

WAM ACTIVE LIMITED

ABN 49 126 420 719

Appendix 4D Half Year Report

for the half year ended 31 December 2023

Results for Announcement to the Market

All comparisons to the half year ended 31 December 2022

	\$	up/down	% mvmt
Revenue from ordinary activities	6,257,110	up	39.4%
Profit from ordinary activities before income tax expense	5,645,245	up	49.5%
Net profit from ordinary activities after income tax expense	4,036,916	up	46.7%

Dividend information	Cents per share	Franking %	Tax rate for franking
2024 Interim dividend cents per share	3.0c	100%	30%
2023 Final dividend cents per share	3.0c	100%	30%

Interim dividend dates

Ex dividend date	15 April 2024
Record date	16 April 2024
Last election date for the DRP	18 April 2024
Payment date	26 April 2024

Dividend Reinvestment Plan

The Dividend Reinvestment Plan ("DRP") is in operation and the recommended fully franked interim dividend of 3.0 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 over the four trading days commencing on the ex dividend date for the relevant dividend. The DRP will operate without a discount for the fully franked interim dividend.

	31 Dec 23	31 Dec 22
Net tangible asset backing (before tax) per share	\$0.77	\$0.72
Net tangible asset backing (after tax) per share	\$0.86	\$0.83

This report is based on the Half Year Financial Report which has been subject to independent review by the Auditors, Pitcher Partners. All the documents comprise the information required by Listing Rule 4.2A. This information should be read in conjunction with the 30 June 2023 Annual Financial Report.

W | A | M Active

ABN 49 126 420 719

Financial Report

For the half year ended 31 December 2023

Wilson
Asset Management
Making a difference



WAM Active Limited

WAM Active Limited (WAM Active or the Company) is a Listed Investment Company and is a reporting entity. It is primarily an investor in equities listed on the Australian Securities Exchange.

Directors

Geoff Wilson AO (Chairman)
Kate Thorley
Karina Kwan
Simon Poidevin

Joint Company Secretaries

Jesse Hamilton
Linda Kiriczenko

Investment Manager

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

Auditor

Pitcher Partners

Country of Incorporation

Australia

Registered Office

Level 26, Governor Phillip Tower
1 Farrer Place
Sydney NSW 2000

Contact Details

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Share Registry

Boardroom Pty Limited
Level 8, 210 George Street
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For enquiries relating to shareholdings, dividends (including participation in the dividend reinvestment plan) and related matters, please contact the share registry.

Australian Securities Exchange

WAM Active Limited
Ordinary Shares (WAA)

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Directors' Report to shareholders for the half year ended 31 December 2023

The Directors present their report together with the financial report of WAM Active Limited for the half year ended 31 December 2023.

Directors

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

Geoff Wilson AO (Chairman – Non-independent)

Kate Thorley (Director – Non-independent)

Karina Kwan (Director – Independent)

Simon Poidevin (Director – Independent)

Principal activity

The principal activity of the Company is making investments in listed companies. The Company's investment objectives are to deliver a regular income stream of fully franked dividends, provide a positive return with low volatility and preserve capital. No change in this activity took place during the period or is likely to in the future.

Operating and financial review

Investment operations during the half year resulted in an operating profit before tax of \$5,645,245 (2022: \$3,775,783) and an operating profit after tax of \$4,036,916 (2022: \$2,751,384). The profit for the period is reflective of the strong performance of the investment portfolio over the six months to 31 December 2023. The investment portfolio increased 11.5% in the six months to 31 December 2023, while being on average 88.9% invested in equities.

WAM Active employs Wilson Asset Management's market-driven investment process, which is focused on delivering absolute returns in all market cycles. The Bloomberg AusBond Bank Bill Index, representing the return on cash, rose 2.1% and the S&P/ASX All Ordinaries Accumulation Index increased 8.0% in the six months to 31 December 2023.

