

WAM RESEARCH LIMITED

ABN 15 100 504 541

Appendix 4E Preliminary Final Report for the year ended 30 June 2024

Results for Announcement to the Market

All comparisons to the year ended 30 June 2023

	\$	up/down	% mvmt
Revenue from ordinary activities	54,244,395	up	110.3%
Profit from ordinary activities before income tax expense	44,897,695	up	98.3%
Net profit from ordinary activities after income tax expense	32,471,074	up	92.7%

Dividend information	Cents per share	Franking %	Tax rate for franking
2024 Final dividend cents per share	5.0c	60%	30%
2024 Interim dividend cents per share	5.0c	60%	30%

Final dividend dates

Ex dividend date	11 October 2024
Record date	14 October 2024
Last election date for the DRP	16 October 2024
Payment date	25 October 2024

Dividend Reinvestment Plan

The Dividend Reinvestment Plan ('DRP') is in operation and the recommended partially franked final dividend of 5.0 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 on the ex-date for the relevant dividend and the three trading days following that date. The DRP will operate without a discount for the final dividend.

	30 Jun 24	30 Jun 23
Net tangible asset backing (before tax) per share	\$1.04	\$0.93
Net tangible asset backing (after tax) per share	\$1.05	\$0.99

This report is based on the Annual Report which has been audited by Pitcher Partners. The audit report is included with the Company's Annual Report which accompanies this Appendix 4E. All the documents comprise the information required by Listing Rule 4.3A.

W | A | M Research

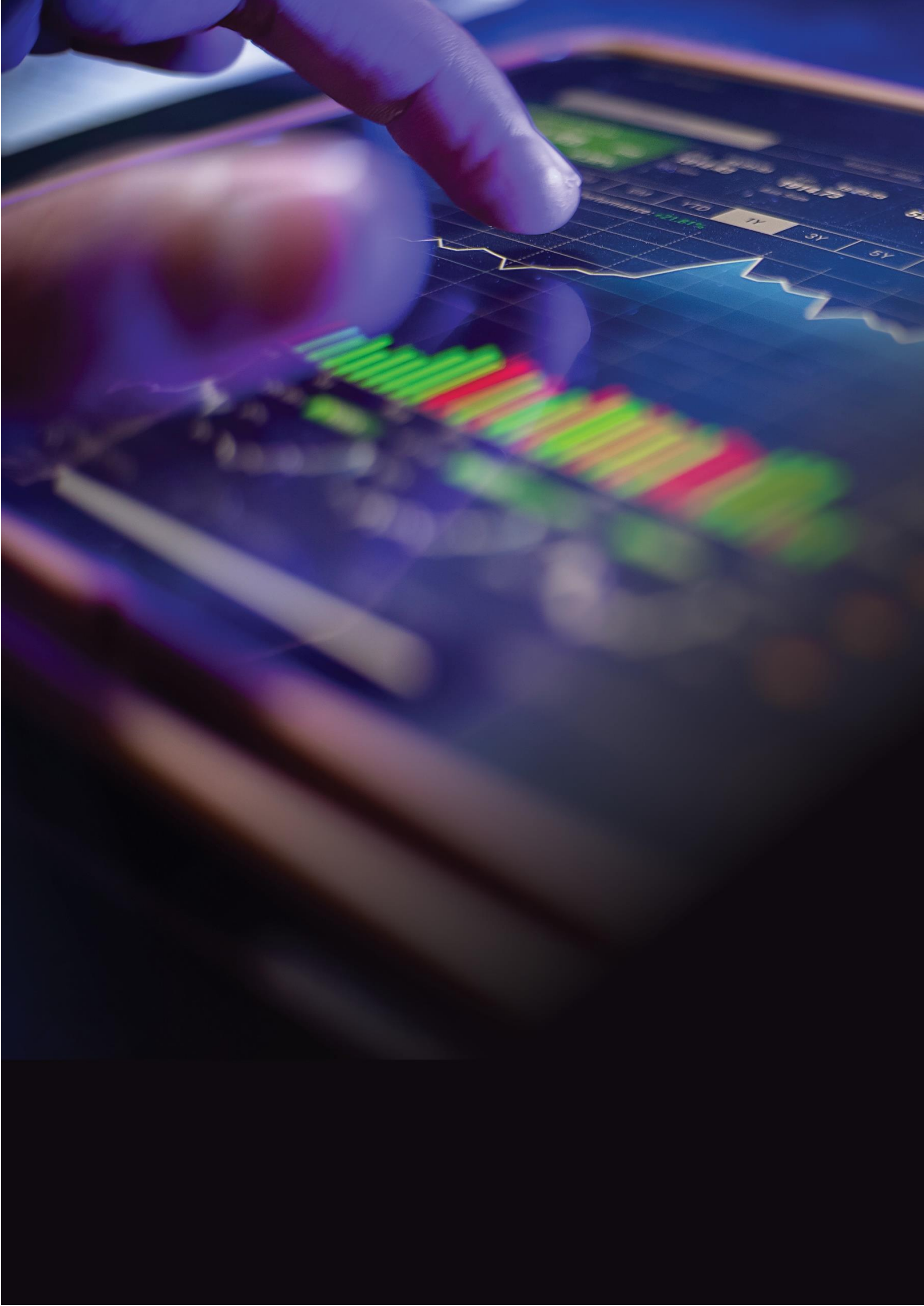
ABN 15 100 504 541

2024

Annual Report

Wilson
Asset Management
Making a difference





WAM Research Limited (WAM Research or the Company) is a listed investment company and is a reporting entity. Listed on the ASX in August 2003, WAM Research provides investors with exposure to a diversified portfolio of undervalued growth companies, which are generally small-to-medium sized industrial companies listed on the Australian Securities Exchange.

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Regional Shareholder *Presentations*

The Wilson Asset Management and Future Generation teams look forward to meeting with our shareholders across the country.

Further details are provided on our website.

Join our hybrid Annual General Meeting

Thursday 21 November 2024

Museum of Sydney (Warrane Theatre)
Corner Bridge Street and Phillip Street Sydney NSW 2000
Further details to be provided.

Deadline for Director nominations, including the deadline for signed consent, is 5:00pm (AEST) on Tuesday 24 September 2024.

FY2024 financial highlights

Operating profit before tax in FY2024

\$44.9m

Full year dividend, 60% franked

10.0 cps

Investment portfolio performance in FY2024

+30.7%

Dividend yield

9.3%

Grossed-up dividend yield:

11.7%

Investment portfolio outperformance of S&P/ASX All Ordinaries Accumulation Index in FY2024

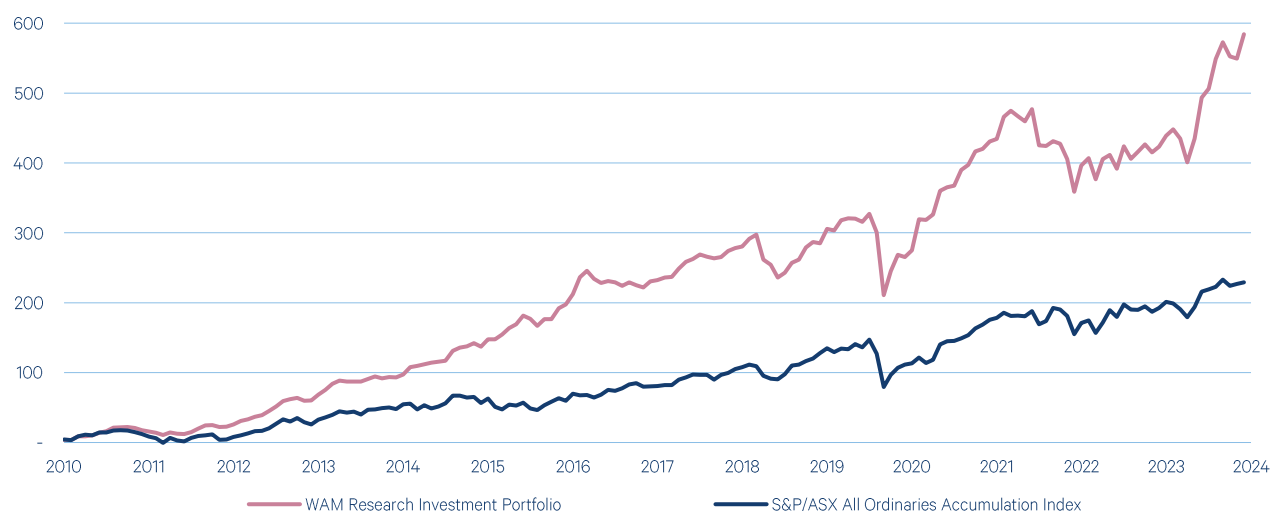
+18.2%

Dividends paid since inception, including franking credits

211.1 cps

WAM Research's investment portfolio has returned 14.7% per annum since the revised investment strategy in July 2010, outperforming the market by 5.8% per annum.

Index re-based



Notes:

1. The above graph reflects the period from the change in investment strategy in July 2010 to 30 June 2024.
2. WAM Research's investment portfolio performance is before expenses, fees and taxes to compare to the S&P/ASX All Ordinaries Accumulation Index which is also before expenses, fees and taxes.

30 June 2024 snapshot

Assets	Market capitalisation	Profits reserve, before the payment of final dividend
\$219.0m	\$219.4m	42.7 cps
NTA before tax	Share price	Investment portfolio performance since change in investment strategy (Jul-10)
\$1.04	\$1.075	+14.7%

Glossary of performance measures

The key measures used to analyse and discuss our results are defined here to guide the reader through FY2024 financial highlights, the Letter from the Chairman, and the Update from the Lead Portfolio Manager. A full glossary of terms is also located on pages 78 to 80.

Dividend yield	The annual dividend amount expressed as a percentage of the share price at a certain point in time. <i>This is calculated as follows: Annual dividend amount per share ÷ share price</i>
Grossed-up dividend yield	Grossed-up dividend yield includes the value of franking credits and is based on the corporate tax rate (generally 30.0%), assuming the dividend is partially franked. <i>This is calculated as follows: Annual dividend yield % + [annual dividend yield % x franking % x (the corporate tax rate of 30.0% ÷ (1 – the corporate tax rate of 30.0%))]</i>
Net tangible assets (NTA) before tax	The NTA of a company, exclusive of current and deferred income tax assets or liabilities. The NTA before tax represents the investment portfolio of the Company, i.e. cash and investments, less any associated liabilities excluding tax and is the most comparable figure for a listed investment company (LIC) to an exchange traded fund (ETF) or managed fund.
Share price premium or discount	LIC's shares are traded on the ASX and a LIC has a fixed amount of capital. At times, the LIC's share price can fluctuate above or below its NTA value. When the share price is above the NTA of the company, the LIC is trading at a premium to NTA. When the share price is below the NTA, the LIC is trading at a discount to NTA. <i>This is calculated as follows: (Share price – NTA before tax) ÷ NTA before tax</i>
Total shareholder return (TSR)	Total share price return to shareholders, assuming all dividends received were reinvested without transaction costs and the compounding effect over the period. This measure is calculated before and after the value that shareholders receive from the franking credits attached to dividends paid. <i>This is calculated as follows: (Closing share price – starting share price + dividends paid + franking credits) ÷ starting share price</i> <i>Note: the TSR reported in the Annual Report and media release is calculated monthly, using the above formula, and includes the effect of compounding over the period.</i>



Letter from the Chairman

Geoff Wilson AO

Dear Fellow Shareholders,

Equity markets continued to show resilience amid ongoing macroeconomic challenges during the year. WAM Research delivered strong investment portfolio outperformance for the 2024 financial year and I would like to congratulate Oscar and the WAM Research investment team for their diligent stock picking.

In the 12 months to 30 June 2024, the WAM Research investment portfolio increased 30.7%, outperforming the S&P/ASX All Ordinaries Accumulation Index by 18.2% and the S&P/ASX Small Ordinaries Accumulation Index by 21.4%, with an average cash weighting of 8.2% over the year. The strong investment portfolio performance contributed to a 98.3% increase in the Company's operating profit before tax of \$44.9 million (FY2023: \$22.6 million) and an operating profit after tax of \$32.5 million (FY2023: \$16.9 million) for the financial year to 30 June 2024.

WAM Research's diligent and proven research-driven investment approach, which focuses on identifying undervalued growth companies with a catalyst, has led to solid investment portfolio performance since the change in investment strategy in 2010. WAM Research has achieved an investment portfolio return of 14.7% per annum since 2010, outperforming the S&P/ASX All Ordinaries Accumulation Index by 5.8% per annum, while having an average cash weighting of 25.9% over this period.

The WAM Research Board of Directors declared a full year dividend of 10.0 cents per share, with the final dividend being 5.0 cents per share, partially franked at 60%. The full year dividend represents a high dividend yield of 9.3% and a grossed-up yield of 11.7%, when including the value of franking credits. The full year dividend was made possible by the strong investment portfolio performance over the period, the listed investment company (LIC) structure and the profits reserve available.

Investment portfolio performance in the financial year to 30 June 2024

+30.7%

Investment portfolio outperformance of the S&P/ASX All Ordinaries Accumulation Index in FY2024

+18.2%

Full year dividend

10.0 cps

Dividend yield

9.3%

Grossed-up dividend yield: 11.7%

The Board's decision to maintain the high full year dividend of 10.0 cents per share was informed by the high grossed-up dividend yield of 12.1% on the pre-tax net tangible assets (NTA) at 30 June 2024, the level of franking credits and the objective to provide shareholders a combination of capital growth and income returns.

The return on any equity investment for shareholders is made up of a combination of capital (i.e. movement in the Company's share price) and income (i.e. through franked or unfranked dividends paid to shareholders on a semi-annual basis). If the dividends paid to shareholders (including franking credits) exceeds the increase in assets, then the NTA of the Company declines and shareholders do not receive a combination of capital and income returns.

To return to paying a fully franked full year dividend of 10.0 cents per share in FY2025 at the current net asset level, the realised gains through the investment portfolio performance needed to top-up the franking account balance would be more than 15% per annum, grossed-up for expenses, fees and taxes. As we look to FY2025 and beyond, there can be no certainty that such high returns can be maintained each year.

The franking account balance at the end of the year enabled the Company to declare a partially franked final dividend for shareholders consistent with the interim partially franked dividend communicated to shareholders. The level of

franking in FY2025 and beyond is dependent on tax paid on realised profits and from the receipt of franked dividends from investee companies. The WAM Research Board of Directors expects the FY2025 full year dividend to also be partially franked at 60%, should the Company be able to maintain the full year dividend of 10.0 cents per share.

The Company has 4.3 years of dividend coverage, based on the profits reserve of 42.7 cents per share as at 30 June 2024, before the payment of the final dividend of 5.0 cents per share. Since inception, WAM Research has paid 149.0 cents per share in franked dividends to shareholders, and 211.1 cents per share or over \$345 million, when including the value of franking credits.

During the year, total shareholder return (TSR) was impacted by the reduction in the Company's share price premium to NTA. The WAM Research share price premium to NTA was 3.5% at 30 June 2024, narrowing from 13.9% at 30 June 2023. Over the past five years, the average WAM Research share price premium to NTA has been 30.1%, trading at a high of a 58.5% premium in March 2022. TSR for the financial year was 11.3% or 13.9% when including the value of franking credits.

Heading into the 2025 financial year, the WAM Research investment team are foreseeing a strong period for undervalued growth companies and will continue to deploy our proven investment process into compelling investment opportunities.

We encourage you to visit our website, subscribe to receive our updates and to call or email us with any questions or suggestions you have regarding WAM Research or Wilson Asset Management.

Please contact me or the team on (02) 9247 6755 or email us at info@wilsonassetmanagement.com.au.

