

BlackRock GSS

ESG Screened Models

June 2025

MODEL PERFORMANCE COMMENTARY



Total portfolio returns were positive in Q2 amid a broad-based market rally: The GSS ESG Screened Models delivered returns ranging from +3.3% (Conservative) to +9.5% (Aggressive) in Q2 2025. Australian and Developed Market equities contributed as stocks bounced back strongly from their April lows and benefited from a temporary pause in US tariffs and robust corporate earnings. The bias towards the Information Technology sector relative to a standard non-ESG market-capitalisation weighted portfolio added to returns over the quarter. The appreciation of the Australian dollar also meant that the allocation to hedged Developed Market equities outperformed the allocation to unhedged Developed Market equities in Q2. Both Australian and Global Fixed Income further added to performance over the quarter.



Top Contributors*

Developed equities
Australian equities



Top Detractors*

N/A

MODEL PERFORMANCE SNAPSHOT

GSS ESG Screened Conservative Model	1M	3M	6M	1 YR	Since inception (p.a.)
Portfolio (%)	0.9	3.3	3.5	7.2	6.5
Benchmark (%)	0.8	2.6	3.5	6.7	5.6

The Conservative model portfolio has an inception date of 16 January 2024. The benchmark is the Morningstar Aus Conservative Target Allocation NR AUD

GSS ESG Screened Moderate Model	1M	3M	6M	1 YR	Since inception (p.a.)
Portfolio (%)	1.1	4.4	3.6	8.3	10.1
Benchmark (%)	1.1	3.6	4.0	8.6	9.3

The Moderate model portfolio has an inception date of 24 November 2023. The benchmark is the Morningstar Aus Moderate Target Allocation NR AUD

GSS ESG Screened Balanced Model	1M	3M	6M	1 YR	Since inception (p.a.)
Portfolio (%)	1.3	6.1	3.9	9.9	13.9
Benchmark (%)	1.4	4.8	4.4	10.4	12.6

The Balanced model portfolio has an inception date of 8 November 2023. The benchmark is the Morningstar Aus Balanced Target Allocation NR AUD

GSS ESG Screened Growth Model	1M	3M	6M	1 YR	Since inception (p.a.)
Portfolio (%)	1.5	7.8	4.1	11.5	13.4
Benchmark (%)	1.7	6.0	5.0	12.3	12.4

The Growth model portfolio has an inception date of 23 January 2024. The benchmark is the Morningstar Aus Growth Target Allocation NR AUD

GSS ESG Screened Aggressive Model	1M	3M	6M	1 YR	Since inception (p.a.)
Portfolio (%)	1.7	9.5	4.4	13.1	16.7
Benchmark (%)	2.0	7.1	5.3	14.0	14.7

The Aggressive model portfolio has an inception date of 20 December 2023. The benchmark is the Morningstar Aus Aggressive Target Allocation NR AUD

Source: BlackRock, Morningstar, as of 30 June 2025. Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance. The model performance shown is hypothetical and for illustrative purposes only. The performance may not represent the performance of an actual account or investment product and is not the result of any actual trading. Performance is estimated and net of underlying fund fees, but gross of platform fees and does not include brokerage and commissions that may be incurred in the trading of financial products within the model portfolio. Actual investment outcomes may vary. Index performance returns do not reflect any management fees, transaction costs or expenses. Indexes are unmanaged and one cannot invest directly in an index. Material differences may exist between portfolios and benchmarks being compared, such as, investment objectives, fees and expenses, types of investments made, countries or markets covered. * Contributors and detractors to total returns.

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MARKET OVERVIEW

Global risk assets staged a rebound in the second quarter, buoyed by strong corporate earnings, a temporary pause in trade tariffs and the resumption of US-China trade negotiations. The MSCI World Index (hedged) rose 9.4% over Q2 in Australian dollar terms, with volatility remaining elevated amid ongoing trade policy uncertainty and heightened geopolitical tensions in the Middle East. Fixed income markets, as represented by the Bloomberg Barclays Global Aggregate Index (hedged), experienced large swings over the quarter given concerns around debt sustainability, but managed to add 1.5% across the period.

United States

In the US, the S&P 500 surged 10.9% for the quarter and by 5.1% in June (in local currency terms) to reach new record highs, with Information Technology and Communication Services among the best performing sectors. The Trump Administration's trade policy approach was a key market driver, having announced sweeping tariffs across a range of countries in early April followed by a 90-day pause to allow for negotiations with individual trading partners. Moody's downgrade of the US credit rating also saw renewed fiscal concerns, particularly as a narrow vote in the House of Representatives advanced the White House's proposed large tax bill. The US Federal Reserve (Fed) left rates unchanged in Q2, mindful that further cuts could add further upward pressure to wage growth and tariff-related inflation risks. On the data front, core inflation printed at 2.8% year-on-year in May which was below expectations, while faster-moving weekly indicators showed companies delaying capital expenditure and hiring decisions. Meanwhile, corporate earnings for Q1 rose strongly by 13% year-on-year, marking the second consecutive quarter of double-digit earnings growth.

