### WAM RESEARCH LIMITED

ABN 15 100 504 541

### Appendix 4D Half Year Report

for the half year ended 31 December 2018

### **Results for Announcement to the Market**

All comparisons to the half year ended 31 December 2017

	\$	up/down	% mvmt
Revenue from ordinary activities	(26,006,766)	down	217.0%
Profit/(loss) from ordinary activities before income tax expense	(27,705,640)	down	235.6%
Net profit/(loss) from ordinary activities after income tax expense	(18,573,126)	down	223.3%

Dividend information	Cents per share	Franked amount per share	Tax rate for franking
2019 Interim dividend cents per share	4.85c	4.85c	30%
2018 Final dividend cents per share	4.75c	4.75c	30%

### **Interim dividend dates**

Ex dividend date	10 April 2019
Record date	11 April 2019
Last election date for the DRP	15 April 2019
Payment date	26 April 2019

### **Dividend Reinvestment Plan**

The Dividend Reinvestment Plan ('DRP') is in operation and the recommended fully franked interim dividend of 4.85 cents per share qualifies. Participating shareholders will be entitled to be allotted the number of shares (rounded to the nearest whole number) which the cash dividend would purchase at the relevant issue price. The relevant issue price will be at a 2.5% discount to the price, calculated as the VWAP (volume weighted average market price) of shares sold on the ASX on the ex date for the relevant dividend and the three trading days following that date.

	31 Dec 18	31 Dec 17
Net tangible asset backing (after tax) per share	\$1.10	\$1.26

This report is based on the Half Year Financial Report which has been subject to independent review by the Auditors, Pitcher Partners. All the documents comprise the information required by Listing Rule 4.2A. This information should be read in conjunction with the 30 June 2018 Annual Financial Report.



# W | A | M Research

## Financial Report

For the half year ended 31 December 2018

### **WAM Research Limited**

WAM Research Limited (WAM Research or the Company) is a listed investment company and is a reporting entity. It is primarily an investor in equities listed on the Australian Securities Exchange.

### **Directors**

Geoff Wilson AO (Chairman) John Abernethy Julian Gosse Kate Thorley

### **Company Secretary**

Linda Vo

### **Investment Manager**

MAM Pty Limited Level 26, Governor Phillip Tower 1 Farrer Place Sydney NSW 2000 (part of Wilson Asset Management)

### **Auditor**

Pitcher Partners

### **Country of Incorporation**

Australia

### **Registered Office**

Level 26, Governor Phillip Tower 1 Farrer Place Sydney NSW 2000

#### **Contact Details**

Postal Address: GPO Box 4658 Sydney NSW 2001 T: (02) 9247 6755 F: (02) 9247 6855

E: info@wilsonassetmanagement.com.au W: wilsonassetmanagement.com.au

### **Share Registry**

Boardroom Pty Limited Level 12, 225 George Street Sydney NSW 2000 T: (02) 9290 9600 F: (02) 9279 0664

For enquiries relating to shareholdings, dividends (including participation in the dividend reinvestment plan) and related matters, please contact the share registry.

### **Australian Securities Exchange**

WAM Research Limited Ordinary Shares (WAX)

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### Directors' Report to shareholders for the half year ended 31 December 2018

The Directors present their report together with the financial report of WAM Research Limited for the half year ended 31 December 2018.

#### **Directors**

The following persons were Directors of the Company during the financial period and up to the date of this report:

Geoff Wilson AO (Chairman – Non-independent)

John Abernethy (Director – Independent)

Julian Gosse (Director – Independent)

Kate Thorley (Director – Non-independent)

### **Principal activity**

The principal activity of the Company is making investments in listed companies. The Company's investment objectives are to deliver a rising stream of fully franked dividends and to achieve a high real rate of return, comprising both income and capital growth, within the risk parameters acceptable to the Directors. No change in this activity took place during the period or is likely in the future.

### Operating and financial review

Investment operations during the half year resulted in an operating loss before tax of \$27,705,640 (2017: operating profit before tax of \$20,435,957) and an operating loss after tax of \$18,573,126 (2017: operating profit after tax of \$15,065,047). The loss for the period is reflective of the underlying investment portfolio performance, as our small to mid-cap holdings were negatively impacted by the heightened equity market volatility during the six months to 31 December 2018. The investment portfolio decreased 11.1% in the six months to December 2018, while the S&P/ASX All Ordinaries Accumulation Index declined 7.3% and the S&P/ASX Small Ordinaries Accumulation Index fell 12.7%. The investment portfolio held an average cash weighting of 33.3% during the period and as at 31 December 2018, the cash weighting was 53.3%. Given the cautious outlook at the end of the period, we held high levels of cash in WAM Research to manage risk and ensure liquidity as we entered 2019.

