

## **AMP MySuper Capital Stable**

Quarterly Investment Option Update

31 December 2023

#### **Aim and Strategy**

The strategy aims to achieve a rate of return of 2.0% pa above the inflation rate (measured by the Consumer Price Index), after fees and superannuation tax, over a 10-year timeframe. Returns from both capital growth and income are provided through a diversified portfolio.

#### **Investment Option Performance**

To view the latest investment performances for this product, please visit <a href="www.amp.com.au/performance">www.amp.com.au/performance</a>

#### **Investment Option Overview**

Investment category	Multi-Sector
Suggested minimum investment timeframe	4 years
Standard Risk Measure	6/High
Investment style	Active
Manager style	Multi-manager

Asset Allocation	Benchmark (%)
Australian shares	17
Global Shares	19
Property	5
Infrastructure	6
Alternatives	2
Fixed Income	39
Cash	12

Actual Allocation	%
Fixed Income	39.04
Global Shares	19.52
Australian Shares	17.52
Infrastructure	6.24
Property	5.29
Alternatives	3.07
Cash	9.32

#### **Fund Performance**

As was the theme for most of the year, 2023 ended on a positive note with both share and bond markets generating strong returns as inflation fell and markets anticipated lower interest rates. This translated well for both the Q4 and 1-year return of the Capital Stable Option, which generated a strong positive return over these time periods.

The large allocations to both bonds and investment grade credit excelled over the period, proving to be a key driver of returns as interest rates shifted lower following promising signals from global central banks on cutting rates in 2024. Similarly, domestic and international share exposures rallied on stronger than expected economic growth, following continued resilience in the global economy. Active stock selection across equity allocations was mixed, resulting in underperformance relative to respective benchmarks. Alternatives exposures were somewhat constrained over the quarter amid weaker valuations, particularly when compared to share markets.

The Option outperformed its CPI objective over the quarter and is ahead over 1-year following strong gains in share markets and inflation levels tapering off. Over the long-term, whilst relative performance has improved, it remains mixed following volatile markets and above-normal inflationary conditions in recent years.

Looking ahead, we anticipate 2024 to be a broadly positive year for markets, helped by peaking and eventually falling interest rates - but it is not without risks. The timing of interest rate cuts remains uncertain as central banks continue to monitor the economy and inflation, with a considerable risk to markets that rate cuts may come later than expected. Recessionary risks also remain, given tighter lending standards and stalling consumer spending globally. In this environment, we remain highly diversified across asset classes and strategies, and have shifted to a broadly neutral position across most asset classes, limiting active risk across the portfolio.

#### **Market Review**

The December quarter began with falling financial markets on the back of continued difficult economic conditions. News-flow then promptly gave way to geopolitics, as Israel suffered a mass-scale terrorist attack at the hands of Gaza-based terrorist group, Hamas. Unsurprisingly, this resulted in a swift declaration of war on Hamas, which has sadly led to significant further bloodshed of innocent civilians in and around the Gaza strip. Implications for the global economy were generally not significant over the remainder of the quarter, although threats of further escalation saw a notably increased naval presence to the Mediterranean.

Mid-quarter saw sentiment turn strongly positive, with stocks surging higher and bond yields falling significantly as global inflation resumed its downtrend, economic growth remained positive, and US economic productivity showed significant improvement. Accordingly, most central banks remained on pause with rate-rises. There were also positive developments on the geopolitical front, with US and Chinese Presidents Biden and Xi meeting face to face in California, signalling a will to improve dialogue between the nations.

Markets rallied further throughout December across most regions and asset classes, as falling inflation, particularly in Europe and the US, led to increased expectations of rate cuts in 2024 and the "higher for longer" prognosis beginning to unwind.

### Availability

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