Europe

European equities, as represented through the Euro Stoxx 50 Index, advanced 2.7% in Q2 but fell -1.1% in June (in local currency terms). A surge in defence-related spending supported markets amid several European initiatives to spend over €800 billion on national security projects. Late in June, NATO leaders also agreed to lift their pledge to spend 5% of their country's GDP on defence amid growing geopolitical fragmentation. Meanwhile, the European Central Bank (ECB) cut interest rates twice by 25 basis points, balancing softer economic activity indicators against still-elevated services inflation, although the central bank signalled that their current easing cycle is approaching its end.

In the UK, the FTSE 100 Index added 3.2% over the quarter and was flat over June (in local currency terms), helped by limited direct exposure to the proposed US tariffs. Domestically, a tight labour market kept core inflation stubborn which prompted the Bank of England (BoE) to adopt a cut-hold-cut pattern that left the base rate unchanged at 4.50% in June having cut rates by 25 basis points in May. Meanwhile, fiscal headwinds persisted as the UK economy faces domestic challenges from tax hikes and spending cuts, while headline inflation printed at 3.4% year-on-year in May.

Asia

China's CSI 300 Index rose 2.4% over the quarter and by 3.3% in June (in local currency terms). Chinese equities were choppy as tit-for-tat tariffs escalated early in Q2 before trade tensions with the US eased following a meeting in Geneva between US Treasury Secretary, Scott Bessent, and Chinese Vice Premier, He Lifeng. However, progress remained fragile, and non-tariff tensions with the US – such as tech restrictions and student visa controls – resurfaced throughout the quarter. Domestically, China's growth slowed after a Q1 rebound, with weak consumer confidence, subdued credit demand, and persistent deflationary pressure clouding the outlook. Policymakers adopted a selective stance and have refrained from broad-based easing despite growing calls for stimulus. Retail sales grew 6.4% year-on-year in May, but home prices and industrial output weakened by quarter-end.

Source: BlackRock, as of 30 June 2025.

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Japanese markets, as represented by the Nikkei 225 Index, closed the quarter and month up 13.9% and 6.8% respectively (in local currency terms) to outperform their developed market peers. Ongoing corporate governance reforms by Japanese firms have continued to attract foreign equity flows, while the Japanese yen's weakness in Q2 also helped bolster earnings for exporters. The Bank of Japan (BoJ) held the policy rate at 0.5% in Q2 and is expected to proceed cautiously with policy normalisation, with BoJ Governor, Kazuo Ueda, stating the central bank will raise rates once there is "more conviction that underlying inflation will approach 2% or hover around that level" after decades of disinflation. Meanwhile, Japan's core inflation, which excludes volatile fresh food costs, accelerated to 3.7% year-on-year in May, which marks the highest reading since January 2023.

Australia

The S&P/ASX 300 Accumulation Index ended the quarter up 9.5% and rose 1.4% in June with Information Technology and Financials the best performing sectors. The Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) cut rates by 25 basis points in Q2 to 3.85%, citing softer inflation and a desire to support household demand. However, the RBA's tone remained cautious with the central bank acknowledging upside risks to services inflation and volatility in global interest rate markets. In terms of politics, the Labor government secured a strong mandate in the May Federal Election with re-elected Treasurer, Jim Chalmers, citing a focus on improving Australia's productivity during the government's second term. Domestic data was mixed across the period with unemployment hovering at 4.1% in May, while retail sales grew marginally by 0.2% which was below economist expectations. Australian house prices, as represented by the CoreLogic Home Value index, posted gains of 0.6% in June and 1.4% for the quarter.

Fixed Income

Global fixed income markets rose over Q2 despite significant volatility and a sell-off in longer-dated sovereign debt. European government bonds outperformed their US counterparts amid ECB rate cuts and concerns that persistent US deficits could lead to lower demand for US Treasury bonds. Over the quarter, the US 10-year yield experienced large swings – rising in the first half before falling in June – ultimately ending the period up 2 basis points. By contrast, the German 10-year yield declined by 13 basis points, while the Australian 10-year yield also declined by 22 basis points to end June at 2.6% and 4.2% respectively. The fall in rates pushed bond prices higher. The Australian composite bond index gained 2.6% across the period, while the Global Aggregate index (hedged) also managed to deliver 1.5%. Riskier parts of the fixed income market, namely corporate credit and emerging market debt indices realised gains as credit spreads remained tight while emerging market bonds benefited from rate cuts by EM central banks and US dollar weakness.

