

Media Release

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Legg Mason launches QS Investors Responsible Investment Fund for Australian investors

Leading global asset manager [Legg Mason](#) today launched the Legg Mason QS Investors Global Responsible Investment Fund to meet growing market demand for a global equity fund that embeds positive Environmental, Social & Governance (ESG) analysis alongside certain ethical restrictions.

The Fund, which aims to outperform the MSCI World ESG Leaders Index, taps into the experience and expertise of wholly-owned affiliate QS Investors.

QS Investors' approach blends fundamental and behavioural perspectives through a systematic process to deliver more transparent and dependable outcomes. They have a demonstrable long-term track record of outperformance with the Legg Mason QS Investors Global Equity Fund and have proven global ESG capabilities in the institutional market.

Andy Sowerby, Legg Mason head Australia & New Zealand, says: "It's a privilege to be able to offer this innovative capability to investors in the Australian market for the first time."

Sowerby says this newly created global responsible investment fund offers two distinct features.

"First, it fully integrates a proprietary model of ESG assessment that enables companies to be ranked and reviewed through multiple lenses to assess their effectiveness across the ESG spectrum – a systematic process that then focuses research and investments in those companies scoring highly in this regard."

"Second, a strict filter is applied across the investment universe to remove companies that do not meet certain ethical criteria." The exclusion list encompasses several sectors including tobacco, gambling, alcohol, defence and weapons, fur, genetically modified crops, nuclear energy, oil sands and thermal coal.

Sowerby concludes: "QS Investors has an excellent long-term track record in the management of global equity portfolios. The marriage of a clear investment philosophy, disciplined investment process and proven investment team that focusses on identifying those companies with the best ESG credentials at attractive valuations is a powerful combination.

"The additional restrictions on certain sectors and stocks on ethical grounds makes this investment solution an ideal core holding for investors seeking to align their values and investments without sacrificing the potential for high returns."

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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 A\$1 trillion as at 31 March 2019.

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, Entrust Global, 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 A\$57 billion as at 31 March 2019 (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 both 2015, 2017 and 2018.

Discover more www.leggmason.com.au

About QS Investors

QS Investors, LLC is an investment management firm providing asset management and investment advisory services to a diverse array of clients around the world. Achieving certainty is the Holy Grail of investing. As uncertainty erodes investor confidence, greater certainty fortifies it. QS Investors' singular mission is to elevate the certainty of outcomes they deliver to investors through a deeper understanding of investment and human dynamics. QS Investors creates multi-factor equity and multi-asset class portfolios designed to help clients achieve their investment goals. QS Investors' quantitative approach unites their intellectual and academic precision with the power of data and technology in their quest to elevate the certainty of the outcomes they deliver.

By digging deeper into human behaviors, market dynamics, asset classes, performance factors and big data, QS Investors has built a long track record of innovation.

- History of integrated qualitative and quantitative investing
- Human behavior analytics applied via proprietary fear and greed indicators
- Exclusive dynamic weighting techniques
- Smart beta and Diversification Based Investing pioneers

This is supported by a diverse team of mathematicians, engineers, scientists, technologists, finance and investment professionals who have the freedom, tools and technology to challenges every theory and assumption, cross-examine every revelation, and draw innovation from exploration.

QS Investors is based in New York and Boston, with 78 employees and 50 investment professionals, and is a signatory to the UN-supported Principles of Responsible Investing (PRI).

Discover more at: www.qsinvestors.com

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