The operating loss for the period includes unrealised gains or losses arising from changes in the market value of the investments held in the portfolio during the period. This movement in the market value of investments can add to or reduce the realised gains and losses on the investment portfolio and other revenue from operating activities (such as dividend and interest income) in each period. Because of this treatment under the Accounting Standards, this can cause large variations in reported operating profits between periods.

The operating profit or loss for each financial period is reflective of the underlying investment portfolio performance and is important to understand with context to the overall performance of equity markets in any given period. As a result, we believe the more appropriate measures of the financial results for the period are the investment portfolio performance, the change in net tangible assets (NTA) and fully franked dividends, together with total shareholder return.

WAM Research's before tax NTA decreased 11.7% for the six months to 31 December 2018, including the 4.75 cents per share fully franked dividend paid to shareholders during the period. This decrease is after tax paid of 0.2 cents per share or 0.2%. Corporate tax payments made throughout the period was an item of difference between the investment portfolio decrease of 11.1% and the net tangible asset performance. The franking credits attached to corporate tax payments are available for distribution to shareholders through fully franked dividends. Other items contributing to the change in the value of the assets during the period were management fees of 0.5% and other company related expenses of 0.1%, being offset by capital raising accretion of 0.2%.

The NTA before tax as at 31 December 2018 amounted to \$1.09 per share (June 2018: \$1.28). The NTA after tax was \$1.10 per share (June 2018: \$1.25). These figures are after the 4.75 cents per share fully franked dividend paid to shareholders during the period.

The total shareholder return for the Company was reflective of the heightened volatility in the Australian equity market and the underlying performance of the investment portfolio, offset by the increase in the share price premium to NTA during the period, decreasing 0.2% for the half year to 31 December 2018. This measure does not value the potential benefit of franking credits distributed to shareholders through fully franked dividends.

A final dividend of 4.75 cents per share fully franked was paid during the period and an interim dividend of 4.85 cents per share fully franked has been declared by the Board and will be paid on 26 April 2019.

### Rounding of amounts to nearest dollar

In accordance with ASIC Corporations (rounding in Directors' Reports) Instrument 2016/191, the amounts in the Directors' Report have been rounded to the nearest dollar, unless otherwise indicated.

### **Auditor's Independence Declaration**

A copy of the Auditor's Independence Declaration as required under Section 307C of the *Corporations Act 2001* in relation to the review for the half year is set out on page 6 of this Financial Report.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors.

Geoff Wilson AO Chairman

Dated in Sydney this 27th day of February 2019



## Auditor's Independence Declaration To the Directors of WAM Research Limited ABN 15 100 504 541

In relation to the independent auditor's review for the half year ended 31 December 2018, to the best of my knowledge and belief there have been:

- (i) no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements of the *Corporations Act 2001*; and
- (ii) no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the review.

This declaration is in respect of WAM Research Limited during the period.

Scott Whiddett

Shriddet

Partner

**Pitcher Partners** 

Sydney

27 February 2019

### Statement of comprehensive income for the half year ended 31 December 2018

	(17,984)	18,168
6	(18,573,126)	15,065,047
	9,132,514	(5,370,910)
	(27,705,640)	20,435,957
	(132,823)	(122,377)
	(45,720)	(36,017)
	(81,441)	(89,552)
	(9,774)	(8,499)
	(198,084)	(270,670)
	(40,000)	(60,000)
	(1,191,032)	(1,202,943)
2	3,770,255	3,436,148
	(29,777,021)	18,789,867
		(29,777,021)  2 3,770,255 (1,191,032) (40,000) (198,084) (9,774) (81,441) (45,720) (132,823)  (27,705,640) 9,132,514

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

### Statement of financial position as at 31 December 2018

	Note	December 2018 \$	June 2018 \$
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents		109,416,907	68,050,560
Trade and other receivables		665,328	1,413,159
Financial assets at fair value through income statement	7	94,924,696	178,525,024
Current tax provision		665,487	-
Total current assets		205,672,418	247,988,743
Non-current assets			
Financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income	7	1,603,976	1,705,861
Deferred tax assets		2,231,402	55,796
Total non-current assets		3,835,378	1,761,657
Total assets		209,507,796	249,750,400
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables		297,004	7,979,618
Current tax liabilities		-	296,467
Total current liabilities		297,004	8,276,085
Non-current liabilities			
Deferred tax liabilities		-	6,453,864
Total non-current liabilities		-	6,453,864
Total liabilities		297,004	14,729,949
Net assets		209,210,792	235,020,451
Equity			
Issued capital	4	206,467,868	204,737,110
Reserves	5	43,283,700	44,616,826
Accumulated losses	6	(40,540,776)	(14,333,485)
Total equity		209,210,792	235,020,451
The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.			

