

WAM RESEARCH LIMITED

ABN 15 100 504 541

Appendix 4D Half Year Report

for the half year ended 31 December 2020

Results for Announcement to the Market

All comparisons to the half year ended 31 December 2019

	\$	up/down	% mvmt
Revenue from ordinary activities	50,710,067	up	177.6%
Profit from ordinary activities before income tax expense	44,642,707	up	205.2%
Net profit from ordinary activities after income tax expense	31,724,250	up	188.0%

Dividend information	Cents per share	Franked amount per share	Tax rate for franking
2021 Interim dividend cents per share	4.95c	4.95c	30%
2020 Final dividend cents per share	4.90c	4.90c	30%

Interim dividend dates

Ex dividend date	7 April 2021
Record date	8 April 2021
Last election date for the DRP	12 April 2021
Payment date	20 April 2021

Dividend Reinvestment Plan

The Dividend Reinvestment Plan ('DRP') is in operation and the recommended fully franked interim dividend of 4.95 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 20	31 Dec 19
Net tangible asset backing (after tax) per share	\$1.14	\$1.17

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 2020 Annual Financial Report.

W | A | M *Research*

Financial Report

For the half year ended 31 December 2020

W Wilson
Asset Management

OVER **20** YEARS Making a
difference

ABN 15 100 504 541

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

Joint Company Secretaries

Jesse Hamilton
Linda Kiriczenko

Investment Manager

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

Auditor

Pitcher Partners

Country of Incorporation

Australia

Registered Office

Level 26, Governor Phillip Tower
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Sydney NSW 2000

Contact Details

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Share Registry

Boardroom Pty Limited
Level 12, 225 George Street
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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 2020

The Directors present their report together with the financial report of WAM Research Limited for the half year ended 31 December 2020.

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 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 to in the future.

Operating and financial review

Investment operations during the half year resulted in an operating profit before tax of \$44,642,707 (2019: \$14,628,199) and an operating profit after tax of \$31,724,250 (2019: \$11,014,555). The profit for the period is reflective of the strong performance of the investment portfolio over the six months to 31 December 2020. The investment portfolio increased 27.3% in the six months to December 2020, outperforming the S&P/ASX All Ordinaries Accumulation Index by 11.6%. This outperformance was achieved with an average cash weighting of 11.3%.

The operating profit for the period includes unrealised gains or losses arising from changes in the fair value of the investments held in the investment portfolio during the period. This movement in the fair 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. Due to 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 it 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 NTA before tax increased 20.8% for the six months to 31 December 2020, including the 4.9 cents per share fully franked final dividend paid to shareholders during the period. This increase is after corporate tax paid of 3.4 cents per share or 3.4% during the period. Corporate tax payments made throughout the period were the major item of difference between the investment portfolio increase of 27.3% and the NTA 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%, performance fees accrued of 2.4% and other company related expenses of 0.3%, being offset by capital raising accretion of 0.1%.

The NTA before tax as at 31 December 2020 amounted to \$1.14 per share (June 2020: \$0.99). The NTA after tax was \$1.14 per share (June 2020: \$1.03). These figures are after the 4.90 cents per share fully franked final dividend paid to shareholders during the period.

The total shareholder return for the Company for the period to 31 December 2020 was 21.9%. This was reflective of WAM Research's strong investment portfolio performance and the increase in the share price premium to NTA. As at 31 December 2020, the share price premium to NTA was 37.0% (June 2020: 33.7%). This measure does not value the potential benefit of franking credits distributed to shareholders through fully franked dividends.

A fully franked final dividend of 4.90 cents per share was paid during the period and a fully franked interim dividend of 4.95 cents per share has been declared by the Board and will be paid on 20 April 2021.

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 24th day of February 2021

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

In relation to the independent auditor's review of WAM Research Limited for the half year ended 31 December 2020, 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.



S M Whiddett
Partner

Pitcher Partners
Sydney

24 February 2021

Statement of comprehensive income for the half year ended 31 December 2020

	Note	December 2020 \$	December 2019 \$
Net realised and unrealised gains on financial investments		48,425,001	15,130,365
Other revenue from operating activities	2	2,285,066	3,135,723
Performance fees		(4,379,942)	(1,814,282)
Management fees		(1,092,905)	(1,211,663)
Directors fees		(40,000)	(40,000)
Brokerage expense on share purchases		(298,531)	(277,406)
Custody fees		(7,757)	(7,333)
ASX listing and chess fees		(55,004)	(81,508)
Share registry fees		(55,763)	(42,668)
ASIC industry funding levy		(9,826)	(7,429)
Other expenses from ordinary activities		(127,632)	(155,600)
Profit before income tax		44,642,707	14,628,199
Income tax expense		(12,918,457)	(3,613,644)
Profit after income tax attributable to members of the Company	6	31,724,250	11,014,555
Other comprehensive income			
Net unrealised gains on investments taken to equity, net of tax		154,972	95,119
Total comprehensive income for the period		31,879,222	11,109,674
Basic and diluted earnings per share		16.35 cents	5.75 cents

