





LOWELL RESOURCES FUNDS MANAGEMENT

APN 26 006 760 092

## LOWELL RESOURCES FUND

**Resources: The Year Ahead** 

ASA Investing in the Age of Uncertainty Conference. Tuesday May 21, 2019





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## Iron Ore







## **BHP**







## RIO







## A\$ v US\$







## Oil (WTI)

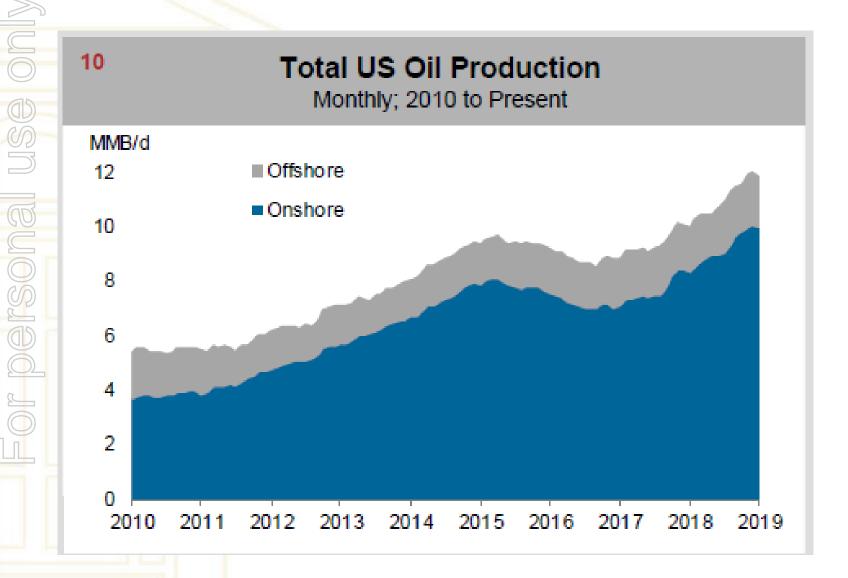






## **US Oil Production**

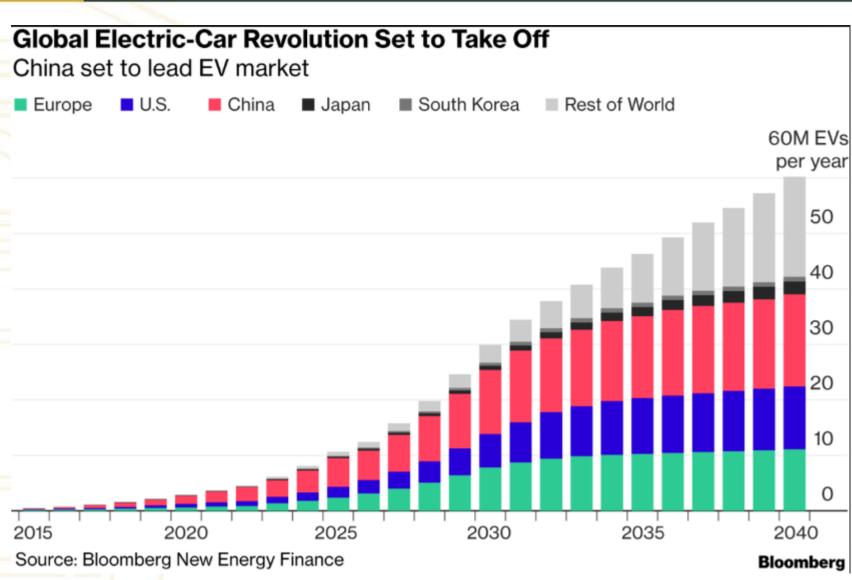






#### Chinese EV Production







## Thermal Coal ex Newcastle







## Copper Spot US\$/lb







## Nickel Spot US\$/lb







## Gold Spot US\$/oz







## **Fund Summary**



#### Overview

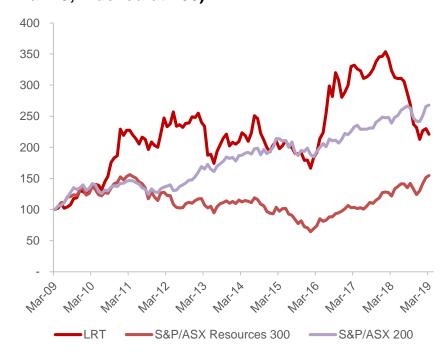
<i>)</i>	
Fund size (31 March 2018)	A\$15.6 m
Units on issue	2.8m units
Unit price (31 March 2019)	\$4.50
Avge Liquidity (per day)	600 units
Discount to NAV	20%
Number of unit holders	~500

#### Listing summary

Exchange	ASX
LAGRANGE	70/

Code LRT

## 10 year comparison performance chart (to 31 Mar 19, indexed at 100)<sup>1</sup>



#### **Characteristics of the Fund**

Nature of Fund Long only, no gearing fund

Investee Companies Junior resource companies, including gold, base and specialty metals, & energy

Investment Type Focus on global listed and unlisted resources equities

Distribution Policy 100% of taxable profits distributed annually

<sup>1</sup>LRT refers to Lowell Resources Fund, Res 300 refers to the S&P/ASX Resources 300 and ASX 200 refers to S&P/ASX 200 and the years refer to calendar years in the chart. Investment Portfolio Performance includes distributions to unitholders and is net of operating expenses, fees, taxes and interest.



## SIGNIFICANT PERFORMERS



#### **Adriatic Metals**

- Au-Ag-Pb-Zn-Ba deposit in Bosnia
- Invested \$285k at 19cps (mostly as seed)
- Value now \$1.5m at A\$1.00/sh

