

# Perennial Microcap Resources Trust

Monthly Report March 2024

	Month (%)	Quarter (%)	FYTD (%)	1 year (%)	Since inception^ (% p.a.)
Perennial Microcap Resources Trust (Net)	7.2	5.5	10.9	15.7	0.1
S&P ASX Small Ordinaries Resources Index	8.2	0.9	3.7	-4.6	-1.5
Value Added	-1.0	4.6	7.2	20.3	1.6

<sup>^</sup> Since inception: August 2021. Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance

#### Overview

Base and precious metals bounced in March, lifting the Trust 7.2% net of all fees, slightly behind the index return of 8.2%. Over the 12 months to March, the Trust has returned 15.7% net of all fees, which compares to an index return of -4.6% over the same period. With prices for key Australian exports; iron ore, coal and LNG remaining subdued, weighing on the AUD, the rest of the commodity spectrum is enjoying both commodity and currency tailwinds at present.

The gold price move in March is of particular interest, as it occurred in the face of traditional gold head winds. Including declining rate-cut expectations, a rising US dollar and rising US real rates. Such a move is unusual and may be indicative of US deficit concerns intensifying.

Lead indicators of manufacturing and industrial production are grinding higher as the shock of sharply higher rates continues to fade. Further, the power requirements for Al are becoming apparent, with positive implications for copper demand going forward.

# Perennial Microcap Resources Trust

The aim of the Trust is to grow the value of your investment over the long term by investing in a portfolio of Australian small and microcap listed and unlisted companies operating in the business of commodity production, commodity investment or as a service provider to the industry of commodity production.

<b>Portfolio Manager</b> Sam Berridge	Trust FUM AUD \$32.1 million
<b>Distribution Frequency</b> Annual	Minimum Initial Investment <sup>1</sup> \$25,000
<b>Trust Inception Date</b> August 2021	Fees 1.20% p.a. + Performance fee

#### **APIR Code**

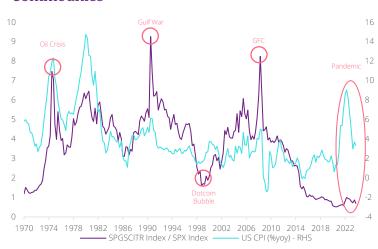
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 $<sup>^{\</sup>rm 1}$  Perennial Microcap Resources Trust is open to wholesale investors only.

Top 5 Positions	Trust (%)
Ora Banda	9.5
Cooper Energy	5.3
Genesis Minerals	5.0
Brazilian Rare Earths	4.8
Peninsular Energy	4.4

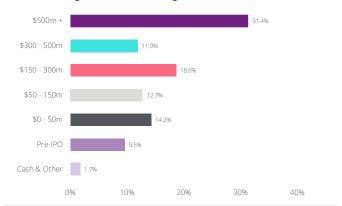
## **Source:** Perennial Value Management. As at 31st March 2024

#### Commodities

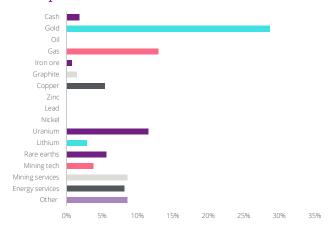


**Source:** Bloomberg. The history of inflation has coincided with periods of outperformance, which in turn have coincided with an energy crisis of one sort or another (oil prices hit \$140/bbl pre GFC).

## Market Capitalisation Exposure



## Sector Exposure



#### **Trust Review**

Base metal, gold and energy stocks all contributed to a solid month for the Trust, with better performers including;

- Gas producer Cooper Energy bounced 51.7% in March on betterthan-expected progress of abandonment and rehabilitation work plus continued improvement of gas production rates from Orbost. A steady flow of headlines about the looming gas east – coast shortage was also helpful for sentiment.
- Gold producers **Genesis Minerals, Ora Banda** and **Westgold** added 21.2%, 9.8% and 33.7% respectively on the back of a stronger gold price (+9.2%).
- Uranium developer Peninsular Energy bounced 13.6%, after recovering from an intra-month dip, which we used to add to our uranium exposures.

Positions which weighed on performance during the month included:

- **Brazilian Rare Earths**, fell 15.2% despite reporting a new highgrade rare earth discovery in March.

As economic data starts to flow in post Chinese new year, lead indicators of commodity demand have started to tick up as sharply higher rates are digested, and central banks pivot towards easing rather than raising rates further.

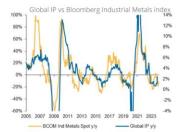
Further, the move higher by gold in the face of traditional headwinds suggests long-held concerns regarding the viability of continued US deficits is moving to the front of investor considerations.

Lastly, decarbonisation demand continues to grow rapidly, but now off a base of US\$1.8trn invested in 2023. Such that Chinese energy-transition demand for copper now exceeds that from construction.

The combination of points above is looking increasingly constructive for future facing metals, to which the trust is heavily exposed.

# Global manufacturing showing signs of recovery





Source: S&P Global, Macrobond, Macquarie

The Trust finished the month with 39 stocks and 1.7% cash

# Global, Currency & Commodities (%)

S&P 500	+3.1
Nikkei 225	+2.6
FTSE 100	+4.2
Shanghai Composite	-0.1
RBA Cash Rate	4.35
AUD / USD	64.9c
Iron Ore	-12.3
Oil	+2.9
Gold	+9.2
Copper	+4.1



Portfolio Manager: Sam Berridge

**Invest Online Now** 

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Signatory of:



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