The operating profit for the period includes unrealised gains or losses arising from changes in the fair value of the investments held in the investment portfolio during the period. This movement in the fair value of investments can add to, or reduce, the realised gains and losses on the investment portfolio and other revenue from operating activities (such as dividend and interest income) in each period. 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 it is important to understand with context to the overall performance of equity markets in any given period. As a result, we believe the more appropriate measures of the financial results for the period are the investment portfolio performance, the change in net tangible assets (NTA) and fully franked dividends, together with total shareholder return.

WAM Active's pre-tax NTA increased 8.7% in the six months to 31 December 2023, including the 3.0 cents per share fully franked final dividend paid to shareholders during the period. This increase is after corporate tax paid of 1.4 cents per share or 1.9% of the Company's pre-tax NTA during the period.

Operating and financial review (cont'd)

Corporate tax payments made throughout the period was the major item of difference between the investment portfolio performance of 11.5% and the NTA performance. The franking credits attached to corporate tax payments are available for distribution to shareholders through fully franked dividends. Other items contributing to the change in the value of the assets during the period were management fees of 0.5%, other company related expenses of 0.2% and legal and professional fees associated with corporate activity of 0.2%.

The NTA before tax as at 31 December 2023 amounted to \$0.77 per share (June 2023: \$0.74). The NTA after tax was \$0.86 per share (June 2023: \$0.84). These figures are after the 3.0 cents per share fully franked final dividend paid to shareholders during the period.

The total shareholder return for WAM Active was 13.8% for the period and was reflective of the strong investment portfolio performance of 11.5% and the share price discount to NTA reducing from 10.2% as at 30 June 2023 to 6.0% as at 31 December 2023. This measure does not value the potential benefit of franking credits distributed to shareholders through fully franked dividends.

A fully franked final dividend of 3.0 cents per share was paid during the period and a fully franked interim dividend of 3.0 cents per share has been declared by the Board and will be paid on 26 April 2024.

Keybridge Capital update

On 14 February 2022, WAM Active received a purported notice of meeting from Keybridge Capital Limited (ASX: KBC) (Keybridge) that sought to call a general meeting of WAM Active shareholders on 17 March 2022 (249F Meeting) under section 249F of the *Corporations Act 2001 (Cth)* to elect six new directors (Keybridge Resolutions). WAM Active shareholders voted overwhelmingly against the Keybridge Resolutions.

In June 2022, WAM Active received a statement of claim filed in the Federal Court of Australia by Keybridge. Keybridge sought declarations to overturn the 249F Meeting result where 87.0% of WAM Active shareholders voted against the Keybridge Resolutions. On 17 April 2023, the Federal Court of Australia dismissed Keybridge's attempt to overturn shareholder voting at the 249F meeting in March 2022 and ordered Keybridge to pay WAM Active's costs of the proceedings. In May 2023, WAM Active was notified that Keybridge had lodged a Notice of Appeal in respect of the decision.

On 12 December 2023, the Federal Court of Australia dismissed the appeal made by Keybridge and ruled in WAM Active's favour.

The WAM Active Board thanks all WAM Active shareholders for their continued support, and does not tolerate these attempts to disenfranchise all other WAM Active shareholders. WAM Active's Board will continue to focus on the Company's strategic goals and delivering on its investment objectives.

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.

Auditor's Independence Declaration

A copy of the Auditor's Independence Declaration as required under Section 307C of the *Corporations Act 2001* in relation to the review for the half year is set out on page 7 of this Financial Report.

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



Geoff Wilson AO
Chairman

Dated this 26th day of February 2024

Pitcher Partners Sydney

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**Auditor's Independence Declaration
To the Directors of WAM Active Limited
ABN 49 126 420 719**

In relation to the independent auditor's review of WAM Active Limited for the half year ended 31 December 2023, to the best of my knowledge and belief there have been:

