

# Merlon Australian Share Income Fund

Monthly Fact Sheet – February 2018

For queries, please call Adviser Services on 1800 195 853



Performance <sup>i</sup> (%)	Month	Quarter	FYTD	Year	3 Years (p.a.)	5 Years (p.a.)	7 Years (p.a.)	10 Years (p.a.)
Fund Total Return (net of fees)	-1.0	1.2	4.6	8.7	7.7	8.7	8.9	7.0
ASX200	0.6	2.0	9.3	11.6	6.6	9.5	9.4	6.9
Average Daily Exposure	68%	68%	68%	68%	69%	69%	70%	71%
Gross Distribution Yield	0.8	1.8	4.9	7.2	7.6	7.7	9.1	9.3

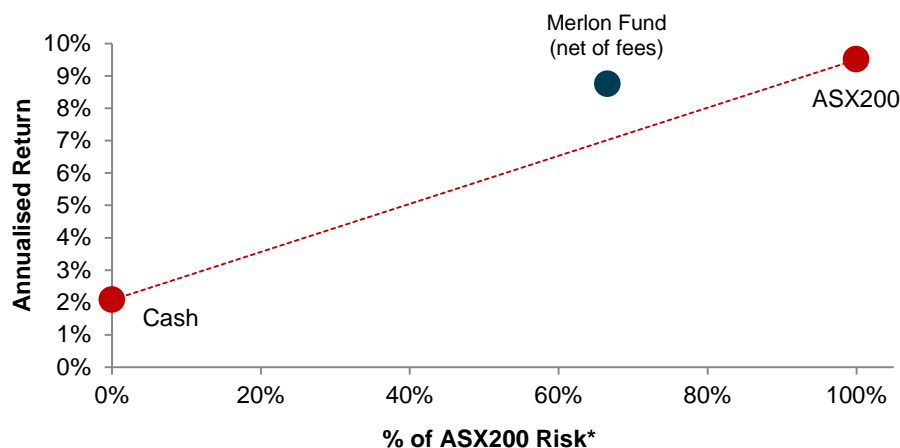
\* Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance. All returns above are grossed up for franking credits. Portfolio inception date is 30/09/2005.

## Monthly Performance Commentary

The ASX200 recovered from sharp falls across global equity markets early in the month to return 0.6%. Rising inflation expectations and concerns that interest rates will normalise more rapidly than expected sparked the sell-off. The falls were exacerbated by a number of leveraged exchange traded funds that were forced to liquidate holdings as volatility spiked. Locally, the recovery was driven by strong returns from the Healthcare sector (in particular CSL), consumer staples and the major banks. Energy, telecommunication and real estate investment trusts were the main detractors for the month.

The Fund returned -1.0% (net of fees and inclusive of franking) for the month. This was driven by falls in our investments in Fletcher Building (announced further losses in their construction business), Amaysim (reported results below market expectations), Clydesdale Bank and Magellan Financial. On the positive side of the ledger Coca Cola Amatil, Virtus, AMP and Seven West Media were the best performers within the portfolio. The hedge overlay added 0.5% to the Fund's return, partly offsetting the fall in the share portfolio.

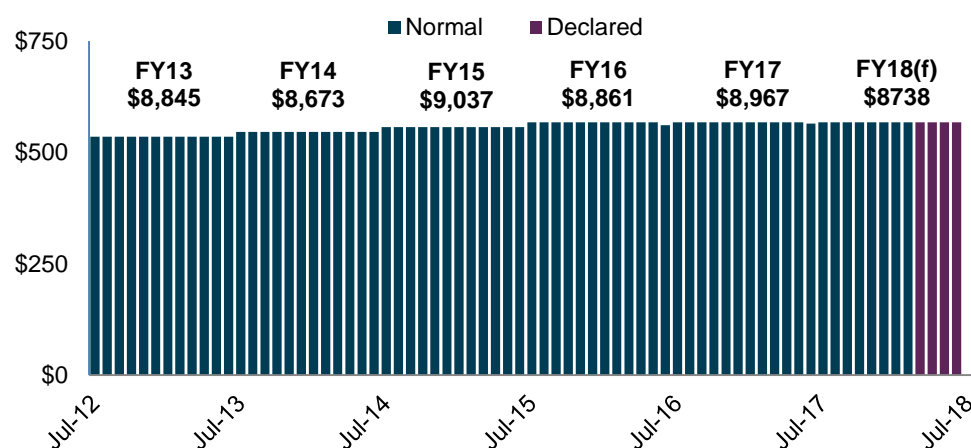
## Rolling Five Year Performance History<sup>ii</sup>



