

BANKGESELLSCHAFT BERLIN AG  
Form SC 13D/A  
September 10, 2003

Securities and Exchange Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE 13D  
Under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

(Amendment No. 5)

INFORMATION TO BE INCLUDED IN STATEMENTS FILED PURSUANT TO  
RULE 13d-1(a) AND AMENDMENTS THERETO FILED PURSUANT TO RULE 13d-2(a)

Aberdeen Australia Equity Fund, Inc.

-----  
(Name of Issuer)

Common Stock, par value \$.01 per share

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(Title of Class of Securities)

318652104

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(CUSIP Number)

Moritz Sell  
Bankgesellschaft Berlin AG  
Alexanderplatz 2  
D-10178 Berlin  
Germany  
+44.20.7572.6200

-----  
(Name, Address and Telephone Number of Person  
Authorized to Receive Notices and Communications)

August 28, 2003

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(Date of Event which Requires  
Filing of this Statement)

If the filing person has previously filed a statement on Schedule 13G to report the acquisition which is the subject of this Schedule 13D, and is filing this schedule because of Rule 13d-1(b)(3) or (4), check the following box. [ ]

Page 1 of 4 Pages

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1      NAME OF REPORTING PERSON  
         S.S. OR I.R.S. ID NO. OF ABOVE PERSON

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Bankgesellschaft Berlin AG

2 CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP

3 SEC USE ONLY

4 SOURCE OF FUNDS

5 CHECK BOX IF DISCLOSURE OF LEGAL PROCEEDINGS IS REQUIRED PURSUANT TO ITEM 2(d) OR 2(e)

6 CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION

Federal Republic of Germany

NUMBER OF SHARES SOLE VOTING POWER

BENEFICIALLY OWNED SHARED VOTING POWER

BY EACH REPORTING PERSON SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER

PERSON WITH SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER

11 AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON

12 CHECK IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (11) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES

13 PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (11)

14 TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON

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This Amendment No. 5 amends and supplements Item 4 of the Statement on Schedule 13D of Bankgesellschaft Berlin AG (the "Bank") with respect to the shares of Common Stock, par value \$.01 per share (the "Common Stock"), of the Aberdeen Australia Equity Fund, Inc. (the "Fund"). Items not included in this amendment are not amended and remain as previously reported.

ITEM 4. PURPOSE OF TRANSACTION

In Amendment No. 3 to the Bank's Statement on Schedule 13D with respect to the Fund, the Bank reported that it intended to request exemptive relief from the Securities and Exchange Commission, pursuant to subsection 17(b) of the Investment Company Act of 1940, from certain prohibitions set forth in subsection 17(a) of the Investment Company Act, in connection with the Bank's interest in participating in the proposed in-kind tender offer announced by the Fund on February 19, 2003. In Amendment No. 4 to the Bank's Statement on Schedule 13D with respect to the Fund, the Bank reported that it filed a formal

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application with the Commission for such relief on May 21, 2003.

The staff of the Commission has advised the Bank that the staff will not support the Bank's application for exemptive relief. As a consequence of this development, the Bank has determined to withdraw its request for exemptive relief.

Except as set forth herein and in the Schedule 13D and amendments thereto previously filed by the Bank, the Bank has not formulated any plans or proposals which relate to or would result in any of the transactions described in paragraphs (a) through (j) of Item 4. As previously reported, the Bank will review its investment in the Fund from time to time and reserves the right to take or not take any action it deems to be in its best interest consistent with its goal of maximizing the return on its investment in the shares of Common Stock, and with the Bank's intention relating thereto, each as set forth under Item 4 of the Schedule 13D and amendments thereto previously filed by the Bank, or to change such intention.

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SIGNATURE

After reasonable inquiry and to the best of our knowledge and belief, we certify that the information set forth in this statement is true, complete and correct.

Date: September 8, 2003

BANKGESELLSCHAFT BERLIN AG

By: /s/ Dirk Kipp

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Name: Dirk Kipp  
Title: Managing Director

By: /s/ Moritz Sell

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Name: Moritz Sell  
Title: Director

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