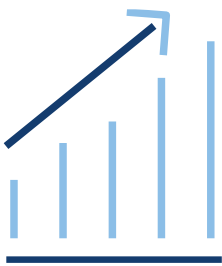
Thank you for your continued support.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Geoff Wilson', with a stylized, looping initial 'G' and a horizontal line extending to the right.

Geoff Wilson AO
Chairman

Company performance

Over four decades of investing, we have found three key measures crucial to the evaluation of a listed investment company's (LIC) performance:

**Key performance
measure 1****Investment
portfolio
performance**

Investment portfolio performance measures the growth of the underlying portfolio of equities and cash before expenses, fees, taxes and capital management initiatives. Each LIC is driven towards outperforming a benchmark index, or increasing the underlying investment portfolio of equities and cash at a faster rate.

**Key performance
measure 2****Net tangible
asset growth**

NTA growth is the change in value of the company's assets, less liabilities and costs (after management and performance fees). The NTA growth includes dividends paid to shareholders and tax paid (franking credits) and demonstrates the value of the investment portfolio performance and quantifies the impact of capital management decisions.

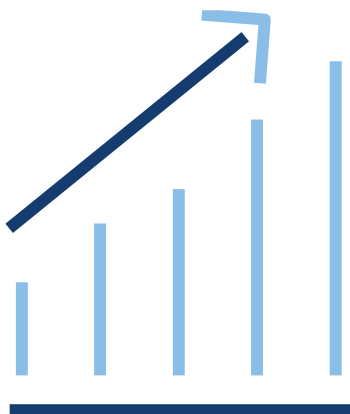
**Key performance
measure 3****Total shareholder
return**

TSR measures the tangible value shareholders gain from share price growth and dividends paid over the period, before and after the value of any franking credits distributed to shareholders through fully franked dividends.

Key performance measure 1

Investment portfolio performance

Investment portfolio performance measures the growth of the underlying portfolio of equities and cash before expenses, fees and taxes. A key objective of WAM Research is long-term outperformance against the S&P/ASX All Ordinaries Accumulation Index, which is achieved by growing the investment portfolio at a greater rate. The S&P/ASX All Ordinaries Accumulation Index is measured before expenses, fees and taxes.

**Investment portfolio performance in the financial year to 30 June 2024**

+30.7%

WAM Research's investment portfolio increased 30.7% in the year to 30 June 2024 outperforming the S&P/ASX All Ordinaries Accumulation Index by 18.2%, while holding on average 8.2% of the investment portfolio in cash.

Since its change in investment strategy in 2010, WAM Research has achieved an investment portfolio return of 14.7% per annum, outperforming the S&P/ASX All Ordinaries Accumulation Index by 5.8% per annum.

Set out on the next page is the performance of WAM Research since its change in investment strategy in 2010, on a financial year basis. The performance data excludes all expenses, fees and taxes, and is used as a guide to show how the Company's investment portfolio has performed against the S&P/ASX All Ordinaries Accumulation Index over the same period.

WAM Research investment portfolio performance since change in investment strategy

Investment portfolio performance at 30 June 2024	1 yr	3 yrs %pa	5 yrs %pa	7 yrs %pa	10 yrs %pa	Since change in investment strategy %pa (Jul-10)
WAM Research Investment Portfolio	30.7%	8.8%	12.2%	11.0%	13.5%	14.7%
S&P/ASX All Ordinaries Accumulation Index	12.5%	6.1%	7.6%	9.0%	8.3%	8.9%
Outperformance	+18.2%	+2.7%	+4.6%	+2.0%	+5.2%	+5.8%
S&P/ASX Small Ordinaries Accumulation Index	9.3%	-1.5%	3.7%	6.2%	6.4%	5.0%
Outperformance	+21.4%	+10.3%	+8.5%	+4.8%	+7.1%	+9.7%

Investment portfolio performance is before expenses, fees and taxes to compare to the relevant indexes which are also before expenses, fees and taxes.

Investment portfolio performance by financial year

Financial year	WAM Research Investment Portfolio	S&P/ASX All Ordinaries Accumulation Index	Outperformance
2010/2011	17.5%	12.2%	+5.3%
2011/2012	4.5%	-7.0%	+11.5%
2012/2013	30.4%	20.7%	+9.7%
2013/2014	20.5%	17.6%	+2.9%
2014/2015	22.8%	5.7%	+17.1%
2015/2016	25.5%	2.0%	+23.5%
2016/2017	11.1%	13.1%	-2.0%
2017/2018	14.5%	13.7%	+0.8%
2018/2019	1.8%	11.0%	-9.2%
2019/2020	-5.1%	-7.2%	+2.1%
2020/2021	45.2%	30.2%	+15.0%
2021/2022	-13.5%	-7.4%	-6.1%
2022/2023	14.1%	14.8%	-0.7%
2023/2024	30.7%	12.5%	+18.2%

Key performance measure 2**Net tangible asset growth**

NTA growth is the change in value of the Company's assets, less liabilities and costs (including management and performance fees). The NTA represents the realisable value of the Company and is provided to shareholders and announced on the ASX each month.

NTA growth in the financial year to 30 June 2024**+26.4%**

WAM Research's pre-tax NTA increased 26.4% in the 12 months to 30 June 2024, including 10.0 cents per share of franked dividends paid to shareholders during the year and corporate tax paid of 1.9 cents per share or 2.0%. The franking credits attached to corporate tax payments are available for distribution to shareholders through franked dividends.

Performance fees payable of 3.1% was the major item of difference between the investment portfolio performance of 30.7% and the NTA performance of 26.4%. Other items contributing to the change in the value of the assets during the year were management fees of 1.0% and other company related expenses of 0.3%, offset by capital management accretion of 0.1%.



WAM Research pre-tax NTA performance

\$0.93

30 June 2023
NTA before tax

\$1.04

30 June 2024
NTA before tax

+\$0.274

Portfolio performance

Investment portfolio performance measures the growth of the underlying portfolio of equities and cash before expenses, fees and taxes. The WAM Research investment portfolio increased 30.7% for the 12 months to 30 June 2024.

-\$0.100

Dividends paid to Shareholders

When the Company pays a dividend, it represents income that is returned to shareholders out of the Company's assets and profits reserve. The dividend payment reduces the Company's NTA when paid. This excludes the value of franking credits attached to the dividend payment for shareholders. During the year, 10.0 cents per share of partially franked dividends were paid or 12.6 cents per share, including the value of franking credits, comprising the FY2023 partially franked final dividend of 5.0 cents per share and the FY2024 partially franked interim dividend of 5.0 cents per share.

-\$0.019

Franking credits generated (tax paid)

Tax paid reduces the pre-tax NTA of the Company as it represents an outflow of cash from the investment portfolio at the time of payment. Shareholders receive the benefit of tax paid by the Company as franked dividend payments are made. Shareholders receive the cash dividend plus the value of the attached franking credits. Shareholders can use these credits to help offset additional tax payable on their taxable income, or have it refunded to them if their tax rate is lower than the 30% franking rate (corporate tax rate) attached to the dividend.

-\$0.009

Management fees

In return for its duties as Investment Manager of the portfolio, the Investment Manager is entitled to be paid monthly a Management Fee equal to 0.0833334% per month or 1% per annum (plus GST) of the value of the portfolio (calculated on the last business day of each month and paid at the end of each month in arrears).

+\$0.001

Corporate activity accretion

Corporate activities such as new shares issued at a premium or discount to NTA through the dividend reinvestment plan (DRP), mergers and acquisitions or share purchase plan (SPP) and placement can impact the value of the Company's NTA separate to the management of the investment portfolio.

-\$0.003

Company related and other corporate activity costs

Company related expenses include ASX, ASIC, Director, audit, tax, accounting, Company Secretary, registry fees and other expenses incurred that relate to the operation of the Company each year. Other costs include fees associated with corporate activity, where applicable.

-\$0.029

Performance fee

Under the investment management agreement, the Investment Manager is eligible to be paid a performance fee, being 20% (plus GST) in circumstances where:

- the level of the S&P/ASX All Ordinaries Accumulation Index has increased over that period, the amount by which the value of the portfolio exceeds this increase; or
- the S&P/ASX All Ordinaries Accumulation Index has decreased over that period, the amount of the increase in the value of the portfolio.

Key performance measure 3

Total shareholder return

TSR measures the tangible value shareholders gain from share price growth and dividends paid over the period, before and after the value of any franking credits distributed to shareholders through franked dividends.

TSR in the financial year to
30 June 2024

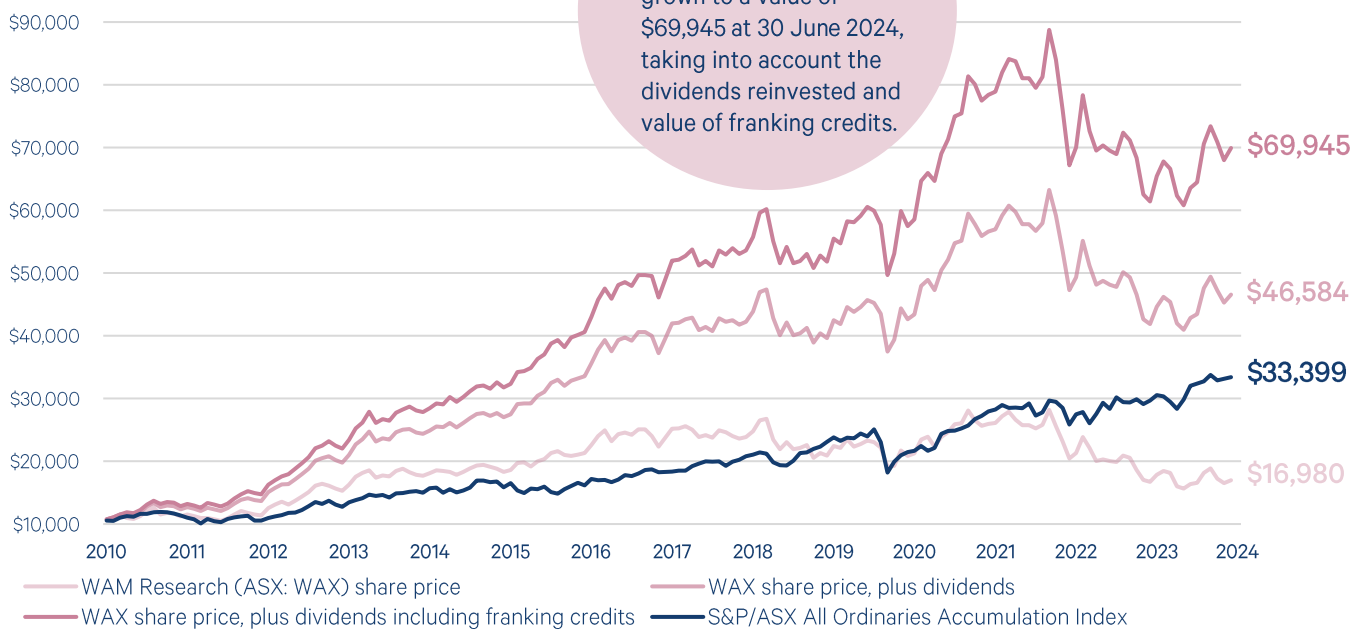
+13.9%

The TSR for WAM Research was 13.9% for the year to 30 June 2024, including the value of franking credits distributed to shareholders through franked dividends. This was driven by the investment portfolio performance of 30.7% during the period, being offset by the share price premium to NTA contracting from 13.9% as at 30 June 2023 to 3.5% as at 30 June 2024.

Excluding the value of franking credits, TSR was 11.3% for the period.



Growth of a \$10,000 investment WAM Research versus the index



Notes:

1. The above graph reflects the period from the change in investment strategy in July 2010 to 30 June 2024.
2. WAM Research's share price performance is calculated using the adjusted closing monthly share price from IRESS in Australian dollar terms. The closing monthly share price from IRESS is adjusted for corporate actions such as stock splits, dividends and rights offerings.
3. The S&P/ASX All Ordinaries Accumulation Index has been chosen for comparison purposes only. The graph is not intended to be an indication of future performance of any asset class, index or the WAM Research portfolio.

NTA growth and TSR calculations

The table below reflects the Company's total return to shareholders calculated on a per share basis by adding back dividends paid (including the value of tax paid or franking credits) to the change in the NTA before tax or share price during the year. The dividends are assumed to have been re-invested at the relevant net asset value or share price, respectively, on the date on which the shares were quoted ex-dividend. The movement in the NTA before tax is driven by the investment portfolio performance, with TSR being added to or offset by the increase or narrowing in the share price premium or discount to NTA.

2024	NTA before tax	Share price	Premium/(discount) to NTA
As at 30 June 2024	\$1.0390	\$1.075	3.5%
As at 30 June 2023	\$0.9303	\$1.06	13.9%
Change in the year (capital)	11.7%	1.4%	
Impact of dividend reinvestments (income)	12.7%	9.9%	
Impact of tax paid/value of franking credits (income)	2.0%	2.6%	
Total return for the year	26.4%	13.9%	

Dividends

Full year dividend

10.0 cps

Dividend yield

9.3%

Grossed-up dividend yield: **11.7%**

Dividends paid since inception, including the value of franking credits

211.1 cps

Profits reserve at 30 June 2024, before the payment of the final dividend

42.7 cps

The Board declared a full year dividend of 10.0 cents per share, partially franked at 60%, with the partially franked final dividend being 5.0 cents per share. Since inception in August 2003, the Company has paid 211.1 cents per share in dividends to shareholders, including the value of franking credits.

The Board is committed to paying a stream of fully franked dividends to shareholders, provided the Company has sufficient profits reserves and franking credits, and it is within prudent business practices. As at 31 July 2024, the Company had 45.1 cents per share available in its profits reserve, before the payment of the partially franked final dividend of 5.0 cents per share payable on 25 October 2024.

The franking account balance of WAM Research at the end of the year enabled the Company to declare a partially franked final dividend for shareholders. The level of franking in FY2025 and beyond is dependent on the payment of tax on realised profits and the receipt of franked dividends from investee companies.

The Dividend Reinvestment Plan (DRP) is in operation and the recommended partially franked final dividend of 5.0 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 on the ex-dividend date for the relevant dividend and the three trading days following that date.

Since inception, WAM Research has returned over \$345 million or 211.1 cents per share in dividends and franking credits to shareholders.

WAM Research dividends since inception

Cents per share



Key dividend dates for the partially franked final dividend of 5.0 cents per share

Ex-dividend date	11 October 2024
Dividend record date (7:00pm Sydney time)	14 October 2024
Last election date for DRP	16 October 2024
Payment date	25 October 2024



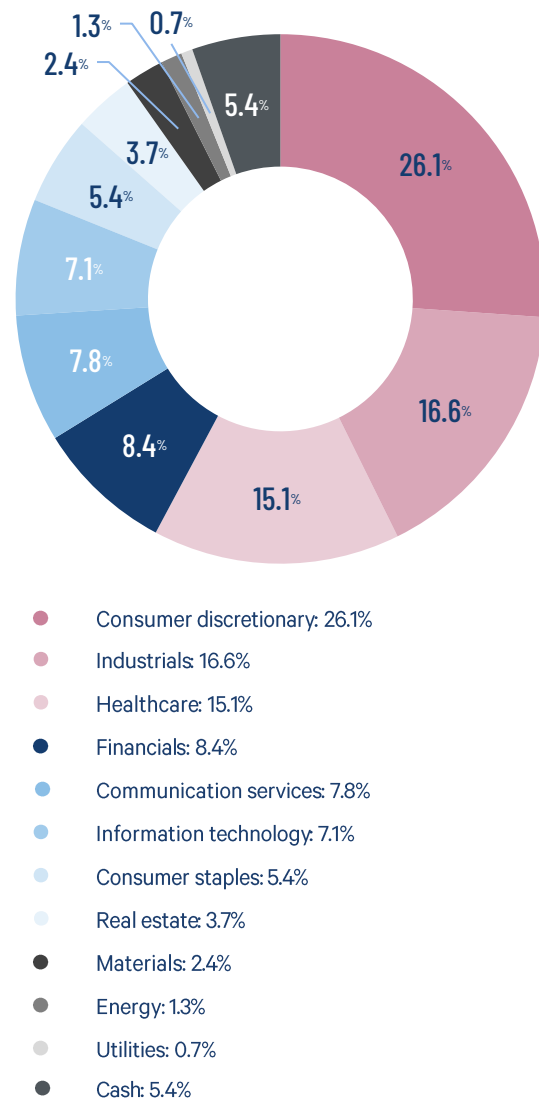
Update from the Lead Portfolio Manager *Oscar Oberg CFA*

Throughout the 2024 financial year, equity markets were influenced by key factors including the trajectory of future interest rates, the unforeseen resilience of the United States and Australian economies, and global geopolitical tensions. Despite persistent macroeconomic challenges stemming from the 2020 coronavirus pandemic, the WAM Research investment portfolio increased 30.7% in the 12 months to 30 June 2024. It is the strongest year of outperformance since 2016, outperforming the S&P/ASX All Ordinaries Accumulation Index and the S&P/ASX Small Ordinaries Accumulation Index by 18.2% and 21.4%, respectively.

