

29<sup>th</sup> January 2021

### Chairman's Address

Good afternoon and welcome to the fifth Annual General Meeting of Absolute Equity Performance Fund Limited. My name is Andrew Reeve-Parker, the nominated Chair for this meeting as our Chairman, Marc Fisher, is standing for re-election today.

Before we begin with the formalities of the day, I would like to start by introducing my fellow non-executive directors, Marc Fisher and Raymond Da Silva Rosa, accompanied by our corporate secretary, Lisa Dadswell and the Company's legal advisor, Michael Beaumont of Mont Lawyers. Also joining us is Sam Shepherd from Bennelong Long Short Equity Management. Sam is the Portfolio Manager for AEG and he will make a presentation shortly and he will be available to answer any questions about our Investment Strategy at the conclusion of his presentation.

In addition, we have Scott Whiddett from Pitcher Partners with us today, who oversees AEG's accounts and audit process. To the extent there are technical questions relating to AEG's financial statements, I will turn to them. The Annual Financial Report has been released to ASX and is considered to have been received by shareholders for the purposes of this meeting.

A poll will be conducted for all resolutions to be considered today. The resolutions are detailed in the notice of meeting and I will take them as read. In summary the adoption of the remuneration report (which is an advisory resolution), the re-election of Mr Fisher and the re-election of Mr Da Silva Rosa.

I'd like to inform you that the poll is now open. The poll will close following the presentation from the Company's Portfolio Manager. If you wish to cast your vote today online you must do so before the end of that presentation.

We will publish the results of the poll to the ASX once the votes are counted.

The financial year return to 30 June 2020 for our investment strategy was 38.6% and the Company declared and paid fully franked dividends of 5.1c during calendar year 2020, representing a yield of 4.15%<sup>1</sup> (grossed-up 5.92%<sup>2</sup>). The Company's strong performance has occurred amidst volatile conditions for equity markets and continues to highlight the uncorrelated nature of our investment strategy which we consider is unique amongst ASX listed investment offerings.

Pleasingly, the share price discount to net tangible assets has been eliminated with the Company's shares trading at a slight premium to post-tax net tangible assets.

On the 4<sup>th</sup> of November 2020, we announced that the Company had entered into a Heads of Agreement with Bennelong Long Short Equity Management Pty Limited and Bennelong Market Neutral Fund to

---

<sup>1</sup> Last two semi-annual dividends paid, divided by the share price stated above.

<sup>2</sup> This yield was fully franked at a rate of 30%

For personal use only



pursue a potential delisting of the Company. Negotiations with respect to the process continue in good faith and the Company intends to provide an update to Shareholders in due course. We will not be taking questions on this subject today as the negotiations continue between the three parties.

Faced with continuing unprecedented global monetary policy and historically rich valuations for equity markets, we are confident in our proven market-neutral strategy to deliver an uncorrelated return to the Australian equity market and we thank you for your trust in us.

Are there any questions directly related to the Annual Financial Report or the resolutions being considered today?

I would now like to hand over to Sam Shepherd - Portfolio Manager of BLSEM, the Investment Manager of our Portfolio.

**ENDS**

**For more information please contact:**

Lisa Dadswell

Company Secretary

[Lisa.Dadswell@boardroomlimited.com.au](mailto:Lisa.Dadswell@boardroomlimited.com.au)

For personal use only