

# AMP Balanced Growth

Quarterly Investment Option Update

31 March 2022

## Aim and Strategy

To provide moderate to high returns over the medium to long term through a portfolio diversified across the main asset classes, but with an emphasis on shares and property.

## Investment Option Performance

To view the latest investment performances for each product, please visit [www.amp.com.au/performance](http://www.amp.com.au/performance)

## Investment Option Overview

<b>Investment category</b>	Multi-Sector
<b>Suggested minimum investment timeframe</b>	5 years
<b>Relative risk rating</b>	High
<b>Investment style</b>	Active
<b>Manager style</b>	Multi-manager

Asset Allocation	Benchmark (%)
Global shares	32
Australian shares	25
Australian fixed interest	10
Global fixed interest	8
Listed property and infrastructure	7
Unlisted property and infrastructure	7
Growth alternatives	5.5
Defensive alternatives	3
Cash	2.5

Actual Allocation	%
International Shares	31.65
Australian Shares	26.32
Listed Property and Infrastructure	5.50
Unlisted Property and Infrastructure	9.26
Growth Alternatives	5.51
International Fixed Interest	7.55
Australian Fixed Interest	9.47
Defensive Alternatives	2.63
Cash	2.12

## Fund Performance

The Option endured a highly volatile start to 2022, generating a negative return in the March quarter. Concerns over the Russian invasion of Ukraine, higher commodity prices and a potential acceleration in interest rate hikes to combat inflation weighed on both equity and bond markets. Overall, the Option slightly outperformed the neutral benchmark as positions in Australian equities and unlisted real assets helped mitigate the impact of broad market drawdowns. Despite near-term volatility, longer term performance remains in line with expectations over most key time horizons.

With Russia a major energy and commodity producer, the conflict in the Ukraine pushed prices to extreme levels, exacerbating an already stretched global supply chain and surging inflationary environment. Global developed equity markets reacted negatively to this over the quarter, finishing -4.8% lower. Emerging market equities also struggled as concerns emanating from China amid a surge of Omicron cases compounded broader geopolitical concerns. Australian equities recovered towards quarter end to finish up 2.2% as higher commodity prices and a sound economic backdrop boosted returns. Listed real assets were mixed, with infrastructure outperforming property given the correlation to commodity and oil prices. Within the Option, Australian equity and international share exposures performed broadly in line with markets with the overweight position to Australian equities also proving a strong contributor to overall performance. Exposures to inflationary driven sectors such as listed infrastructure also added value in this environment.

In fixed income markets, government bonds and investment grade credit struggled as central banks became more hawkish, increasing cash rates in an attempt to manage persistent inflationary pressures. Underlying fixed income manager performance was weaker, as both domestic positions and international allocations drifted lower against benchmark. This was partially offset by small underweight allocations to the sectors – minimising negative returns on overall Option performance. Unlisted assets, particularly private equity, remained relatively stable amid market volatility, generating a positive return over the quarter. Absolute returns strategies were more mixed, as volatility and rate movements presented a challenging environment for some underlying managers.

Looking ahead, markets are likely to see continued volatility as the Ukraine crisis, inflation, monetary tightening and COVID-19 all remain significant risks. Despite the potential for short-term fluctuations, economic growth and profit margins remain relatively healthy. Given this, we remain cautiously optimistic for equity markets on a selective basis. Bond exposures, however, are likely to see continued pressure as yields move higher. In this environment, we continue to maintain an active, well-diversified asset exposure. We believe members should remain resilient and retain a focus on the long-term outcomes of the Fund and avoid being dictated by short-term corrections, particularly given likelihood of volatility over the coming 6-12 months.

## Market Review

The beginning of the March quarter saw growth asset markets globally experience significant falls and volatility, as concerns increased around prevailing high inflation rates and the path towards the normalisation of interest rates. Despite a raft of concerns, sentiment generally improved in many growth markets towards the end of the quarter. Inflation increased further to 7.9% in February in the US and remains significantly elevated in most major economies like the UK and Canada. With no sign of a reprise in rising costs of living, the US Federal Reserve (Fed) finally raised rates in March by 0.25%, whilst also signalling it would likely raise them six more times this year. The US yield curve also became inverted (as measured by a narrowing gap between 10-year bond yields and 2-year bond yields), raising further recessionary fears.

By mid-February, investor sentiment shifted its focus towards Eastern Europe following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which continued through the period. Economic sanctions were placed on Russia by nations around the globe. In a surprise counter to the sanctions, President Putin subsequently announced that Russia would seek payment from "unfriendly countries" for its oil and gas in Russian rubles, a significant move given a partial dependence on Russian energy supply from many European nations, including Germany, France, the Netherlands, Italy, Hungary, and Poland.

---

## Availability

<b>Product Name</b>	<b>APIR</b>
SignatureSuper	AMP0749AU*

\*Closed to new investors

## Contact Details

**Web:** [www.amp.com.au](http://www.amp.com.au)

**Email:** [askamp@amp.com.au](mailto:askamp@amp.com.au)

**Phone:** 131 267



### What you need to know

This publication has been prepared by AWM Services Pty Limited ABN 15 139 353 496, AFSL No. 366121 (AWM Services). The information contained in this publication has been derived from sources believed to be accurate and reliable as at the date of this document. Information provided in this investment option update are views of the underlying investment manager only and not necessarily the views of AMP Limited ABN 49 079 354 519 (AMP Group). No representation is given in relation to the accuracy or completeness of any statement contained in it. Whilst care has been taken in the preparation of this publication, to the extent permitted by law, no liability is accepted for any loss or damage as a result of reliance on this information.

The investment option referred to in this publication is available through products issued by N.M. Superannuation Proprietary Ltd ABN 31 008 428 322, AFSL 234654 (NM Super), AMP Capital Funds Management Limited ABN 15 159 557 721, AFSL 426455 (AMPCFM) and/or ipac asset management limited ABN 22 003 257 225, AFSL 234655 (ipac). Before deciding to invest or make a decision about the investment options, you should read the current Product Disclosure Statement (PDS) for the relevant product, available from the issuer or your financial planner.

Any advice in this document is of a general nature only and does not take into account your financial situation, objectives and needs. Before you make any investment decision based on the information contained in this document you should consider how it applies to your personal objectives, financial situation and needs, or speak to a financial planner. In providing any general advice, AMP Group receives fees and charges and their employees and directors receive salaries, bonuses and other benefits.

Any references to the "Fund", strategies, asset allocations or exposures are references to the underlying managed fund that the investment option either directly or indirectly invests in. The investment option's aim and strategy mirrors the objective and investment approach of the underlying fund. An investment in the investment option is not a direct investment in the underlying fund.

Neither NM Super, AMPCFM, ipac, AWM Services, any other company in the AMP Group nor the underlying fund manager guarantees the repayment of capital or the performance of any product or particular rate of return referred to in this document, unless expressly stated in the PDS. Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance. Any slight asset allocation deviations from 100% may be caused by rounding, asset categorisation and/or hedging.