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

### Statement of changes in equity for the half year ended 31 December 2018

	Note	Issued Capital \$	Accumulated Losses \$	Profits reserve \$	Asset revaluation reserve \$	reserves	Total equity \$
Balance at 1 July 2017		198,689,753	(14,333,485)	59,817,175	295,272	(19,846,195)	224,622,520
Profit for the half year		-	15,065,047	-	-	-	15,065,047
Transfer to profits reserve		-	(15,065,047)	15,065,047	-	_	-
Transfer to asset revaluation reserve		-	-	-	(9,917)	9,917	-
Other comprehensive income for the half year		-	-	-	18,168	-	18,168
Transactions with owners:							
Shares issued via dividend reinvestment plan	4(b)	1,696,997	-	-	-	-	1,696,997
Shares issued via placement	4(b)	2,642,640	-	-	-	_	2,642,640
Share issue costs (net of tax)	4(b)	(24,451)	-	-	-	_	(24,451)
Dividends paid	3(a)	-	-	(8,298,193)	-	-	(8,298,193)
Balance at 31 December 2017		203,004,939	(14,333,485)	66,584,029	303,523	(19,836,278)	235,722,728
Balance at 1 July 2018		204,737,110	(14,333,485)	64,226,211	226,893	(19,836,278)	235,020,451
Loss for the half year		-	(18,573,126)	-	-	-	(18,573,126)
Transfer to profits reserve	5	-	(7,634,165)	7,634,165	-	_	-
Transfer to asset revaluation reserve	5	-	-	-	(12,688)	12,688	-
Other comprehensive income for the half year		-	-	-	(17,984)	-	(17,984)
Transactions with owners:							
Shares issued via dividend reinvestment plan	4(b)	1,730,758	-	-	-	-	1,730,758
Dividends paid	3(a)	-	-	(8,949,307)	-	_	(8,949,307)
Balance at 31 December 2018		206,467,868	(40,540,776)	62,911,069	196,221	(19,823,590)	209,210,792

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

### Statement of cash flows for the half year ended 31 December 2018

	December 2018 \$	December 2017 \$
Cash flows from operating activities		
Proceeds from sale of investments	216,478,606	163,383,448
Payments for purchase of investments	(169,562,758)	(190,322,846)
Dividends received	2,930,553	2,708,702
Interest received	792,713	848,301
Other investment income received	173,542	78,460
Management fees (GST inclusive)	(1,310,703)	(1,279,062)
Payments for administration expenses (GST inclusive)	(369,643)	(293,958)
Brokerage on share purchases (GST inclusive)	(212,276)	(290,433)
Income tax paid	(451,202)	(3,514,963)
GST on brokerage expense on share sales	(21,910)	(19,072)
Net GST received from the ATO	137,974	123,132
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	48,584,896	(28,578,291)
Cash flows from financing activities		
Proceeds from issue of shares	-	2,642,640
Dividends paid – net of reinvestment	(7,218,549)	(6,601,196)
Share issue costs		(34,930)
Net cash used in financing activities	(7,218,549)	(3,993,486)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents held	41,366,347	(32,571,777)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the half year		
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the han year	68,050,560	101,068,937
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the half year	68,050,560 	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
		101,068,937 <b>68,497,160</b> 1,696,997

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

### Notes to the financial statements for the half year ended 31 December 2018

### 1. Summary of significant accounting policies

These condensed interim financial statements and notes for the half year represent those of WAM Research Limited.

The half year financial report was authorised for issue on 27 February 2019 by the Board of Directors.

### **Basis of preparation**

The half year financial statements are general purpose financial statements that have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Corporations Act 2001* and Australian Accounting Standard AASB 134: *Interim Financial Reporting*, as appropriate for for-profit oriented entities. Compliance with AASB 134 ensures compliance with International Reporting Standard IAS 34: *Interim Financial Reporting*.

The half year report does not include full disclosures of the type normally included in an annual financial report. It is recommended that the half year financial report be read in conjunction with the Annual Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2018 and any public announcements made by the Company during the half year in accordance with continuous disclosure requirements arising under the *Corporations Act 2001.* 

Except for cash flow information, the financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historical cost with the exception of certain financial assets and liabilities that have been measured at fair value.

