



26 August 2021

## Strong outperformance drives increased fully franked final dividend and record total shareholder return

**+58.6%**

record total shareholder return in FY2021

**+37.0%**

record investment portfolio performance<sup>1</sup> in FY2021, outperforming the Index by 9.2%

**\$318.1m**

record operating profit before tax

**7.0cps**

FY2021 fully franked full year dividend

### Fully franked full year dividend of 7.0 cents per share

The WAM Leaders Board of Directors has declared a fully franked full year dividend of 7.0 cents per share, with the fully franked final dividend being 3.5 cents per share. The fully franked full year dividend represents a 7.7% increase on the previous year.

In July, the WAM Leaders Board of Directors announced its intention to deliver a FY2022 fully franked interim dividend of 4.0 cents per share<sup>\*\*</sup> (subject to no material adverse change in market conditions), a 14.3% increase on the FY2021 fully franked interim dividend.

WAM Leaders Limited (ASX: WLE) achieved a record operating profit before tax of \$318.1 million (FY2020: operating loss before tax of \$1.2 million) and a record operating profit after tax of \$228.9 million (FY2020: \$5.3 million) in its FY2021 full year result.

The fully franked full year dividend of 7.0 cents per share provides shareholders with a fully franked dividend yield of 4.8% and a grossed-up yield of 6.8%<sup>†</sup> and the FY2022 interim dividend guidance would provide shareholders with an annualised fully franked dividend yield of 5.5% and a grossed-up yield of 7.8%<sup>†</sup> on the 25 August 2021 closing share price of \$1.465 per share. The increased fully franked dividend and dividend guidance has been achieved through the strong performance of the investment portfolio since inception and is consistent with the Company's investment objective of delivering investors a stream of fully franked dividends.

Chairman Geoff Wilson AO said: "In FY2021, WAM Leaders celebrated its fifth anniversary since listing on the ASX. Since inception in May 2016, the WAM Leaders investment portfolio has increased 14.9%<sup>‡</sup> per annum, outperforming the Index by 4.5% per annum. As a WAM Leaders shareholder, I congratulate Matt Haupt, John Ayoub and Anna Milne on an exceptional five years and thank them for their diligence, rigour and commitment."

During the year, the WAM Leaders investment portfolio increased a record 37.0%<sup>‡</sup>, outperforming the S&P/ASX 200 Accumulation Index by 9.2%. WAM Leaders' active investment approach, which focuses on large-cap companies with compelling fundamentals, a robust macroeconomic thematic and a catalyst, has led to strong investment portfolio outperformance in all periods throughout the Company's history.

The strong investment portfolio outperformance drove a growth in assets, which combined with the increased fully franked dividends paid during the period, resulted in a record 58.6% total shareholder return during the 12-month period to 30 June 2021.

Lead Portfolio Manager Matthew Haupt said: "During the year we were pleased to deliver strong, risk-adjusted returns for shareholders, focusing our attention on quality, cashflow-generative companies. We are excited to be managing the additional capital raised through the Share Purchase Plan, Entitlement Offer and additional placement."

As at 31 July 2021, the Company's profits reserve was 36.2<sup>§</sup> cents per share, before the payment of the fully franked final dividend of 3.5 cents per share. Since inception in May 2016, WAM Leaders has paid 23.65 cents per share in fully franked dividends to shareholders. The Company's ability to generate franking credits is dependent upon the payment of tax on profits and the quantum of fully franked dividends received from investee companies.

#### Key dividend dates

Ex dividend date	18 October 2021
Dividend record date (Sydney time 7:00pm)	19 October 2021
Last election date for DRP	21 October 2021
Fully franked final dividend payment date	29 October 2021

<sup>1</sup>Investment portfolio performance is before expenses, fees and taxes to compare to the relevant index which is before expenses, fees and taxes.

<sup>\*\*</sup>The Company's ability to pay fully franked dividends is dependent on the payment of tax on profits and receipt of franked dividends.

<sup>†</sup>Grossed-up dividend yield includes the benefits of franking credits and is based on a tax rate of 30.0%.

