

## Perpetual Investment Funds

# PERPETUAL DIVERSIFIED INCOME ACTIVE ETF

## ASX code: DIFF

January 2026

### FUND FACTS

**Investment objective:** Aims to provide 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.

**Benchmark:** Bloomberg AusBond Bank Bill Index\*\*  
**Inception date:** August 2025  
**Mgmt Fee:** 0.59% pa\*  
**Benchmark Yield:** 3.728% as at 31 January 2026  
**Suggested minimum investment period:** Three years or longer

### FUND BENEFITS

Provides investors with the potential for regular income, above cash returns and lower volatility than other income strategies through an actively managed, highly diversified and liquid investment.

### 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 January 2026

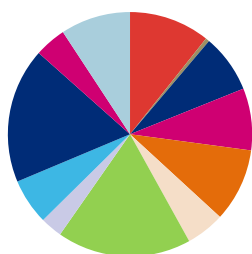
	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	1 YR	2 YRS PA	3 YRS PA	5 YRS PA	7 YRS PA	INCEPT PA
Perpetual Diversified Income Active ETF	0.52	1.04	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.87
Bloomberg AusBond Bank Bill Index**	0.30	0.91	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.34

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

### POINTS OF INTEREST

- Geopolitical and trade risks heightened; US Dollar weakness;
- Inflation above expectations; Labour data resilient;
- Bond yields sell off; Domestic yield curve steepens;
- Domestic credit spreads rally; Subordinated debt outperforms;
- Primary market returns with elevated volume.
- The credit outlook is neutral;

### PORTFOLIO SECTORS



■ ABS, 10.7%
■ SUPRA, 0.5%
■ SEMI, 0.0%
■ STRUCTURED, 0.0%
■ BANK, 7.7%
■ CMBS, 8.2%
■ CORPORATE, 9.7%
■ FINANCE, 5.1%
■ MORTGAGES, 0.0%
■ OS BANK, 17.7%
■ PROPERTY, 2.9%
■ RMBS, 6.1%
■ RMBS NC, 17.9%
■ UTILITIES, 4.2%
■ WRAPPED, 0.0%
■ GOVERNMENT, 0.0%
■ CASH, 9.3%

### PORTFOLIO COMPOSITION

	BREAKDOWN
Senior Debt	49.99%
Subordinated Debt	35.17%
Hybrid Debt	14.84%
Core Component	96.21%
Plus Component	3.79%
% Geared	0.00%
Running Yield <sup>#</sup>	5.16%
Portfolio Weighted Average Life	3.07 yrs
No. Securities	175

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

## MARKET COMMENTARY

Credit spreads tightened as bond yields rose during a month hallmarked by rising geopolitical risks, tariff threats, US Dollar weakness, surging Japanese bond yields, and the pricing of 2026 RBA rate hikes. While volatility was elevated, equity markets advanced, supported by earnings growth expectations and the benign economic outlook.

Bond yields rose across developed markets as resilient labour market data and economic growth saw markets continue to reappraise the probability of near-term monetary easing. Australian government bond yields rose over the month, at times underperforming global counterparts. The December inflation report was hotter than expected, headline inflation rising to 3.8% year on year. The Yield curve flattened as the policy sensitive short end rose more sharply. By month end, the early February rate hike was 70% priced in by markets with at least one further rate hike fully priced in for 2026. Offshore, the most substantial movement was in Japanese long-term bond yields which rose sharply reflecting inflation concerns arising from aggressive fiscal policy expansion.

Despite higher government bond yields, Australian investment-grade credit remained well supported, with tight spreads and strong demand from both domestic and offshore investors. Global IG spreads reached their tightest levels since 1998. Australian physical credit spreads were 6bps tighter on average led by utilities and real estate. Subordinated bank spreads performed well reflecting both the broader rally in credit and supply dynamics with no tier 2 issuance since early November.

Primary market issuance volumes were strong to start the year with wide variety of issuer diversity. Elevated volumes reflected supportive conditions for issuers with spreads near all-time tights, light dealer inventories and attractive pricing relative to offshore credit. Commonwealth bank issued \$5B in senior debt across 3 and 5 year tranches while Banco Santander (\$1B) and Rabobank (\$1.25B) issued 5-year senior paper. Non-financial corporate issuance accelerated towards month end with AusNet Services issuing a \$1.1B hybrid deal while Aroundtown (\$600M) and MTR corporation (\$2B) issued kangaroo bonds reflecting the accommodative conditions for AUD issuers.

## PORTFOLIO COMMENTARY

Credit spread dynamics were strongly positive for performance over the month. Spreads contracted across sectors and the Fund's allocation to non-financial corporates, banks and utilities performed well. Exposure to higher beta parts of the capital structure benefitted the portfolio as spreads contracted with hybrid and subordinated exposures contributing to outperformance. Semi government spread contraction contributed to performance whereas securitised spreads expanded marginally.

Duration positioning detracted from performance over the month. Bond yields continued to rise, and curve steepened as markets priced in a February rate hike. The Portfolio remains close to its active duration limit maintaining 0.8 years of duration throughout January. Manager sees government bond yields as offering attractive relative value and the Fund retains its long duration position utilising government bond futures and fixed rate corporate bonds. The Fund continued to increase its allocation to fixed rate bonds over the month, to lock in elevated yields.

Income return remained a key contributing factor to performance over the period more than offsetting the impact of rising bond yields. Despite a healthy cash allocation, the Fund retains a yield premium above benchmark, attributable primarily to RMBS and offshore bank allocations. The Portfolio's running yield was 5.2% at month end, with the spread (credit yield premium) measured at 1.2%.

The Manager continued to selectively increase credit risk during the period. The Fund's AAA exposure was trimmed as the Manager elected to reduce exposure to the highest tranches of a number of RMBS issues. Sector allocations were rotated with the cash generated from reducing RMBS exposures deployed among domestic and offshore banks. The Manager was active in secondary markets throughout the month as well as taking part in a new \$2B deal from United Overseas Bank, electing to add the fixed rate tranche to the portfolio.

The outlook for credit remained in neutral territory throughout January. The Fund retains a material cash allocation to manage liquidity risks while providing ample dry powder to take advantage of relative value opportunities and attractively priced issues as the outlook continues to improve.

## OUTLOOK

The credit outlook remained balanced throughout January with a neutral reading at month end.

Valuation indicators worsened slightly as US High Yield rallied below its historical fair value range. Attractive conditions for credit issuance saw an uptick in elevated issuance volumes from opportunistic and kangaroo issuers weighing on the outlook. Negative swap to bond spreads continue to detract from the valuation outlook.

The macroeconomic outlook remained neutral during January. While soft global growth expectations continue to weigh slightly on the outlook, the ratio of upgrades to downgrades is in positive territory. The credit rating outlook is benign with market participants anticipating further upgrades in 2026.

Supply and demand indicators declined marginally. Upcoming maturity volumes have normalised however elevated recent issuance volumes continue to detract from the outlook. The 2026 issuance pipeline is also building steadily, weighing on the outlook for spreads.

Technical indicators are strongly positive reflecting supportive US credit, equity and equity volatility indicators. Cash balances among real money accounts and intermediary positioning shows a capacity to take on credit risk.

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Past performance is not indicative of future performance.

\*\* UBS Australian Bond Index changed to Bloomberg AusBond Bank Bill Index effective 26 September 2014

## MORE INFORMATION

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