## Top Ten Holdings (%)

Caltex	5.2
Woolworths	5.1
Wesfarmers	5.0
Coca-Cola Amatil	5.0
AMP	4.9
Commonwealth Bank	4.9
News Corp	4.9
Magellan Financial	4.8
Suncorp	4.7
Westpac	4.6

## Monthly Income from \$100,000 invested in July 2012<sup>iii</sup>



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Fund Details		Portfolio Analytics <sup>iv</sup>		
Fund size	\$ 550m		<b>Fund</b>	<b>ASX200</b>
Firm-wide FUM	\$ 1,656m	Number of Equity Positions	29	200
APIR Code	HBC0011AU	Active Share	76%	0%
ASX Code	MLO02	Net Equity Exposure	68%	100%
Inception Date	30 September 2005	Beta	0.7	1.0
Distribution Frequency	Monthly	EV / EBITDA	8.9x	11.9x
Minimum Investment	\$ 10,000	Price / Earnings Ratio	15.5x	17.5x
Buy / Sell Spread	+/- 0.20%	Trailing Free Cash Flow Yield	5.5%	5.1%

## About Merlon

Merlon Capital Partners is an Australian based fund manager established in May 2010. The business is majority owned by its five principals, with strategic partner Fidante Partners Limited providing business and operational support.

Merlon's **investment philosophy** is based on:

**Value:** We believe that stocks trading below fair value will outperform through time. We measure value by sustainable free cash flow yield. We view franking credits similarly to cash and take a medium to long term view.

**Markets are mostly efficient:** We focus on understanding why cheap stocks are cheap, to be a good investment market concerns need to be priced in or invalid. We incorporate these aspects with a "conviction score"

## About the Fund

The Merlon Wholesale Australian Share Income Fund's investment approach is to construct a portfolio of undervalued companies, based on sustainable free cash flow, whilst using options to overlay downside protection on holdings with poor short-term momentum characteristics. An outcome of the investment style is a higher level of tax-effective income than the broader market, paid monthly, along with the potential for capital growth over the medium-term.

## Differentiating Features of the Fund

**Deep fundamental research** with a track record of outperformance. This is where we spend the vast majority of our time and ultimately how we expect to deliver superior risk-adjusted returns for investors.

**Portfolio diversification** with no reference to index weights. The benchmark unaware approach to portfolio construction is a key structural feature, especially given the concentrated nature of the ASX200 index.

**Downside protection** through fundamental research and the hedge overlay. In addition to placing a heavy emphasis on capital preservation through our fundamental research, we use derivatives to reduce the Fund's market exposure and risk by 30% whilst still retaining all of the dividends and franking credits from the portfolio.

**Sustainable income**, paid monthly and majority franked. As the Fund's name suggests, sustainable above-market income is an outcome of our investment approach and a key objective of the Fund.

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## Footnotes

### <sup>i</sup> Performance (%)

*Average Daily Market Exposure* is calculated as the daily net market exposure divided by the average net asset value of the Fund.

*Fund franking*: Month 0.4%, Qtr 0.4%, FYTD 1.2%, Year 1.6%, 3 Years 1.9% p.a., 5 Years 1.8% p.a., 7 Years 2.1% p.a., 10 Years 2.2% p.a.

*ASX200 franking*: Month 0.3%, Qtr 0.3%, FYTD 1.0%, Year 1.5%, 3 Years 1.5% p.a., 5 Years 1.5% p.a., 7 Years 1.5% p.a., 10 Years 1.5% p.a.

### <sup>ii</sup> Rolling Five Year Performance History

Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance. Returns for the Fund and ASX200 grossed up for accrued franking credits and the Fund return is stated after fees as at the date of this report. Merlon Wholesale Australian Share Income Fund franking 1.8% p.a., ASX200 franking 1.5% p.a. % of ASX200 Risk represents the Fund's statistical beta relative to the ASX200

### <sup>iii</sup> Monthly Income from \$100,000 invested in July 2012

Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance. Income returns exclude 'bonus income' from above-normal hedging gains of \$849 in FY13 and assume no bonus income in FY17 estimate. Income includes franking credits of: \$2,420 (FY13), \$2,120 (FY14), \$2,356 (FY15), \$2,057 (FY16), \$2,159 (FY17) and \$2,142 (FY18 estimate).

### <sup>iv</sup> Portfolio Analytics

Source: Merlon, Active share is the sum of the absolute value of the differences of the weight of each holding in the portfolio versus the benchmark, and dividing by two. It is essentially stating how different the portfolio is from the benchmark. Net equity exposure represents the Fund's net equity exposure after cash holding's and hedging. Beta measures the volatility of the fund compared with the market as a whole. EV / EBITDA equals a company's enterprise value (value of both equity and debt) divided by earnings before interest, tax, depreciation, and amortization, a commonly used valuation ratio that allows for comparisons without the effects of debt and taxation.

## Disclaimer

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