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



Richard King
Partner

Pitcher Partners
Sydney

26 February 2024

Statement of comprehensive income for the half year ended 31 December 2023

	Note	December 2023 \$	December 2022 \$
Net realised and unrealised gains on financial investments		5,723,613	3,939,693
Other revenue from operating activities		533,497	549,657
Management fees		(290,189)	(284,573)
Directors fees		(40,000)	(40,000)
Brokerage expense on share purchases		(115,873)	(125,497)
Custody fees		(3,180)	(2,211)
ASX listing and CHESS fees		(28,301)	(37,473)
Share registry fees		(16,953)	(25,603)
Disbursements, mailing and printing		(9,367)	(10,104)
ASIC industry funding levy		(2,575)	(2,561)
Legal and professional fees		(17,333)	(88,833)
Other expenses from ordinary activities		(88,094)	(96,712)
Profit before income tax		5,645,245	3,775,783
Income tax expense		(1,608,329)	(1,024,399)
Profit after income tax attributable to members of the Company		4,036,916	2,751,384
Other comprehensive income			
Other comprehensive income for the period, net of tax		-	-
Total comprehensive income for the period		4,036,916	2,751,384
Basic and diluted earnings per share		5.36 cents	3.70 cents

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Statement of financial position as at 31 December 2023

	Note	December 2023 \$	June 2023 \$
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents		6,623,680	3,758,345
Trade and other receivables		889,192	3,151,180
Financial assets	6	51,533,084	49,630,706
Total current assets		59,045,956	56,540,231
Non-current assets			
Deferred tax assets		7,943,001	8,398,765
Total non-current assets		7,943,001	8,398,765
Total assets		66,988,957	64,938,996
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables		713,141	873,093
Current tax liabilities		982,563	895,129
Total current liabilities		1,695,704	1,768,222
Total liabilities		1,695,704	1,768,222
Net assets		65,293,253	63,170,774
Equity			
Issued capital	3	78,857,646	78,520,034
Profits reserve	4	6,617,955	4,833,088
Accumulated losses	5	(20,182,348)	(20,182,348)
Total equity		65,293,253	63,170,774

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Statement of changes in equity for the half year ended 31 December 2023

	Note	Issued capital \$	Accumulated losses \$	Profits reserve \$	Total equity \$
Balance at 1 July 2022		77,836,624	(20,182,348)	3,542,466	61,196,742
Profit for the half year		-	2,751,384	-	2,751,384
Transfer to profits reserve		-	(4,070,274)	4,070,274	-
Other comprehensive income for the half year		-	-	-	-
Transactions with owners:					
Shares issued via dividend reinvestment plan	3(b)	341,515	-	-	341,515
Dividends paid	2(a)	-	-	(2,225,339)	(2,225,339)
Balance at 31 December 2022		78,178,139	(21,501,238)	5,387,401	62,064,302
Balance at 1 July 2023		78,520,034	(20,182,348)	4,833,088	63,170,774
Profit for the half year		-	4,036,916	-	4,036,916
Transfer to profits reserve	4	-	(4,036,916)	4,036,916	-
Other comprehensive income for the half year		-	-	-	-
Transactions with owners:					
Shares issued via dividend reinvestment plan	3(b)	337,612	-	-	337,612
Dividends paid	2(a)	-	-	(2,252,049)	(2,252,049)
Balance at 31 December 2023		78,857,646	(20,182,348)	6,617,955	65,293,253

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Statement of cash flows for the half year ended 31 December 2023

	December 2023 \$	December 2022 \$
Cash flows from operating activities		
Proceeds from sale of investments	97,903,536	97,407,500
Payments for purchase of investments	(91,919,453)	(97,537,822)
Dividends received	419,312	552,658
Interest and other investment income received	156,020	107,048
Management fees (GST inclusive)	(309,404)	(305,345)
Brokerage expense on share purchases (GST inclusive)	(124,229)	(134,448)
Payments for administration expenses (GST inclusive)	(314,690)	(379,816)
Income tax paid	(1,065,131)	(1,763,018)
GST on brokerage expense on share sales	(9,162)	(7,940)
Net GST received from the ATO	42,973	41,100
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	4,779,772	(2,020,083)
Cash flows from financing activities		
Dividends paid – net of reinvestment	(1,914,437)	(1,883,824)
Net cash used in financing activities	(1,914,437)	(1,883,824)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents held	2,865,335	(3,903,907)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the half year	3,758,345	5,442,070
Cash and cash equivalents at end of the half year	6,623,680	1,538,163
Non-cash transactions:		
Shares issued via dividend reinvestment plan	337,612	341,515

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Notes to the financial statements for the half year ended 31 December 2023

1. Material accounting policies

These interim financial statements and notes for the half year represent those of WAM Active Limited.

