

# **Bennelong Long Short Equity Fund**

# Monthly Performance Update

## **Portfolio Performance**

The fund produced a disappointingly weak, -3.85%, return for the month. A lack of profitable pairs was the most notable feature. Our short portfolio produced a small positive return in the month whilst our long portfolio fell with the market. At the pair level around one third of pairs were positive - a more typical outcome is that between a half and two third of pairs tend to be profitable. In addition, the top three pairs contribution was modest. The bottom three pairs contribution was typical. Some of the bigger moves during August sparked some profit taking in September.

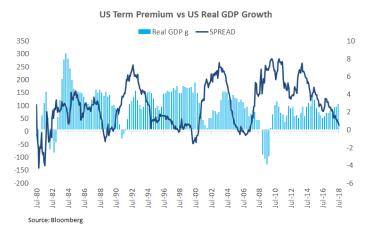
Post reporting season there was limited fundamental news during the month. Noteworthy for the fund was a strong TPG Telecom FY18 result. The fund is long TPG (TPM) / short Telstra (TLS). We gained a greater understanding of the benefits of the proposed merger with Vodafone and are very optimistic about it. Surprising the market, Sims Metal downgraded their guidance only four weeks after delivering their result and guidance. The fund is long BlueScope Steel (BSL) / short Sims Metal (SGM).

## **Market Observations**

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Share markets worldwide delivered mixed performances. The Australian market was a notable laggard (S&P/ASX 200 Index -1.8%) with weakness across many sectors including Healthcare (-8%), Consumer (-4%), Banks (-2%) and the interest rate sensitives (Utilities -4%, REITs -2%) on the back of a rise in bond yields. Offshore markets fared better but gains were limited (US S&P 500 Index +0.4%, MSCI Europe +0.4%) except Japan's Nikkei Index which rallied +5.5% thanks to weakness in the Yen.

As mentioned, bond yields were notable for their move in September with 10-year government bond yields rising across all the major developed economies. The US in particular has seen its 10-year government bond yield climb to over 3%, its highest level in 5 years. However, yields aren't just rising at the long end of the curve. Short term bond yields (e.g. 2-year government bonds) are also rising in sympathy with rises in the official cash rate set by the US Federal Reserve. Of interest here is the narrowing spread between the long and short ends of the curve (called the term premium), typically measured as the difference between 10-year and 2-year bond yields. As shown in the below chart this spread has declined to a very low level. Also shown in the chart is real GDP growth and you will note that periods of a decline in the term spread have been associated with declines in real GDP growth.



## As at 30 September 2018

Fund statistics		
Fund NAV A\$M	Month End	\$440.0
Gross exposure A\$M	Month End	\$2,037.3
Fund leverage (x NAV)	Month End*	4.6
Average fund leverage (x NAV)	Since inception	4.3
Fund volatility (annualised)	Month	11.1%
Fund volatility (annualised)	Rolling 12 months	14.0%
Positive months %	Rolling 6 months	67%
Positive months %	Since inception	66%
Sharpe Ratio (basis RBA Cash)	Month	(5.3)
Sharpe Ratio (basis RBA Cash)	Rolling 12 months	1.3
Long exposure	Month End	50.6%
Short exposure	Month End	-49.4%
Fund performance (composite)	Since inception \$1.00	\$12.57

<sup>\*</sup>Gearing calculated subject to variations in accruals

#### **Significant Pairs**

Top spread for the month							
Long	Origin Energy (ORG)	Short	AGL Energy (AGL)				

Bottom spreads for the month							
Long	Aristocrat Leisure (ALL)	Short	Tabcorp (TAH)				
Long	CSL (CSL)	Short	Sonic Healthcare (SHL)				
Long	Carsales (CAR)	Short	Computershare (CPU)				
Perfori	mance						
1 month		-3.85%					
3 months	S	2.46%					
Fiscal Y	TD	2.46%					
12 mont	hs	19.37%					
Since in	ception (compound p.a.)	16.40%					





