

# Lazard

## Defensive Australian Equity Fund

May 2022  
Factsheet

### Reduce Drawdowns

Emphasis on avoiding large drawdowns compared to the S&P ASX 200 Accumulation Index

### Total Return

Securities selected for both income and long-term growth opportunities

### Sustainable Income

Exposure to companies with sustainable income streams

### Fund Facts

Number of stocks	32
Total Fund Size	\$13.0m
Inception Date	03-Jul-12
Total Management Costs	0.77% p.a.*
Benchmark	RBA Cash Rate S&P ASX 200
Minimum Investment	\$20,000
Buy/Sell Spread	+0.20%/-0.20%
Distributions	Quarterly <sup>1</sup>

\* Total reduces to 0.47% p.a. of the net asset value when the proportion of the Fund in Cash investments is greater than 50%. Total Management Costs include an estimated Indirect Costs of 0.02% p.a. of the NAV

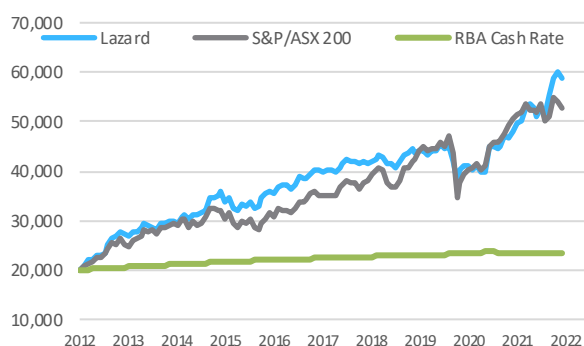
### Investment Characteristics

	Lazard	S&P/ASX
Volatility	10.6	13.2
Sharpe Ratio (Since Inception)	1.0	0.6
Net Yield (%)	4.1	4.2
Gross Yield (%)	5.3	5.7
3 Year Turnover (% pa)	55.9	-

### Performance<sup>2</sup> (%)

	Lazard	Cash Rate	S&P/ASX
1 Month	-2.4	0.0	-2.6
3 Months	6.2	0.0	3.2
1 Year	22.3	0.1	4.8
3 Years (pa)	10.4	0.3	7.8
5 Years (pa)	7.9	0.8	8.8
Since Inception (pa)	11.5	1.5	10.3

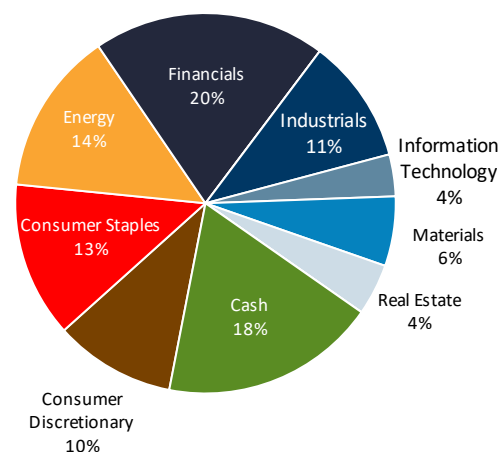
### Growth of \$20,000<sup>2</sup>



### Asset Allocation (%)

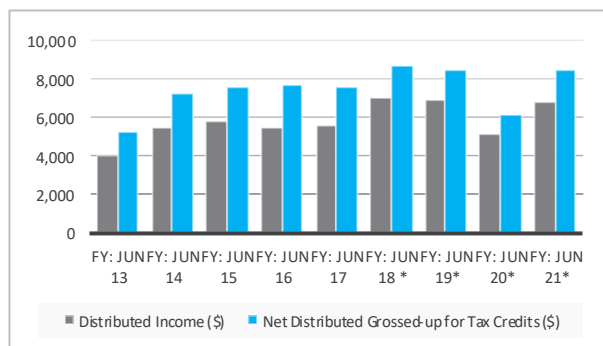
	Lazard	S&P/ASX
Equity	81.6	100
Cash Deposits	18.4	-

### Sector Exposure (%)

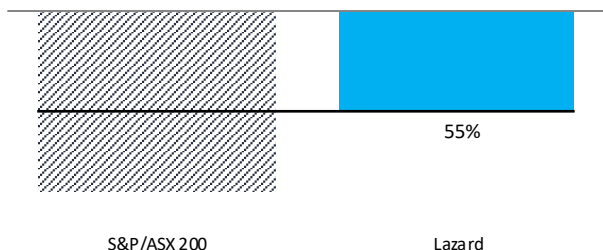


### Fund Distributions<sup>3</sup>

Based on \$100,000 Capital Invested at Fund Inception



### Down Market Capture Ratio<sup>4</sup>



\* The Fund opted into the Attribution Managed Investment Trust (AMIT) regime from 1 July 2017. The cash distribution policy of the Fund following the election is a gross income cash distribution policy. That is, the expenses of the Fund will be funded from remaining capital in the Fund. The payment of income before expenses will mean that part of the cash distribution will represent a non-taxable amount. This will appear on AMMA statement as a non-assessable non-exempt amount.

