



**BetaShares**

Exchange Traded Funds

## Media release

# **BetaShares' ethical fixed income ETF (ASX: GBND) certified as 'responsibly invested'**

*Third ethical ETF offering from BetaShares recognised by Australia's leading independent certifier of responsible investments*

**SYDNEY, 28 April 2020:** BetaShares, a leading Australian ETF provider, has had its Australian Sustainability Leaders Diversified Bond ETF – Currency Hedged (ASX: GBND) recognised by Australia's leading independent certifier of responsible investments, the Responsible Investment Association Australasia (RIAA).

The RIAA's certification program was established in 2005 to help investors navigate their way towards investment products that match their investment values and beliefs.

As part of the certification process, BetaShares demonstrated that investors are given access to detailed information about how GBND takes into account Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) and ethical issues in the investment process.

Commenting on the certification, BetaShares CEO Alex Vynokur said: "We are delighted to have our most recent ethical ETF, GBND, recognised by the RIAA certification program. The program has been valuable in helping investors make confident decisions about accessing transparent, sustainable options in Australia."

## **Strict screening methodology provides true-to-label exposure**

Launched in November 2019, GBND provides access to a diversified portfolio of high-quality bonds meeting strict responsible investment standards in a single ASX trade.

GBND utilises strict ESG screening processes to ensure that investors are accessing a 'true to label' portfolio of Australian and international bonds.

Bond issuers are excluded if they have material exposure to the fossil fuel industry or are engaged in other activities that carry significant negative ESG risks e.g. gambling, tobacco or a lack of gender diversity at board level.

In addition, at least 50% of GBND's portfolio is made up of independently verified 'green bonds' i.e. bonds issued to directly fund projects that have positive environmental and/or climate benefits, as certified by the Climate Bonds Initiative, an internationally-recognised non-profit organisation. The green bond issuer must also have passed the screening process outlined above.

Mr Vynokur said there had been strong uptake in GBND since its launch late last year, with assets in the fund of ~\$50m in April 2020.

Betashares Capital Ltd ABN 78 139 566 868

AFS Licence 341 181

Level 11, 50 Margaret Street Sydney NSW 2000 Australia

Telephone +61 2 9290 6888 Facsimile +61 2 9262 4950

[www.betashares.com.au](http://www.betashares.com.au)

“With interpretations of responsible investing varying widely, we’re finding investors are increasingly insisting that their money is being invested in a way that aligns with their values, rather than ethical in name alone. The strict screening process each bond must pass to be eligible for the portfolio enables GBND to offer ‘true to label’ ethical investment exposure.”

Having captured ~70% of flows into ASX-traded ethical ETFs since 2017, there is now more than \$1 billion in FUM in BetaShares’ ethical ETF range, which also includes BetaShares’ two equities-focused ethical ETFs, the Australian Sustainability Leaders ETF (ASX: FAIR) and the Global Sustainability Leaders ETF (ASX: ETHI), both of which have been certified by the RIAA.

### **The coronavirus crisis and ethical investing**

Ethical ETFs with strong ESG principles were growing in popularity before the virus began, and since mid-February of this year BetaShares’ ethical ETF range has attracted more than \$60m in assets, despite a challenging backdrop for investors. Mr Vynokur continued: “We’ve seen continued interest in our ethical ETF range as more investors see the opportunity not just to earn attractive returns, but also to have a positive impact.”

In the 12 months to April 2020, FAIR outperformed the S&P/ASX 200 by 9.8%, while ETHI returned 25.1% compared to the return of 7.8% for MSCI World ex-Australia<sup>1</sup>.

(ends)

1. Past performance is not indicative of future performance. Investing involves risk and investment value can go down as well as up.

### **Media enquiries:**

Rebecca Searl  
Honner  
[rebeccasearl@honner.com.au](mailto:rebeccasearl@honner.com.au)  
+612 8248 3755 M +61 0432 508 227

Alex Vynokur  
BetaShares  
[alex.vynokur@betashares.com.au](mailto:alex.vynokur@betashares.com.au)  
+61 2 9290 6888

### **About the Responsible Investment Certification Program**

GBND, FAIR and ETHI have been certified by the RIAA according to the strict operational and disclosure practices required under the Responsible Investment Certification Program. See [www.responsibleinvestment.org](http://www.responsibleinvestment.org) for details. The Responsible Investment Certification Program does not constitute financial product advice. Neither the Certification Symbol nor RIAA recommends to any person that any financial product is a suitable investment or that returns are guaranteed. Appropriate professional advice should be sought prior to making an investment decision. RIAA does not hold an Australian Financial Services Licence.

### **About BetaShares**

BetaShares Capital Ltd ("BetaShares") is a leading Australian manager of exchange traded products ("ETPs") traded on the Australian Securities Exchange. BetaShares offers a range of ETPs which

cover Australian and International equities, cash, currencies, commodities and alternative strategies. BetaShares currently has over \$10 billion in assets under management.

BetaShares is owned and managed by its Australian based management team along with a strategic shareholding from Mirae Asset Global Investment Group, one of Asia's largest asset management firms. As at April 2020, Mirae manages over US\$140 billion.

