

Strong demand for WAM Leaders Share Purchase Plan and Placement raises over \$230 million

11 May 2023
ASX Announcement

The WAM Leaders Limited (ASX: WLE) Board of Directors is pleased to announce that the Share Purchase Plan (SPP) and Placement raised over \$230 million. The SPP closed on Monday 8 May 2023 following strong support from WAM Leaders shareholders, raising nearly \$100 million.

WAM Leaders listed in 2016, raising \$394 million in its initial public offering. Since inception, the Company has grown to become the third largest listed investment company, by assets, in Australia, delivering strong returns to shareholders and outperforming the S&P/ASX 200 Accumulation Index over one, three and five years with now almost \$1.9 billion in assets.

Chairman Geoff Wilson AO said: “We greatly appreciate the trust, loyalty and support we have received from WAM Leaders shareholders who participated in the SPP and Placement, which provided an equitable opportunity for shareholders to increase their exposure to the WAM Leaders investment portfolio that has delivered strong performance since inception.”

In April, the Board of Directors announced the successful completion of a Placement to existing wholesale and sophisticated¹ investors at \$1.48 per share, a premium to the pre-tax net tangible asset (NTA) backing as at 31 March 2023. The SPP shares, to be issued on Friday 12 May 2023, will be priced at \$1.4580 per share, a 2.5% discount to the 5-day volume weighted average price at the issue date. The SPP offered existing shareholders² the opportunity to increase their interest in the Company by up to \$30,000 of fully paid ordinary shares. Shareholders who participated in the SPP and Placement are entitled to receive the interim fully franked dividend³ of 4.5 cents per share which represents an annualised fully franked dividend yield of 6.2%⁴ and a grossed-up yield of 8.9%⁵ based on the SPP price of \$1.4580 per share. Since inception in 2016, WAM Leaders has paid \$429.4 million in fully franked dividends to shareholders including the value of franking credits. After the issue of new WAM Leaders shares under the SPP and Placement, the Company has 38.4 cents per share in its profits reserve as at 31 March 2023, representing 4.3 years of dividend coverage before the payment of the interim fully franked dividend of 4.5 cents per share.

The proceeds of the additional capital have been invested in accordance with the disciplined and proven WAM Leaders investment process. The process focuses on detailed fundamental analysis, comprehensive macroeconomic analysis and positioning analysis and has led to strong investment portfolio performance throughout the Company’s history. Since inception in May 2016, the WAM Leaders investment portfolio has increased 14.4%⁶ per annum as at 31 March 2023, outperforming the S&P/ASX 200 Accumulation Index by 5.8% per annum.

WAM Leaders Lead Portfolio Manager Matthew Haupt said: “On behalf of the WAM Leaders investment team I would like to thank shareholders for their continued support and entrusting us with their capital which we have deployed into compelling opportunities.”

The Company’s larger capital base has increased the liquidity of the shares and its relevance in the market by improving the prospect of broker and research coverage, increasing interest from financial planners and gaining additional access to market opportunities. The increased size will reduce the fixed expense ratio of the Company and shareholders will gain additional exposure to the Company’s track record of strong investment portfolio performance and a stream of fully franked dividends.

Key dates

Issue of SPP Shares	12 May 2023
SPP Shares expected to commence trading on ASX	15 May 2023
Dividend ex date	19 May 2023
Dividend record date	22 May 2023
Dividend payment date	31 May 2023

This announcement has been authorised by the Board of WAM Leaders Limited.

¹These terms are defined in the Corporations Act and refer to individuals with net assets greater than \$25 million, or those who earn gross income of \$250,000, or a Superannuation Fund with net assets of at least \$10 million.

²Shareholders on the WAM Leaders register as at 7:00pm (Sydney time) on 13 April 2023 with a registered address in Australia or New Zealand.

³Assumes shareholders continue to hold shares issued under the offer at the dividend record date on 22 May 2023.

⁴Based on an annualised interim fully franked dividend of 9.0 cents per share and the SPP price of \$1.4580 per share.

⁵Grossed-up dividend yield includes the benefit of franking credits and is based on a tax rate of 30.0%.

⁶Investment portfolio performance is before expenses, fees, taxes and the impact of capital management initiatives to compare to the relevant index which is before expenses, fees and taxes.

About WAM Leaders

WAM Leaders Limited is a listed investment company (LIC) managed by Wilson Asset Management. Listed in May 2016, WAM Leaders provides investors with exposure to an active investment process focused on identifying large-cap companies with compelling fundamentals, a robust macroeconomic thematic and a catalyst.

All major platforms provide access to WAM Leaders, including Asgard eWRAP Investment, BT Panorama, BT Wrap, Colonial First State FirstWrap, Hub24, IOOF Pursuit Select Investment Service, Macquarie Investment Manager / Consolidator, MLC Wrap IDPS and SMS, Netwealth Wrap and North Investment. WAM Leaders receives coverage from the following independent investment research providers:



6
Years
Listed



About Wilson Asset Management

Wilson Asset Management has a track record of making a difference for shareholders and the community for 25 years. As the investment manager for eight LICs – WAM Capital (ASX: WAM), WAM Leaders (ASX: WLE), WAM Global (ASX: WGB), WAM Microcap (ASX: WMI), WAM Alternative Assets (ASX: WMA), WAM Strategic Value (ASX: WAR), WAM Research (ASX: WAX) and WAM Active (ASX: WAA) – Wilson Asset Management invests over \$5 billion on behalf of over 130,000 retail investors.

Wilson Asset Management created and is the lead supporter of the first LICs to deliver both investment and social returns: Future Generation Australia (ASX: FGX) and Future Generation Global (ASX: FGG). Wilson Asset Management advocates and acts for retail investors, is a member of the global philanthropic Pledge 1% movement, is a significant funder of many Australian charities and provides all team members with \$10,000 each year to donate to charities of their choice. All philanthropic investments are made by the Investment Manager.

For more information visit www.wilsonassetmanagement.com.au or contact:

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