

Media Release

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Legg Mason Martin Currie's Equity Income Strategy added to HUB24

Legg Mason, one of the world's largest funds management groups, today announced that the Legg Mason Martin Currie Equity Income Strategy has been added to the HUB24 platform via a Separately Managed Account (SMA).

Legg Mason Martin Currie's Equity Income Strategy aims to provide a high growth and well diversified income stream. It also seeks to achieve inflation protection from increasing dividends and tax effectiveness through maximising franking benefits.

Legg Mason Managing Director, Australia and New Zealand, Andy Sowerby said: "The Legg Mason Martin Currie Equity Income SMA, is based on the same investment process as the highly successful Legg Mason Martin Currie Equity Income Trust launched in 2010. HUB24 is a fast-growing platform driven by its flexible technology and we are delighted to be bringing our best in class strategies to their investment platform to help meet their clients demand."

Over the last three years to 31 March 2017 where the S&P/ASX 200 Index returned 7.53%p.a., the Legg Mason Martin Currie Equity Income Trust* delivered a total return of 11.57% (net of fees). Over the past 12 months the Trust has provided an income return of 7.01% before fees (with 1.77% franking credit), and a total net return of 21.21% (after fees).

The highly rated equity income strategy is led by Martin Currie Australia Chief Investment Officer, Reece Birtles. "We developed this strategy to address retiree longevity risk and help avoid the need to draw down on capital through retirement," says Birtles. "We believe that a well-diversified portfolio of quality companies that can grow their dividends best meets this objective, without the need for costly protective overlays which can potentially impact returns and duplicate the diversification benefits from other asset classes."

Birtles added: "The Legg Mason Martin Currie Equity Income Trust's strong performance and increasing income return reflects the portfolios design and objectives".

Lonsec's 'Highly Recommended' rating and Zenith's 'Recommended' of the Legg Mason Martin Currie Equity Income Trust are a solid endorsement of the strategy (which the SMA is based on).

-Ends -

About Legg Mason

Legg Mason is one of the world's largest funds management groups, with a history that dates back to 1899. The firm is listed on the New York Stock Exchange and employs approximately 3,100 employees in 31 offices worldwide. One of Legg Mason's most distinguishing characteristics is its global multi-affiliate model. Legg Mason provides a global platform and centralised business and distribution support for its nine affiliated fund managers that include: Brandywine, Clarion Partners, ClearBridge, EnTrustPermal, Martin Currie, RARE Infrastructure (in addition to its own domestic distribution), Royce & Associates, QS Investors and Western Asset. Each affiliate operates

independently under its own brand and investment process, and is considered an industry expert in its asset class. Legg Mason offers a diverse set of investment solutions across institutional, wealth management and direct investor channels, covering a range of asset classes including Australian equities, global equities, fixed income, real assets, income, alternatives, emerging markets, direct lending and multi-asset products.

- *Established 1899*
- *Head office Baltimore, USA*
- *Funds managed A\$942 billion (as at 28 Feb 2017)*

About Martin Currie

Martin Currie is an active equity specialist, driven by investment expertise and focused on managing money for a wide range of global clients. Founded in 1881, the company has a long history in finance. It began investing in global equities in the 1920s, developing Asian and emerging-market capabilities thereafter. Today, it manages active equity portfolios for a global client base of financial institutions, charities, foundations, endowments, pension funds, family offices, government agencies and investment funds.

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