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Statement of financial position as at 31 December 2020

	Note	December 2020 \$	June 2020 \$
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents		20,995,160	30,350,919
Trade and other receivables		1,366,451	2,250,467
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	7	201,747,533	160,554,909
Current tax assets		-	1,139,459
Total current assets		224,109,144	194,295,754
Non-current assets			
Financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income	7	1,820,033	1,659,609
Deferred tax assets		11,182,248	11,204,756
Total non-current assets		13,002,281	12,864,365
Total assets		237,111,425	207,160,119
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables		4,904,930	3,435,503
Current tax liabilities		7,610,084	-
Total current liabilities		12,515,014	3,435,503
Non-current liabilities			
Deferred tax liabilities		1,696,375	4,923,465
Total non-current liabilities		1,696,375	4,923,465
Total liabilities		14,211,389	8,358,968
Net assets		222,900,036	198,801,151
Equity			
Issued capital	4	213,221,458	211,518,717
Reserves	5	53,485,137	31,088,993
Accumulated losses	6	(43,806,559)	(43,806,559)
Total equity		222,900,036	198,801,151

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Statement of changes in equity for the half year ended 31 December 2020

	Note	Issued Capital \$	Accumulated Losses \$	Profits reserve \$	Asset revaluation reserve \$	Other reserves \$	Total equity \$
Balance at 1 July 2019		208,207,225	(20,355,715)	53,717,345	252,825	(19,823,175)	221,998,505
Profit for the half year		-	11,014,555	-	-	-	11,014,555
Transfer to profits reserve		-	(13,351,361)	13,351,361	-	-	-
Other comprehensive income for the half year		-	-	-	95,119	-	95,119
Transactions with owners:							
Shares issued via dividend reinvestment plan	4(b)	1,686,024	-	-	-	-	1,686,024
Dividends paid	3(a)	-	-	(9,259,054)	-	-	(9,259,054)
Balance at 31 December 2019		209,893,249	(22,692,521)	57,809,652	347,944	(19,823,175)	225,535,149
Balance at 1 July 2020		211,518,717	(43,806,559)	50,658,948	248,812	(19,818,767)	198,801,151
Profit for the half year		-	31,724,250	-	-	-	31,724,250
Transfer to profits reserve	5	-	(31,724,250)	31,724,250	-	-	-
Transfer from asset revaluation reserve	5	-	-	-	(13,420)	13,420	-
Other comprehensive income for the half year		-	-	-	154,972	-	154,972
Transactions with owners:							
Shares issued via dividend reinvestment plan	4(b)	1,702,741	-	-	-	-	1,702,741
Dividends paid	3(a)	-	-	(9,483,078)	-	-	(9,483,078)
Balance at 31 December 2020		213,221,458	(43,806,559)	72,900,120	390,364	(19,805,347)	222,900,036

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Statement of cash flows for the half year ended 31 December 2020

	December 2020 \$	December 2019 \$
Cash flows from operating activities		
Proceeds from sale of investments	245,188,442	237,209,475
Payments for purchase of investments	(239,904,088)	(236,314,238)
Dividends received	2,179,663	3,000,289
Interest received	73,470	401,158
Other investment income received	17,983	10,843
Management fee (GST inclusive)	(1,141,689)	(1,297,748)
Payments for administration expenses (GST inclusive)	(341,573)	(297,546)
Brokerage on share purchases (GST inclusive)	(319,148)	(349,046)
Income tax paid	(7,439,913)	(6,183,977)
GST on brokerage expense on share sales	(15,158)	(24,030)
Net GST received from the ATO	126,589	130,568
Net cash used in operating activities	(1,575,422)	(3,714,252)
Cash flows from financing activities		
Dividends paid – net of reinvestment	(7,780,337)	(7,573,030)
Net cash used in financing activities	(7,780,337)	(7,573,030)
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents held	(9,355,759)	(11,287,282)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the half year	30,350,919	57,506,206
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the half year	20,995,160	46,218,924
Non-cash transactions:		
Shares issued via dividend reinvestment plan	1,702,741	1,686,024

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Notes to the financial statements for the half year ended 31 December 2020

1. Summary of significant accounting policies

These 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 24 February 2021 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 Financial 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 2020 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 2020 Annual Financial Report.

2. Other revenue

	December 2020 \$	December 2019 \$
Dividends	2,198,868	2,819,482
Interest	68,215	305,398
Underwriting fees	17,983	10,843
	2,285,066	3,135,723

3. Dividends

a) Ordinary dividends paid during the period

	December 2020 \$	December 2019 \$
Final dividend FY2020: 4.90 cents per share fully franked at 30% tax rate, paid 23 October 2020 (Final dividend FY2019: 4.85 cents per share fully franked)	9,483,078	9,259,054

b) Dividends not recognised at period end

	December 2020 \$	December 2019 \$
Since the end of the period, the Directors have declared a fully franked interim dividend of 4.95 cents per share, payable on 20 April 2021 (Interim dividend FY2020: 4.90 cents per share fully franked).	9,639,803	9,414,209