Commodities & FX

Commodity markets and energy prices were generally weaker over the quarter. Oil prices experienced heightened volatility in June given the escalation in the Israel-Iran conflict but ultimately declined 8.1% in Q2 as geopolitical tensions cooled following an agreed ceasefire. Industrial metals were weaker as Iron Ore declined 4.9% amid uneven Chinese demand while Copper fell 0.7%. Gold rose by 5.7% over the quarter, supported by continued central bank buying and increased demand for safe-haven assets against the backdrop of geopolitical uncertainty. Within currencies, the US dollar fell 6.6% in Q2 against its developed market peers, while the Australian dollar appreciated 5.3% against the US dollar across the period.

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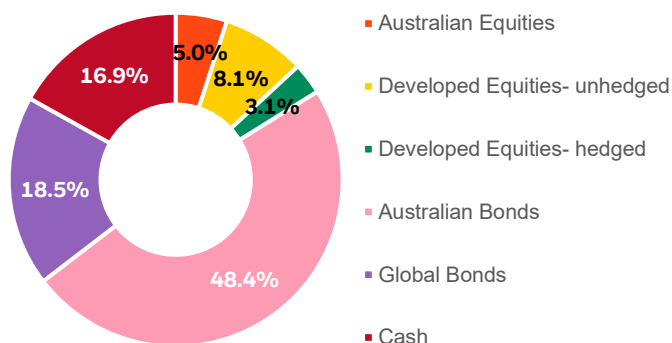
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CURRENT HOLDINGS & ASSET ALLOCATION

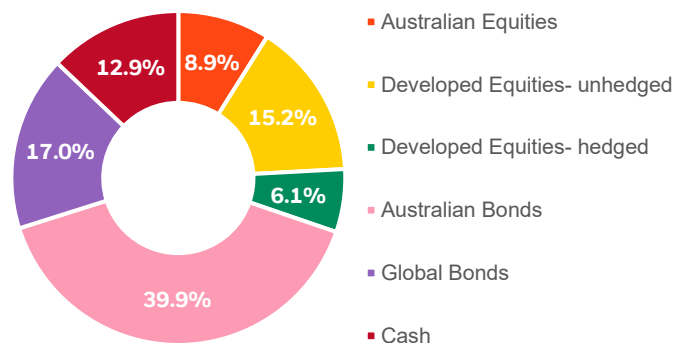
GSS ESG Screened Conservative Model

Asset Code	Name	Weight (%)
IWLD	iShares Core MSCI World ex Australia ESG ETF	8.1
IHWL	iShares Core MSCI World ex Australia ESG ETF (AUD Hedged)	3.1
IESG	iShares Core MSCI Australia ESG ETF	5.0
BLK4014AU	iShares ESG Screened Global Bond Index Fund – Class S	18.5
BLK3501AU	iShares ESG Australian Bond Index Fund – Class S	48.4
	Cash	16.9



GSS ESG Screened Moderate Model

Asset Code	Name	Weight (%)
IWLD	iShares Core MSCI World ex Australia ESG ETF	15.2
IHWL	iShares Core MSCI World ex Australia ESG ETF (AUD Hedged)	6.1
IESG	iShares Core MSCI Australia ESG ETF	8.9
BLK4014AU	iShares ESG Screened Global Bond Index Fund – Class S	17.0
BLK3501AU	iShares ESG Australian Bond Index Fund – Class S	39.9
	Cash	12.9



Source: BlackRock, as of 30 June 2025.

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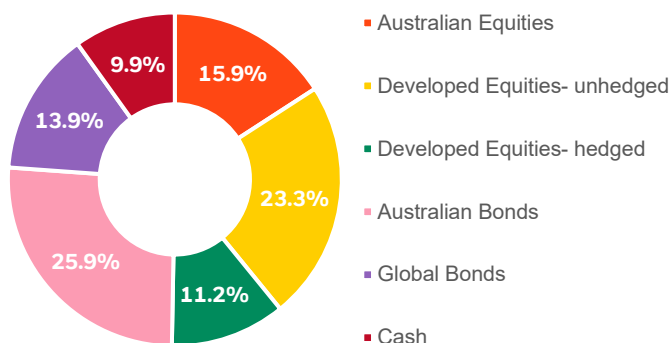
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CURRENT HOLDINGS & ASSET ALLOCATION