BetaShares' range of ASX-traded funds includes:

<b>Product Series</b>	<b>Product</b>	<b>Ticker</b>
Cash & Fixed Income ETFs	Australian Bank Senior Floating Rate Bond ETF	QPON
	Australian Government Bond ETF	AGVT
	Australian High Interest Cash ETF	AAA
	Australian Investment Grade Corporate Bond ETF	CRED
	Sustainability Leaders Diversified Bond ETF – Currency Hedged	GBND
Hybrid Funds	Active Australian Hybrids Fund (managed fund)	HBRD
Commodity ETFs	Agriculture ETF – Currency Hedged (synthetic)	QAG
	Commodities Basket ETF – Currency Hedged (synthetic).	QCB
	Crude Oil Index ETF – Currency Hedged (synthetic)	OOO
	Gold Bullion ETF – Currency Hedged	QAU
Currency ETFs	British Pound ETF	POU
	Euro ETF	EEU
	U.S. Dollar ETF	USD
	Strong U.S. Dollar Fund (hedge fund)	YANK
	Strong Australian Dollar Fund (hedge fund)	AUDS
Diversified ETFs	Diversified Conservative Income ETF	DZZF
	Diversified Balanced ETF	DBBF
	Diversified Growth ETF	DGGF
	Diversified High Growth ETF	DHHF

Equities ETFs	FTSE RAFI Australia 200 ETF	QOZ
	Financials Sector ETF	QFN
	Resources Sector ETF	QRE
	Australian Ex-20 Portfolio Diversifier ETF	EX20
	Australian Small Companies Select Fund (managed fund)	SMLL
	Australian Sustainability Leaders ETF	FAIR
	Australia 200 ETF	A200
	S&P/ASX Australian Technology Fund	ATEC
Equity Income Funds	Australian Dividend Harvester Fund (managed fund)	HVST
	Australian Top 20 Equity Yield Maximiser Fund (managed fund)	YMAX
Geared Funds	Geared Australian Equity Fund (hedge fund)	GEAR
	Geared U.S. Equity Fund – Currency Hedged (hedge fund)	GGUS
International Funds	Asia Technology Tigers ETF	ASIA
	FTSE RAFI U.S. 1000 ETF	QUS
	Europe ETF – Currency Hedged	HEUR
	FTSE 100 ETF	F100
	Global Agriculture Companies ETF – Currency Hedged	FOOD
	Global Banks ETF – Currency Hedged	BNKS
	Global Cybersecurity ETF	HACK
	Global Energy Companies ETF – Currency Hedged	FUEL
	Global Gold Miners ETF – Currency Hedged	MNRS
	Global Healthcare ETF – Currency Hedged	DRUG
	Global Income Leaders ETF	INCM
	Global Quality Leaders ETF	QLTY

	Global Robotics and Artificial Intelligence ETF	RBTZ
	Global Sustainability Leaders ETF	ETHI
	India Quality ETF	IIND
	Japan ETF – Currency Hedged	HJPN
	NASDAQ 100 ETF	NDQ
	S&P 500 Yield Maximiser Fund (managed fund)	UMAX
Managed Risk Funds	Managed Risk Australian Share Fund (managed fund)	AUST
	Managed Risk Global Share Fund (managed fund)	WRLD
Short Funds	Australian Equities Bear Hedge Fund	BEAR
	Australian Equities Strong Bear Hedge Fund	BBOZ
	U.S. Equities Strong Bear Hedge Fund – Currency Hedged	BBUS
Active	AMP Capital Dynamic Markets Fund (Hedge Fund)	DMKT
	AMP Capital Global Infrastructure Securities Fund (Unhedged) (Managed Fund)	GLIN
	AMP Capital Global Property Securities Fund (Unhedged) (Managed Fund)	RENT
	BetaShares Legg Mason Australian Bond Fund (managed fund)	BNDS
	BetaShares Legg Mason Equity Income Fund (managed fund)	EINC
	BetaShares Legg Mason Emerging Markets Fund (managed fund)	EMMG
	BetaShares Legg Mason Real Income Fund (managed fund)	RINC

This information has been prepared by BetaShares Capital Ltd (ACN 139 566 868 AFS Licence 341181) (“BetaShares”). This is general information only and does not take into account the objectives, financial situation or needs of any investor. Before making an investment decision investors should consider the relevant product disclosure statement (‘PDS’) for BetaShares Funds, and their circumstances and obtain financial advice. The PDSs for BetaShares Funds are available at [www.betashares.com.au](http://www.betashares.com.au) or by calling 1300 487 577. Investors may buy units in the Funds on the ASX through a stockbroker, financial adviser or online broker. This document does not constitute an offer of, or an invitation to purchase or subscribe for securities.

---

Any BetaShares Fund that seeks to track the performance of a particular financial index is not sponsored, endorsed, issued, sold or promoted by the provider of the index. No index provider makes any representation regarding the advisability of buying, selling or holding units in the BetaShares Funds or investing in securities generally. No index provider is involved in the operation or distribution of the BetaShares Funds and no index provider shall have any liability for the operation or distribution of these Funds or their failure to achieve their investment objectives. An index provider has no obligation to take the needs of the BetaShares Fund or the unitholders of the Fund into consideration in determining, composing or calculating the relevant index. Any intellectual property rights in the index name and associated trademarks, index methodology, index values and constituent lists vest in the relevant index provider and/or its affiliates. BetaShares has obtained a licence from the relevant index provider to use such intellectual property rights in the creation and operation of the BetaShares Funds.

BetaShares® and Back Your View® are registered trademarks of BetaShares Holdings Pty Ltd.