Big opportunities in small companies



Matthew Fist Portfolio Manager



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Firetrail Australian Small Companies Fund

Big opportunities in small caps today

One compelling thematic

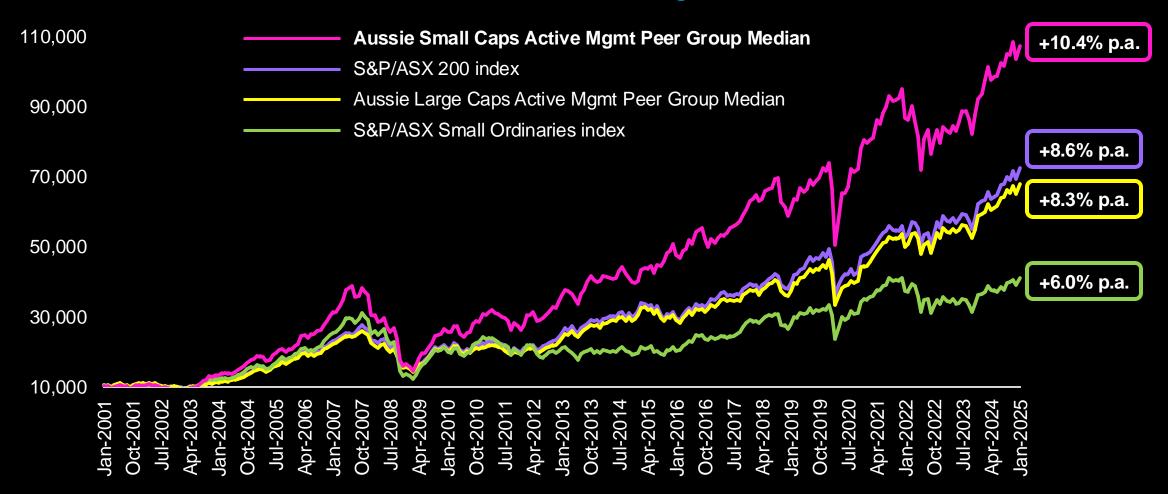
Big opportunities in small caps today

One compelling thematic



The best performing asset class on the ASX

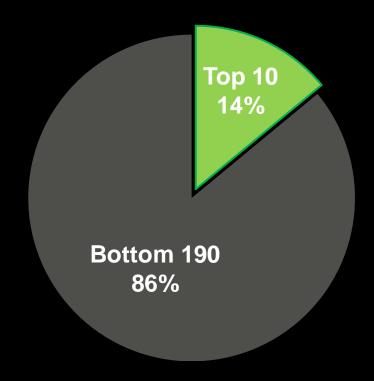
Growth of \$10K – Median Active Manager versus Index



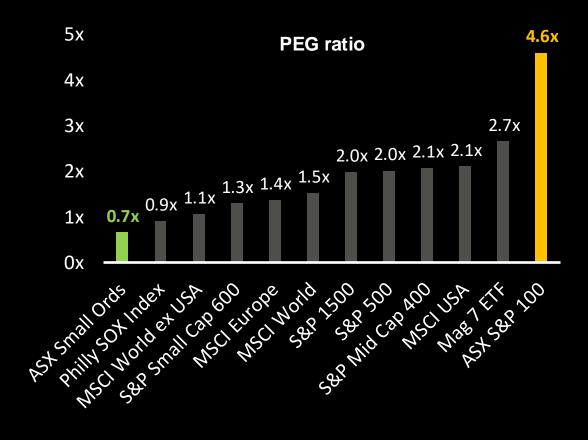
Active small caps are a proven long-term wealth compounder

Small Caps are diversified and cheap

The small caps index (ASX Small Ords) is highly diversified



ASX Small Ords is one of the cheapest indices in the world on a growth-adjusted basis