The WAM Research investment team's diligent stock selection is highlighted by the investment portfolio outperformance of the S&P/ASX Small Ordinaries Accumulation Index by 21.4% over the period. The team are pleased with this result given small-cap companies underperformed the broader market for the third financial year in a row.

Companies that are held within the WAM Research portfolio meet a strict criteria within our proven investment process. These companies are generally held for a longer period with the WAM Research investment team identifying catalysts that can lead to a re-rating of the share price. Pleasingly, in the 2024 financial year we saw a number of companies that had been held for a long period of time perform strongly as catalysts were achieved, supporting the team's long-term view and conviction in these companies.

Diversified investment portfolio by sector
at 30 June 2024



We have held Sigma Healthcare (ASX: SIG) in the investment portfolio for two years and were rewarded for this long-term view when we maintained our support for Sigma's management team through the proposed takeover of Chemist Warehouse in December 2023. In the event the merger is approved in the 2025 financial year, the team is excited at the prospect of owning one of the country's best retailers with an exciting global store roll out on the horizon. The team's shareholding in alternative asset manager HMC Capital (ASX: HMC) also benefitted from the Chemist Warehouse transaction and we are of the view that the publicity from the deal has the potential to boost fund inflows over the medium term.

After negative performance in the 2022 and 2023 financial years, building materials company Maas Group Holdings (ASX: MGH) performed strongly

in FY2024 as a result of earnings upgrades and asset sales which reduced debt levels. As three of the largest building materials companies, Boral (ASX: BLD), ADBRI (ASX: ABC) and CSR (ASX: CSR) are being acquired, we are witnessing an opportunity for the Maas Group share price to re-rate further, with increasing immigration, population growth and higher diversity into regional cities contributing to a positive outlook for housing and construction.

Telecommunications company Tuas (ASX: TUA) continued its momentum over the 2024 financial year with subscriptions in its mobile offering in Singapore surpassing analyst earnings expectations. We see the recent launch of broadband and enterprise as increasing TPG Singapore's total addressable market, and in time see the potential entry into Malaysia or Indonesia.

Portfolio composition by market capitalisation at 30 June 2024

	WAM Research^	S&P/ASX All Ordinaries Index	S&P/ASX Small Ordinaries Index
ASX Top 20	0.0%	56.5%	0.0%
ASX 21-50	0.0%	15.5%	0.0%
ASX 51-100	5.0%	12.8%	0.0%
ASX 101-300	65.9%	11.6%	100.0%
Ex ASX 300	23.7%	3.6%	0.0%

^Investment portfolio held 5.4% cash.

Detractors to investment portfolio performance included transport company Kelsian Group (ASX: KLS) and specialists in merchant credit, debit and EFTPOS, Tyro Payments (ASX: TYR). Increased costs from overtime and penalty rates lingering from the coronavirus pandemic impacted bus and ferry operator Kelsian Group over the period. The team is of the view this weakness is cyclical and for these reasons have added to our shareholding over the past few months given the prospect of contract wins and a cheap valuation. Tyro was affected by a tougher economy which impacted total transaction value. While we have reduced our shareholding in the company, we remain positive on the strategy implemented by Tyro's management team and will look for evidence of an improving economy before adding to our position.

The underperformance of small-cap companies continued in the 2024 financial year with the cumulative underperformance of the S&P/ASX Small Ordinaries Index compared to the S&P/ASX All Ordinaries Index being 19.1% since September 2021. This represents the worst period of underperformance we have seen, surpassing the dot-com era from 2000 to 2002 and the global financial crisis from 2008 to 2009. We note that this phenomenon is consistent in other markets such as the United States, where small-cap companies have underperformed by 14.5% over the same period.

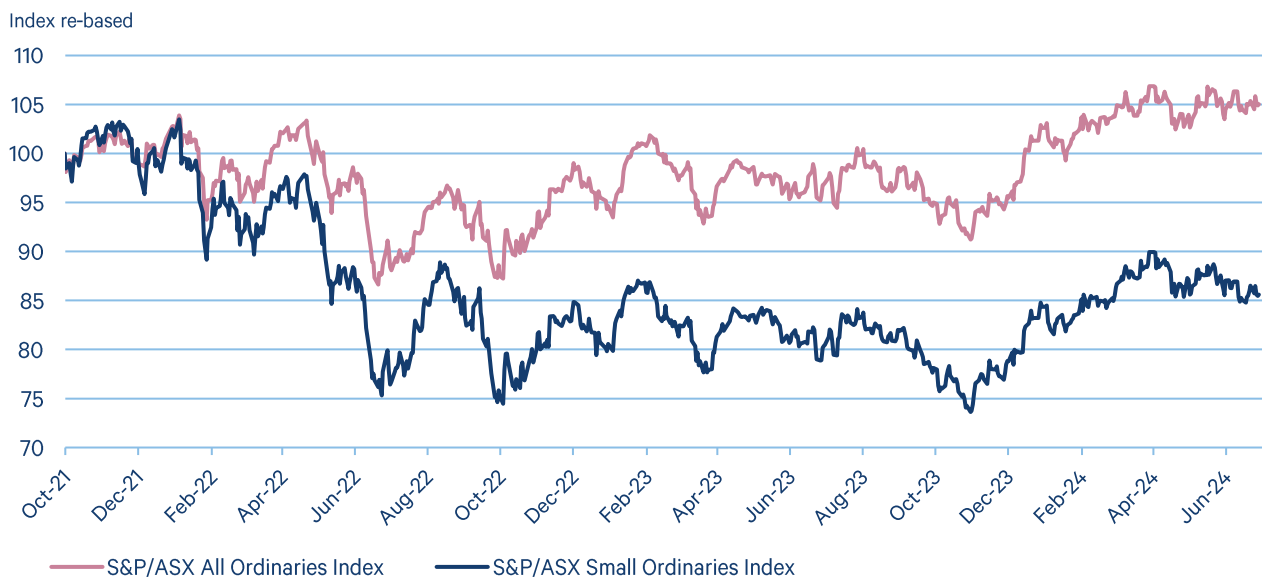
In the face of heightened market volatility in small-cap investments since September 2021, the WAM Research investment process has

effectively identified promising undervalued companies with substantial growth potential, independent of the broader macroeconomic conditions. This strategy has resulted in the investment portfolio outperforming the S&P/ASX All Ordinaries Accumulation Index by 5.7% since September 2021, despite the broader underperformance of small-cap companies.

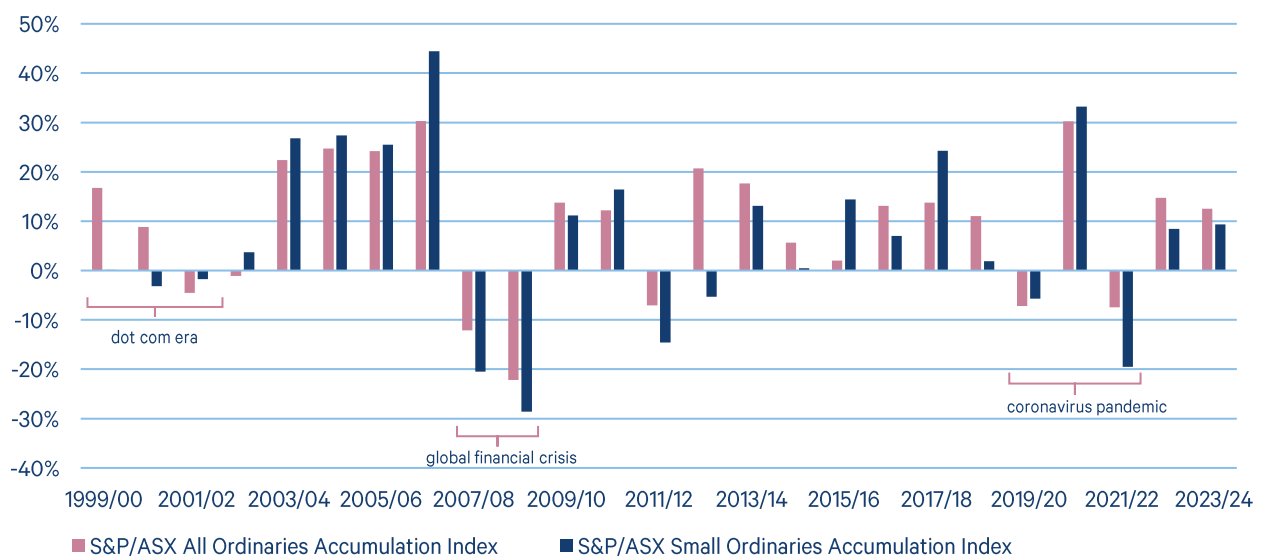
Despite ongoing volatility in interest rate expectations and growing concerns of an impending recession, we anticipate that the current phase of small-cap underperformance is nearing its conclusion, with potential for these challenges to transform into opportunities in the 2025 financial year. This shift was evident during a four-month span from December 2023 to March 2024, when market analysts predicted interest rates would decline. During this period, the S&P/ASX Small Ordinaries Index outperformed the S&P/ASX All Ordinaries Index by 2.4%.

In an environment where interest rates are stable or declining, we strongly believe that small-cap outperformance can occur. This encompasses sectors directly tied to the economy, including retail, financials, automotive, building materials, media, travel, and real estate. These sectors constitute 67% of the investable universe in the ASX Small Ordinaries Index and are poised to perform well should small-cap companies outperform. Currently, several of these sectors hold significant positions within the WAM Research investment portfolio.

S&P/ASX All Ordinaries Index vs S&P/ASX Small Ordinaries Index from 2021 to 2024



S&P/ASX All Ordinaries Accumulation Index and S&P/ASX Small Ordinaries Accumulation Index yearly performance over the last 25 years



The WAM Research investment team has identified a number of compelling opportunities across a variety of sectors where valuations are attractive heading into the 2025 financial year. We acknowledge that recent macroeconomic data in Australia has been weak and may pose a risk to sectors exposed to the consumer in the near term, we note however that share prices can often move higher despite earnings downgrades, with Harvey Norman (ASX: HVN) being an example of this in the last 12 months. The team expects the eventual reduction of interest rates in the 2025 financial year to be a catalyst for a number of companies we hold such as Amotiv (ASX: AOV), Tabcorp Holdings (ASX: TAH) and Myer Holdings (ASX: MYR) to re-rate noting that these companies are currently trading at valuations that are at multi decade lows.

The team travelled to New Zealand during the year and see value in the market given its 35.8% underperformance to Australia since 2020. Property developer Summerset Group Holdings (NZX: SUM) is currently trading at a 2% discount to its net tangible assets (NTA) despite historically trading on a premium two times to its NTA. Summerset Group Holdings has a strong management team, and we see the prospect of earnings upgrades as a result of higher-than-expected property settlements over the medium term.

We foresee a promising period ahead for undervalued growth companies with catalysts. We remain committed to maintaining a flexible cash position to capitalise on share price volatility and seize opportunities arising from valuation anomalies.

Thank you for your continued support.



Oscar Oberg CFA
Lead Portfolio Manager

WAM Research top 20 holdings with portfolio weightings

at 30 June 2024

Code	Company name	%
TUA	Tuas Limited	7.8%
GEM	G8 Education Limited	5.0%
LNW	Light & Wonder Inc.	4.7%
WEB	Webjet Limited	4.6%
SGF	SG Fleet Group Limited	4.5%
MGH	Maas Group Holdings Limited	4.1%
GTK	Gentrack Group Limited	3.9%
GDG	Generation Development Group Limited	3.6%
BGA	Bega Cheese Limited	3.5%
REG	Regis Healthcare Limited	3.4%
JIN	Jumbo Interactive Limited	3.4%
SSM	Service Stream Limited	3.2%
HMC	HMC Capital Limited	3.0%
CAJ	Capitol Health Limited	2.7%
SUM NZ	Summerset Group Holdings Limited	2.7%
HLS	Healius Limited	2.5%
LOV	Lovisa Holdings Limited	2.5%
TNE	Technology One Limited	2.4%
KLS	Kelsian Group Limited	2.2%
SIG	Sigma Healthcare Limited	2.0%

The fair values of individual investments held at the end of the reporting period are disclosed on page 76.

Investment

objectives and process

Investment objectives

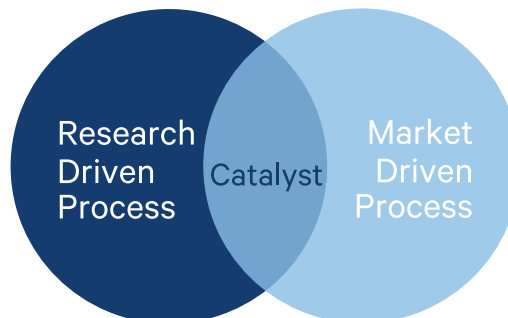
The investment objectives of WAM Research are to:

- deliver investors a stream of fully franked dividends; and
- achieve a high real rate of return, comprising both income and capital growth within risk parameters acceptable to the Directors.

Investment process

WAM Research provides investors with access to Wilson Asset Management's research-driven process, focused on identifying undervalued growth companies. This investment process involves diligent and deep research that focuses on free cash flow, return on equity and the quality of a company. Each company is carefully rated with respect to management, earnings growth potential, valuation and industry position. Under this proprietary process, the investment team will only ever invest in a security once it can identify a catalyst or event that it expects will change the market's valuation of the company.

Diligent and deep research on undervalued growth companies that focuses on free cash flow, return on equity, meeting management and the quality of a company.



Takes advantage of short-term mispricing opportunities in the Australian equity market.

Catalyst: a major event that alters the market's perception of a company or its earnings momentum which will lead to a rerating of the investee company's share price.

About

Wilson Asset Management

Wilson Asset Management has a track record of making a difference for shareholders and the community for more than 25 years. As an investment manager, Wilson Asset Management invests over \$5 billion on behalf of more than 130,000 retail investors.

Wilson Asset Management is proud to be the Investment Manager for eight listed investment companies (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) as well as the Wilson Asset Management Leaders Fund. 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).

W | A | M Capital

W | A | M Leaders

W | A | M Global

W | A | M Microcap

W | A | M Alternative Assets

W | A | M Strategic Value

W | A | M Research

W | A | M Active

>\$5 billion

in funds under management

>200 years

combined investment experience

>25 years

making a difference for shareholders

10

investment products

Philanthropy



Geoff Wilson founded Future Generation Australia in 2014 and Future Generation Global in 2015. The Future Generation companies are Australia's first listed investment companies to provide both investment and social returns. The companies seek to deliver a stream of fully franked dividends, preserve shareholder capital and provide medium to long-term capital growth for investors by giving them unprecedented access to prominent Australian and global fund managers. These managers generously waive their performance and management fees, which enables the Future Generation companies to invest 1.0% of average net tangible assets each year in their social impact partners and other not-for-profit organisations. To date, the Future Generation companies have invested \$75.8 million to organisations that support children and youth mental health, making them one of Australia's Top 30 Corporate Philanthropists. The team at Wilson Asset Management continue to be the leading supporter to both companies.