The half year financial report was authorised for issue on 26 February 2024 by the Board of Directors.

Basis of preparation

The half year financial statements are general purpose financial statements that have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Corporations Act 2001* and Australian Accounting Standard AASB 134: *Interim Financial Reporting*, as appropriate for for-profit oriented entities. Compliance with AASB 134 ensures compliance with International Financial Reporting Standard IAS 34: *Interim Financial Reporting*.

The half year report does not include full disclosures of the type normally included in an annual financial report. It is recommended that the half year financial report be read in conjunction with the Annual Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2023 and any public announcements made by the Company during the half year in accordance with continuous disclosure requirements arising under the *Corporations Act 2001*.

Except for cash flow information, the financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historical costs except for financial assets and certain other financial assets and liabilities that have been measured at fair value. All amounts are presented in Australian dollars.

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

The accounting policies have been consistently applied by the Company throughout the period and are consistent with those applied in the 30 June 2023 Annual Financial Report.

2. Dividends

a) Ordinary dividends paid during the period

	December 2023 \$	December 2022 \$
Final dividend FY2023: 3.0 cents per share fully franked at 30% tax rate paid 16 October 2023 (Final dividend FY2022: 3.0 cents per share fully franked)	2,252,049	2,225,339

b) Dividends not recognised at period end

	December 2023 \$	December 2022 \$
Since the end of the period, the Directors have declared a fully franked interim dividend of 3.0 cents per share, payable on 26 April 2024 (Interim dividend FY2023: 3.0 cents per share fully franked)	2,266,046	2,238,571

3. Issued capital**a) Paid-up capital**

	December 2023 \$	June 2023 \$
75,534,881 ordinary shares fully paid (June 2023: 75,068,303)	78,857,646	78,520,034

b) Ordinary shares

	For the 6 months to 31 December 2023 \$	For the 12 months to 30 June 2023 \$
Balance at the beginning of the period 75,068,303 ordinary shares fully paid (June 2022: 74,177,980)	78,520,034	77,836,624
466,578 ordinary shares issued on 16 October 2023 under a dividend reinvestment plan	337,612	-
441,062 ordinary shares issued on 28 October 2022 under a dividend reinvestment plan	-	341,515
449,261 ordinary shares issued on 21 April 2023 under a dividend reinvestment plan	-	341,895
At reporting date	78,857,646	78,520,034

4. Profits reserve

	December 2023 \$	June 2023 \$
Profits reserve	6,617,955	4,833,088

The profits reserve is made up of amounts transferred from current period profits and are preserved for future dividend payments.

	For the 6 months to 31 December 2023 \$	For the 12 months to 30 June 2023 \$
Movement in profits reserve		
Balance at the beginning of the period	4,833,088	3,542,466
Transfer of profits during the period	4,036,916	5,754,532
Final dividend paid (refer to note 2(a))	(2,252,049)	(2,225,339)
Interim dividend paid	-	(2,238,571)
At reporting date	6,617,955	4,833,088

5. Accumulated losses

	For the 6 months to 31 December 2023 \$	For the 12 months to 30 June 2023 \$
Balance at the beginning of the period	(20,182,348)	(20,182,348)
Transfer to profits reserve	(4,036,916)	(5,754,532)
Profit for the period attributable to members of the Company	4,036,916	5,754,532
At reporting date	(20,182,348)	(20,182,348)

6. Financial instruments measured at fair value

AASB 13: *Fair Value Measurement* requires the disclosure of fair value information using a fair value hierarchy reflecting the significance of the inputs in making the measurements. The fair value hierarchy consists of the following levels:

Level 1: Quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities.

Level 2: Inputs other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability either directly (as prices) or indirectly (derived from prices).

Level 3: Inputs for the asset or liability are not based on observable market data (unobservable inputs).