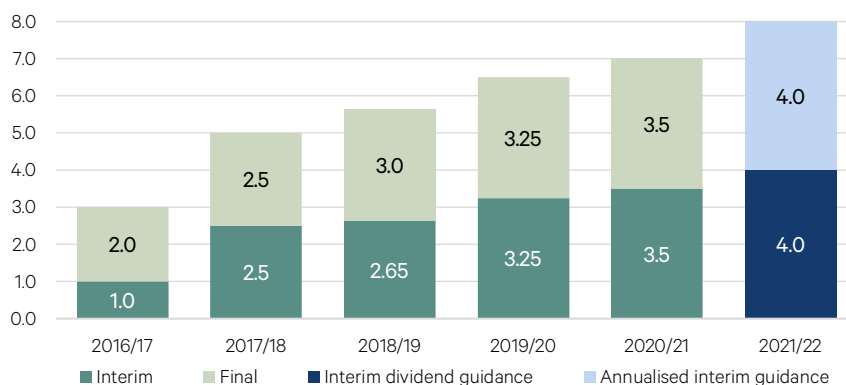
<sup>‡</sup>Based on 837,543,215 shares on issue and before the issuance of new shares on 13 August and 23 August from the Entitlement Offer, Shortfall Facility and additional placement.

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# Strong investment portfolio outperformance since inception

Increasing fully franked dividends (cents per share)



Performance at 30 June 2021	1 yr	3 yrs %pa	Since inception % pa (May-16)
WAM Leaders Investment Portfolio*	37.0%	16.0%	14.9%
S&P/ASX 200 Accumulation Index	27.8%	9.6%	10.4%
Outperformance	+9.2%	+6.4%	+4.5%

\*Investment portfolio performance is before expenses, fees and taxes to compare to the relevant index which is also before expenses, fees and taxes.

## Top 25 holdings (in alphabetical order) as at 30 June 2021

Code	Name
ALL	Aristocrat Leisure Limited
ANZ	Australia & New Zealand Banking Group Limited
BHP	BHP Group Limited
CBA	Commonwealth Bank of Australia
CGF	Challenger Limited
CPU	Computershare Limited
CSL	CSL Limited
GMG	Goodman Group
IAG	Insurance Australia Group Limited
NAB	National Australia Bank Limited
OSH	Oil Search Limited
OZL	OZ Minerals Limited
QAN	Qantas Airways Limited
QBE	QBE Insurance Group Limited
RHC	Ramsay Health Care Limited
RIO	Rio Tinto Limited
RMD	ResMed Inc
S32	South32 Limited
SGR	The Star Entertainment Group Limited
STO	Santos Limited
SUN	Suncorp Group Limited
TLS	Telstra Corporation Limited
TWE	Treasury Wine Estates Limited
WBC	Westpac Banking Corporation
WOW	Woolworths Group Limited

## Fully subscribed Entitlement Offer raises \$277.2 million



The WAM Leaders pro-rata 1 for 5 Entitlement Offer closed on Friday 6 August 2021 following strong support from WAM Leaders shareholders.

Mr Wilson said, "We greatly appreciate the trust, loyalty and support we have received from WAM Leaders shareholders. More than 80% of the funds in the Entitlement Offer were taken up by existing WAM Leaders shareholders, raising more than \$193.6 million."

The shares issued under the offer were raised at the 30 June 2021 pre-tax net tangible assets (NTA) of \$1.44 per share and are accretive to the post-tax NTA of the Company.

The shortfall of new shares taken up by Eligible Shareholders (including after the application of the Top-Up Facility) were offered to eligible professional and sophisticated investors<sup>††</sup> through a placement (Shortfall Facility), many of whom are existing long-term shareholders and supporters of WAM Leaders. WAM Leaders also raised an additional 25 million shares through the Company's placement capacity under the ASX Listing Rules as a result of strong demand under the Shortfall Facility. The new shares issued under the Shortfall Facility and additional placement were offered at the same price and under the same terms as the Entitlement Offer.

The fully subscribed Entitlement Offer raised \$277.2 million, with the Entitlement Offer raising \$145.8 million from 10,321 shareholders, the Top-Up Facility raising \$47.8 million from 3,416 shareholders and the Shortfall Facility and additional placement raising \$83.6 million from more than 650 investors. The raised capital has taken WAM Leaders' gross assets to more than \$1.5 billion, making it one of the largest listed investment companies on the ASX.

<sup>††</sup>These terms are defined in the Corporations Act and refer to individuals with net assets greater than \$2.5 million, or those who earn gross income of \$250,000, or a Superannuation Fund with net assets of at least \$10 million.

## About WAM Leaders

WAM Leaders Limited (ASX: WLE) 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 AMP North, BT Panorama, Colonial First State FirstWrap, Netwealth, Macquarie Wrap and Hub24. WAM Leaders receives coverage from the following independent investment research providers:



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

For further information, visit [wilsonassetmanagement.com.au](http://wilsonassetmanagement.com.au) or contact:

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WAM Leaders  
5 Years Listed



## About Wilson Asset Management

Wilson Asset Management has a track record of making a difference for shareholders and the community for more than 20 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 more than 110,000 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.