By 2030, Future Generation aims to have donated over \$100 million, with \$75.8 million donated since inception so far. The team at Wilson Asset Management continue to support both companies.



Wilson Asset Management is a member of the global philanthropic Pledge 1% movement, a significant funder of many Australian charities and provides all team members with \$10,000 each year to donate to charities of their choice. During the year, Wilson Asset Management and Future Generation team members were proud to support 97 charities across several cause areas such as cancer research, homelessness and mental health. All philanthropic investments are made by the Investment Manager.

We are honoured to provide continued support to Olympic athletes, through managing funds for the Australian Olympic Committee (AOC) on a pro bono basis. The AOC provides crucial financial and institutional support to Australian athletes to compete at an Olympic level. All fees are foregone by the Investment Manager.

We also support a number of organisations through sponsorships and partnerships across a range of initiatives including The Australian Shareholder's Association, Sporting Chance Cancer Foundation, Women in Super, Team Jefferson's Race Across America (RAAM), Rugby Australia, Alpine Cycling Club, Bondi2Berry, Morgans Big Dry Friday, UTS Indigenous College, and the Go Foundation.

All sponsorships and partnerships are paid for by the Investment Manager.

Advocacy

As part of our focus on making a difference for shareholders and the community, our advocacy work for fair and equitable treatment of retail shareholders continues to be a priority. We firmly believe all shareholders, both retail and wholesale, should be treated equitably when investing in the Australian equity market.

In the financial year to date we have been focused on four key policies:

1. Changes to the franking system

Together we have been publicly fighting for the preservation of Paul Keating's franking system since the Labor party first proposed changes in 2018, a proposal that was going to deny cash refunds of franking credits to certain investors and reintroduce double taxation. In September 2021, the Australian Government announced proposed legislation changes to the Australian franking system, this time limiting the ability of Australian companies to pay fully franked dividends to their shareholders.

In November 2023, the Federal Government debated Treasury Laws Amendment (2023 Measures No.1) Bill 2023 and its proposed amendments. While many amendments that we argued for through various parliamentary submissions, including presenting a Senate inquiry have been accepted, *Schedule 4: Off-market share buy backs* and *Schedule 5: Franked distributions funded by capital raisings* were passed as law. While this is a disappointing outcome, by taking a public stance we secured some important changes to Schedule 5. You can read more on our website under our 'Making a difference' section.

We are grateful for the support our shareholders have given our campaign to raise awareness on the unintended consequences of tinkering with the Australian franking system which has been fundamental to more than three decades of economic stability and growth in Australia.

We will continue to engage with Federal Members of Parliament and Senators to ensure there are no further changes to the system.



2. Treasury Laws Amendment (Better targeted superannuation concessions)

In October 2023, we provided a response to the consultation into the proposed changes to the “large superannuation balance thresholds” of \$3 million plus, which refers to a 30% concessional tax rate being applied to future superannuation earnings. We objected to the proposed changes based on the significant stress they will place on Australian superannuants, who will be expected to pay tax on unrealised capital gains that may never be realised. We believe this particular issue will place self-managed superannuation funds (SMSFs) at a significant disadvantage to large industry funds due to the practicalities of managing capital flows on taxed unrealised gains.

We also objected to the lack of indexing of the \$3 million threshold which will transfer tax liabilities to younger generations. These changes will distort investment markets, alter the incentive for retirement plans and place financial strain on younger generations.

We presented at the Senate inquiry and we will continue to monitor this proposal and engage with federal politicians on the proposed changes.

3. Sophisticated investor test (Wholesale investor and wholesale client tests)

In May 2024, we made a submission in response to the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Corporations and Financial Services’ inquiry into the wholesale investor test. The inquiry proposes that it lifts the income and asset test threshold for sophisticated investors to a reported \$4.5 million in assets or \$450,000 in income. We proposed two regulatory changes that could help level the playing field between large and small investors:

- a) Abolish the wholesale investor test for listed companies allowing all shareholders to participate in equity raisings by ASX-listed companies, ensuring fairness to small shareholders. This recognises the effectiveness of the ASX continuous disclosure rules and will encourage companies to value equity from all shareholders versus unfairly excluding smaller retail shareholders; and
- b) Enhance the sophisticated investor test that currently discriminates between investors according to their wealth by adding a new financial literacy test to enable those with the relevant experience and qualifications to qualify for the test and not be excluded simply because of their wealth. This is particularly pertinent to companies that are not listed and therefore pose greater risks for investors. For investors who fall outside of the threshold, there should be recognition of education and experience as an indication of investment sophistication. The latter will capture those who, for example, are in the profession but do not meet the income or asset tests.

We understand the Government is reconsidering the proposed changes and we will continue to advocate on behalf of retail shareholders.

4. Virtual Annual General Meetings (AGM)

In July 2024, we submitted a response to the Treasury’s review into making temporary virtual AGMs permanent. We believe AGMs of publicly listed companies should be held as hybrid meetings (a combination of in-person and virtual meetings), not exclusively online meetings, as virtual-only meetings shift the balance of power away from shareholders by eroding transparency, accountability and access.



Education

We also remain committed to education initiatives which advocate for change and progress in corporate Australia. We support the University of New South Wales School of Mathematics and Statistics' Do the Maths program, which aims to inspire girls in high school to consider tertiary studies and careers in mathematics and statistics. We believe in the importance of gender diversity in the financial services industry, in particular funds management, which provides rewarding career paths. We regularly host Women's Investor Events which give likeminded women a platform to network and enhance financial literacy, while our Young Investor Events aim to inspire the next generation to begin their investment journey early.

We encourage all shareholders to visit our website and subscribe to receive our updates.

As always, please contact us by phone on (02) 9247 6755 or by email at info@wilsonassetmanagement.com.au if you ever have any questions or feedback.

Shareholder engagement and communication



WAM Research is your company and it is Wilson Asset Management's responsibility to manage the Company on your behalf and be available to report to you on a regular basis. We encourage all shareholders to communicate with us and share their feedback. We have a variety of options to keep you informed, including:

- ✓ Email updates from the Chairman and CIO, the Lead Portfolio Managers and the investment team
- ✓ Shareholder Presentations and events
- ✓ Investment team insights including market and macroeconomic commentary, updates from management teams of ASX listed companies and 'Talking Stocks' videos
- ✓ Shareholder Q&A webinars
- ✓ Monthly net tangible asset reports and investment updates
- ✓ Social media engagement
- ✓ Investor education material
- ✓ Annual and interim results announcements with detailed commentary on the portfolios and markets
- ✓ Media and events coverage from our ongoing media partnerships with Livewire Market, the ASX, Equity Mates, the Australian Shareholders' Association and more.

Directors' Report

to shareholders

For the year ended 30 June 2024

The Directors present their report together with the financial report of WAM Research for the financial year ended 30 June 2024.

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 year or is likely to in the future.

Operating and financial review

Investment operations over the year resulted in an operating profit before tax of \$44,897,695 (FY2023: \$22,645,919) and an operating profit after tax of \$32,471,074 (FY2023: \$16,854,237). The operating profit for 2024 is reflective of the strong performance of the investment portfolio over the period. The investment portfolio increased 30.7% in the 12 months to 30 June 2024, outperforming the S&P/ASX All Ordinaries Accumulation Index and the S&P/ASX Small Ordinaries Accumulation Index by 18.2% and 21.4% respectively.

The operating profit for the year includes unrealised gains or losses arising from changes in the fair value of the investments held in the 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. This treatment under the Accounting Standards 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.

Further information on the three key listed investment company performance measures and the operating and financial review of the Company is contained in the Chairman's Letter.

Financial position

The net asset value of the Company as at 30 June 2024 was \$214,664,486 (2023: \$199,136,629). Further information on the financial position of the Company is contained in the Chairman's Letter.

Significant changes in state of affairs

There was no significant change in the state of affairs of the Company during the year ended 30 June 2024.

Dividends paid or recommended

Dividends paid or declared during the year are as follows:

	\$
Final partially franked FY2023 dividend of 5.0 cents per share paid on 16 October 2023	10,044,258
Interim partially franked FY2024 dividend of 5.0 cents per share paid on 30 April 2024	10,126,606

Since the end of the year, the Directors declared a final dividend of 5.0 cents per share, partially franked at 60%, to be paid on 25 October 2024.

Since inception, WAM Research has paid 149.0 cents per share in dividends to shareholders and 211.1 cents per share including the value of franking credits.

The Company has 4.3 years of dividend coverage, based on the profits reserve of 42.7 cents per share as at 30 June 2024, before the payment of the partially franked final dividend of 5.0 cents per share. The franking account balance of WAM Research at the end of the year enabled the Company to declare a partially franked final dividend for shareholders. The level of franking in FY2025 and beyond is dependent on the performance of the investment portfolio and the payment of tax on realised profits.

The Board is committed to paying a stream of fully franked dividends, provided the Company has sufficient profits reserves and franking credits and it is within prudent business practices. The ability to generate franking credits is dependent on the future franked dividends received from investee companies held within the investment portfolio, and future tax paid on realised profits generated by the investment portfolio.

Directors of the *Company*

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



**Geoff
Wilson AO**



**Kate
Thorley**



**Julian
Gosse**



**John
Abernethy**

Information on Directors

Geoff Wilson AO (Chairman – non-independent)

Chairman of the Company since June 2003

Experience and expertise

Geoff Wilson has more than 44 years' direct experience in investment markets having held a variety of senior investment roles in Australia, the UK and the US. Geoff founded Wilson Asset Management in 1997 and created Australia's first listed philanthropic wealth creation vehicles, Future Generation Australia Limited and Future Generation Global Limited. Geoff holds a Bachelor of Science, a Graduate Management Qualification and is a Fellow of the Financial Services Institute of Australia and the Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD).

Other current listed company directorships

Geoff Wilson is currently Chairman of WAM Capital Limited (appointed March 1999), WAM Active Limited (appointed July 2007), WAM Leaders Limited (appointed March 2016), WAM Microcap Limited (appointed March 2017), WAM Global Limited (appointed February 2018) and WAM Strategic Value Limited (appointed March 2021). He is the founder and a Director of Future Generation Australia Limited (appointed July 2014) and Future Generation Global Limited (appointed May 2015) and a Director of WAM Alternative Assets Limited (appointed September 2020), Staude Capital Global Value Fund Limited (appointed April 2014) and Hearts and Minds Investments Limited (appointed September 2018).

Geoff Wilson AO (Chairman – non-independent) (cont'd)

Former listed company directorships in the last 3 years	Special responsibilities	Interests in shares of the Company	Interests in contracts
Geoff Wilson has not resigned as a director from any listed companies within the last three years.	Chairman of the Board.	Details of Geoff Wilson's interests in shares of the Company are included later in this report.	Details of Geoff Wilson's interests in contracts of the Company are included later in this report.

Kate Thorley (Director – non-independent)*Director of the Company since August 2014***Experience and expertise**

Kate Thorley has over 20 years' experience in the funds management industry and more than 25 years of financial accounting and corporate governance experience. Kate is the Chief Executive Officer of Wilson Asset Management (International) Pty Limited, Director of WAM Capital Limited, WAM Active Limited, WAM Leaders Limited, WAM Microcap Limited, WAM Global Limited, WAM Strategic Value Limited, Future Generation Australia Limited and Future Generation Global Limited. She holds a Bachelor of Commerce, a Graduate Diploma in Applied Finance and Investment, Graduate Diploma of Applied Corporate Governance and is a fully qualified CA. She is a Graduate member of the AICD (GAICD).

Other current listed company directorships

Kate Thorley is a Director of WAM Active Limited (appointed July 2014), WAM Capital Limited (appointed August 2016), Future Generation Australia Limited (appointed April 2015), WAM Leaders Limited (appointed March 2016), WAM Microcap Limited (appointed March 2017), WAM Global Limited (appointed February 2018), Future Generation Global Limited (appointed March 2021) and WAM Strategic Value Limited (appointed March 2021).

Former listed company directorships in the last 3 years	Special responsibilities	Interests in shares of the Company	Interests in contracts
Kate Thorley has not resigned as a director from any listed companies within the last three years.	Member of the Audit and Risk Committee.	Details of Kate Thorley's interests in shares of the Company are included later in this report.	Kate Thorley has no interests in contracts of the Company.

John Abernethy (Director – independent)

Director of the Company since May 2002

Experience and expertise

John Abernethy has over 41 years' experience in funds management and corporate advisory. He spent ten years at NRMA Investments as Head of Equities. In 1994 he joined Poynton Corporate Limited as an executive director before forming Clime Investment Management Limited (formerly Loftus Capital Partners Limited) in 1996. John was also appointed Chairman of Clime Capital Limited in July 2009. He has a Bachelor of Law and Commerce from The University of New South Wales.

Other current listed company directorships

John Abernethy is Chairman of Clime Capital Limited (appointed July 2009) and Clime Investment Management Limited (appointed July 2000).

Former listed company directorships in the last 3 years	Special responsibilities	Interests in shares of the Company	Interests in contracts
John Abernethy has not resigned as a director from any listed companies within the last three years.	Chairman of the Audit and Risk Committee.	Details of John Abernethy's interests in shares of the Company are included later in the report.	John Abernethy has no interests in contracts of the Company.

Julian Gosse (Director – independent)

Director of the Company since June 2003

Experience and expertise

Julian Gosse has spent the last 26 years of his career working as a professional director of public companies. Prior to that he was involved in the stockbroking, merchant banking and venture capital industries.

Other current listed company directorships

Julian Gosse has no other current listed company directorships.

Former listed company directorships in the last 3 years	Special responsibilities	Interests in shares of the Company	Interests in contracts
Julian Gosse resigned as a director of Clime Capital Limited in November 2023.	Member of the Audit and Risk Committee.	Julian Gosse has no interests in shares of the Company.	Julian Gosse has no interests in shares of the Company.

Joint Company Secretaries

The following persons held the position of Joint Company Secretary at the end of the financial year:



Jesse Hamilton

*Company Secretary of WAM Research Limited
since November 2020*

Jesse Hamilton is a Chartered Accountant with more than 16 years' experience working in advisory and assurance services, specialising in funds management. As the Chief Financial Officer, Jesse oversees all finance and accounting of Wilson Asset Management (International) Pty Limited. Jesse is currently a non-executive Director of the Listed Investment Companies & Trusts Association, Company Secretary for WAM Alternative Assets Limited and WAM Strategic Value Limited and Joint Company Secretary for WAM Capital Limited, WAM Leaders Limited, WAM Global Limited, WAM Microcap Limited, WAM Research Limited and WAM Active Limited, in addition to Future Generation Australia Limited and Future Generation Global Limited. Prior to joining Wilson Asset Management, Jesse worked as Chief Financial Officer of an ASX listed company and also worked as an advisor specialising in assurance services, valuations, mergers and acquisitions, financial due diligence and capital raising activities for listed investment companies.



Linda Kiriczenko

*Company Secretary of WAM Research Limited
since May 2016*

Linda Kiriczenko has over 20 years' experience in financial accounting including more than 16 years in the funds management industry. As the Finance Manager of Wilson Asset Management (International) Pty Limited, Linda oversees finance and accounting and is also Joint Company Secretary for six listed investment companies, WAM Capital Limited, WAM Leaders Limited, WAM Global Limited, WAM Microcap Limited, WAM Research Limited and WAM Active Limited. Linda holds a Bachelor of Commerce and is a fully qualified CPA. She is a certified member of the Governance Institute of Australia.

