

Media Release
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Legg Mason ethical funds approved by RIAA

[Responsible Investment Association Australasia](#) (RIAA) has approved two [Legg Mason](#) investment funds – the Legg Mason Martin Currie Ethical Income Fund and the Legg Mason Martin Currie Ethical Values with Income Fund - as Certified Responsible Investments.

RIAA is the peak industry body representing responsible, ethical and impact investors across Australia and New Zealand. Its Responsible Investment Certification Program is aimed at helping investors of all kinds navigate towards investment options and financial advice that better match their investment beliefs and personal values.

Andy Sowerby, Managing Director Legg Mason Australia, notes: “We believe that environmental, social and governance (ESG) factors are very important to a growing group of our clients. We also believe that they are critical to a long-term investment process designed to deliver attractive risk-adjusted client returns.

Will Baylis, Portfolio Manager for Ethical Income at Martin Currie Australia says: “For the Ethical funds we manage, we combine our proprietary bottom-up ESG research with clear investment restrictions to ensure we avoid companies, sectors and industries that do not meet certain ethical criteria based on our client’s ethical values.

Sowerby adds: “We are pleased to develop a long-term relationship with RIAA and to receive their approval for these funds. This is an evolving area of investment and the RIAA play an important role to help consumers. When an investor sees the RIAA Certification Symbol for an investment product, they have assurance that it has met standardised responsible investment criteria.”

RIAA CEO Simon O’Connor adds: “Developed in 2005 as a response to the growing demand for responsible and ethical investments, the Responsible Investment Certification Program provides consumers and investors with an easily-recognisable, mark of quality, indicating that a responsible investment product has been independently verified as true to label.”

“Our online tool - <https://www.responsiblereturns.com.au/>- offers a menu of our certified investments, all tested to check whether a product or fund’s investment intentions and processes are consistent with its responsible investment claims.

“It’s pleasing to see the growing number of responsible fund managers offering quality ethical investment options in the Australian market place in response to the demand by investors wanting to invest their wealth for a positive impact on the environment, society and the economy as well as in assets that produce strong financial returns. We congratulate Legg Mason on meeting the high benchmark set for Certification as a responsible investment fund.”

Please click below for more information on the Legg Mason Martin Currie ethical investment funds:

http://www.leggmason.com.au/en/product/detail/LMMCEIT_detail.aspx

http://www.leggmason.com.au/en/product/detail/AUMCEEIF_detail.aspx

About Legg Mason

Guided by a mission of 'Investing to Improve Lives™', Legg Mason helps investors globally achieve better financial outcomes by expanding choice across investment strategies, vehicles and investor access through independent investment managers with diverse expertise in equity, fixed income, alternative and liquidity investments. Legg Mason's assets under management are AUD\$1 trillion as at 31 December 2018.

Legg Mason provides 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.

Australia Facts:

- Legg Mason's Australian business was established in 1954
- Assets Under Management (AUM) in Australia are AUD\$52 billion as at 31 December 2018 (Source: Rainmaker Data. Consists of AUM managed in Australia for Australian and offshore investors and AUM managed offshore for Australian investors)
- Legg Mason Australia was awarded the Money Management/Lonsec Fund Manager of the Year in 2015, 2017 and 2018.

Visit leggmason.com.au to learn more

For further information, please contact:

Simrita Virk at Shed Connect

M: 0434531172

E: simrita.virk@shedconnect.com

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