#### Gold Road Resources

- •50% of 300koz pa Gruyere gold development in WA
- Invested \$294k at 16cps
- Value now \$1.6m at A\$0.90/sh

# Cardinal Resources

- Namdini 5.1 Moz gold reserve in Ghana. FS completion due Q2 2019.
- Market cap A\$159m vs Namdini PFS NPV US\$586m (post tax NPV(5) at US\$1,250/oz gold)
- •\$330k invested (shares and options), now valued at \$810k

## MOD Resources

- US\$281m NPV (T3 PFS base case pre-tax NPV(8) at US\$3.00/lb copper)
- Market cap A\$109m at 37cps.
- Takeover approach by Sandfire at 38cps
- A\$310k invested at 30cps

## Antipa Minerals

- Paterson Province WA next to new 'Winu' Rio discovery
- Aggressive exploration program on 100% ground and in JV with Rio
- •\$250k invested at 1.7cps, now 2.2cps



# Investment Committee Members





#### John Forwood, Chief Investment Officer

Joined LRFM in November 2016

Mr Forwood is a qualified lawyer and geologist with more than 25 years experience in the resources sector. He has over 17 years of resources financing experience with RMB Resources, including 13 years as a Manager of the Telluride Fund. The Telluride Fund delivered average pre-tax returns of 28% for equity investing in the junior resources sector. Mr Forwood also has 5 years' experience in exploration and development geology in Australia, Tanzania and Indonesia. Previously, he qualified with a major Australian law firm to practice as a barrister and solicitor.



Joined LRFM in November 2017

Mr Morrow is an equity partner with Melbourne-based stockbroker Baillieu Holst and is honorary Chairman of the Melbourne Mining Club. He has more than 30 years' experience as a sharebroker in Melbourne and in London, with a particular interest in resources. Mr Morrow is a Master Stockbroker with the Stockbrokers and Financial Advisers Association and qualified as an accredited dealer in derivatives. He is a Fellow of the AusIMM.