Remuneration Report (Audited)

This report details the nature and amount of remuneration for each Director of WAM Research.

a) Remuneration of Directors

All Directors of WAM Research are non-executive Directors. The Board from time to time determines remuneration of Directors within the maximum amount approved by the shareholders at the Annual General Meeting. Directors are not entitled to any other remuneration.

Fees and payments to Directors reflect the demands that are made on and the responsibilities of the Directors and are reviewed annually by the Board. The Company determines the remuneration levels and ensures they are competitively set to attract and retain appropriately qualified and experienced Directors.

The maximum total remuneration of the Directors of the Company has been set at \$120,000 per annum. Directors do not receive bonuses nor are they issued options on securities as part of their remuneration. Directors' fees cover all main Board activities and membership of committees.

Directors' remuneration received for the year ended 30 June 2024:

Director	Position	Short-term employee benefits	Post-employment benefits	Total
		Directors' fees \$	Superannuation \$	
Geoff Wilson	Chairman	9,009	991	10,000
Kate Thorley	Director	9,009	991	10,000
John Abernethy	Director	27,027	2,973	30,000
Julian Gosse	Director	30,000	-	30,000
		75,045	4,955	80,000

Directors receive a superannuation guarantee contribution required by the government, which was 11.0% of individuals benefits for FY2024 (FY2023: 10.5%) and do not receive any other retirement benefits. Directors may also elect to salary sacrifice their fees into superannuation.

Directors' remuneration received for the year ended 30 June 2023:

Director	Position	Short-term employee benefits	Post-employment benefits	Total
		Directors' fees \$	Superannuation \$	
Geoff Wilson	Chairman	9,050	950	10,000
Kate Thorley	Director	9,050	950	10,000
John Abernethy	Director	27,149	2,851	30,000
Julian Gosse	Director	30,000	-	30,000
		75,249	4,751	80,000

Remuneration Report (Audited) (cont'd)

a) Remuneration of Directors (cont'd)

The following table reflects the Company's performance and Directors' remuneration over five years:

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Operating profit/(loss) after tax (\$)	\$32,471,074	\$16,854,237	(\$20,698,660)	\$52,288,040	(\$7,835,978)
Dividends (cents per share)	10.0	10.0	10.0	9.9	9.8
Share price (\$ per share)	\$1.075	\$1.06	\$1.295	\$1.645	\$1.32
NTA after tax (\$ per share)	\$1.05	\$0.99	\$1.00	\$1.20	\$1.03
Total Directors' remuneration (\$)	\$80,000	\$80,000	\$80,000	\$80,000	\$80,000
Shareholder's equity (\$)	\$214,664,486	\$199,136,629	\$198,826,033	\$235,632,242	\$198,801,151

As outlined above, Directors' fees are not directly linked to the Company's performance.

b) Director related entities remuneration

All transactions with related entities during the year were made on normal commercial terms and conditions and at market rates.

The Company has an investment management agreement with MAM Pty Limited (the Investment Manager or the Manager), part of the Wilson Asset Management Group. Geoff Wilson is the Director of MAM Pty Limited, the entity appointed to manage the investment portfolio of WAM Research. Entities associated with Geoff Wilson hold 100% of the issued shares of MAM Pty Limited. In its capacity as the Manager, and in accordance with the investment management agreement, MAM Pty Limited was paid a management fee of 1% p.a. (plus GST) of the value of the portfolio amounting to \$2,204,432 inclusive of GST (2023: \$2,117,908). As at 30 June 2024, the balance payable to the Manager was \$200,239 inclusive of GST (2023: \$171,887).

In addition, MAM Pty Limited is eligible to be paid a performance fee, being 20% (plus GST) in circumstances where:

- the level of the S&P/ASX All Ordinaries Accumulation Index has increased over that period, the amount by which the value of the portfolio exceeds this increase; or
- the S&P/ASX All Ordinaries Accumulation Index has decreased over that period, the amount of the increase in value of the portfolio.

No performance fee is payable in respect of any performance period where the value of the portfolio has decreased over that period.

For the year ended 30 June 2024, a performance fee of \$6,519,566 inclusive of GST was payable to MAM Pty Limited (2023: nil).

Wilson Asset Management (International) Pty Limited has a service agreement in place with WAM Research to provide accounting and company secretarial services on commercial terms. For the year ended 30 June 2024, the fee for accounting services amounted to \$55,000 inclusive of GST (2023: \$46,200) and the fee for company secretarial services amounted to \$19,800 inclusive of GST (2023: \$16,500). Entities associated with Geoff Wilson hold 100% of the issued shares of Wilson Asset Management (International) Pty Limited.

Remuneration Report (Audited) (cont'd)

b) Director related entities remuneration (cont'd)

These amounts are in addition to the above Directors' remuneration. Since the end of the previous financial year, no Director has received or become entitled to receive a benefit (other than those detailed above) by reason of a contract made by the Company or a related company of the Director or with a firm of which he/she is a member or with a company in which he/she has substantial financial interest.

c) Remuneration of executives

There are no executives that are paid by the Company. MAM Pty Limited, the Investment Manager of the Company, provides the day-to-day management of the Company and is remunerated for these services as outlined above.

d) Equity instruments disclosures of Directors and related parties

As at the balance date, the Company's Directors and their related parties held the following interests in the Company:

Ordinary shares held Directors	Balance at 30 June 2023	Acquisitions	Disposals	Balance at 30 June 2024
Geoff Wilson	120,242	-	-	120,242
Kate Thorley	68,317	-	-	68,317
John Abernethy	10,000	-	-	10,000
Julian Gosse	-	-	-	-
	198,559	-	-	198,559

There have been no changes in shareholdings disclosed above between 30 June 2024 and the date of the report.

Directors and director related entities disposed of and acquired ordinary shares in the Company on the same terms and conditions available to other shareholders. The Directors have not, during or since the end of the financial year, been granted options over unissued shares or interests in shares of the Company as part of their remuneration.

- End of Remuneration Report -

Directors' meetings

Director	No. eligible to attend	Attended
Geoff Wilson	4	4
Kate Thorley	4	4
John Abernethy	4	4
Julian Gosse	4	4

Audit and Risk Committee meetings

The main responsibilities of the Audit and Risk Committee are set out in the Company's 2024 Corporate Governance Statement.

Audit and Risk Committee member	No. eligible to attend	Attended
John Abernethy	4	4
Kate Thorley	4	4
Julian Gosse	4	4

After balance date events

Since the end of the year, the Directors declared a final dividend of 5.0 cents per share, partially franked at 60%, to be paid on 25 October 2024.

No other matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the financial year 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 years.

Future developments

The Company will continue to pursue investment activities - primarily investing in equities listed on the Australian Securities Exchange - to achieve the Company's stated objectives.

The Company's future performance is dependent on the performance of the Company's investments. In turn, the performance of these investments is impacted by investee company-specific factors and prevailing industry conditions. In addition, a range of external factors including economic growth rates, interest rates, exchange rates and macro-economic conditions impact the overall equity market and these investments.

As such, we do not believe it is possible or appropriate to accurately predict the future performance of the Company's investments and, therefore, the Company's performance.

Environmental regulation

The Company's operations are not regulated by any environmental regulation under a law of the Commonwealth or of a State or Territory.

Indemnification and insurance of Officers or Auditors

During the financial year the Company paid a premium in respect of a contract insuring the Directors of the Company, the Company Secretary and any related body corporate against liability incurred as such by a Director or Secretary to the extent permitted by the *Corporations Act 2001*. The contract of insurance prohibits disclosure of the nature of the liability and the amount of the premium.

No indemnities have been given or insurance premiums paid during or since the end of the financial year, for any person who is or has been an auditor of the Company.

Proceedings on behalf of the Company

No person has applied for leave of the Court to bring proceedings on behalf of the Company or to intervene in any proceedings to which the Company is a party for the purpose of taking responsibility on behalf of the Company for all or any part of those proceedings.

The Company was not a party to any such proceedings during the year.

Non-audit services

During the year Pitcher Partners, the Company's auditor, performed taxation and other services for the Company. Details of the amounts paid to the auditors and their related parties are disclosed in Note 5 to the financial statements.

The Board of Directors, in accordance with advice from the Audit and Risk Committee, is satisfied that the provision of non-audit services during the year is compatible with the general standard of independence for auditors imposed by the *Corporations Act 2001*. The Directors are satisfied that the services disclosed in Note 5 did not compromise the external auditor's independence for the following reasons:

- all non-audit services are reviewed and approved by the Audit and Risk Committee to ensure they do not adversely affect the integrity and objectivity of the auditor; and
- the nature of the services provided do not compromise the general principles relating to auditor independence in accordance with the APES 110: Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards) set by the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board.

Rounding of amounts to nearest dollar

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

Corporate Governance Statement

The Company's Corporate Governance Statement for the year ended 30 June 2024 is provided on the Company's website at wilsonassetmanagement.com.au/wam-research/.

Auditor's Independence Declaration

A copy of the Auditor's Independence Declaration as required under Section 307C of the *Corporations Act 2001* is set out on page 45 of the Annual Report.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'G' followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Geoff Wilson AO
Chairman

Dated this 28th day of August 2024

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

In relation to the independent audit of WAM Research Limited for the year ended 30 June 2024, I declare that to the best of my knowledge and belief there have been:

- (i) no contraventions of the auditor's independence requirements of the *Corporations Act 2001*; and
- (ii) no contraventions of APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)*.

**Richard King**
Partner**Pitcher Partners**
Sydney

28 August 2024



Financial Report

For the year ended 30 June 2024

This financial report is for WAM Research Limited (WAM Research or the Company) for the year ended 30 June 2024.

WAM Research is a for-profit entity for financial reporting purposes under Australian Accounting Standards.

WAM Research is a listed public company, incorporated and domiciled in Australia.

The financial report was authorised for issue on 28 August 2024 by the Board of Directors.

In addition to the relevant financial information, the notes to the financial statements include a description of the accounting policies applied, and where applicable key judgements and estimates used by management in applying these policies.

Consolidated entity disclosure statement

WAM Research is not required to prepare consolidated financial statements by Australian Accounting Standards. Accordingly, in accordance with subsection 295(3A) of the *Corporations Act 2001*, no further information is required to be disclosed in the consolidated entity disclosure statement.

Statement of Comprehensive Income ('Profit or Loss')

For the year ended 30 June 2024

	Note	2024 \$	2023 \$
Net realised and unrealised gains on financial investments and foreign currency		49,311,374	20,005,756
Other revenue from operating activities	2	4,933,021	5,783,628
Management fees		(2,054,130)	(1,973,505)
Performance fees		(6,075,048)	-
Directors fees		(80,000)	(80,000)
Brokerage expense on share purchases		(545,740)	(513,435)
Custody fees		(19,677)	(16,374)
ASX listing and chess fees		(109,654)	(119,802)
Disbursements, mailing and printing		(59,237)	(60,103)
Share registry fees		(101,622)	(95,625)
ASIC industry funding levy		(8,458)	(7,531)
Accounting fees		(55,000)	(46,200)
Company secretary fees		(19,800)	(16,500)
Other expenses from ordinary activities		(218,334)	(214,390)
Profit before income tax		44,897,695	22,645,919
Income tax expense	3(a)	(12,426,621)	(5,791,682)
Profit after income tax attributable to members of the Company		32,471,074	16,854,237

Other comprehensive income

Items that will not be reclassified to profit or loss

Unrealised losses on investments taken to equity, net of tax		(120,307)	(258,332)
Total comprehensive income for the year		32,350,767	16,595,905

Basic and diluted earnings per share	14	16.04 cents	8.45 cents
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The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Statement of *Financial Position ('Balance Sheet')*

As at 30 June 2024

	Note	2024 \$	2023 \$
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	12	11,782,069	11,212,328
Trade and other receivables	6	3,513,614	4,719,531
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	7	205,899,544	172,606,385
Total current assets		221,195,227	188,538,244
Non-current assets			
Financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income	7	1,261,592	1,433,459
Deferred tax assets	3(b)	11,179,037	13,591,029
Total non-current assets		12,440,629	15,024,488
Total assets		233,635,856	203,562,732
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	8	10,428,684	2,749,468
Current tax liabilities	3(c)	6,466,323	1,676,635
Total current liabilities		16,895,007	4,426,103
Non-current liabilities			
Deferred tax liabilities	3(d)	2,076,363	-
Total non-current liabilities		2,076,363	-
Total liabilities		18,971,370	4,426,103
Net assets		214,664,486	199,136,629
Equity			
Issued capital	9	225,582,567	222,234,613
Reserves	10	67,055,800	54,875,897
Accumulated losses	11	(77,973,881)	(77,973,881)
Total equity		214,664,486	199,136,629

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Statement of Changes in Equity

For the year ended 30 June 2024

	Note	Issued capital \$	Accumulated losses \$	Profits reserve \$	Asset revaluation reserve \$	Other reserves \$	Total equity \$
Balance at 1 July 2022		218,646,396	(76,846,523)	76,626,019	205,488	(19,805,347)	198,826,033
Profit for the year		-	16,854,237	-	-	-	16,854,237
Transfer to profits reserve		-	(17,981,595)	17,981,595	-	-	-
Other comprehensive loss for the year		-	-	-	(258,332)	-	(258,332)
Transactions with owners:							
Shares issued via dividend reinvestment plan	9(b)	3,588,217	-	-	-	-	3,588,217
Dividends paid	4(a)	-	-	(19,873,526)	-	-	(19,873,526)
Balance at 30 June 2023		222,234,613	(77,973,881)	74,734,088	(52,844)	(19,805,347)	199,136,629
Profit for the year		-	32,471,074	-	-	-	32,471,074
Transfer to profits reserve		-	(32,471,074)	32,471,074	-	-	-
Other comprehensive loss for the year		-	-	-	(120,307)	-	(120,307)
Transactions with owners:							
Shares issued via dividend reinvestment plan	9(b)	3,347,954	-	-	-	-	3,347,954
Dividends paid	4(a)	-	-	(20,170,864)	-	-	(20,170,864)
Balance at 30 June 2024		225,582,567	(77,973,881)	87,034,298	(173,151)	(19,805,347)	214,664,486

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended 30 June 2024

	Note	2024 \$	2023 \$
Cash flows from operating activities			
Proceeds from sale of investments		449,309,700	432,644,677
Payments for purchase of investments		(430,519,510)	(442,350,526)
Dividends received		4,103,119	5,230,455
Interest received		806,418	553,173
Other investment income received		13,129	-
Management fee (GST inclusive)		(2,176,080)	(2,115,228)
Brokerage expense on share purchases (GST inclusive)		(584,050)	(550,129)
Payments for administration expenses (GST inclusive)		(788,214)	(662,496)
Income tax paid		(3,097,018)	(3,074,706)
GST on brokerage expense on share sales		(42,006)	(40,724)
Net GST received from ATO		241,735	231,965
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	13	17,267,223	(10,133,539)
Cash flows from financing activities			
Dividends paid – net of reinvestment		(16,697,482)	(16,285,309)
Net cash used in financing activities		(16,697,482)	(16,285,309)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents held		569,741	(26,418,848)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year		11,212,328	37,631,176
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	12	11,782,069	11,212,328
Non-cash transactions			
Shares issued via dividend reinvestment plan	9(b)	3,347,954	3,588,217

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Notes to the *financial statements*

For the year ended 30 June 2024

1. Basis of preparation

The financial statements are general purpose financial statements, which:

- have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, Australian Accounting Interpretations, other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) and the *Corporations Act 2001*;
- has been prepared on a for-profit basis;
- complies with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB);
- has been prepared on an accruals basis (except for cash flow information) and are based on historical costs, with the exception of certain financial assets which have been measured at fair value;
- is presented in Australian dollars with all amounts in the Financial Report rounded to the nearest dollar, unless otherwise indicated, in accordance with ASIC Corporations (Rounding in Financial/Directors' Reports) Instrument 2016/191;
- adopts all of the new or amended Accounting Standards and Interpretations issued by the AASB that are mandatory for the current reporting period. There was no material impact to the financial statements; and
- does not adopt any new standards or interpretations issued but not yet effective. The impact of these standards or interpretations has been assessed and the impact has been identified as not being material.

