

Media Release

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Zenith awards “Recommended” rating to Legg Mason Martin Currie Select Opportunities Fund

Legg Mason, one of world’s largest funds management groups, announces that the Legg Mason Martin Currie Select Opportunities Fund, has received a ‘Recommended’ rating from leading independent ratings firm, Zenith for the first time.

Zenith recently released its 2017 Australian Shares – Large Companies Sector Review, highlighting key issues facing the sector and providing a review of market performance. This new rating comes alongside three other Legg Mason Martin Currie Funds that feature on the Zenith Australian equities recommended list.

The Zenith Report notes that the Legg Mason Martin Currie Select Opportunities Fund “provides investors with a fundamentally driven, concentrated exposure to the Australian equities market..... underpinned by Martin Currie's research process and experienced investment team.”

Reece Birtles, CIO Martin Currie Australia says: “We are delighted that Zenith has acknowledged the strength of our active investment process on an ongoing basis, and we welcome the positive rating for the Legg Mason Martin Currie Select Opportunities Fund.

“This strategy, which was founded in 2006, stands out from the crowd as portfolio positions are often contrarian, which helps to look through short term market noise and avoid the 'herd mentality'.”

The Fund is designed to maximise expected returns for longer term investors with a high conviction portfolio of between 25-40 stocks.

Birtles adds: “We seek to invest in stocks trading at what we regard to be a deep discount to fair value, driven by our in-depth fundamental risk and quality assessments on each company. Our investment process relies on a unique and powerful combination of quantitative and fundamental research that is proven to add value over the long term.

Over the past year to 30 June, the Fund has outperformed the S&P/ASX 200 Accumulation Index by 14.2% after fees. Over the past five years the Fund has delivered an annual outperformance after all fees and charges of 3.7% p.a.

Andy Sowerby, Legg Mason Australia Managing Director notes: “Australian equities are a cornerstone for investors who are increasingly looking for differentiated and high performing, actively managed, strategies. The Legg Mason Martin Currie Select Opportunities Fund fits the bill and we are delighted to offer it as part of our award winning and highly rated fund range.”

Sowerby added: “Martin Currie’s investment team has been praised several times by Zenith and other ratings agencies, and has a proven track record of outperformance and consistently high returns. We are proud that four Legg Mason Martin Currie funds are recommended in this year’s Zenith Australian Large-Companies sector review.”

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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 Global, 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
- Australia operations started in 1954
- Local offices in Melbourne and Sydney
- Funds managed globally A\$977 billion and A\$50.2 billion as at 31 May 2017

About Martin Currie Australia

Martin Currie is an active equity specialist, driven by investment expertise and focused on managing money for a wide range of global clients. Its approach to investing is simple: it focuses on companies. The integrated investment floor seeks out those companies it believes have the fundamentals to deliver material outperformance on a medium to long-term basis. Once identified, these ideas are moulded into well-balanced portfolios. The firm's approach to portfolio construction reduces and controls macro-factor sensitivity, aiming for client portfolios to derive maximum value from stock insights and for returns to be delivered in a predictable and sustainable fashion.

- Established 1881
- Head office Edinburgh Scotland
- Martin Currie Australia team has 35+ years of experience managing Australian equities
- Total funds managed as at 31 March 2017: A\$24 billion

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