<sup>1</sup> Distributions are made quarterly if of an economic size.

<sup>2</sup> Performance is presented net of fees. Investments can go up and down. Past performance is not necessarily indicative of future performance. Net returns are quoted after the deduction of Management Costs. Performance assumes reinvestment of all distributions.

<sup>3</sup> Distribution calculation assumes income is distributed and all distributed capital gains are immediately re-invested. Distribution calculation is for illustrative purposes only. Distributions can go up and down. Past distributions are not necessarily indicative of future distributions.

<sup>4</sup> Down Market Capture Ratio is calculated since inception and based on performance gross of all fees. Down Market capture is a statistical measure of an investment manager's overall average performance in down markets, being calendar months where the S&P/ASX 200 Accumulation Index ("Index") experiences negative performance. A drawdown ratio (or percentage) of less than 100 (or 100%) reflects that the manager has outperformed the Index during such down markets.

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ASSET MANAGEMENT

## Commentary

As at 31 May 2022, the Fund is invested in 32 companies which meet the criteria of a dividend yield above the cash rate, capital appreciation potential and sustainability of dividend. Given between 1% and 3% of Fund assets will be invested in each qualifying company at month end, listed shares accounted for 81.6% of assets and 18.4% of Fund assets were invested in cash deposits.

As at 31 May 2022, the Fund's aggregate forward yield continued to look attractive at 4.0%, or 5.2% when "grossed-up" for franking credits and tax deferral benefits\*. This can be compared to the RBA annual cash rate at month end of 0.35%. The two RBA measurements of term deposit rates in the Australian market, the "Average Rate (all terms)" and the "Special Rate (all terms)", ended the month at 0.30% and 0.50%, respectively.

This means the expected annual yield from the Fund is 3.65% above the month-end RBA cash rate and at a 4.85% premium on a "grossed-up" basis. The Fund's expected excess yield over the RBA "Special Rate (all terms)" index is 3.5% and 4.7% on a "grossed-up" basis (with the Fund's yield premium over the RBA "Average Rate" obviously higher).

May 2022 saw four ex-dates and two dividend payments.

New Hope's (NHC) share price outperformed the market in May 2022, underpinned by a strong rise in global coal prices. Benchmark Newcastle (NEWC NAR 6,000 kcal/kg) coal finished the month at US\$425/t, up 30% from the start of the month as the backdrop for the global coal market continues to be very supportive. Supply from two of the largest seaborne exporters, Australia and Indonesia, continues to be very tight with a 'La Nina' weather event bringing an extended period of rainfall which has impacted production and logistics. The conflict between Russia and Ukraine is encouraging Western and some Asian buyers to look for alternative source of supply outside Russia, the third largest exporter of coal. Australia is one of the few alternative suppliers of high-quality coal that can replace Russian supply, further boosting demand. At the current spot coal prices, the stock is trading at 60% FCF yield and is sitting on a net cash position. Although the company does not target a specific payout ratio, with a strong net cash position and no growth capex required in the near-term, we believe a large amount of FCF will be returned to shareholders as fully franked dividend. At their recent 2022 half yearly results, they announced an interim dividend of 30c per share, representing about 10% of its price at that time or almost 80% of its underlying earnings after tax at the half. Overall, we still see further growth in earnings and dividends in the near-term as coal prices continues to be elevated.

Looking ahead, June 2022 will be a quiet month with one dividend receipt expected.

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or visit [www.lazardassetmanagement.com](http://www.lazardassetmanagement.com)

\*Assumes tax deferred distributions are equivalent to 60% franked, based on an assumed marginal tax rate of 35% and an assumed holding period of 3 years. A higher assumed marginal tax rate, or a longer assumed holding period would have increased the assumed/equivalent franking level. Conversely, a lower assumed marginal tax rate, or a shorter assumed holding period would have decreased the assumed/equivalent franking level.

### Disclaimer

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