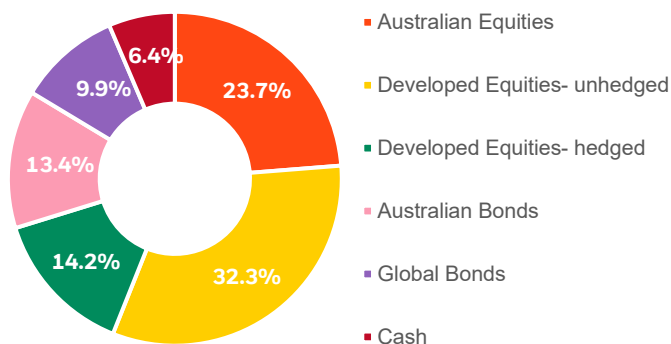
GSS ESG Screened Balanced Model

Asset Code	Name	Weight (%)
IWLD	iShares Core MSCI World ex Australia ESG ETF	23.3
IHWL	iShares Core MSCI World ex Australia ESG ETF (AUD Hedged)	11.2
IESG	iShares Core MSCI Australia ESG ETF	15.9
BLK4014AU	iShares ESG Screened Global Bond Index Fund - Class S	13.9
BLK3501AU	iShares ESG Australian Bond Index Fund - Class S	25.9
	Cash	9.9



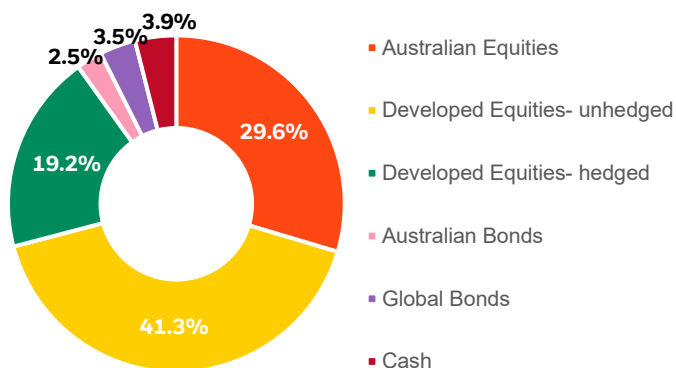
GSS ESG Screened Growth Model

Asset Code	Name	Weight (%)
IWLD	iShares Core MSCI World ex Australia ESG ETF	32.3
IHWL	iShares Core MSCI World ex Australia ESG ETF (AUD Hedged)	14.2
IESG	iShares Core MSCI Australia ESG ETF	23.7
BLK4014AU	iShares ESG Screened Global Bond Index Fund - Class S	9.9
BLK3501AU	iShares ESG Australian Bond Index Fund - Class S	13.4
	Cash	6.4



GSS ESG Screened Aggressive Model

Asset Code	Name	Weight (%)
IWLD	iShares Core MSCI World ex Australia ESG ETF	41.3
IHWL	iShares Core MSCI World ex Australia ESG ETF (AUD Hedged)	19.2
IESG	iShares Core MSCI Australia ESG ETF	29.6
BLK4014AU	iShares ESG Screened Global Bond Index Fund - Class S	3.5
BLK3501AU	iShares ESG Australian Bond Index Fund - Class S	2.5
	Cash	3.9



Source: BlackRock, as of 30 June 2025.

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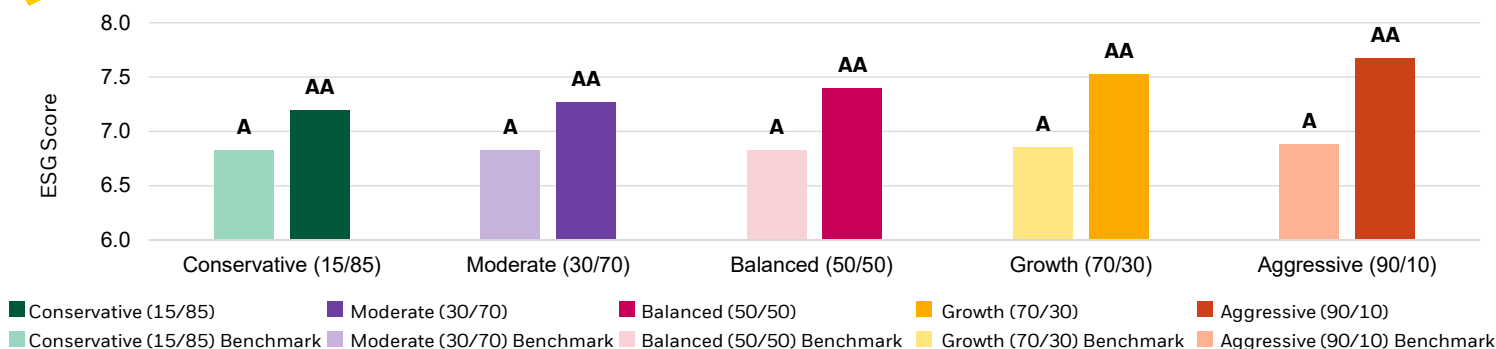
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ESG METRICS