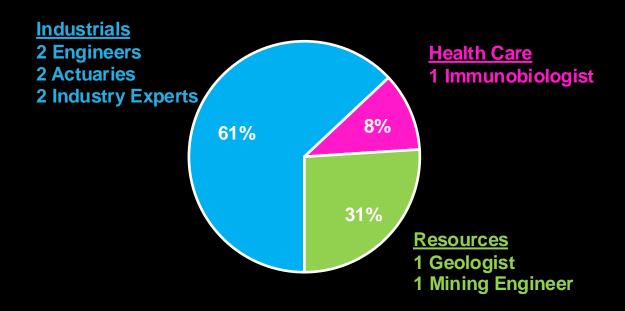


Small caps are diversified and offer highly attractive value today

Source: Factset, Firetrail, March 2025

We cover all segments of the market

S&P/ASX Small Ordinaries Index





Unique skillsets to find opportunities where others aren't looking

Source: Firetrail, February 2025, *Fund inception: 20 February 2020

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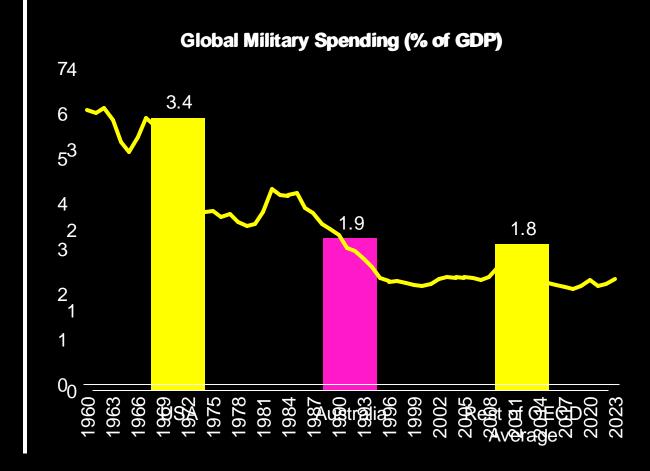


Remarkable times

World order has been upended



Australian defence spending has not kept up

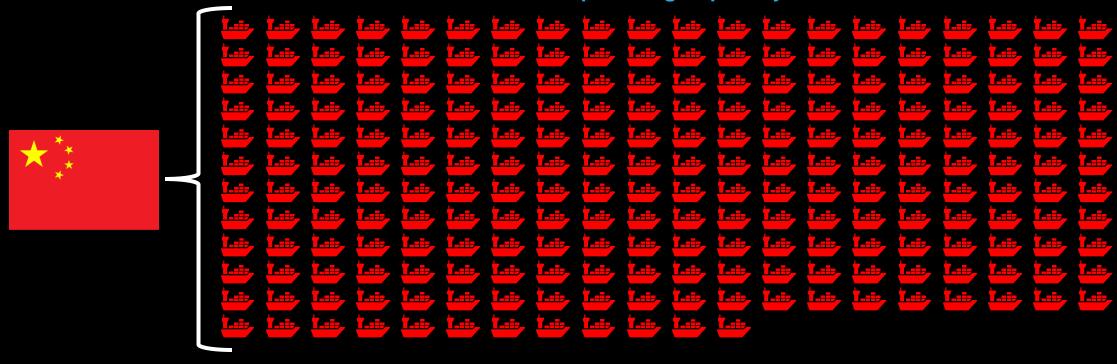


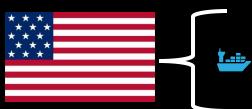
Uncertainty means defence spend is set to increase materially

