

Solid investment portfolio performance, increased final fully franked dividend

17 August 2023
ASX announcement
and media release

Highlights

+14.0%*

Investment portfolio performance per annum since inception (May-16)

+13.5%*

Investment portfolio performance in the financial year to 30 June 2023

9.0 cps

FY2023 full year fully franked dividend

6.3%[^]

FY2023 fully franked dividend yield

\$1.43

Pre-tax NTA
as at 30 June 2023

36.1 cps

Profits reserve as at 31 July 2023 *before* the payment of the final fully franked dividend of 4.5 cps

FY2023 Results Q&A Webinar

*Tuesday 5 September
2023 at 11:00am
(Sydney time)*

Register to join Lead Portfolio Manager Matthew Haupt and the WAM Leaders investment team for a Q&A webinar where they will provide an update on the WAM Leaders investment portfolio.

Register *now*

WAM Leaders Limited (ASX: WLE) reported an operating profit before tax of \$169.0 million for the year (FY2022: \$68.6 million) and an operating profit after tax of \$130.1 million (FY2022: \$65.8 million), as a result of the solid performance of the investment portfolio during the period.

In the 2023 financial year, a more defensive positioning of the WAM Leaders investment portfolio during a volatile equity market resulted in investment portfolio performance of 13.5%, while the S&P/ASX 200 Accumulation Index rose 14.8%. Over a three year period, the WAM Leaders investment portfolio has outperformed the Index by 8.4% per annum, and by 7.0% per annum over five years. Since inception, WAM Leaders has achieved an investment portfolio return of 14.0%* per annum, outperforming the S&P/ASX 200 Accumulation Index by 5.6% per annum.

The Board has declared a full year fully franked dividend of 9.0 cents per share, with the final fully franked dividend being 4.5 cents per share. The full year fully franked dividend represents an increase of 12.5% on the prior corresponding period. Since inception in May 2016, WAM Leaders has paid 39.65 cents per share in fully franked dividends to shareholders. As at 31 July 2023, the Company had 36.1 cents per share available in its profits reserve, before the payment of the final fully franked dividend of 4.5 cents per share.

Chairman Geoff Wilson AO said: "WAM Leaders 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 since inception with now over \$1.8 billion in assets.

"The increased fully franked dividend has been achieved through the performance of the investment portfolio during the 12-month period and the profits reserve available, and is consistent with the Company's investment objective of delivering investors a stream of fully franked dividends," he said.

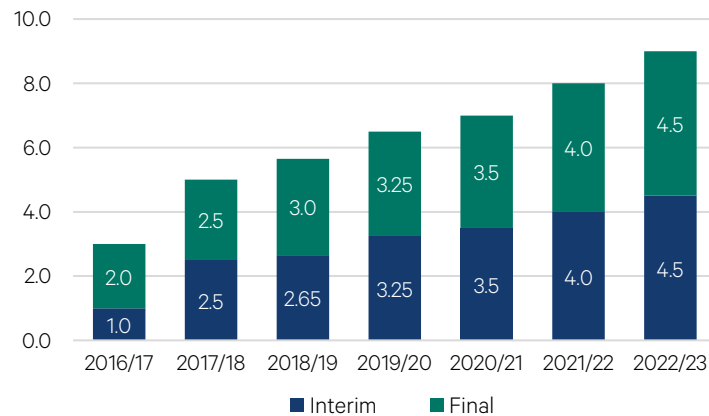
In May 2023, WAM Leaders completed a Share Purchase Plan (SPP) and Placement, raising over \$230 million. WAM Leaders' larger capital base has improved access to management of the largest listed companies in Australia which operate globally and has given additional early engagement in capital raisings, in particular those of the top 20 companies within the S&P/ASX 200 Index. The increased size will reduce the fixed expense ratio of the Company and shareholders gained further exposure to a Company with a track record of strong investment returns and a stream of fully franked dividends.

Lead Portfolio Manager Matthew Haupt said: "2023 proved to be a much more positive year than we predicted with strong equity market returns and a more resilient economy. As we head into 2024, we believe tighter policy and a softening economy will require careful portfolio construction and the tactical approach WAM Leaders employs will allow us to capitalise on important inflection points we have identified."

*Investment 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.

[^]Based on the 16 August 2023 share price of \$1.44 per share.

Fully franked dividends since inception (cents per share)



Key dividend dates

Ex-dividend date	17 October 2023
Dividend record date (7:00pm Sydney time)	18 October 2023
Last election date for DRP	20 October 2023
Final fully franked dividend payment date	31 October 2023

The Dividend Reinvestment Plan (DRP) is in operation and the recommended final fully franked dividend of 4.5 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 calculated as the volume weighted average market price (VWAP) of shares sold on the ASX over the four trading days commencing on the ex-dividend date for the relevant dividend. The DRP will operate without a discount for the final dividend.

Investment portfolio performance since inception

Performance as at 30 June 2023

	1 yr	3 yrs %pa	5 yrs %pa	Since inception %pa (May-16)
WAM Leaders Investment Portfolio	13.5%	19.5%	14.2%	14.0%
S&P/ASX 200 Accumulation Index	14.8%	11.1%	7.2%	8.4%
Outperformance	-1.3%	+8.4%	+7.0%	+5.6%

Investment 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.

Top 20 holdings with portfolio weightings as at 30 June 2023

Code	Company name	%	Code	Company name	%
BHP	BHP Group Limited	8.9%	FMG	Fortescue Metals Group Limited	2.0%
STO	Santos Limited	7.0%	WBC	Westpac Banking Corporation	2.0%
RIO	Rio Tinto Limited	5.9%	ANZ	ANZ Group Holdings Limited	1.8%
CSL	CSL Limited	5.5%	ORA	Orora Limited	1.5%
DXS	Dexus	5.2%	IPL	Incitec Pivot Limited	1.5%
SGR	The Star Entertainment Group Limited	5.2%	CBA	Commonwealth Bank of Australia	1.5%
TWE	Treasury Wine Estates Limited	4.2%	EDV	Endeavour Group Limited	1.5%
NAB	National Australia Bank Limited	4.2%	ALL	Aristocrat Leisure Limited	1.5%
ILU	Iluka Resources Limited	2.7%	CGF	Challenger Limited	1.3%
S32	South32 Limited	2.5%	RMD	ResMed Inc	1.2%

Active sector weights as at 30 June 2023

Sector	Portfolio %*	Benchmark %	Active %
Materials	30.3%	24.7%	+5.6%
Consumer Staples	7.7%	4.9%	+2.8%
Energy	7.8%	5.4%	+2.4%
Real Estate	8.4%	6.2%	+2.2%
Consumer Discretionary	8.5%	6.6%	+1.9%
Utilities	1.6%	1.6%	-
Communication Services	2.7%	3.9%	-1.2%
Information Technology	1.0%	2.4%	-1.4%
Industrials	5.1%	7.0%	-1.9%
Health Care	6.8%	9.1%	-2.3%
Financials	14.9%	28.2%	-13.3%

*Investment portfolio held 5.2% cash.

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:



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

**7
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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