

PORTFOLIO UPDATE

Atlas Australian Core Equity Portfolio

Monthly Report May 2025



- May proved to be a stronger month for global markets after three negative months under Trump, and tariff fatigue was setting in amongst investors following positive talks between the US and China. Domestically, Australia saw the Reserve Bank cut rates following subdued inflation in the March quarter.
- The **Atlas Australian Core Equity Portfolio** gained by +4.0% slightly underperforming the benchmark return of +4.1%, a satisfactory outcome from a lower beta portfolio in a strong up month.
- May was an active month for the Portfolio, with five companies reporting profit results for the six months ending March 2025. Atlas was pleased with the May earnings season, as all companies in the Portfolio reported solid results. The month was also healthy for dividends in the Portfolio, with five companies declaring dividends and Westpac and Dyno announcing share buy-backs.

	June	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	12m rolling	Inception % p.a.
Atlas Australian Core Equity Portfolio	1.2%	4.6%	-0.3%	1.7%	-1.8%	3.8%	-2.8%	4.5%	-3.6%	-3.1%	2.0%	4.0%	10.3%	9.0%
ASX 200 TR ex LPT	1.0%	4.0%	0.5%	2.7%	-1.2%	3.9%	-3.0%	4.6%	-3.8%	-3.3%	3.4%	4.1%	13.0%	8.3%
Active return	0.2%	0.7%	-0.8%	-1.0%	-0.6%	-0.1%	0.2%	0.0%	0.2%	0.3%	-1.4%	-0.2%	-2.7%	0.7%

Portfolio Objective

Our approach to investing in Australian shares is founded on fundamental company analysis, earnings quality, and sensible risk management principles. The objective is to build a portfolio of high-quality companies that deliver consistent and growing dividends with easily forecastable earnings. The Portfolio focuses on companies with strong profit and dividend growth.

Portfolio Details

Index	S&P ASX 200 Total Return (ex LPT)
Number of Stocks	18 - 30
Asset Allocation	100% Equity
Inception Date	May 2016
Security Target	within 5% of S&P ASX 200 weights
Sector Target	within 10% of S&P GICS sector weights
Management Fee	0.44% per annum (GST included)
Platform	Hub24/Netwealth/Praemium/Macquarie Wrap
Code	ATL001

Market Update

May is always an important month for investors, with the first week dominated by the banks' reporting season, which was overall positive, with low bad debts, higher dividends, strong capital positions and large share buybacks to continue.

Alongside this, during the month, we saw the Australian Federal Election payout which Atlas expects to have little to no impact on our Portfolio as most of our companies offer large non-discretionary products that operate regardless of regulatory environment.

During May, the Reserve Bank also cut the interest rate by 0.25% to 3.85% which was seen as a positive move by the market.

Top Ten Active Positions end May 2025

Positive	Negative
Transurban	BHP
QBE Insurance	NAB
ANZ	Commonwealth Bank
Macquarie Bank	Telstra
Arcor	Rio Tinto

Estimated portfolio metrics for FY26

	ASX 200	ACEP
PE (x) fwd.	18.8	14.2
Dividend yield net	3.5%	4.9%
Est Franking	67%	82%
Grossed Up Yield	4.1%	6.4%
Number of stocks	200	23
Avg mcap \$bn	11	69
Beta (3 month rolling)	1.0	0.93

Source: Bloomberg & UBS

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Portfolio Performance

In May, the **Atlas Australian Core Equity Portfolio** gained by +4.0%, underperforming the benchmark return of +4.1% in an extremely strong month.

Over the month, positions in Dyno Nobel (+18%), Macquarie Bank (+13%), Whitehaven Coal (+11%), Ampol (+8%), Mineral Resources (+8%) and QBE Insurance (+7%) added value.

It was pleasing to see Dyno Nobel have a strong month following the delivery of solid half-year results. DNL announced the sale of its fertiliser distribution business and Gibson Island land, which will net DNL \$835 million, with most expected to be returned to shareholders in conjunction with the \$663 million outstanding share buyback.

On the negative side of the ledger, The Lotteries Corporation (-2%), CSL (-2%), Amcor (-1%), and Transurban (+1%) detracted value.

Strong Income

May was a good month for income for the Portfolio, with four companies paying dividends: Amcor, Macquarie Bank, ANZ, and Westpac. Dyno Nobel (née Incitec Pivot) will also pay dividends in the coming months. Pleasingly, all the companies paid the same or higher dividends than last year, minus Dyno Nobel, which is currently buying back 17% of the company through an on-market buyback. As always, Atlas looks closely at whether a company is increasing dividends as an earnings quality signal and an indication of board confidence in the health of a company's finances and outlook. A far more powerful signal than mere words offered by management during a results call.

Portfolio Trading

No trading was conducted during the month.

Sector Exposure May 2025

GICS Sector	ASX200	ACEP	ACTIVE
Consumer Discretionary	9.3%	12.9%	3.6%
Consumer Staples	3.8%	0.0%	-3.8%
Energy	3.3%	7.1%	3.8%
Banks	27.4%	31.8%	4.4%
Diversified Fins	6.5%	11.7%	5.1%
Health Care	9.3%	11.7%	2.3%
Industrials	5.3%	1.3%	-4.0%
Materials	18.3%	13.4%	-4.9%
Telecommunication Services	5.7%	0.0%	-5.7%
Listed Property	6.7%	0.0%	-6.7%
Utilities	3.6%	9.5%	5.8%

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