Included within Level 1 of the hierarchy are listed investments. The fair values of these financial assets and liabilities have been based on the closing quoted last prices at the end of the reporting period, excluding transaction costs.

Included within Level 2 of the hierarchy are investments in unlisted investments and convertible notes. Valuation techniques such as comparisons to similar investments for which market observable prices are available, the net asset backing per share or the last sale price have been used to determine fair value for the unlisted investments. The fair value of the convertible notes have been recognised using the effective interest rate method inherent in the instrument.

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

During the period, Sunland Group Limited was transferred from Level 1 to Level 2 in the fair value hierarchy following the security's removal from the ASX stock exchange. There were no other transfers between Level 1 and Level 2 during the period (June 2023: investments in HHY Fund and Lanyon Investment Company were transferred from Level 1 to Level 2 in the fair value hierarchy).

The following table presents the Company's financial assets and liabilities measured and recognised at fair value at 31 December 2023:

	Level 1 \$	Level 2 \$	Level 3 \$	Total \$
31 December 2023				
Financial assets	50,095,618	1,437,466	-	51,533,084
Total	50,095,618	1,437,466	-	51,533,084
30 June 2023				
Financial assets	47,880,497	1,750,209	-	49,630,706
Total	47,880,497	1,750,209	-	49,630,706

7. Segment reporting

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

8. Capital commitments

There were no capital commitments for the Company as at 31 December 2023 (June 2023: no capital commitments).

9. Contingent liabilities

There were no contingent liabilities for the Company as at 31 December 2023 (June 2023: no contingent liabilities).

10. Events subsequent to reporting date

Since the end of the period, the Directors declared a fully franked interim dividend of 3.0 cents per share to be paid on 26 April 2024.

No other matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the period, other than already disclosed, which significantly affects or may significantly affect the operations of the Company, the results of those operations or the state of affairs of the Company in subsequent financial periods.

Directors' Declaration

The Directors of WAM Active Limited declare that:

- 1) The financial statements and notes, as set out on pages 8 to 15, are in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001*, including:
 - a) complying with Australian Accounting Standard AASB 134: *Interim Financial Reporting*, the *Corporations Regulations 2001* and other mandatory professional reporting requirements; and
 - b) giving a true and fair view of the financial position of the Company as at 31 December 2023 and of its performance for the half year ended on that date.
- 2) 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.

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



Geoff Wilson AO
Chairman

Dated this 26th day of February 2024

Pitcher Partners Sydney

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**Independent Auditor's Review Report
To the Members of WAM Active Limited
ABN 49 126 420 719**

Report on the Half-Year Financial Report**Conclusion**

We have reviewed the half-year financial report of WAM Active Limited ("the Company") which comprises the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2023, the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the half-year ended on that date, a summary of material accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the directors' declaration.

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

- a) giving a true and fair view of the Company's financial position as at 31 December 2023 and of its performance for the half-year ended on that date; and
- b) complying with Accounting Standard AASB 134 *Interim Financial Reporting and the Corporations Regulations 2001*.

Basis for Conclusion

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

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

Responsibility of the Directors for the Financial Report

The directors of the Company are responsible for the preparation of the half-year financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the *Corporations Act 2001* and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the half-year financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility for the Review of the Financial Report

Our responsibility is to express a conclusion on the half-year financial report based on our review. ASRE 2410 requires us to conclude whether we have become aware of any matter that makes us believe that the half-year financial report is not in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001* including giving a true and fair view of the Company's financial position as at 31 December 2023 and its performance for the half-year ended on that date, and complying with Accounting Standard AASB 134 *Interim Financial Reporting* and the *Corporations Regulations 2001*.

A review of a half-year financial report consists of making enquiries, primarily of persons responsible for financial and accounting matters, and applying analytical and other review procedures. A review is substantially less in scope than an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards and consequently does not enable us to obtain assurance that we would become aware of all significant matters that might be identified in an audit. Accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion.



Richard King
Partner



Pitcher Partners
Sydney

26 February 2024

For personal use only



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