We quantify the ESG characteristics of the model portfolio by comparing its MSCI ESG Scores and Carbon Emissions with a non-ESG benchmark portfolio. The non-ESG benchmark portfolio refers to a portfolio that uses traditional non-ESG market indices as building blocks¹. The following charts show the ESG Uplift and Carbon Reduction obtained from investing in the model portfolio relative to a traditional non-ESG benchmark.

ESG UPLIFT

Higher ESG ratings relative to a non-ESG benchmark¹

MSCI ESG Rating	CCC (worst) to AAA (best)	ESG Category
CCC	B	Laggard
BB	A	Average
AA	AAA	Leader

LOWER CARBON FOOTPRINT

The following metrics illustrate the annual carbon emission reduction² obtained by investing 1 million USD (1.5 million AUD) in the GSS ESG Screened Models relative to a non-ESG comparative benchmark (based on MSCI ESG Research analysis of portfolio companies' carbon emissions).

Carbon emissions reduction equivalents³

Metric	Conservative (15/85)	Moderate (30/70)	Balanced (50/50)	Growth (70/30)	Aggressive (90/10)
Carbon emission difference ²	-72%	-63%	-57%	-52%	-50%
Home energy use for one year	3 homes/yr	3 homes/yr	3 homes/yr	3 homes/yr	3 homes/yr
Distance travelled by an average passenger vehicle	103,730 km	94,435 km	88,487 km	84,397 km	79,935 km
Petrol consumed	10,781 litres	9,816 litres	9,199 litres	8,771 litres	8,309 litres

Source: BlackRock, MSCI & Greenhouse Gas Equivalencies Calculator. As of 30 June 2025. Notes: Issuers of securities held by an Underlying Fund may meet or fail to meet BlackRock's or its index/data providers' sustainability criteria from time to time. In these circumstances, BlackRock will use reasonable efforts to invest, divest or otherwise respond to the change within a reasonable period (for example, at the following rebalance date) considering the materiality of the change, liquidity, and transaction costs. The methodology of index and data providers may differ. This is not a recommendation to invest in any particular financial product. This material provides general information only. ESG scores and carbon emissions are only two factors to be considered when deciding whether to invest in a product. For more information regarding ESG ratings please refer to ESG Ratings Methodology (msci.com). ¹ The non-ESG benchmark refers to a portfolio that uses standard (non-ESG) market-capitalisation weighted indices as building blocks. We use the following standard market-capitalisation weighted indices in the benchmark: Australian equity (S&P/ASX 300 Index), International equity (MSCI World ex Australia Index Unhedged & AUD Hedged), Australian fixed income (Bloomberg Ausbond Composite 0+ Yr Index), International fixed income (Bloomberg Global Aggregate AUD Hedged Index). ² Carbon emissions are measured in terms of scope 1 (direct) and scope 2 (indirect) emissions normalised by the most recently available enterprise value including cash (EVIC) in million USD. For more information around the definitions of scope 1+2 emissions, please refer to www.msci.com/our-solutions/esg-investing/climate-solutions/climate-data-metrics. ³ The carbon reduction equivalents are calculated using the Greenhouse Gas Equivalencies Calculator as per the following link: www.epa.gov/energy/greenhouse-gas-equivalencies-calculator.

PERFORMANCE DATA

The model performance shown is hypothetical and for illustrative purposes only. The performance does not represent the performance of an actual account or investment product and is not the result of any actual trading. The performance figures represent past performance of the model portfolios. Performance for periods longer than a year have been annualised and represent cumulative (i.e. compounded) returns. Performance is calculated to the last business day of the month. Performance does not include brokerage fees and commissions that may be incurred in the trading of financial products within each model portfolio and actual investment outcomes may vary. Performance figures include fund management fees and expenses of the iShares ETFs and funds included within a model portfolio and assume the reinvestment of distributions of any such iShares ETF or fund. Where an iShares ETF's or fund's performance data is unavailable, the iShares ETF's or fund's benchmark index returns may be used to represent performance of the iShares ETF or fund. Index performance returns do not reflect any management fees, transaction costs or expenses. Indexes are unmanaged and one cannot invest directly in an index.

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