#### Stuart Baker, Investment Committee Member

Joined LRFM in July 2018

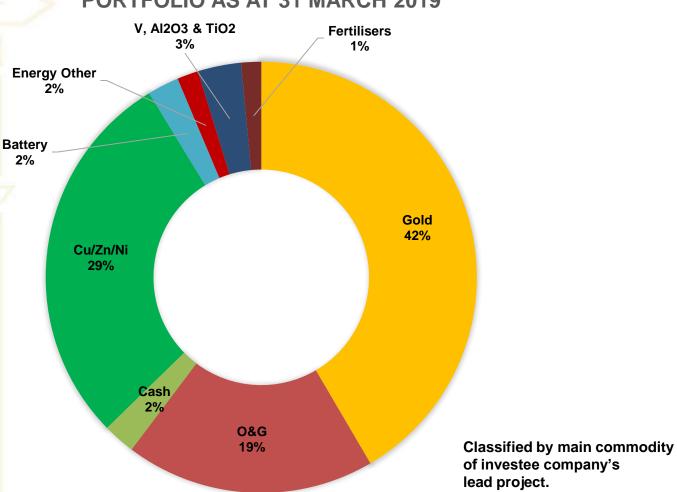
Mr Baker brings a wide experience in valuation and analysis of energy companies. He has a strong local and international reputation for oil and gas E&P company coverage as a senior investment analyst, including 14 years with Morgan Stanley. In a career spanning more than 30 years, Mr Baker has also worked in senior research roles with BT Equities and Macquarie Equities. He crossed over to researching listed companies after gaining industry experience with international oilfield services group, Schlumberger.



