# BAZA HIGH CONVICTION FUND MONTH ENDED 30 NOVEMBER 2024

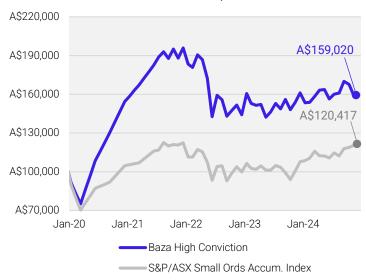


# **KEY METRICS FOR MONTH**

Unit price	A\$0.9917
Fund return for month <sup>1</sup>	-5.1%
S&P/ASX Small Ords Accum. (Benchmark) return	+1.3%
Relative fund performance for month vs. Benchmark	-6.4%
Cash as at end of month	4.2%

# HISTORICAL PERFORMANCE

Value of A\$100,000 invested at inception



### HISTORICAL RELATIVE PERFORMANCE

	Fund return <sup>1,2</sup>	S&P/ASX Small Ords Accum. Index	Relative Fund performance
1 month	-5.1%	+1.3%	-6.5%
3 month	-1.2%	+7.3%	-8.5%
1 year	+3.5%	+19.9%	-16.4%
2 year	+4.9%	+16.1%	-11.1%
Since inception <sup>3</sup>	+59.0%	+20.4%	+38.6%
Since inception, annualised <sup>3</sup>	+10.0%	+3.9%	+6.1%

#### 1. Post all fees and expenses

- 2. Assumes reinvestment of distributions
- B. Since inception, 15-Jan-20

# **COMMENTARY**

The Baza High Conviction Fund (the Fund) returned -5.1%¹ during November, underperforming the S&P/ASX Small Ordinaries Accumulation Index (Benchmark) which returned +1.3%. November saw relatively positive equity market performance across domestic and global indices notwithstanding the volatility of the US election.

The Fund's largest detractor was IT services business Atturra (ATA, -0.9%), despite no negative news. During November, ATA announced it would acquire 3 businesses at an average EV/EBITDA multiple of 6-7x (cheaper than the current ATA multiple of  $\sim 11 \, \mathrm{x}$ ). These acquisitions, alongside an equity raising, will be earnings accretive and further ATA's position as the leading ASX-listed managed IT services business. The Fund has previously owned leading IT-services businesses such as Citadel Group, Empired, Rhipe and Cirrus that were all acquired for an average EV/EBITDA multiple of 16x, presenting material upside for ATA as it continues to scale.

The next two largest detractors for the month included childcare operator Nido Childcare (NDO, -0.5%) and engineering consultancy Lycopodium (LYL, -0.6%). There were no updates for NDO during the month, and the childcare sector is firming as a key winner at the upcoming Federal election. NDO will pay a 5.8c dividend in early 2025 (~8% yield) and trades at an 8x P/E multiple, over a 50% discount to its larger peer G8 Education (GEM) despite NDO having a higher quality portfolio and attractive centre incubator model.

The Fund's exposure to junior mining (largely gold and base metals) detracted from performance by -2.1% during the month, with total detraction for 2024 YTD of ~-7% despite positive commodity price leads (gold +30% and copper +9% YTD).

The key positive contributors to the Fund during the month were Credit Clear (CCR, +0.6%) and Euroz Hartleys (EZL, +0.2%). Both companies provided positive operational updates at their respective AGMs.

Our portfolio of smaller, deep value companies has been somewhat left behind (for now) as the small cap market has rallied (2 year return of +4.9% vs. +16.1% for the Benchmark). Our core, concentrated holdings of profitable healthcare, education, industrials and IT services businesses have been able to increase both revenue and earnings yet remain as cheap on a relative basis now as they have been since the market bottom in 2022. We remain confident that our approach of investing in companies with proven operating models and strong management teams at an attractive share price entry will provide strong long-term returns to unitholders. If the market does not 'pay up' for quality small cap companies, acquirers eventually will (as we saw in 2023 with 5 of our top 10 holdings being taken over).

The Fund is open for investment with applications processed at the end of each month.

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### **FUND SNAPSHOT**

The Baza High Conviction Fund is a long only small-cap fund targeting undervalued emerging companies on the ASX. Actively invested in emerging companies that have the ability to generate sustainable, long-term shareholder returns. The Fund has a high risk, high return profile.

The Fund utilises strict responsible investment screening parameters; both positive and negative.

Inception	15-Jan-20
Structure	Unit trust
Management fee	1.5% p.a. (incl. GST)
Performance fee	20.0% (incl. GST) above benchmark
Benchmark	S&P/ASX Small Ordinaries Accumulation Index (post management fee & expenses)
Unit pricing, applications and redemptions	Monthly
Eligible investors	Wholesale Investors, as defined in the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth)
Distributions	Annually, post 30-Jun, and at the Trustee's discretion

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# RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT OVERVIEW

Positive screens (non-exhaustive, up to 25% scale-up)				
Renewable energy	Efficient transport			
Recycling	Sustainable products			
Healthy foods	Healthcare & wellbeing			
Education	Electrification			
Direct investment	Strong diversity policies, reporting and practices			

Negative screens	Threshold
Fossil fuel (oil, gas, coal, tar sands) exploration, development and production	Zero tolerance
Provision of significant services to the fossil fuel industry	25%+ of focus or revenue, no investment
Excessive carbon emissions	Zero tolerance if no transition or offset plans
Production and manufacture of tobacco and nicotine alternatives	Zero tolerance
Old growth logging, destruction of ecosystems and animal cruelty	Zero tolerance
Military technology and armaments (including development, production and maintenance of nuclear weapons)	Zero tolerance
Carbon intensive agriculture	25%+ of focus or revenue, no investment
Gambling	Zero tolerance

We also investigate the diversity of Boards and senior management, and policies and reporting relating to diversity, and screen for controversy, prior to investment.

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