4. Issued capital

a) Paid-up capital

	December 2020 \$	June 2020 \$
194,743,490 ordinary shares fully paid (June 2020: 193,532,143)	213,221,458	211,518,717

b) Ordinary shares

	December 2020 \$	June 2020 \$
Balance at the beginning of the period	211,518,717	208,207,225
1,211,347 ordinary shares issued on 23 October 2020 under a dividend reinvestment plan	1,702,741	-
1,220,773 ordinary shares issued on 18 October 2019 under a dividend reinvestment plan	-	1,686,024
1,403,496 ordinary shares issued on 21 April 2020 under a dividend reinvestment plan	-	1,625,468
At reporting date	213,221,458	211,518,717

5. Reserves

	December 2020 \$	June 2020 \$
Profits reserve	72,900,120	50,658,948
Asset revaluation reserve	390,364	248,812
Capital profits reserve – capital account	42,194	28,774
Capital profits reserve – revenue account	(19,847,541)	(19,847,541)
	53,485,137	31,088,993

5. Reserves (cont'd)

The profits reserve is made up of amounts transferred from current period profits and 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.

	December 2020 \$	June 2020 \$
Movement in profits reserve		
Balance at the beginning of the period	50,658,948	53,717,345
Transfer of profits during the period	31,724,250	15,614,866
Final dividend paid (refer Note 3(a))	(9,483,078)	(9,259,054)
Interim dividend paid (refer Note 3(b))	-	(9,414,209)
At reporting date	72,900,120	50,658,948
Movement in asset revaluation reserve		
Balance at the beginning of the period	248,812	252,825
Transfer to capital profits reserve – capital account	(13,420)	(4,408)
Other comprehensive income	154,972	395
At reporting date	390,364	248,812
Movement in capital profits reserve – capital account		
Balance at the beginning of the period	28,774	24,366
Transfer from asset revaluation reserve	13,420	4,408
At reporting date	42,194	28,774

6. Accumulated losses

	December 2020 \$	June 2020 \$
Balance at the beginning of the period	(43,806,559)	(20,355,715)
Profit/(loss) for the period attributable to members of the Company	31,724,250	(7,835,978)
Transfer to profits reserve	(31,724,250)	(15,614,866)
At reporting date	(43,806,559)	(43,806,559)

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 value 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 valued using the last sale price to determine fair value.

The following table presents the Company's financial assets measured and recognised at fair value at 31 December 2020:

31 December 2020	Level 1 \$	Level 2 \$	Level 3 \$	Total \$
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	201,747,533	-	-	201,747,533
Financial assets at fair value through comprehensive income	1,510,692	309,341	-	1,820,033
Total	203,258,225	309,341	-	203,567,566
30 June 2020	Level 1 \$	Level 2 \$	Level 3 \$	Total \$
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	160,554,909	-	-	160,554,909
Financial assets at fair value through comprehensive income	1,336,207	323,402	-	1,659,609
Total	161,891,116	323,402	-	162,214,518

There were no transfers between Level 1 and Level 2 during the period (June 2020: nil).

The carrying amounts of trade and other receivables and trade and other payables are assumed to approximate their fair values due to their short-term nature.

8. Segment reporting

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

9. Capital commitments

There were no capital commitments for the Company as at 31 December 2020 (June 2020: nil).

10. Contingent liabilities

There were no contingent liabilities for the Company as at 31 December 2020 (June 2020: nil).

11. Events subsequent to reporting date

Since the end of the period, the Directors declared a fully franked interim dividend of 4.95 cents per share to be paid on 20 April 2021.

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 15, 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 2020 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 24th day of February 2021

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

Report on the Half-Year Financial Report

Conclusion

We have reviewed the half-year financial report of WAM Research Limited ("the Company") which comprises the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2020, the 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 and other explanatory information, and the directors' declaration.

Based on our review, which is not an audit, we have not become aware of any matter that makes us believe that the accompanying half-year financial report of the Company does not comply with the *Corporations Act 2001* including:

- a) giving a true and fair view of the Company's financial position as at 31 December 2020 and of its performance for the half-year ended on that date; and
- b) complying with Accounting Standard AASB 134 *Interim Financial Reporting* and the *Corporations Regulations 2001*.

Basis for Conclusion

We conducted our review in accordance with ASRE 2410 *Review of a Financial Report Performed by the Independent Auditor of the Entity*. Our responsibilities are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Review of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of the Company in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the *Corporations Act 2001* and the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)* ("the Code") that are relevant to our audit of the annual financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We confirm that the independence declaration required by the *Corporations Act 2001* which has been given to the directors of the Company, would be in the same terms if given to the directors as at the time of this auditor's review report.

Responsibility of the Directors for the Financial Report

The directors 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 control 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 for the Review of the Financial Report

Our responsibility is to express a conclusion on the half-year financial report based on our review. ASRE 2410 requires us to conclude whether 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 2020 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*.

A review of a half-year financial report consists of making enquiries, primarily of persons responsible for 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.



S M Whiddett
Partner



Pitcher Partners
Sydney

24 February 2021

Wilson Asset Management

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