### Fund Investments by Commodity



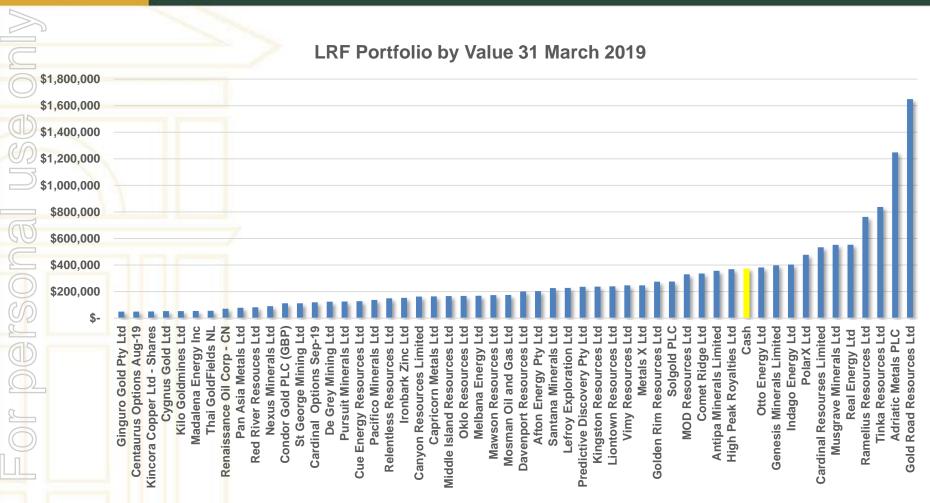
#### PORTFOLIO AS AT 31 MARCH 2019





#### Portfolio by Company



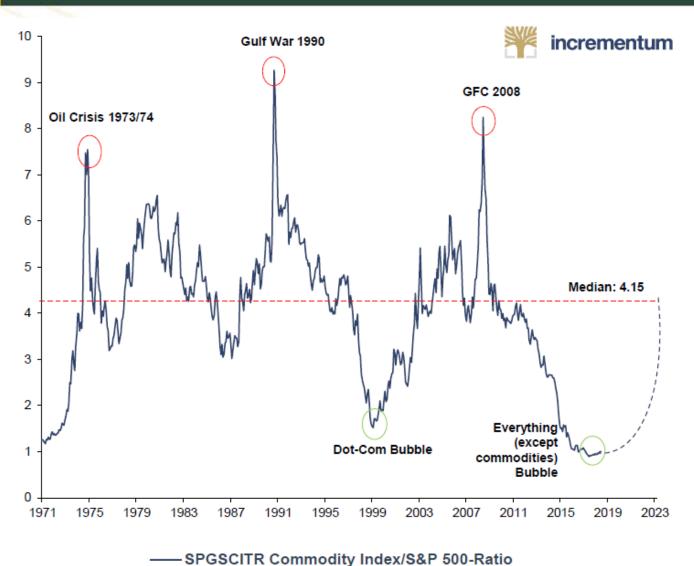




## Commodities vs Stocks



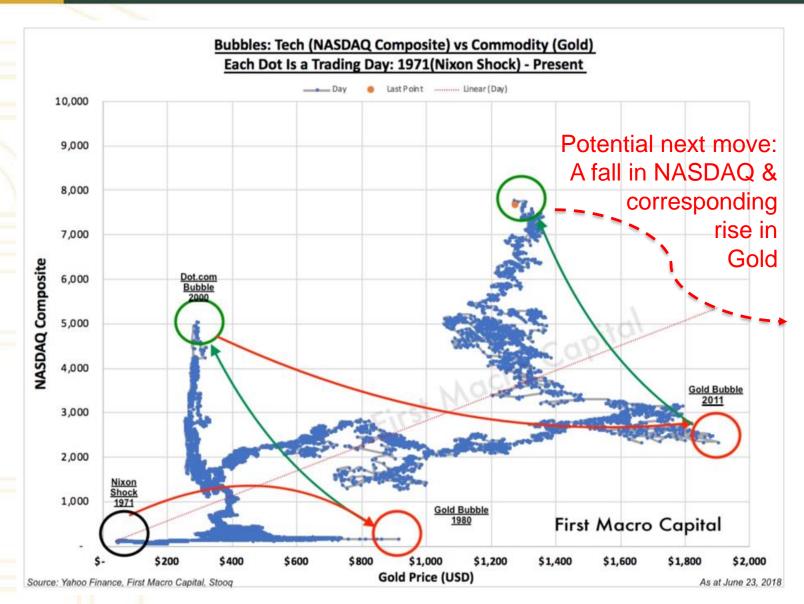






#### Tech Stocks vs Gold Price





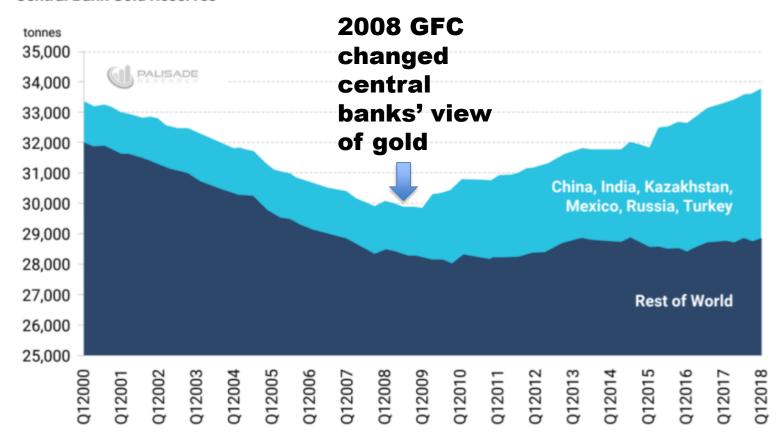


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#### Central Bank Gold Purchases







