



# Independent Reasonable Assurance Report

To the Board of Directors of MLC Investments Limited

## Opinion

We have undertaken a reasonable assurance engagement on the Investor Directed Portfolio Services – Internal Control (the **Report**) of MLC Masterkey Investment Service (the **IDPS Platform**) established by MLC Investments Limited (the **Operator**).

In our opinion, in all material respects:

- MLC Investments Limited has complied with the documented internal control procedures for the year ended 30 June 2023 as described in the Investor Directed Portfolio Services – Internal Control; and
- the documented internal control procedures met the requirements of **Australian Securities and Investments Commission Class Order 13/763 Investor Directed Portfolio Services** (the **Class Order**).

The **Report** comprises the documented internal control procedures that comply with the requirements in the Class Order for the IDPS.

## Use of this Assurance Report

This report has been prepared for the Directors of the Operator and the Australian Securities and Investments Commission. This report is prepared for the Operator to comply with the requirements in the Class Order and may not be suitable for another purpose. We disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report, to any person other than the Directors of the Operator and the Australian Securities and Investments Commission, or for any other purpose than that for which it was prepared. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

## Managements' responsibility for the Report

Management of the Operator are responsible for:

- preparing the Report;
- establishing, maintaining and ensuring adequacy of the effective internal control procedures for the IDPS as documented in the Report;
- ensuring that the internal control procedures include the internal controls systems, policies and procedures that comply with the Class Order; and
- identifying the risks that threaten achievement of compliance with the Class Order.

The Directors of the Operator are responsible for preparing the Directors' Declaration on the Directors' assertions about:

- the Operator's compliance with the documented internal control procedures; and
- the Report, which comprises the documented internal control procedures that operate in accordance with the Class Order for the IDPS.



## Our responsibility

We conducted our reasonable assurance engagement in accordance with Australian Standard on Assurance Engagements ASAE 3000 *Assurance Engagements Other than Audits or Reviews of Historical Financial Information* and ASAE 3100 *Compliance Engagements*. We believe that the reasonable assurance evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our conclusion.

In accordance with ASAE 3000 and ASAE 3100 we have:

- used our professional judgement to assess the risk of material misstatement and plan and perform the engagement to obtain reasonable assurance that the Report:
  - is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; and
  - complies with the requirements of the Class Order.
- obtained an understanding of the documented internal control procedures and the compliance measures in the Report;
- examined on a test basis of evidence supporting the operation of these compliance measures;
- considered relevant internal controls implemented on the compliance activity to meet the requirements of the Class Order when designing our assurance procedures, however we do not express a conclusion on their effectiveness; and
- ensured that the engagement team possess the appropriate knowledge, skills and professional competencies.

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that it will always detect a material misstatement when it exists.

Misstatements, including omissions, are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence relevant decisions of the Directors of the Operator and the Australian Securities and Investments Commission in relation to the Report.

## Independence and quality control

We have complied with our independence and other relevant ethical requirements of the *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)* issued by the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board, and complied with the applicable requirements of Australian Standard on Quality Control 1 to maintain a comprehensive system of quality control.



## Limitations of controls

Even if the controls are suitably designed and operating effectively, the Report may not meet the reporting requirements in the Class Order so that fraud, error or non-compliance with laws and regulations may occur and not be detected because of the inherent limitations of any internal control structure. Further, the internal control structure, within which the Report we have assured are designed to operate, has not been assured and no conclusion is expressed as to its design or operating effectiveness.

Any projection of the evaluation of the documented internal control procedures to future periods is subject to the risk that the procedures may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with them may deteriorate.

A reasonable assurance engagement is not designed to detect all weaknesses in the documented internal control procedures, as it is not performed continuously throughout the period and the tests performed are on a sample basis.

KPMG

Joshua Pearce

Partner

Melbourne

22 September 2023