

Australian private wealth firm awards private debt and infrastructure mandates

By Stefan Kostarelis | Published 17/07/25

PREFACE

Koda Capital, with AUM of A\$15bn (\$9.8bn), has recently awarded private debt and infrastructure mandates, James Gouldson, Koda's head of managed portfolios, told MandateWire last Thursday. The allocations will further diversify Koda's growing private market exposure and are well-suited to the firm's "endowment-style approach" to investing, Gouldson said.

REPORT

Gouldson said that Koda selected Oaktree Capital Management for a US mid-market private credit strategy that complements an allocation to a feeder fund that was recently launched in Australia. As reported by MandateWire, Koda seeded the latter as part of a partnership with US manager Blue Owl.

"Concurrently, we'd completed due diligence on Oaktree, and while it's early days, we've had a very positive experience with them," he said. "It's a strategy we feel pairs quite well with the Blue Owl one, and we feel that diversification is your friend in terms of the number of loans and managers."

Although Oaktree is highly regarded for investing in the distressed credit space, Koda opted to invest in a strategy that is "predominantly performing credit," Gouldson said.

"The Oaktree mandate slightly differs from Blue Owl in that it also has the ability to invest opportunistically and somewhat counter-cyclically in public credit when market conditions become dislocated...[W]e had a lot of conviction in pairing that with something like Blue Owl that's a little bit more beta-like," he added.

Gouldson said that Koda has also recently invested in a very well-known institutional infrastructure manager and is just about to commit to another open-ended strategy in the space.

One invests domestically while the other is global, and they both target core and core-plus assets, according to Gouldson, who declined to provide the identities of the managers at this point.

"The common elements between the two managers are that they have very long, impressive track records that have gone through multiple investment cycles and have very deep and capable investment teams," he added. "Stability and alignment are also really important too...[W]e want the managers to be truly aligned with the outcomes of our clients."

In a paper released in late May, Koda's CIO Norman Zhang said that the key principles of Koda's endowment investment approach include prioritising long-term growth, having a high exposure to alternatives, favouring active management, and harvesting illiquidity and complexity premia through unlisted investments.

Koda is currently seeking asset managers with access to unique private market opportunities, as also reported.