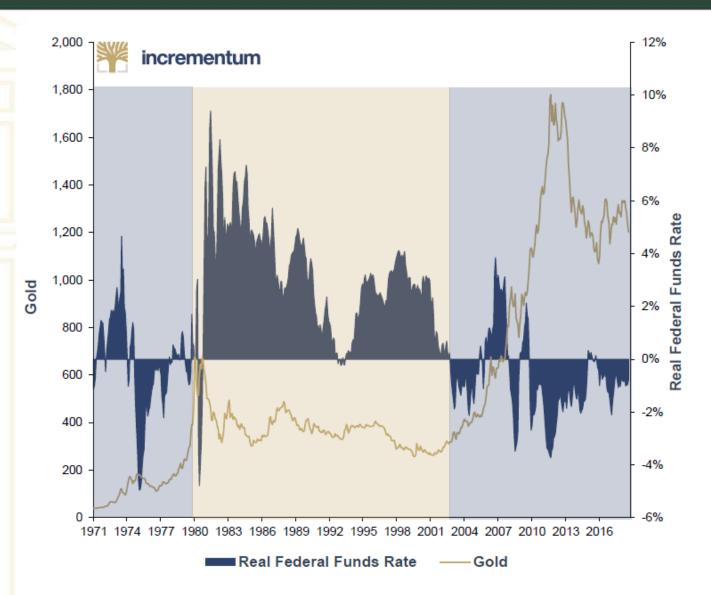
Source: Gold Industry Group



# US\$ Real Interest Rates Correlation to Gold Price



Inflation higher than US\$ interest rates, is generally positive for the gold price



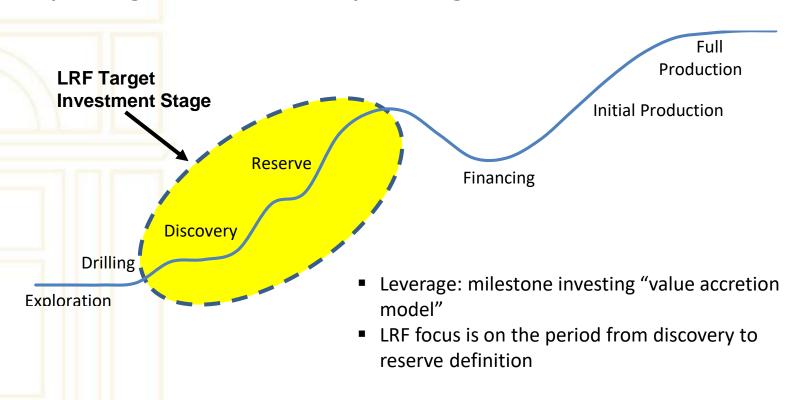
Sources: Federal Reserve St. Louis, Incrementum AG



## Investing in resource equities



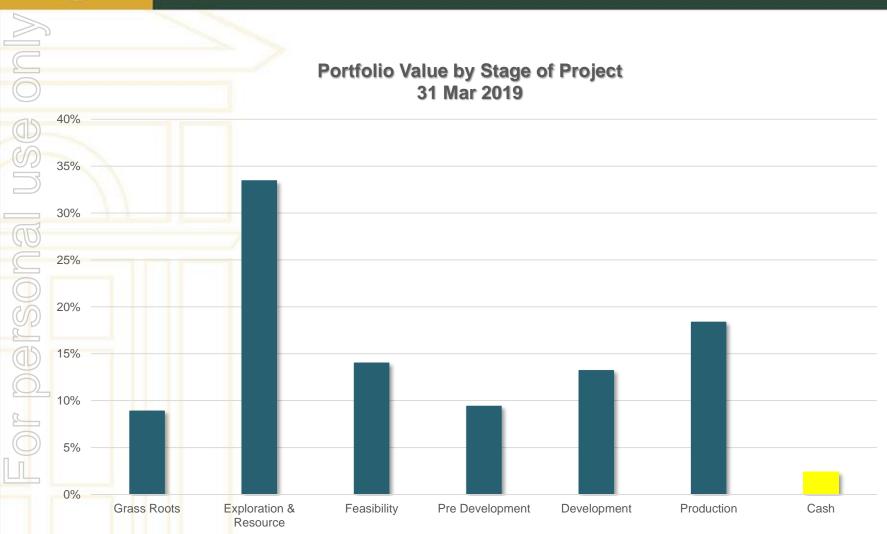
#### Capitalising on value accretion: optimal stage





