

Altius - Sustainable Bond Fund

Ethical Survey, as voted by members of the Ethical Advisers Co-Op



Poor | Disappointing | Average | Appealing | Excellent

As voted by Ethical Adviser Co-op members. Find a specialised ethical adviser near you: www.ethicaladviserscoop.org/find-an-adviser.html

Fund Overview

This is an actively managed fixed interest fund with both negative and positive screening. They have a three-stage sustainability overlay which prioritises responsible investments.

Ethical Concerns

Investments

- ✘ Some investments in the Fund may be problematic for ethical investors, such as:
 - Fossil-fuel intensive industries: Transurban Ltd
 - Other holdings with ethical concerns: Big 4 banks and Macquarie

Other concerns

- ✘ Altius do not specialise in ethical investments.

Good Points

- ✓ Fund excludes armaments, gambling, tobacco production, thermal coal, uranium, alcohol production, pornography.
- ✓ An ethical overlay is used to ensure security issuers involved in certain activities identified by the Fund's Sustainability Policy are not considered for inclusion in the Fund investment universe. For example, a bond issuance by McDonald's was [recently rejected](#).
- ✓ Has a track record of adjusting the excluded list of companies over time – for example Wells Fargo was excluded in Sep 2017 due to systemic governance issues, and the fund has engaged with other issuers (eg Commonwealth Bank) over time.
- ✓ Provides [detailed information](#) about the ethical screening processes used.
- ✓ Some commitment to transparency by being [RIAA](#) certified, but is not a United Nations Principle for Responsible Investment (UNPRI) signatory.
- ✓ Transparency of [holdings](#), along with other flyers, fund updates, visuals and a video, easily accessed via the public website.
- ✓ The Altius Sustainable Bond Fund received the Lonsec Innovation Award in 2016 which 'recognises the major innovators and industry leaders who are shaping the future of Australia's wealth creation sector'.
- ✓ Altius is owned by Australian Unity, a mutual established over 175 years ago. Australian Unity say they put profits back into the company to benefit members, customers and the community.

About the 'Ethical Survey'

About the Ethical Advisers Co-Op

The Ethical Advisers Co-op is a group of 35 financial advisers who are passionate about ethics and finance. The Co-op was established as a not-for-profit over 10 years ago to enable likeminded financial advisers to work together to represent the voice of the consumer. We work to shift the super and investment industry into being more ethically aligned with their clients' objectives. The Co-op's nationwide membership of ethical financial advisers help over 3,300 Australians make financial decisions and invest in line with their ethical values.

How the Leaf-System Works

The ethical rating is voted by Australian financial advisers who specialise in ethical investments (Co-op members). The advisers assess if fund ethics suit their average ethical client, and if it matches with the average client's expectations and objectives. The advisers consider how successful the fund is at; 1) removing industries and stocks harmful to the environment and society 2) including companies with environmental or social benefits, and 3) providing evidence of actions from the fund which benefit society and/or the environment. The quality of information the fund provides on its ethical policies, companies invested in, and proxy voting is important in assessing if a fund is as ethical as claimed. The final rating is an average of these votes.

Financial advisers are voluntarily participating to help ethical consumers gain a quick understanding of how the clients of a group of industry professionals view the ethics of each fund. The Co-op and the advisers do not receive any form of remuneration or reward for participating.

Further Research

Does your fund walk the talk?

The Australasian Centre for Corporate Responsibility (ACCR) – a not-for-profit shareholder advocacy organisation – pushes for transparency around whether your super fund 'walks the talk' on issues such as climate and human rights. You can find details on your super fund [here](#).

Is your fund investing in fossil fuels?

Market Forces is a not-for-profit delivering transparency on fossil fuel lending, insuring and investing within super funds, banks and insurance companies. You can see how exposed your super fund, bank or insurance company is to the fossil fuel industry [here](#).

If the fund is certified by the Responsible Investment Association Australasia (RIAA)

You can find more ethical and investment information for certified funds [here](#).

More information on this fund

For exact details of the fund's claimed ethics, costs and legal details see the fund's Product Disclosure Statement - available on their website.

Vote based on information last updated 25th August 2019