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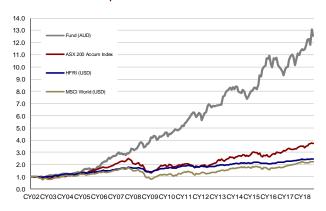
As at 30 September 2018

Calendar year performance													
%change cal yr	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Мау	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	CYTD
2018	1.51%	-0.58%	0.83%	1.96%	4.75%	0.08%	-3.64%	10.59%	-3.85%				11.45%
2017	4.95%	2.07%	0.29%	5.84%	2.86%	1.20%	-1.42%	-6.70%	3.88%	5.29%	-1.14%	2.90%	21.12%
2016	-0.29%	2.37%	-6.73%	-2.30%	7.58%	-1.04%	1.46%	-5.90%	-1.06%	-1.76%	-2.24%	-3.23%	-13.07%
2015	2.66%	0.05%	3.59%	0.03%	-1.91%	4.86%	8.85%	-0.69%	5.71%	2.54%	0.65%	6.22%	37.11%
2014	-2.32%	2.50%	0.16%	-4.97%	-0.80%	-0.44%	3.04%	-1.56%	-3.59%	-4.33%	3.12%	2.83%	-6.63%
2013	0.46%	-0.28%	0.69%	0.01%	9.49%	1.10%	3.52%	2.27%	0.83%	1.88%	-1.80%	2.68%	22.48%
2012	-2.04%	-8.43%	6.35%	4.22%	1.19%	8.47%	1.57%	-1.61%	-2.00%	1.69%	-0.41%	0.89%	9.20%
2011	-0.59%	4.39%	1.85%	2.34%	3.09%	4.12%	2.12%	1.91%	-1.25%	-5.06%	3.09%	3.27%	20.60%
2010	0.25%	-6.16%	4.77%	-1.10%	3.24%	2.84%	2.90%	-0.96%	-0.98%	1.23%	2.87%	3.65%	12.71%
2009	5.69%	7.88%	-1.72%	4.26%	-1.24%	-7.16%	2.24%	5.61%	-1.14%	2.65%	1.71%	3.57%	23.64%
2008	-2.10%	-2.82%	3.40%	1.06%	7.07%	7.36%	1.16%	-3.57%	-8.98%	3.78%	5.78%	0.49%	11.95%
2007	0.55%	5.42%	3.62%	-3.12%	0.92%	-2.90%	1.70%	-3.72%	5.63%	-0.22%	4.41%	9.04%	22.51%
2006	1.24%	4.76%	10.16%	2.90%	2.58%	0.95%	5.57%	7.67%	-2.62%	5.22%	2.01%	1.35%	49.91%
2005	6.29%	7.29%	5.01%	-0.49%	-0.27%	1.81%	-2.87%	-1.51%	4.10%	-2.33%	2.88%	8.73%	31.64%
2004	0.19%	0.16%	0.49%	-3.41%	0.78%	2.60%	4.36%	-0.80%	3.22%	1.42%	-0.29%	1.61%	10.59%
2003	2.34%	6.21%	-0.44%	0.61%	0.82%	3.00%	-1.93%	-0.99%	2.01%	4.85%	3.78%	-1.27%	20.33%

Note: The returns highlighted in bold are net returns of the Bennelong Long Short Equity Fund (pretax) \*Composite pro forma CY08.

The returns not bolded are "pro forma" net returns of the Bennelong Securities Long Short Equity Fund (Managed Account) (pretax) Jan 03 to Jun 08

### Performance Since Inception



Fund Summary			
Strategy	Market Neutral, Pairs	Domicile	Australia
Manager	Bennelong Long Short Equity Management Pty Ltd	AUM	A\$829.7m
Status	Soft-close	Currency	AUD
Inception Date	February 2002		

**Note**: Composite Index comprising Bennelong Securities Long Short Equity Fund (Managed Account) Feb 02 to Jun 08 & Bennelong Long Short Equity Fund from Jul 08

The Fund is managed by Bennelong Long Short Equity Management Pty Limited, a Bennelong Funds Management boutique.

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