## LRF Portfolio by Project Stage



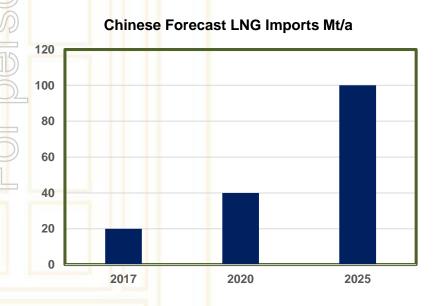


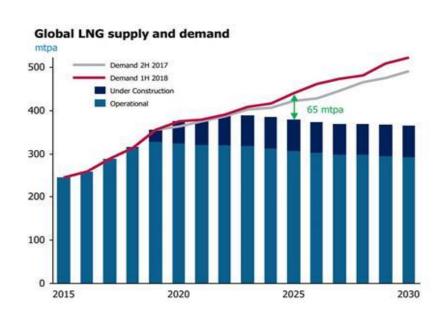


## Gas: LRF increasing exposure



- China's government has recognised the importance of gas in its clean energy strategy. It has set an aggressive target with gas to account for around 10% of energy consumption by 2020 Morgan Stanley Oct 2018
- To achieve that, gas consumption needs to rise by more than 13% pa over the next two years: "a frantic growth rate".

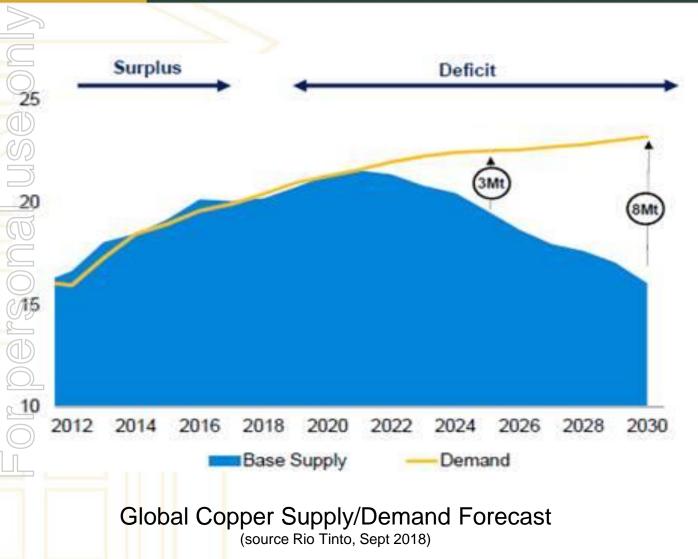






## Copper





- M&A competition for copper deposits emerging (eg Solgold, MOD)
- Refined copper inventories decreasing
- mine concentrate supplies are falling
- Demand for Cu concs is rising: smelter TC/RCs costs are down to lowest in more than five years (April 2019)



#### Investment Overview & Objective



#### **Overview**

- Lowell Resources Funds Management Ltd ("LRFM" or "The Manager") manages the Lowell Resources Fund (ASX ticker 'LRT') Portfolio, and has a successful track record for over 14 years
- The Manager operates through an Investment Committee which incorporates the experience and knowledge of individuals who have direct working experience in the minerals and energy industries, geosciences, broking, banking, and funds management
- LRT unitholders are provided with broad exposure to the junior mining and energy sectors in a Portfolio that is actively managed by the Manager in accordance with its investment philosophy and stock-selection criteria
  - The fund is not frightened to take profits and will realise investments once targets are reached or can no longer be achieved

#### **Investment Objective**

 LRT's investment objective is to maximise absolute returns to its unitholders over the medium to longer term, along with <u>annual</u> distribution payments of 100% of taxable profits





#### Historical Performance



## Investment Portfolio Performance (IPP)

Strong Q1 2019 indicative of oversold micro resources market in 2018

LRT to 28 February 2019			
V		Annualised IPP	
Years	IPP	p.a.	
2 mths	8.1%	60%	
1	-33.0%	-33%	
2	-30.3%	-16.5%	
3	25.2%	7.8%	
5	9.8%	1.9%	
10	150.6%	9.6%	

