

Media Release

11 September 2017

Western Asset liquid alternatives strategy captivates Aussie investors

Following its global success, the introduction of the Legg Mason Western Asset Macro Opportunities Bond Fund in Australia sees this Fund pass its first anniversary in style.

Managed by one of the world leaders in global fixed income investing and led by the CIO of Western Asset, Ken Leech, this fund is an absolute return strategy designed to offer attractive positive returns regardless of market direction.

The local fund is replica of the hugely successful Dublin domiciled UCITS fund which has raised over US\$6.3bn since inception and delivered an annualised return of 10.7% p.a.¹ before fees with an ex-post volatility of 6.1 per cent.

Since launch, the local fund offering has fully reflected these outstanding returns with a return of 11.3%² net of fees in the first year and attracted over AUD\$30m of commitment.

Andy Sowerby, Managing Director Legg Mason Australia and New Zealand, said: "We are very satisfied with our first year of delivering the Western Asset Macro Opportunities strategy in Australia, especially as we have delivered such compelling returns for our clients.

"In an increasingly uncertain environment the need for differentiated investment funds that can deliver strong returns that are truly uncorrelated to traditional asset classes will only grow in importance. The Legg Mason Western Asset Macro Opportunities Bond has a proven track record in this regard and is therefore commanding much interest across the market.

Sowerby concluded: "In terms of the market outlook we believe that the interconnectedness of global markets and the increased importance of central bank policy will continue to fuel dislocations that create opportunities for this strategy to exploit and capitalise upon."

The fund has already been awarded a 'Recommended' rating from Zenith Partners, a leading independent research firm*.

1 – Performance data as at 31 July 2017

2 – Performance data as at 31 August 2017

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About Western Asset Management

Western Asset Management is one of the world's leading fixed income managers. From offices in Pasadena, Hong Kong, London, Melbourne, New York, São Paulo, Singapore, Tokyo and Dubai, the company provides investment services for a wide variety of global clients, across an equally wide variety of mandates. Western Asset's long performance track record and global presence have positioned the company to continue its commitment to excellence in fixed-income investment management and client service. With a focus on long-term fundamental value investing that employs a top-down and bottom-up approach, the firm has nine offices around the globe and deep experience across the range of fixed income sectors.

In Australia, the firm offers market leading, highly rated, award winning strategies for investors including the Legg Mason Western Asset Macro Opportunities Bond Fund and the Legg Mason Australian Bond Trust.

- *Established 1971*
- *Head office Pasadena, USA*
- *Funds managed AUD\$559 billion as at 30 June 2017*

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 3,400 employees in 40 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, 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 under management in Australia A\$52 billion as at 30 June 2017*
- *Globally funds under management A\$975 billion as at 30 June 2017*

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Disclaimer

Past performance is no guarantee of future performance.

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