. The RBA's October Financial Stability Review identified stretched asset valuations, rising leverage and increasingly opaque long-term debt financing for AI investment as important global vulnerabilities. Technology and AI-exposed issuers came under pressure as investors focused more closely on the prospective returns from elevated capital expenditure. Government bonds rallied from early-month highs as risk sentiment softened, although volatility remained elevated and sovereign fiscal concerns continued to weigh on parts of Europe, particularly France.

The RBA did not meet in October, but inflation data and official commentary reinforced the risk of further tightening. The September CPI rose 0.8% over the month and 4.3% over the year, while trimmed mean inflation increased to 3.6%, confirming that price pressures remained broad-based and above the RBA's target. Domestic activity continued to soften, with housing conditions weakening and unemployment rising, but capacity pressures and higher fuel prices remained important inflation risks. Shortly after month end, the RBA increased the cash rate by 0.25% to 4.85%, citing elevated inflation, higher energy prices and stronger-than-expected investment, including data centre-related spending.

Credit spreads widened in October, led by hybrid and subordinated securities and issuers exposed to AI infrastructure financing Domestically, spreads drifted wider as elevated issuance added to dealer inventories and investors became increasingly price-sensitive. Securitised spreads were resilient during October although supply fatigue emerged towards the end of the month reflecting persistent elevated supply and a heavy pipeline of activity

Primary markets became more subdued in October, reflecting the approaching major-bank reporting season, weaker risk sentiment, macroeconomic uncertainty and bond-market volatility. The exception was securitisation markets with volumes continuing to track toward a record year.

PORTFOLIO COMMENTARY

The Fund marginally underperformed its benchmark in October as wider spreads on hybrid and subordinated securities offset the Fund's yield premium and duration return. Income remained the key positive contributor, with the Fund's yield premium above the benchmark attributable primarily to securitised allocations. The portfolio's running yield was 6.3% at month end, with the spread (credit yield premium) measured at 2.0%.

Duration contributed positively as bond yields rallied from their September highs. With RBA officials signalling further tightening and September quarter inflation accelerating, the Manager reduced the Fund's modified duration from 0.8 years to near zero over the month.

Credit spreads were modestly wider, detracting slightly from performance. Higher beta securities including Canadian and European bank hybrids alongside were the key detractors. While securitised sectors were broadly resilient, widening among subordinated RMBS tranches weighed on performance.

The Manager continued to rotate the portfolio towards securitised assets with the total RMBS ABS and CMBS exposure at 73% by month end. The Fund increased allocation to RMBS, participating in new issues from Sapphire, Think Tank and Progress. Purchases were funded by the sale of the Fund's remaining domestic bank Tier 2 exposure, reducing the domestic bank allocation to zero, and by trimming offshore bank exposure. Senior bank spreads are near the bottom of the fair value range and spread differentials between senior and subordinated spreads are compressed. In late October, the manager elected to add a modest exposure to the iTraxx Europe Crossover index via a long credit default swap.

The credit outlook remains in negative territory, reflecting softer market demand, weaker technical indicators and higher oil prices. The Fund's weighted average life was shortened slightly over the month as the Manager trimmed longer dated positions. The Fund's cash allocation was increased over the month, retaining the capacity to take advantage of relative value opportunities presented by uncertain conditions.

The Fund invests in quality issuers that meet Perpetual's ESG and values-based criteria, which assess both the nature of a company's business activities and how its operations are conducted. Applying these criteria results in several bond issuers being screened out.

OUTLOOK

The credit outlook softened further in October, remaining in negative territory as softer demand, weaker market technicals and a more challenging macroeconomic backdrop outweighed still-supportive credit fundamentals.

Value indicators are marginally positive. Valuations across US investment grade, US high yield, Australian investment grade and Australian swap spreads remain broadly neutral, although pockets of relative value remain in Australian dollar credit and the basis swap continues to contribute positively.

The macroeconomic assessment remains cautious. Growth has been relatively resilient in the US and China but weaker in Europe, while elevated oil prices add to downside risks and inflation uncertainty. Importantly, underlying corporate credit quality remains supportive, with upgrades continuing to materially exceed downgrades.

Supply and demand indicators remain negative. Investors have become increasingly price-sensitive, particularly in securitised markets, where a substantial issuance pipeline has coincided with softer demand. By late October, secondary-market liquidity had become patchier, with wider bid-offer spreads and greater dispersion between bids, particularly in higher-beta securities and RMBS. Elevated issuance and the remaining supply pipeline are likely to continue weighing on spreads in the near term.

Technical indicators declined during the month. The US credit measure turned negative, while weak domestic and intermediary positioning, difficult liquidity and softer demand pushed the overall technical assessment firmly into negative territory. Equity markets remained the main positive technical offset.

The Team remains risk aware. Softer demand, patchy liquidity and greater scrutiny of AI-related financing are likely to keep volatility elevated, with more leveraged borrowers and lower-ranking capital securities the most exposed. The portfolios retain liquidity and flexibility to add risk selectively where wider spreads create more attractive relative value opportunities.

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Total returns shown for the Fund have been calculated using exit prices after taking into account all of Perpetual's ongoing fees and assuming reinvestment of distributions. No allowance has been made for taxation. Past performance is not indicative of future performance.
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