<sup>1</sup>Investment performance figures reflect the historic performance of Lowell Resources Fund, net of fees

<sup>3</sup>Investment performance is pre-tax and ignores the potential value of franking credits on dividends that were partially or fully franked

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Methodology for calculating total return is based on MorningStar, which assumes reinvestment of dividends



## The Manager



#### **Lowell Resources Funds Management Ltd**

#### Stephen Mitchell, Chairman

Joined LRFM in February 2011

Mr Mitchell has over 30 years' experience in the resources sector with experience in management, corporate advisory and investment banking. As MD, Mr. Mitchell developed Molopo Energy into an ASX 200 energy company with projects in Australia, Canada, the US, Asia and Africa. Previously he was Chairman of Lowell Capital, the Responsible Entity for the Lowell Resources Fund, and had various corporate advisory/finance roles specialising in resources. He is currently Chairman of Indago Energy and Afton Energy. Mr Mitchell completed a MA in International Economics and Politics at Johns Hopkins University in the US.

#### John Forwood, Director & Chief Investment Officer

Joined LRFM in November 2016

Mr Forwood is a qualified lawyer and geologist with more than 25 years experience in the resources sector. He has over 17 years of resources financing experience with RMB Resources, including 13 years as a Manager of the Telluride Fund. The Telluride Fund delivered average pre-tax returns of 28% for equity investing in the junior resources sector. Mr Forwood also has 5 years' experience in exploration and development geology in Australia, Tanzania and Indonesia. Previously, he qualified with a major Australian law firm to practice as a barrister and solicitor.

#### **Richard Morrow, Director**

Joined LRFM in November 2017

Mr Morrow is an equity partner with Melbourne-based stockbroker Baillieu Holst and is honorary Chairman of the Melbourne Mining Club. He has more than 30 years' experience as a sharebroker in Melbourne and in London, with a particular interest in resources. Mr Morrow is a Master Stockbroker with the Stockbrokers and Financial Advisers Association and qualified as an accredited dealer in derivatives. He is a Fellow of the AusIMM

#### Steven O'Connell, Director

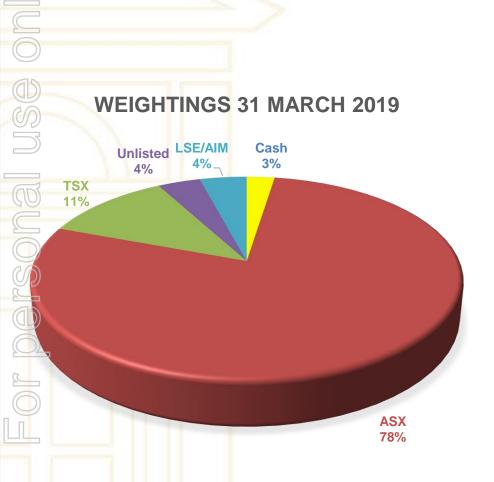
Joined LRFM in March 2009

Mr O'Connell has over 30 years' extensive finance industry experience in asset management, life insurance, custodial services, financial planning and superannuation (consulting, administration and trustee services). He has headed the compliance and risk management functions for several large multi-national asset managers. Mr O'Connell has been appointed company secretary for a number of asset managers, headed custodial operations for corporate actions, reconciliations and unlisted trust management and was a key person in the eventual sale of Mellon Australia's superannuation and administration consulting businesses in 2005. He has held Board positions at one of Australia's leading asset management companies, chairs Compliance Committees for leading asset managers and continues to be a Responsible Manager for a number of asset management companies.