In accordance with ASIC Corporations (rounding in financial reports) Instrument 2016/191, the amounts in the financial report have been rounded to the nearest dollar, unless otherwise indicated.

The accounting policies have been consistently applied by the Company throughout the period and are consistent with those applied in the 30 June 2018 Annual Financial Report.

### New or amended Accounting Standards and Interpretations adopted

The Company has adopted all of the new or amended Accounting Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board that are mandatory for the current reporting period.

Any new or amended Accounting Standards or Interpretations that are not yet mandatory have not been early adopted and are not expected to have a significant impact on the Company's financial statements.

### 2. Other revenue

	December 2018 \$	December 2017 \$
Dividends	2,930,553	2,578,680
Interest	711,006	779,008
Underwriting and other fees	116,041	70,024
Trust distributions	12,655	8,436
	3,770,255	3,436,148
3. Dividends		
a) Ordinary dividends paid during the period		
	December 2018 \$	December 2017 \$
Final dividend FY2018: 4.75 cents per share fully franked at 30% tax rate paid 26 October 2018 (Final dividend FY2017: 4.5 cents per share fully franked)	8,949,307	8,298,193
b) Dividends not recognised during the period		
	December 2018 \$	December 2017 \$
Since the end of the period, the Directors have declared an interim fully franked dividend of 4.85 cents per share, payable on 26 April 2019 (Interim dividend FY2018: 4.75 cents per share fully franked).	9,193,721	8,893,050

### 4. Issued capital

### a) Paid-up capital

	December 2018 \$	June 2018 \$
189,561,267 ordinary shares fully paid (June 2018: 188,406,337)	206,467,868	204,737,110
b) Ordinary shares		
	December 2018 \$	June 2018 \$
Balance at the beginning of the period	204,737,110	198,689,753
1,154,930 ordinary shares issued on 26 October 2018 under a dividend reinvestment plan	1,730,758	-
1,101,899 ordinary shares issued on 27 October 2017 under a dividend reinvestment plan	-	1,696,997
1,716,000 ordinary shares issued on 2 November 2017 under a dividend reinvestment plan shortfall placement	-	2,642,640
1,184,353 ordinary shares issued on 27 April 2018 under a dividend reinvestment plan	-	1,740,025
Share issue costs (net of tax)	<u>-</u>	(32,305)
At reporting date	206,467,868	204,737,110
5. Reserves		
	December 2018 \$	June 2018 \$
Profits reserve	62,911,069	64,226,211
Asset revaluation reserve	196,221	226,893
Capital profits reserve – capital account	23,951	11,263
Capital profits reserve – revenue account	(19,847,541)	(19,847,541)
	43,283,700	44,616,826

The profits reserve is made up of amounts transferred from current period profits which are preserved for future dividend payments. The asset revaluation reserve is used to record increments and decrements on the revaluation of the financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income, net of potential tax. The capital profits reserve records gains or losses arising from the disposal of financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income, that are designated on revenue or capital account for taxation purposes respectively.

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### 5. Reserves (cont'd)

	December 2018 \$	June 2018 \$
Movement in profits reserve		
Balance at the beginning of the period	64,226,211	59,817,175
Transfer of profits during the period	7,634,165	21,600,279
Final dividend paid (refer Note 3a)	(8,949,307)	(8,298,193)
Interim dividend paid (refer Note 3b)	-	(8,893,050)
At reporting date	62,911,069	64,226,211
Movement in asset revaluation reserve		
Balance at the beginning of the period	226,893	295,272
Transfer to capital profits reserve – capital account	(12,688)	(9,917)
Other comprehensive loss	(17,984)	(58,462)
At reporting date	196,221	226,893
Movement in capital profits reserve – capital account		
Balance at the beginning of the period	11,263	1,346
Transfer from asset revaluation reserve	12,688	9,917
At reporting date	23,951	11,263
6. Accumulated losses		
	December 2018 \$	June 2018 \$
Balance at the beginning of the period	(14,333,485)	(14,333,485)
(Loss)/profit for the period attributable to members of the Company	(18,573,126)	21,600,279
Transfer to profits reserve	(7,634,165)	(21,600,279)
At reporting date	(40,540,776)	(14,333,485)

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#### 7. Financial instruments measured at fair value

AASB 13: Fair Value Measurement requires the disclosure of fair value information using a fair value hierarchy reflecting the significance of the inputs in making the measurements. The fair value hierarchy consists of the following levels:

- **Level 1:** Quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities.
- **Level 2:** Inputs other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability either directly (as prices) or indirectly (derived from prices).