Material and other accounting policy information adopted in the preparation of these financial statements has been included with the relevant notes to the financial statements, and where applicable key judgements and estimates used by management in applying these policies.

2. Other revenue

Dividend revenue is recognised when the right to receive a dividend has been established (i.e. the ex-dividend date).

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST) where applicable.

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Australian sourced dividends	3,725,167	4,840,863
Interest income from cash and cash equivalents	806,418	553,173
Foreign sourced dividends	377,952	389,592
Underwriting fees	23,484	-
	4,933,021	5,783,628

3. Income tax

Current income tax expense

The current income tax expense is based on profit for the year adjusted for non-assessable or disallowed items, as well as franking credits (or imputation credits) received on franked dividend income from investee companies. It is calculated using tax rates that have been enacted or are substantially enacted at the reporting date (i.e. 30% corporate tax rate). Current tax liabilities/(assets) are measured at the amounts expected to be paid to/(recovered from) the relevant taxation authority in the next 12 months.

Deferred tax assets and liabilities

Deferred tax is accounted for using the balance sheet method in respect of temporary differences arising between the tax bases of assets and liabilities and their carrying amounts in the financial statements. No deferred income tax will be recognised from the initial recognition of an asset or liability, excluding a business combination, where there is no effect on accounting or taxable profit or loss.

Deferred tax is calculated at the tax rates that are expected to apply to the period when the asset is realised or liability is settled (i.e. 30% corporate tax rate). Deferred tax is credited in the Statement of comprehensive income except where it relates to items that may be credited directly to equity, in which case the deferred tax is adjusted directly against equity.

Deferred tax assets and liabilities relating to temporary differences on financial assets or liabilities and unused tax losses are recognised, to the extent that it is probable that future taxable profit will be available against which the benefits of the deferred tax asset can be utilised.

3. Income tax (cont'd)

Deferred tax assets and liabilities (cont'd)

Current tax assets and liabilities are offset where a legally enforceable right of set-off exists and it is intended that net settlement or simultaneous realisation and settlement of the respective asset and liability will occur. Deferred tax assets and liabilities are only offset where a legally enforceable right of set-off exists, the deferred tax assets and liabilities relate to income taxes levied by the same taxation authority on either the same taxable entity or different taxable entities where it is intended that net settlement or simultaneous realisation and settlement of the respective asset and liability will occur in future periods in which significant amounts of deferred tax assets or liabilities are expected to be recovered or settled.

Key estimates and judgements

Deferred tax assets are recognised for unused tax losses to the extent that it is probable that future taxable profits will be available against which they can be used. The assumptions about future taxable profits require the use of judgement. Future taxable profits are determined based on the historical performance of the Company and the ability of the Company to generate positive performance even when market conditions are uncertain. Deferred tax assets are reviewed at each reporting date and are reduced to the extent that it is no longer probable that the related tax benefit will be realised; such reductions are reversed when the probability of future taxable profits improves.

a) Income tax expense

The prima facie tax on profit before income tax is reconciled to the income tax expense as follows:

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Prima facie tax on profit before income tax at 30% (2023: 30%)	13,469,309	6,793,776
Franking credit gross up	428,675	410,496
Franking credit offset	(1,428,916)	(1,368,319)
Foreign income tax gross up	18,191	20,625
Foreign income tax offset	(60,638)	(68,751)
Under provision in prior period	-	3,855
	12,426,621	5,791,682

Effective tax rate	2024 \$	2023 \$
The effective tax rate reflects the benefit to the Company from franking credits received on dividend income during the year. The increase in the effective tax rate from the comparative year is reflective of the lower proportion of franked dividends received compared to the operating profit before tax for the year.	27.7%	25.6%

3. Income tax (cont'd)

a) Income tax expense (cont'd)

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Total income tax expense results in a change to the following:		
Current tax liability	7,886,706	2,427,553
Deferred tax asset	2,463,552	-
Deferred tax liability	2,076,363	3,364,129
	12,426,621	5,791,682

b) Deferred tax assets

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Tax losses	11,165,639	11,165,639
Provisions	13,398	12,540
Fair value adjustments and timing differences on receivables	-	2,412,850
	11,179,037	13,591,029

Movement in deferred tax assets

Balance at the beginning of the year	13,591,029	16,844,444
Charged to the Statement of comprehensive income	(2,463,552)	(3,364,129)
Credited to equity	51,560	110,714
At reporting date	11,179,037	13,591,029

The Directors continue to consider it probable that future taxable profits will be available against which the \$11,165,639 (2023: \$11,165,639) of income tax losses can be recovered and therefore, the deferred tax asset recognised will be able to be utilised against future income tax payable.

c) Current tax liabilities

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Balance at the beginning of the year	1,676,635	2,323,788
Current year income tax on operating profit	7,886,706	2,427,553
Income tax paid	(3,097,018)	(3,074,706)
At reporting date	6,466,323	1,676,635

3. Income tax (cont'd)

d) Deferred tax liabilities

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Fair value adjustments and timing differences on receivable	2,076,363	-
	2,076,363	-
Movement in deferred tax liabilities		
Balance at the beginning of the year	-	-
Charged to the Statement of comprehensive income	2,076,363	-
At reporting date	2,076,363	-

4. Dividends

a) Ordinary dividends paid during the year

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Final dividend FY2023: 5.0 cents per share, partially franked at 60%, paid 16 October 2023 (Final dividend FY2022: 5.0 cents per share fully franked)	10,044,258	9,901,937
Interim dividend FY2024: 5.0 cents per share, partially franked at 60%, paid 30 April 2024 including withholding tax payable of \$125,428 (Interim dividend FY2023: 5.0 cents per share fully franked)	10,126,606	9,971,589
	20,170,864	19,873,526

b) Dividends not recognised at year end

	2024 \$	2023 \$
In addition to the above dividends, since the end of the year, the Directors have declared a final dividend of 5.0 cents per share, partially franked at 60% (2023: 5.0 cents per share, partially franked at 60%) which has not been recognised as a liability at the end of the financial year:	10,203,456	10,044,257

c) Dividend franking account

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Balance of franking account at year end	262,898	923,759
Adjusted for franking credits arising from: - Estimated income tax payable	6,466,323	1,676,635
Subsequent to the reporting period, the franking account would be reduced by the proposed dividend disclosed in Note 4(b):	(2,623,746)	(2,582,809)
	4,105,475	17,585

4. Dividends (cont'd)

The Company's ability to continue to pay franked dividends is dependent on generating additional profits reserves and franking credits. The ability to generate franking credits is reliant on the receipt of franked dividends from investee companies and the payment of tax on realised profits.

The balance of the franking account does not include tax to be paid on unrealised investment gains (i.e. fair value movements) at the end of the reporting period. As at 30 June 2024, the deferred tax in relation to fair value movements on the financial assets held at fair value through profit and loss is in a credit balance of \$2,150,571 and this amount has been presented as a deferred tax liability (2023: debit balance of \$2,390,202 presented as a deferred tax asset).

5. Auditor's remuneration

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Remuneration of the auditor for:		
Auditing and reviewing the financial report	56,076	54,257
Other services provided by a related practice of the auditor:		
Taxation services	10,780	9,185
	66,856	63,442

The Company's Audit and Risk Committee oversees the relationship with the Company's external auditor. The Audit and Risk Committee reviews the scope of the audit and review and the proposed fee. It also reviews the cost and scope of other services provided by a related entity of the audit firm, to ensure that they do not compromise independence.

6. Trade and other receivables

Trade and other receivables are initially recognised at fair value. They are subsequently stated at amortised cost, less any provision for impairment (where applicable).

As at reporting date, trade and other receivables primarily relates to outstanding trade settlements (i.e. settlement proceeds from the sale of securities that is receivable as at the balance date). Outstanding trade settlements are on the terms operating in the securities industry, which do not incur interest and require settlement within two days from the date of the transaction.

Receivables also include GST recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office due to claimable items on expenses incurred by the Company.

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Outstanding settlements	2,993,667	4,658,533
GST receivable	509,592	60,998
Underwriting fees receivable	10,355	-
	3,513,614	4,719,531

7. Financial assets

Initial recognition and measurement

Financial assets are recognised when the Company becomes party to the contractual provisions of the asset. Trade date accounting is adopted for the purchase or sale of financial assets, which is equivalent to the date that the Company commits itself to purchase or sell the assets.

Financial assets are initially measured at fair value. Transaction costs related to financial assets are expensed to the Statement of comprehensive income immediately.

Classification and subsequent measurement

Financial assets are classified 'at fair value through profit or loss' when they are held for trading for the purpose of short-term profit taking. Realised and unrealised gains and losses arising from changes in fair value are included in the Statement of comprehensive income in the period in which they arise and form part of the Company's net profit as a result.

Financial assets that are not held for trading are irrevocably classified as financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income and are recognised initially at cost. The Company has elected to present subsequent changes in the fair value of financial assets in the Statement of comprehensive income through the asset revaluation reserve after deducting a provision for the potential deferred capital gains tax liability.

Financial instruments are subsequently measured at fair value. The fair values of financial instruments traded in active markets are based on the closing quoted last sale prices at the end of the reporting date. For all listed or unlisted securities that are not traded in an active market, valuation techniques are applied to determine fair value, including recent arm's length transactions and reference to similar instruments. Refer to Note 15 for further details of these valuation techniques.

Financial risk management

Information regarding the Company's exposure to financial risk management risk is set out in Note 15.

Derecognition

Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss are derecognised where the contractual rights to receipt of cash flows expires or the asset is transferred to another party whereby the Company no longer has any significant continuing involvement in the risks and benefits associated with the asset.

When financial assets that are not held for trading investment are disposed, the cumulative gain or loss, net of tax thereon, is transferred from the asset revaluation reserve to the capital profits reserve.

7. Financial assets (cont'd)

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	205,899,544	172,606,385
Financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income	1,261,592	1,433,459
	207,161,136	174,039,844
Financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income:		
- Clime Investment Management Limited	946,626	1,124,118
- Clime Private Limited	314,966	309,341
	1,261,592	1,433,459

The fair values of individual investments held at the end of the reporting period are disclosed on page 76 of the Annual Report.

8. Trade and other payables

Trade and other payables are stated at their amortised cost.

As at reporting date, trade and other payables primarily relates to performance fee payable and outstanding trade settlements (i.e. settlement proceeds from the purchase of securities that is payable as at the balance date). Outstanding trade settlements are on the terms operating in the securities industry, which do not incur interest and require settlement within two days from the date of the transaction. Sundry payables are settled within the terms of payment offered. No interest is applicable on these accounts.

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Performance fee payable	6,519,566	-
Outstanding settlements	3,504,727	2,397,618
Management fee payable	200,239	171,887
Dividend withholding tax payable	125,428	-
Sundry creditors	78,724	179,963
	10,428,684	2,749,468

9. Issued capital

Ordinary shares are classified as equity. Incremental costs (i.e. share issue costs) directly attributable to the issue of new shares or options are shown in equity as a deduction, net of tax, from the proceeds raised by the Company.

a) Paid-up capital

	2024 \$	2023 \$
204,069,123 ordinary shares fully paid (2023: 200,885,140)	225,582,567	222,234,613

b) Ordinary shares

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Balance at the beginning of the year	222,234,613	218,646,396
200,885,140 ordinary shares fully paid (2023: 198,038,747)		
1,646,994 ordinary shares issued on 16 October 2023 under a dividend reinvestment plan	1,719,208	-
1,536,989 ordinary shares issued on 30 April 2024 under a dividend reinvestment plan	1,628,746	-
1,393,035 ordinary shares issued on 17 October 2022 under a dividend reinvestment plan	-	1,811,113
1,453,358 ordinary shares issued on 21 April 2023 under a dividend reinvestment plan	-	1,777,104
At reporting date	225,582,567	222,234,613

Holders of ordinary shares are entitled to receive dividends as declared from time to time, and are entitled to one vote per share at shareholder meetings, with all substantive resolutions conducted by a poll. In the event of winding up of the Company, ordinary shareholders rank after creditors and share in any proceeds on winding up in proportion to the number of shares held.

c) Capital management

The Board manages the Company's capital by regularly reviewing the most efficient manner by which the Company deploys its capital. At the core of this, the Board is of the belief that shareholder value should be preserved through the management of the level of distributions to shareholders, share placements, share purchase plans, option issues and share buy-backs. These capital management initiatives will be used when deemed appropriate by the Board. There have been no changes in the strategy adopted by the Board to manage the capital of the Company during the year. The Company is not subject to any externally imposed capital requirements.

10. Reserves

The profits reserve is made up of amounts transferred from current period and prior year earnings ('retained earnings') that are preserved for future dividend payments to shareholders. The profits reserve is made up of both realised and unrealised amounts from the performance of the investment portfolio in each period. The profits reserve represents the ability of the Company to frank future dividend payments for shareholders, subject to the availability of franking credits.

There can be situations where the franking account balance including franking credits generated from the receipt of franked dividends from investee companies and the payment of tax on realised profits, may not match the profits reserve balance (which includes realised and unrealised profits).

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.

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Profits reserve	87,034,298	74,734,088
Asset revaluation reserve	(173,151)	(52,844)
Capital profits reserve – capital account	42,194	42,194
Capital profits reserve – revenue account	(19,847,541)	(19,847,541)
	67,055,800	54,875,897

Movement in profits reserve

Balance at the beginning of the year	74,734,088	76,626,019
Transfer of profits during the year	32,471,074	17,981,595
Final dividend paid (refer to Note 4(a))	(10,044,258)	(9,901,937)
Interim dividend paid (refer to Note 4(a))	(10,126,606)	(9,971,589)
At reporting date	87,034,298	74,734,088

Movement in asset revaluation reserve

Balance at the beginning of the year	(52,844)	205,488
Other comprehensive income	(120,307)	(258,332)
At reporting date	(173,151)	(52,844)

11. Accumulated losses

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Balance at the beginning of the year	(77,973,881)	(76,846,523)
Profit for the year attributable to members of the Company	32,471,074	16,854,237
Transfer to profits reserve	(32,471,074)	(17,981,595)
	(77,973,881)	(77,973,881)

12. Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand and at call deposits with banks or financial institutions.

Cash at the end of the financial year as shown in the Statement of cash flows is reconciled to the related items in the Statement of financial position as follows:

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Cash at bank	11,782,069	11,212,328
	11,782,069	11,212,328

The weighted average interest rate for cash as at 30 June 2024 is 4.47% (2023: 4.25%). There were no term deposits held at 30 June 2024 (2023: nil).

13. Cash flow information

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Reconciliation of profit after tax to cash flows from operating activities:		
Profit after income tax	32,471,074	16,854,237
Fair value gains and movements in financial assets	(30,521,184)	(29,711,605)
Changes in assets and liabilities:		
Increase in receivables	(458,949)	(4,882)
Decrease in deferred tax assets	2,411,992	3,364,129
Increase in payables	6,446,679	11,735
Increase/(decrease) in current tax liabilities	4,789,688	(647,153)
Increase in deferred tax liabilities	2,127,923	-
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	17,267,223	(10,133,539)

14. Earnings per share

	2024 Cents per share	2023 Cents per share
Basic and diluted earnings per share	16.04	8.45

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Profit after income tax used in the calculation of basic and diluted earnings per share	32,471,074	16,854,237

	2024 No.	2023 No.
Weighted average number of ordinary shares outstanding during the year used in calculating basic and diluted earnings per share	202,480,676	199,360,594

There are no outstanding securities on issue that are potentially dilutive in nature at the end of the year.

