

## VanEck Australian Long Short Complex ETF

ASX Code: ALFA

### Investment objective

ALFA aims to outperform the Benchmark over the medium to long term after fees and other costs.

### Benchmark

Benchmark is S&P/ASX 200 Accumulation Index.

### Performance as at 30 April 2026

	1 month (%)	3 months (%)	6 months (%)	1 year (%)	Since ALFA inception (% p.a.)
<b>Total Return</b>	<b>3.21</b>	<b>3.14</b>	<b>2.12</b>	<b>19.54</b>	<b>11.40</b>
Benchmark	2.18	-1.22	-0.87	10.12	6.01
<b>Difference</b>	<b>+1.03</b>	<b>+4.36</b>	<b>+2.99</b>	<b>+9.42</b>	<b>+5.38</b>

Benchmark is S&P/ASX 200 Accumulation Index.

The table above shows past performance of the Fund from 21 January 2025. Results are calculated to the last business day of the month and assume immediate reinvestment of distributions. Fund results are net of management fees and costs, but before brokerage fees or bid/ask spreads incurred when investors buy/sell on the ASX. Returns for periods longer than one year are annualised. Past performance is not indicative of current or future performance which may be lower or higher. Benchmark information has been obtained from sources believed to be reliable but VanEck does not warrant its completeness or accuracy.

### Key benefits

**High conviction long short strategy:** Unconstrained high conviction Australian equity portfolio that targets long and short positions.

**Active systematic approach:** A dynamic quantitative stock selection approach utilising sophisticated computations and programmed learning designed to be agnostic of market cycle and style rotations.

**Outperformance potential:** Alternate Australian equity strategy that aims to deliver excess return over the medium to long-term.

### Key risks

The Fund is considered to have a higher investment risk than a comparable fund that does not engage in short selling and leverage. An investment in the Fund carries risks associated with: short selling risk, leverage risk, prime broker risk, counterparties risk, concentration risk, operational risk and material portfolio information risk. See the PDS and TMD for details.

### Key information

Inception date	21 January 2025
Benchmark	S&P/ASX 200 Accumulation Index
Market exposure	Maximum: 150% long / 50% short; Net exposure: 90-100%
Average Holdings	15 to 50 long/0 to 25 short
Management fee	0.39% p.a.*
Performance fee	20% of the Fund's return above the Benchmark, subject to a high watermark
Total net assets	\$30.83m

\*Other costs may apply. Please refer to the PDS.

Source: VanEck, as at 30 April 2026.

## Australian markets commentary

Australian equities recovered in April, with the S&P/ASX 200 returning +2.18%. A US-Iran ceasefire announced early in the month boosted market confidence. However, the market underperformed global equities as concerns around elevated inflation pressures and the RBA tightening cycle took centre stage late in the month.

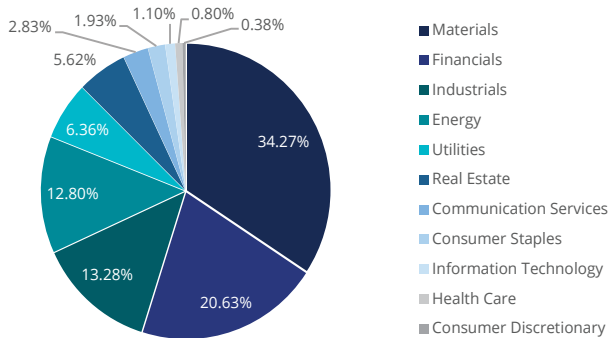
The risk-on environment saw cyclical sectors post the strongest returns. Information technology, real estate, materials and financials returned 13.25%, 8.12%, 4.28% and 2.89% respectively.

Defensive sector, health care was the worst performer falling 8.67%. Consensus forecast of a swift end to the conflict weighed on energy falling 2.67%.

## Portfolio performance update

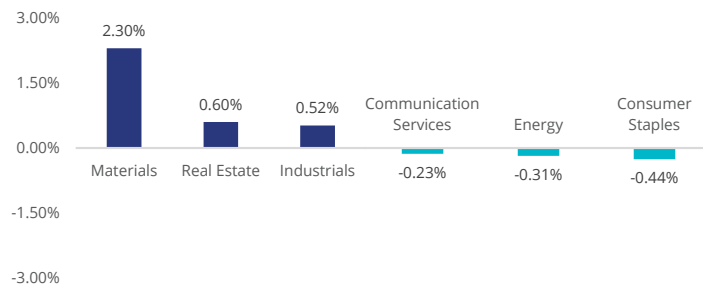
In April, the VanEck Australian Long Short Complex ETF (ASX: ALFA) returned +3.21% after fees, outperforming the S&P/ASX 200 by 1.03%. Year to date, ALFA has returned +9.23%, ahead of the benchmark by 8.70%. Materials was the largest sector contributor at the stock selection level, adding approximately 1.12% of relative return through overweights to names including Liontown Resources, which rose 38.2% as lithium spot prices continued to re-rate against a tightening pure-play producer landscape, and Mineral Resources, which returned 18.8% as the diversified commodity recovery took hold. The Health Care sector contributed approximately 0.49% relative as long-duration names continued to derate against a higher-for-longer rate backdrop, an environment in which the strategy's positioning was well aligned. Industrials and Information Technology added a further 0.27% and 0.26% respectively relative to the benchmark, with a long position in Macquarie Group contributing as the stock returned 16.4% on the back of an improving capital markets backdrop. Partially offsetting these gains, an underweight to BHP detracted as the stock returned 6.6% in a month where iron ore strength supported the cap-weighted index, and a long position in Evolution Mining weighed on performance after the stock declined 12.8% in a sector-wide unwind of the Q1 gold rally. A long position in Woolworths also detracted, with the stock falling 5.9% across the month and the bulk of the move concentrated on the final trading day following a Q3 sales update that flagged accelerating cost-base inflation and implied gross margin compression.