Source: Firetrail, World Bank

Remarkable times

China versus USA Shipbuilding Capability





= 100,00 gross tons

Chinese shipbuilding capacity ~232x that of the USA

Source: USN

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One compelling thematic



Garden Island

Garden Island WA



Government is spending big on the AUKUS plan

Garden Island will host UK/USA submarine rotations from 2027

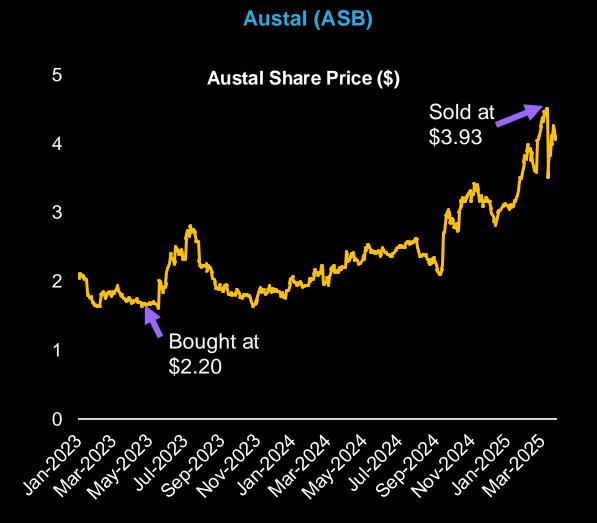
Substantial investment is required

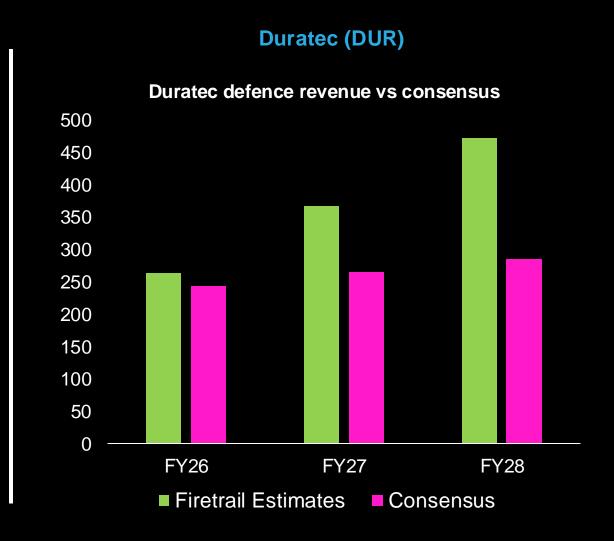
~28bn to be spent on the Garden Island/Henderson sites

Including ~1.8bn of marine infrastructure over the next few years

Garden Island an opportunity for Australian defence companies

Small cap beneficiaries





Duratec is a key winner with material upside

Source: Firetrail, FactSet

Firetrail Australian Small Companies Fund

Big opportunities in small companies today

Australian defence spend set to rise

Conviction amidst uncertainty

Small companies with the Firetrail edge

Performance

Firetrail Australian Small Companies Fund

After fees to 28 February 2025

	Fund	ASX Small Ords	Excess
Quarter	1.2%	(1.5%)	+2.7%
6 months	13.7%	5.7%	+7.9%
1 Year	26.9%	7.3%	+19.6%
2 Year (p.a.)	23.8%	7.6%	+16.2%
3 Year (p.a.)	7.8%	2.1%	+5.7%
5 Year (p.a.)	18.5%	5.6%	+13.0%
Inception (p.a.)1	15.7%	3.0%	+12.7%

Macquarie Small Companies Fund

After fees to 30 November 2017 2,3

	Strategy	ASX Small Ords	Excess
1 year	31.8%	20.5%	+11.3%
2 years (p.a.)	24.2%	16.9%	+7.3%
3 years (p.a.)	28.1%	13.4%	+14.7%
5 years (p.a.)	16.6%	7.4%	+9.2%





+12.7% p.a. excess returns since Fund inception

PAST PERFORMANCE IS NOT A RELIABLE INDICATOR OF FUTURE RETURNS. 1. Fund inception on 20 February 2020. 2. Composite includes actual Performance of the Macquarie Small Companies Fund where Matt Fist and Patrick Hodgens were co-lead Portfolio Managers for 2 years prior to departing Macquarie for Firetrail. Prior to that Matt worked as the lead small cap analyst for the Fund. Patrick Hodgens has been involved in the strategy since inception as Head of Equities at Macquarie. 3. Morningstar data