15. Financial risk management

The Company's financial instruments consist of listed and unlisted investments, trade receivables, trade payables and cash. The risks exposed to through these financial instruments are discussed below and include credit risk, liquidity risk and market risk, consisting of interest rate risk and other price risk. There have been no substantive changes in the types of risks the Company is exposed to, how these risks arise, or the Board's objective, policies and processes for managing or measuring the risks during the period.

Under delegation from the Board, MAM Pty Limited (the Investment Manager or the Manager) has the responsibility for assessing and monitoring the financial market risk of the Company. The Manager monitors these risks daily. On a formal basis the investment team meet weekly to monitor and manage the below risks as appropriate.

a) Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk that one party to a financial instrument will cause a financial loss for the other party by failing to discharge a contracted obligation. The Manager monitors the credit worthiness of counterparties on an ongoing basis and evaluates the credit quality of all new counterparties before engaging with them.

The maximum exposure to credit risk on financial assets, excluding investments of the Company which have been recognised in the Statement of financial position, is the carrying amount net of any expected credit losses of those assets.

The Manager is responsible for ensuring there is appropriate diversification across counterparties and that they are of a sufficient quality rating. The Manager is satisfied that the counterparties are of sufficient quality and diversity to minimise any individual counterparty credit risk. The majority of the Company's receivables arise from unsettled trades at year end which are settled two days after trade date. Engaging with counterparties via the Australian Securities Exchange facilitates the Company in both mitigating and managing its credit risk on an ongoing basis.

15. Financial risk management (cont'd)

a) Credit risk (cont'd)

Credit risk is not considered to be a major risk to the Company as the majority of cash held by the Company or in its portfolios are invested with major Australian banks and their 100% owned banking subsidiaries that have a Standard and Poor's short-term rating of A-1+ and long-term rating of AA-. The Company also holds cash with its custodian that has a Standard and Poor's short-term rating of A-1 and long-term rating of A+. There were no term deposits held as at 30 June 2024.

None of the assets exposed to credit risk are overdue or considered to be impaired.

b) Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk represents the risk that an entity will encounter difficulty in meeting obligations associated with financial liabilities.

The Company's major cash payments are the purchase of securities and dividends paid to shareholders, the levels of which are managed respectively by the Manager.

The Company's cash receipts depend upon the level of sales of securities, dividends and interest received, the exercise of options or other capital management initiatives that may be implemented by the Board from time to time.

The Manager monitors the Company's cash flow requirements daily by reference to known sales and purchases of securities, dividends and interest to be paid or received. Should these decrease by a material amount, the Company can alter its cash outflows as appropriate. The Company also holds a portion of its portfolio in cash sufficient to ensure that it has cash readily available to meet all payments. Furthermore, the assets of the Company are largely in the form of tradable securities which, where liquidity is available, can be sold on market when, and if required.

The table below reflects an undiscounted contractual maturity analysis for the Company's liabilities. The timing of cash flows presented in the table to settle liabilities reflects the earliest possible contractual settlement date to the reporting date.

30 June 2024	>1 month \$	<1 month \$	Total \$
Liabilities			
Trade and other payables	-	10,428,684	10,428,684
Total	-	10,428,684	10,428,684
30 June 2023	>1 month \$	<1 month \$	Total \$
Liabilities			
Trade and other payables	-	2,749,468	2,749,468
Total	-	2,749,468	2,749,468

15. Financial risk management (cont'd)

c) Market risk

Market risk is the risk that changes in market prices, such as interest rates and other market prices will affect the fair value or future cash flows of the Company's financial instruments.

By its nature, as a listed investment company that invests in tradable securities, the Company will always be subject to market risk as it invests its capital in securities which are not risk free, as the market price of these securities can fluctuate.

(i) Interest rate risk

The Company's interest bearing financial assets expose it to risks associated with the effects of fluctuations in the prevailing level of market interest rates on its financial position and cash flows. The Company however is not materially exposed to interest rate risk as it did not hold any term deposits at the end of the period. As the Company's exposure to interest rate risk is not significant, interest rate sensitivities have not been performed.

At the end of the reporting period, the Company's exposure to interest rate risk and the effective weighted average interest rate was as follows:

30 June 2024	Weighted average interest rate (% pa)	Interest bearing \$	Non-interest bearing \$	Total \$
Assets				
Cash and cash equivalents	4.47%	11,782,069	-	11,782,069
Trade and other receivables		-	3,513,614	3,513,614
Financial assets		-	207,161,136	207,161,136
Total		11,782,069	210,674,750	222,456,819
Liabilities				
Trade and other payables		-	10,428,684	10,428,684
Total		-	10,428,684	10,428,684

30 June 2023	Weighted average interest rate (% pa)	Interest bearing \$	Non-interest bearing \$	Total \$
Assets				
Cash and cash equivalents	4.25%	11,212,328	-	11,212,328
Trade and other receivables		-	4,719,531	4,719,531
Financial assets		-	174,039,844	174,039,844
Total		11,212,328	178,759,375	189,971,703
Liabilities				
Trade and other payables		-	2,749,468	2,749,468
Total		-	2,749,468	2,749,468

15. Financial risk management (cont'd)

c) Market risk (cont'd)

ii) Other price risk

Other price risk is the risk that the value of an instrument will fluctuate as a result of changes in market prices, whether caused by factors specific to an individual investment, its issuer or all factors affecting all instruments traded in the market.

As the majority of the Company's investments are carried at fair value with fair value changes recognised in the Statement of comprehensive income, all changes in market conditions will directly affect net investment income. Due to the short-term nature of receivables and payables, the carrying amounts of these financial assets and financial liabilities approximate their fair values.

The Manager seeks to manage and reduce the other price risk of the Company by diversification of the investment portfolio across numerous stocks and multiple industry sectors. The relative weightings of the individual securities and market sectors are reviewed daily in order to manage risk. The Company does not have set parameters as to a minimum or maximum amount of the portfolio that can be invested in a single company or sector.

The Company's industry sector weighting of gross assets as at 30 June 2024 is as follows:

Industry sector	2024 %	2023 %
Consumer discretionary	26.1	17.4
Industrials	16.6	16.8
Health care	15.1	20.6
Financials	8.4	9.6
Communication services	7.8	5.1
Information technology	7.1	3.5
Consumer staples	5.4	6.5
Real estate	3.7	5.3
Materials	2.4	2.7
Energy	1.3	5.3
Utilities	0.7	-
Total	94.6	92.8

Securities representing over 5 per cent of the gross assets of the Company as at 30 June 2024 are set out below:

Company name	2024 %
Tuas Limited	7.8
G8 Education Limited	5.0

Securities representing over 5 per cent of the gross assets of the Company as at 30 June 2023 are set out below:

Company name	2023 %
Estia Health Limited	6.7
Webjet Limited	5.7
Viva Energy Group Limited	5.3
Healius Limited	5.1

15. Financial risk management (cont'd)

c) Market risk (cont'd)

ii) Other price risk (cont'd)

Sensitivity analysis

For investments held by the Company at the end of the reporting period, a sensitivity analysis was performed relating to its exposure to other price risk. This analysis demonstrates the effect on current year net assets after tax as a result from a reasonably possible change in the risk variable. The sensitivity assumes all other variables remain constant.

Investments represent 94.6% (2023: 92.8%) of gross assets at year end. At reporting date, if the fair value of each of the investments within the portfolio changed by 5%, the impact on the Company's profit or loss after tax would have been an increase/decrease by \$7,206,484 (2023: \$6,041,223) and the impact on the Company's total comprehensive income and equity would have been an increase/decrease by \$7,250,640 (2023: \$6,091,395). This would result in the 30 June 2024 net asset backing after tax moving by 3.6 cents per share (2023: 3.0 cents per share).

d) 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 liability either directly (as prices) or indirectly (derived from prices).

Level 3: Inputs for the asset or liability that 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 have been based on the closing quoted last sale 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 closing price to determine fair value.

There were no transfers between Level 1 and Level 2 during the year (2023: nil).

	Level 1 \$	Level 2 \$	Level 3 \$	Total \$
30 June 2024				
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	205,899,544	-	-	205,899,544
Financial assets at fair value through comprehensive income	946,626	314,966	-	1,261,592
Total	206,846,170	314,966	-	207,161,136
	Level 1 \$	Level 2 \$	Level 3 \$	Total \$
30 June 2023				
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	172,606,385	-	-	172,606,385
Financial assets at fair value through comprehensive income	1,124,118	309,341	-	1,433,459
Total	173,730,503	309,341	-	174,039,844

16. Investment transactions

The total number of contract notes that were issued for transactions in securities during the financial year was 4,688 (2023: 4,354). Each contract note could involve multiple transactions. The total brokerage paid on these contract notes was \$1,209,136 (2023: \$1,155,141).

17. Segment reporting

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

18. Capital commitments

There were no capital commitments for the Company as at 30 June 2024 (2023: nil).

19. Contingent liability

There were no contingent liabilities for the Company as at 30 June 2024 (2023: nil).

20. Key management personnel compensation

The names and position held of the Company's key management personnel (including Directors) in office at any time during the financial year are:

- Geoff Wilson AO Chairman
- Kate Thorley Director
- John Abernethy Director
- Julian Gosse Director

a) Remuneration

There are no executives that are paid by the Company. MAM Pty Ltd, the Investment Manager of the Company, provides the day-to-day management of the Company and is remunerated for these services as outlined in Note 21.

Individual Directors' remuneration disclosures are provided in the Remuneration Report of the Directors' Report on pages 39 to 41, as required by Corporations Regulation 2M.3.03 and 2M.6.04.

	Short-term employee benefits Directors' fees \$	Post-employment benefits Superannuation \$	Total \$
Total Directors remuneration paid by the Company for the year ended 30 June 2024	75,045	4,955	80,000
Total Directors remuneration paid by the Company for the year ended 30 June 2023	75,249	4,751	80,000

20. Key management personnel compensation (cont'd)

b) Shareholdings

The number of ordinary shares held in the Company during the financial year by each key management personnel of the Company and their related parties are set out below:

Ordinary shares held Directors	Balance at 30 June 2023	Acquisitions	Disposals	Balance at 30 June 2024
Geoff Wilson	120,242	-	-	120,242
Kate Thorley	68,317	-	-	68,317
John Abernethy	10,000	-	-	10,000
Julian Gosse	-	-	-	-
	198,559	-	-	198,559

At 30 June 2023, the Company's key management personnel and their related parties held the following interests in the Company:

Ordinary shares held Directors	Balance at 30 June 2022	Acquisitions	Disposals	Balance at 30 June 2023
Geoff Wilson	120,242	-	-	120,242
Kate Thorley	68,317	-	-	68,317
John Abernethy	10,000	-	-	10,000
Julian Gosse	-	-	-	-
	198,559	-	-	198,559

Directors and Director related entities disposed of and acquired ordinary shares in the Company on the same terms and conditions available to other shareholders. The Directors have not, during or since the end of the financial year, been granted options over unissued shares or interests in shares of the Company as part of their remuneration.

21. Related party transactions

All transactions with related parties during the year were made on normal commercial terms and conditions and at market rates.

The Company has an investment management agreement with MAM Pty Limited, part of the Wilson Asset Management Group. Geoff Wilson is the Director of MAM Pty Limited, the entity appointed to manage the investment portfolio of WAM Research. Entities associated with Geoff Wilson hold 100% of the issued shares of MAM Pty Limited. In its capacity as the Manager, and in accordance with the investment management agreement, MAM Pty Limited was paid a management fee of 1% p.a. (plus GST) of the value of the portfolio amounting to \$2,204,432 inclusive of GST (2023: \$2,117,908). As at 30 June 2024, the balance payable to the Manager was \$200,239 inclusive of GST (2023: \$171,887).

21. Related party transactions (cont'd)

In addition, MAM Pty Limited is eligible to be paid a performance fee, being 20% (plus GST) in circumstances where:

- the level of the S&P/ASX All Ordinaries Accumulation Index has increased over that period, the amount by which the value of the portfolio exceeds this increase; or
- the S&P/ASX All Ordinaries Accumulation Index has decreased over that period, the amount of the increase in value of the portfolio.

No performance fee is payable in respect of any performance period where the value of the portfolio has decreased over that period.

For the year ended 30 June 2024, a performance fee of \$6,519,566 inclusive of GST was payable to MAM Pty Limited (2023: nil).

Wilson Asset Management (International) Pty Limited has a service agreement in place with WAM Research to provide accounting and company secretarial services on commercial terms. For the year ended 30 June 2024, the fee for accounting services amounted to \$55,000 inclusive of GST (2023: \$46,200) and the fee for company secretarial services amounted to \$19,800 inclusive of GST (2023: \$16,500). Entities associated with Geoff Wilson hold 100% of the issued shares of Wilson Asset Management (International) Pty Limited.

No Director has received or become entitled to receive a benefit (other than those detailed above) by reason of a contract made by the Company or a related company of the Director or with a firm of which he/she is a member or with a company in which he/she has substantial financial interest.

22. Events subsequent to reporting date

Since the end of the year, the Directors declared a final dividend of 5.0 cents per share, partially franked at 60%, to be paid on 25 October 2024.

No other matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the financial year, 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 years.

Directors' Declaration

The Directors of WAM Research Limited declare that:

- 1) The financial statements as set out in pages 46 to 69 and the additional disclosures included in the Directors' Report designated as "Remuneration Report", as set out on pages 39 to 41, are in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001*, including:
 - a) complying with Australian Accounting Standards, which, as stated in Note 1 to the financial statements, constitutes compliance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), 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 30 June 2024 and of its performance, as represented by the results of the operations and the cash flows, for the year ended on that date.
- 2) The Directors have been given the declarations required by Section 295A of the *Corporations Act 2001* from the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer of the Manager, MAM Pty Limited.
- 3) At the date of this declaration, 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.
- 4) The consolidated entity disclosure statement required by subsection 295(3A) of the *Corporations Act 2001* is true and correct.

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



Geoff Wilson AO
Chairman

Dated this 28th day of August 2024

**Independent Auditor's Report
To the Members of WAM Research Limited
ABN 15 100 504 541****Report on the Audit of the Financial Report***Opinion*

We have audited the financial report of WAM Research Limited ("the Company"), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2024, the statement of comprehensive income, the statement of changes in equity and the statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including material accounting policy information, the consolidated entity disclosure statement, and the Directors' declaration.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of WAM Research Limited is in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001*, including:

- i. giving a true and fair view of the Company's financial position as at 30 June 2024 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and
- ii. complying with Australian Accounting Standards and the *Corporations Regulations 2001*.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit 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 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 report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Key Audit Matters

Key audit matters are those matters that, in our professional judgement, were of most significance in our audit of the financial report of the current period. These matters were addressed in the context of our audit of the financial report as a whole, and in forming our opinion thereon, and we do not provide a separate opinion on these matters.

<i>Key audit matter</i>	<i>How our audit addressed the matter</i>
Existence and Valuation of Financial Assets Refer to Note 7: Financial assets	
<p>We focused our audit effort on the existence and valuation of the Company's financial assets as they represent the most significant driver of the Company's Net Tangible Assets and Profit.</p> <p>The Company's investments are considered to be non-complex in nature with fair value based on readily observable data from the ASX or other observable markets. Consequently, these investments are classified under Australian Accounting Standards as either "Level 1" (i.e. where the valuation is based on quoted prices in active markets) or "Level 2" (i.e. where key inputs to valuation are based on other observable inputs).</p>	<p>Our procedures included, amongst others:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Obtaining an understanding of and evaluating the design and implementation of the investment management processes and controls; ▪ Reviewing and evaluating the independent auditor's report on the design and operating effectiveness of internal controls (ASAE 3402 Assurance Reports on Controls at a Service Organisation) for the Custodian; ▪ Making enquiries as to whether there have been any changes to these controls or their effectiveness from the periods to which the auditor's report relate to; ▪ Obtaining confirmation of the investment holdings directly from the Custodian; ▪ Assessing and recalculating the Company's valuation of individual investment holdings using independent observable pricing sources and inputs; ▪ Evaluating the accounting treatment of revaluations of financial assets for current/deferred tax and unrealised gains or losses; and ▪ Assessing the adequacy of disclosures in the financial statements.