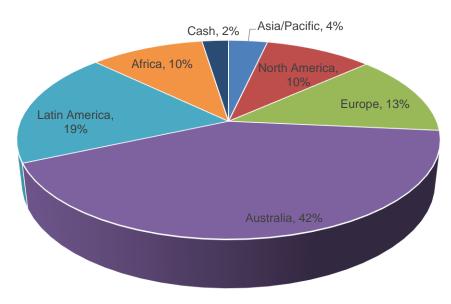


#### Portfolio Characteristics





## Portfolio by Geography of main project 31 Mar 2019





## Stock Selection



#### Top down focus

- or bersonal
- Macroeconomics
- Equity markets

- Market sectors
- Commodities
- Resource categories
- Individual stocks

#### **Criteria**

- ✓ Management
- ✓ Geographic location
- √ Geological setting
- ✓ Resource/reserve magnitude
- ✓ Grade, metallurgy
- ✓ Stage
- ✓ Infrastructure and market
- ✓ Indicative economics
- √ Valuation
- ✓ Timing



For personal

#### Our Investment Process





Deal Structuring:
Placement/IPO/ onmarket

Investment
Committee
Approval

- LRF will typically hold less than 5% shareholding
  - Allows a range of exit alternatives in relatively illiquid stocks
  - In a boutique fund, these positions can still 'move the needle' for performance



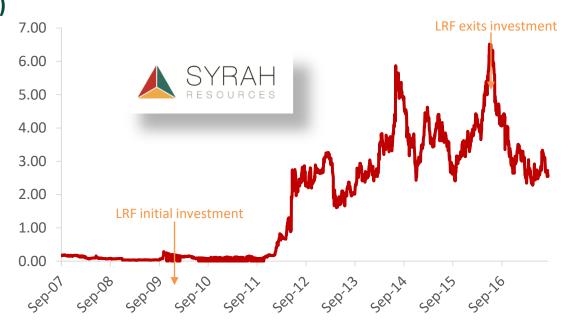
## Case Study: Syrah Resources



#### Syrah Resources Limited (ASX: SYR)

Australian-based industrial minerals and technology company, with a focus on graphite in Mozambique

- LRF's first investment in SYR was in
   December 2009, at around \$0.18/share
  - Accumulated a holding of around 2.2m shares by April 2012
  - Progressively sold down all exposure between June 2012 and April 2016
  - Generated a realised gain of A\$7.7m, or 1802.9% total return on the investment





## Case Study: Kidman Resources



#### Kidman Resources Limited (ASX: KDR)

Fast-growing Australian resource company, focused on gold and lithium, located near Southern Cross, in the Archaean Forrestania belt of Western Australia

- LRF's first investment in KDR was in August 2013
- Accumulated a holding of around 4.3m shares by August 2016 at an average cost of \$0.12/share
- Sold position between September 2016 and November 2018 averaging circa \$1.20/sh.
- Generated a realised gain of \$5.1m, or over 800% total return on the investment





# Lowell – a unique investment opportunity



#### Fund focus

 One of the very few investment funds that offers exposure to the junior resources sector across Australia and global stock exchanges in unlisted and listed companies

#### Successful track record for 10+ years

- Superior performance over the short, medium and long term
- Historical 10 year total portfolio performance of 8.26% p.a. after fees
- Fund must distribute of all taxable profits (4 distributions over the past 8 years)

#### Experienced management

 Deep technical, financial and commercial expertise and networks with experience through numerous cycles.

#### Unique network – not easily replaced

- Access to deal flow in public and private markets
- Proven ability to generate returns throughout the cycle
- Potential for structured investment opportunities through consultant relationships

#### Liquidity

ASX listing to provide liquidity



#### Contact



#### **Lowell Resources Funds Management Limited**

#### Investment Manager

ACN 006 769 982

AFSL 345674

#### Address

Level 6, 412 Collins Street,

Melbourne VIC 3000

Tel: (03) 9642 0655

Fax: (03) 9642 5177

Email: johnf@lowell.net.au

#### **Cremorne Capital Limited**

#### **Responsible Entity**

ACN 006 844 588

AFSL 241175

#### Address

8 Chapel Street,

Richmond VIC 3121

Tel: (03) 9665 2499