### GICS sector summary



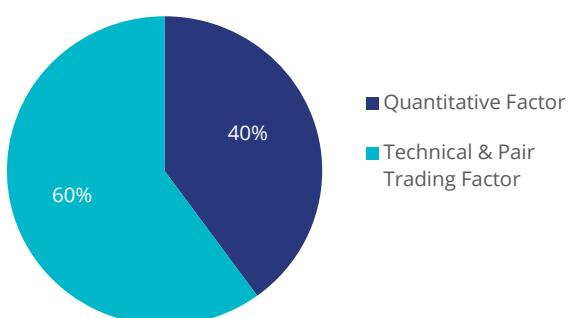
Source: VanEck, as at 30 April 2026.

### GICS level 1 contribution (top 3/bottom 3)



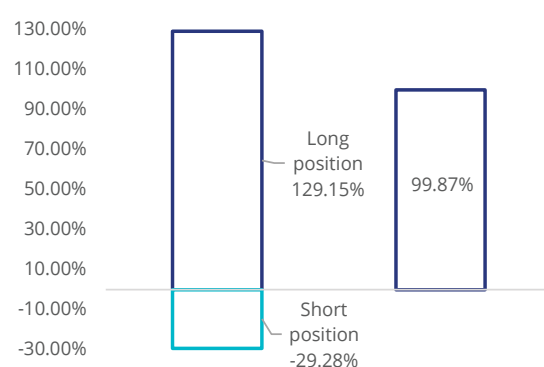
Source: VanEck, as at 30 April 2026.

### Strategy breakdown



Source: VanEck, as at 30 April 2026.

### Market exposure



Source: VanEck, as at 30 April 2026. Net equity exposure is the total long equity position minus the total short equity position.

## Performance drivers for April

### Key stock contributors for the month:

**Liontown Resources Limited** (Long, +52 bps). Liontown contributed approximately 52 basis points to relative return during April, with the stock returning +38.2% over the month. The position reflects portfolio exposure to high-grade hard rock lithium production at a juncture in the commodity cycle where spot prices have re-rated meaningfully year to date, supported by recovering Chinese cathode demand. Kathleen Valley's production ramp and unit cost trajectory remain the key operational catalysts.

**Macquarie Group Limited** (Long, +14 bps). Macquarie contributed approximately 14 basis points during the month, with the stock returning +16.4% as the market repriced the franchise's fee-based earnings power against an improving capital markets backdrop. The position reflects the structural earnings diversification that distinguishes Macquarie from the domestic majors: a meaningful proportion of group revenue is generated outside Australia and indexed to global infrastructure, asset management and commodity trading flows, providing a degree of insulation from the domestic rate cycle. Capital ratios remain robust and the franchise continues to demonstrate operational leverage across cycles.

### Key stock detractors for the month:

**Woodside Energy Group Limited** (Long, -19 bps). Woodside detracted approximately 19 basis points during April, with the stock returning -4.3% over the month against the backdrop of softer Brent crude and concerns around the near-term Asian gas demand outlook. Year to date the position remains a meaningful contributor (+124 basis points), reflecting the constructive earlier backdrop for Australian LNG producers and tighter global gas markets. We continue to view Woodside as well positioned on free cash flow yield and capital discipline, with the structural tailwind from Asian LNG demand growth intact, and the April outcome reflects shorter-term sector positioning dynamics rather than a deterioration in the underlying thesis.




**Woolworths Group Limited** (Long, -17 bps). Woolworths detracted approximately 17 basis points, with the stock declining 5.9% across the month and the bulk of the move concentrated on the final trading day of the month following the Q3 sales update. The operational result was solid, with group sales of approximately AUD 18 billion representing growth of 4.5% year on year, but the market focused on management's commentary regarding accelerating cost-base inflation across fuel, labour and supply chain inputs, and the implied compression of gross margin. The position outcome reflects a broader thesis that has been playing out across Australian consumer staples: in the current environment, top-line resilience is being overwhelmed by cost-base inflation, and operational leverage is working in reverse.

## Portfolio positioning and outlook

- The fund sector positioning hasn't materially changed in the past few months. We continue to hold the view that companies with pricing power, high cash flow and quality balance sheets are best placed to outperform this year. Key signals informing this include high EBITDA return on assets, high free cash flow to sales and income, and high cash to enterprise value. This is reflected through overweight positions to select industrials, utilities, energy and materials, which have served the portfolio well.
- Escalating tensions between the US and Iran have increased the risk of a stagflationary environment emerging, particularly as higher oil prices add to already elevated inflationary pressures in Australia. This backdrop will likely see further RBA cash rate hikes this year. However, market pricing of an additional three hikes appears overdone, as the RBA will want to limit the risk of a recession.
- Prolonged restrictive monetary policy and elevated inflation are likely to weigh on economic growth and household consumption. This environment typically favours companies with strong pricing power, as they are better positioned to pass through higher input costs and protect margins. The market has recognised this recently, contributing to outperformance.
- We continue to hold conviction in shorting several consumer discretionary names which have served the portfolio well year to date. Many had disappointing February earnings updates and given the threat of additional rate hikes, are vulnerable to profit margin compression as they lack pricing power.

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