Level 3: Inputs for the asset or liability are not based on observable market data (unobservable inputs).

Included within Level 1 of the hierarchy are listed investments. The fair values of these financial assets and liabilities have been based on the closing quoted last prices at the end of the reporting period, excluding transaction costs.

Included within Level 2 of the hierarchy is an unlisted investment which has been based on the last price to determine fair value.

The following table presents the Company's financial assets measured and recognised at fair value at 31 December 2018:

Total	179,907,483	323,402	-	180,230,885
Financial assets	179,907,483	323,402	-	180,230,885
30 June 2018	Level 1 \$	Level 2 \$	Level 3 \$	Total \$
Total	96,205,270	323,402	-	96,528,672
Financial assets	96,205,270	323,402	_	96,528,672
31 December 2018	Level 1 \$	Level 2 \$	Level 3 \$	Total \$

### 8. Segment reporting

The Company currently engages in investing activities, including cash, term deposits and equity investments. It has no reportable business or geographic segments.

### 9. Capital commitments

There were no capital commitments entered into by the Company before period end which settle after period end (June 2018: nil).

### 10. Contingent liabilities

There were no contingent liabilities for the Company as at 31 December 2018 (June 2018: nil).

### 11. Events subsequent to reporting date

Since the end of the period, the Directors declared an interim dividend of 4.85 cents per share fully franked to be paid on 26 April 2019.

No other matter or circumstance has arisen since the end of the period, other than already disclosed, which significantly affect or may significantly affect the operations of the Company, the results of those operations, or the state of affairs of the Company in subsequent financial periods.

### Directors' Declaration

The Directors of WAM Research Limited declare that:

- 1) The financial statements and notes as set out in pages 7 to 16, are in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001*, including:
  - a) complying with Australian Accounting Standard AASB 134: *Interim Financial Reporting*, the *Corporations Regulations 2001* and other mandatory professional reporting requirements; and
  - b) giving a true and fair view of the financial position of the Company as at 31 December 2018 and of its performance for the half year ended on that date.
- 2) In the Directors' opinion there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Company will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors.

Geoff Wilson AO Chairman

Dated in Sydney this 27th day of February 2019



Independent Auditor's Review Report to the Members of WAM Research Limited ABN 15 100 504 541

### **Report on the Half Year Financial Report**

We have reviewed the accompanying half year financial report of WAM Research Limited ("the company"), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2018, statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the half year ended on that date, a summary of significant accounting policies, other selected explanatory notes and the directors' declaration of the company.

### Directors' Responsibility for the Half Year Financial Report

The directors of the company are responsible for the preparation of the half year financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the *Corporations Act 2001* and for such internal controls as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the half year financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

### **Auditor's Responsibility**

Our responsibility is to express a conclusion on the half year financial report based on our review. We conducted our review in accordance with Auditing Standard on Review Engagements ASRE 2410: "Review of a Financial Report Performed by the Independent Auditor of the Entity", in order to state whether, on the basis of the procedures described, we have become aware of any matter that makes us believe that the half year financial report is not in accordance with the Corporations Act 2001 including giving a true and fair view of the company's financial position as at 31 December 2018 and its performance for the half year ended on that date; and complying with Accounting Standard AASB 134: "Interim Financial Reporting" and the Corporations Regulations 2001. As the auditor of WAM Research Limited, ASRE 2410 requires that we comply with the ethical requirements relevant to the audit of the annual financial report.

A review of the half year financial report consists of making enquiries, primarily of persons responsible for the financial and accounting matters, and applying analytical and other review procedures. A review is substantially less in scope than an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards and consequently does not enable us to obtain assurance that we would become aware of all significant matters that might be identified in an audit. Accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion.

### Independent Auditor's Review Report to the members of WAM Research Limited ABN 15 100 504 541



### Independence

In conducting our review, we have complied with the independence requirements of the *Corporations Act 2001*.

### **Conclusion**

Based on our review, which is not an audit, we have not become aware of any matter that makes us believe that the half year financial report of WAM Research Limited is not in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001*, including:

- (i) giving a true and fair view of the company's financial position as at 31 December 2018 and of its performance for the half year ended on that date; and
- (ii) complying with Accounting Standard AASB 134: *Interim Financial Reporting* and *Corporations Regulations 2001*.

Scott Whiddett

Mhiddel

Partner

27 February 2019

Pitcher Partners

Sydney

### **Wilson** Asset Management

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