Key Audit Matters (Continued)

<i>Key audit matter</i>	<i>How our audit addressed the matter</i>
Accuracy of Management and Performance Fees Refer to Note 8: Trade and other payables and Note 21: Related party transactions	
<p>We focused our audit effort on the accuracy of management and performance fees as they are significant expenses of the Company and their calculation requires adjustments and key inputs. Adjustments include company dividends, tax payments, capital raisings, capital reductions and other relevant expenses. Key inputs include the value of the portfolio and application of the correct fee percentage in accordance with the Investment Management Agreement between the Company and the Investment Manager.</p> <p>In addition, to their quantum, as these transactions are made with related parties, there are additional inherent risks associated with these transactions, including the potential for these transactions to be made on terms and conditions more favourable than if they had been with an independent third-party.</p>	<p>Our procedures included, amongst others:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Obtaining an understanding of and evaluating the design and implementation of the processes and controls for calculating the management and performance fees; ▪ Making enquiries with the Investment Manager and those charged with governance with respect to any significant events during the period and associated adjustments made as a result, in addition to reviewing ASX announcements and Board meeting minutes; ▪ Testing of adjustments such as company dividends, tax payments, capital raisings, capital reductions as well as any other relevant expenses used in the calculation of management and performance fees; ▪ Testing of key inputs including the value of the portfolio and application of the correct fee percentage in accordance with our understanding of the Investment Management Agreement; and ▪ Assessing the adequacy of disclosures made in the financial statements.

Other Information

The Directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Company's Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2024, but does not include the financial report and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information and accordingly we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial report, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of the Directors for the Financial Report

The Directors of the Company are responsible for the preparation of:

- a) the financial report (other than the consolidated entity disclosure statement) that gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the *Corporations Act 2001*; and
- b) the consolidated entity disclosure statement that is true and correct in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001*; and

for such internal controls as the Directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of:

- (i) the financial report (other than the consolidated entity disclosure statement) that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; and
- (ii) the consolidated entity disclosure statement that is true and correct and is free of misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the Directors are responsible for assessing the Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Directors either intend to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Directors.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Company to cease to continue as a going concern.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report (Continued)

- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the Directors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

We also provide the Directors with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence, and where applicable, actions taken to eliminate threats or safeguards applied.

From the matters communicated with the Directors, we determine those matters that were of most significance in the audit of the financial report of the current period and are therefore the key audit matters. We describe these matters in our auditor's report unless law or regulation precludes public disclosure about the matter or when, in extremely rare circumstances, we determine that a matter should not be communicated in our report because the adverse consequences of doing so would reasonably be expected to outweigh the public interest benefits of such communication.

Report on the Remuneration Report*Opinion on the Remuneration Report*

We have audited the Remuneration Report included in pages 39 to 41 of the Directors' Report for the year ended 30 June 2024. In our opinion, the Remuneration Report of WAM Research Limited, for the year ended 30 June 2024, complies with section 300A of the *Corporations Act 2001*.

Responsibilities

The Directors of the Company are responsible for the preparation and presentation of the Remuneration Report in accordance with section 300A of the *Corporations Act 2001*. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Remuneration Report, based on our audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards.



Richard King
Partner



Pitcher Partners
Sydney

28 August 2024

Investments at fair value as at 30 June 2024

Company Name	Code	Fair Value \$	% of Gross Assets	Company Name	Code	Fair Value \$	% of Gross Assets
Consumer Discretionary				Communication Services			
G8 Education Limited	GEM	10,917,244	5.0%	Tuas Limited	TUA	17,050,919	7.8%
Light & Wonder Inc	LNW	10,368,708	4.7%			17,050,919	7.8%
Webjet Limited	WEB	9,962,906	4.6%				
Jumbo Interactive Limited	JIN	7,510,033	3.4%	Information Technology			
Lovisa Holdings Limited	LOV	5,416,812	2.5%	Gentrack Group Limited	GTK	8,630,553	3.9%
Myer Holdings Limited	MYR	3,045,931	1.4%	Technology One Limited	TNE	5,151,289	2.4%
Temple & Webster Group Limited	TPW	2,645,107	1.2%	Bravura Solutions Limited	BVS	1,789,086	0.8%
Amotiv Limited	AOV	2,079,882	0.9%			15,570,928	7.1%
Collins Foods Limited	CKF	1,566,638	0.7%				
The Reject Shop Limited	TRS	1,504,482	0.7%	Consumer Staples			
Tabcorp Holdings Limited	TAH	1,113,528	0.5%	Bega Cheese Limited	BGA	7,655,032	3.5%
Corporate Travel Management Limited	CTD	1,038,855	0.5%	Select Harvests Limited	SHV	4,263,253	1.9%
		57,170,126	26.1%			11,918,285	5.4%
Industrials							
SG Fleet Group Limited	SGF	9,829,271	4.5%	Real Estate			
Maas Group Holdings Limited	MGH	9,097,935	4.1%	HMC Capital Limited	HMC	6,663,713	3.0%
Service Stream Limited	SSM	7,041,363	3.2%	PEXA Group Limited	PXA	1,534,123	0.7%
Kelsian Group Limited	KLS	4,756,375	2.2%			8,197,836	3.7%
Austin Engineering Limited	ANG	3,493,354	1.6%				
IPH Limited	IPH	1,138,338	0.5%	Materials			
Tourism Holdings Limited	THL	1,064,747	0.5%	Emerald Resources NL	EMR	4,051,130	1.9%
		36,421,383	16.6%	Vulcan Steel Limited	VSL	1,144,919	0.5%
Health Care						5,196,049	2.4%
Regis Healthcare Limited	REG	7,571,149	3.4%				
Capitol Health Limited	CAJ	5,922,248	2.7%	Energy			
Summerset Group Holdings Limited	SUM NZ	5,832,875	2.7%	Viva Energy Group Limited	VEA	2,787,627	1.3%
Healius Limited	HLS	5,495,756	2.5%			2,787,627	1.3%
Sigma Healthcare Limited	SIG	4,450,349	2.0%				
Pro Medicus Limited	PME	3,054,303	1.4%	Utilities			
Paragon Care Limited	PGC	833,735	0.4%	LGI Limited	LGI	1,411,521	0.7%
		33,160,415	15.1%			1,411,521	0.7%
Financials							
Generation Development Group Limited	GDG	7,899,770	3.6%	Total long portfolio			
Pinnacle Investment Management Group Limited	PNI	3,839,235	1.8%			207,161,136	94.6%
Tyro Payments Limited	TYR	2,641,960	1.2%	Total cash and cash equivalents, income receivable and net outstanding settlements			
Judo Capital Holdings Limited	JDO	2,633,490	1.2%			11,790,956	5.4%
Clime Investment Management Limited	CIW	946,626	0.4%	Gross assets			
Clime Private Limited*	n/a	314,966	0.2%			218,952,092	100.0%
		18,276,047	8.4%				

*Unlisted Investment

The total number of stocks held at the end of the financial year was 44.

ASX additional information

Additional information required by the Australian Securities Exchange Limited Listing Rules and not disclosed elsewhere in this report.

Shareholdings

- Substantial shareholders (as at 31 July 2024) – there are currently no substantial shareholders.
- On-market buy back (as at 31 July 2024) – there is no current on-market buy back.

Distribution of shareholders (as at 31 July 2024)

Category	Number of shareholders	% of issued capital held
1 – 1,000	1,146	0.3%
1,001 – 5,000	2,356	3.4%
5,001 – 10,000	1,657	6.4%
10,001 – 100,000	3,970	61.1%
100,001 and over	289	28.8%
	9,418	100.0%

The number of shareholders holding a less than marketable parcel is 424.

Twenty largest shareholders – Ordinary shares (as at 31 July 2024)

Name	Number of ordinary shares held	% of issued capital held
Gold Tiger Equities Pty Limited	1,750,000	0.9%
BNP Paribas Nominees Pty Limited	1,683,368	0.8%
Mr V and Mrs M Tubbs	1,200,000	0.6%
Citicorp Nominees Pty Limited	978,833	0.5%
HSBC Custody Nominees (Australia) Limited	915,511	0.4%
Emu Court Pty Limited	660,255	0.3%
Hudson Retirement Pty Limited	612,715	0.3%
Bin Chicken Investments Pty Limited	600,869	0.3%
Ms G M and Mr G K Marshall	594,000	0.3%
SBK Super Pty Limited	586,331	0.3%
Wall Super WA Pty Limited	567,878	0.3%
Mr R G Phillips	552,197	0.3%
Mr M Kidman and Ms S Gellert	548,571	0.3%
K Carter Holdings Pty Limited	530,000	0.3%
Mrs A L Gibson	514,549	0.3%
Mr J C Plummer	500,000	0.2%
Mr K R and Mrs S M Craig	480,851	0.2%
Aris Nominees Pty Limited	463,000	0.2%
Mr R Miller	450,000	0.2%
Gunpin Pty Limited	450,000	0.2%
	14,638,928	7.2%

Stock exchange listing

Quotation has been granted for all the ordinary shares of the Company on all Member Exchanges of the ASX Limited.

Glossary

Term	Definition
Benchmark	A standard against which performance can be measured, usually an index that averages the performance of companies in a stock market or a segment of the market.
Dividend coverage	<p>Dividend coverage represents the number of years the Company can maintain the current full year dividend payment paid semi-annually from the current level of profits reserve.</p> <p><i>This is calculated as follows: Profits reserve ÷ annual dividend amount</i></p>
Dividend yield	<p>The annual dividend amount expressed as a percentage of the share price at a certain point in time.</p> <p><i>This is calculated as follows: Annual dividend amount per share ÷ share price</i></p>
Franking credits	Franking credits (also known as imputation credits) are tax credits attached to franked dividends that companies distribute to their shareholders. These credits represent the tax the company has already paid on its profits, which helps to avoid double taxation of those profits once distributed to shareholders. Shareholders can use franking credits to offset their income tax liabilities.
Grossed-up dividend yield	<p>Grossed-up dividend yield includes the value of franking credits and is based on the corporate tax rate (generally 30.0%), assuming the dividend is partially franked.</p> <p><i>This is calculated as follows:</i> $\text{Annual dividend yield \%} + [\text{annual dividend yield \%} \times \text{franking \%} \times (\text{the corporate tax rate of } 30.0\% \div (1 - \text{the corporate tax rate of } 30.0\%))]]$</p>
Investment portfolio performance	Investment portfolio performance measures the growth of the underlying portfolio of investments and cash before expenses, fees and taxes, to compare to the relevant benchmark which is also before expenses, fees and taxes.
Listed investment company (LIC)	LICs are corporate entities in a 'company' structure providing a permanent and stable closed-end pool of capital, established for the purpose of investing in a portfolio of securities or investments on behalf of shareholders. LICs are listed on an exchange, which in Australia is primarily the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX). Each company on the ASX has an ASX code, also known as a 'ticker'.
Management fee	Management fee means the fee payable to the Investment Manager in return for its duties as Investment Manager of the Portfolio. The Investment Manager is entitled to be paid monthly a management fee equal to 0.0833334% per month or 1% per annum (plus GST) of the value of the portfolio (calculated on the last business day of each month and paid at the end of each month in arrears) in accordance with the Investment Management Agreement (IMA).
Net tangible assets (NTA)	The aggregate of a company's assets (i.e. cash and investments) less its liabilities and current and deferred income tax. The NTA represents the value of the company and is announced on the ASX to shareholders each month.

Term	Definition
NTA before tax	The NTA of a company, exclusive of current and deferred income tax assets or liabilities. The NTA before tax represents the investment portfolio of the Company, i.e. cash and investments, less any associated liabilities excluding tax and is the most comparable figure for a LIC to an exchange traded fund (ETF) or managed fund.
NTA after tax	The NTA of a company, inclusive of current and deferred income tax assets or liabilities.
Performance fee	<p>Performance fee means the fee payable to the Investment Manager under the IMA. The Investment Manager is eligible to be paid a performance fee, being 20% (plus GST) in circumstances where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the level of the S&P/ASX All Ordinaries Accumulation Index has increased over that period, the amount by which the value of the portfolio exceeds this increase; or the S&P/ASX All Ordinaries Accumulation Index has decreased over that period, the amount of the increase in the value of the portfolio. <p>No performance fee is payable in respect of any performance period where the value of the portfolio has decreased over the period.</p>
Profits reserve	<p>The profits reserve is made up of amounts transferred from current and retained earnings that are preserved for future dividend payments. The profits reserve forms part of the NTA of the company and is invested in the market. The profits reserve is an accounting entry only that quarantines the profits of the LIC for future dividend payments. We convert the profits reserve amount into dividend years coverage for ease of seeing how sustainable the current dividend amount is. The ability to frank a dividend is dependent on the availability of franking credits which are generated from the receipt of franked dividends from investee companies and the payment of tax on realised profits.</p> <p>There can be situations where the franking account balance including franking credits generated from the receipt of franked dividends from investee companies and the payment of tax on realised profits, may not match the profits reserve balance (which includes realised and unrealised profits).</p>
Share price premium or discount	<p>LIC's shares are traded on the ASX and a LIC has a fixed amount of capital. At times, the LIC's share price can fluctuate above or below its NTA value. When the share price is above the NTA of the company, the LIC is trading at a premium to NTA. When the share price is below the NTA, the LIC is trading at a discount to NTA.</p> <p><i>This is calculated as follows: $(\text{Share price} - \text{NTA before tax}) \div \text{NTA before tax}$</i></p>
S&P/ASX All Ordinaries Accumulation Index	The S&P/ASX All Ordinaries Accumulation Index tracks the 500 largest companies listed on the ASX according to their market capitalisation. This Index assumes that dividends are reinvested and measures both growth and dividend income.
S&P/ASX Small Ordinaries Accumulation Index	The S&P/ASX Small Ordinaries Accumulation Index is comprised of companies included in the S&P/ASX 300 Index, but not in the S&P/ASX 100 Index. This Index assumes that dividends are reinvested and measures both growth and dividend income. The S&P/ASX Small Ordinaries Accumulation Index is used as a benchmark for small-cap Australian equity portfolios.

Term	Definition
Three key measures of a LIC's performance	The three key measures crucial to the evaluation of a LIC's performance are: investment portfolio performance, NTA growth and total shareholder return.
Total shareholder return (TSR)	<p>Total share price return to shareholders, assuming all dividends received were reinvested without transaction costs and the compounding effect over the period. This measure is calculated before and after the value of franking credits attached to dividends paid to shareholders.</p> <p><i>This is calculated as follows:</i> <i>(Closing share price – starting share price + dividends paid + franking credits) ÷ starting share price</i></p> <p><i>Note: the TSR reported in the Annual Report and media release is calculated monthly, using the above formula, and includes the effect of compounding over the period.</i></p>

Corporate *Directory*

WAM Research Directors

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

Joint Company Secretaries

Jesse Hamilton
Linda Kiriczenko

Investment Manager

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

Country of Incorporation

Australia

Australian Securities Exchange

WAM Research Limited Ordinary Shares (WAX)

Registered Office

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T 1300 420 372 (in Australia)
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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.

Auditor

Pitcher Partners



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