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# VanEck Corporate Bond ETF flies past \$115M FUM

**Sydney, 20 November 2017** – VanEck Vectors Australian Corporate Bond Plus ETF (ASX: PLUS) has quickly won \$115 million in funds under management to be one of VanEck's most popular exchange traded funds (ETFs) as investors pile into fixed income ETFs, says Arian Neiron, Managing Director, VanEck Australia.

PLUS was one of VanEck's most traded funds during the September quarter with \$85 million in trades after listing on the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX) in May 2017. Mr Neiron expects PLUS to be VanEck's fastest growing ETF in the December quarter, alongside the company's floating rate bond offering, the VanEck Vectors Australian Floating Rate ETF (ASX: FLOT), as investors recognise the importance of fixed income in their portfolios.

"Australian investors are finally recognising the valuable role bonds can play in a portfolio, including providing attractive income and defence against capital loss," Neiron said.

"Traditionally, corporate bonds have not been easy to access and the market has been far from transparent. But now, investors and advisers are gravitating towards our corporate bond ETF because it is accessible, transparent and liquid. In addition, they are attracted to its low cost compared to actively-managed fixed income funds, most of which have underperformed their benchmarks," he said.

According to the SPIVA® Australia Scorecard, over the three-year period ending June 30, 2017, 96% of Australian bond funds underperformed their benchmark. Over the 12-months to June 30, 66% underperformed.<sup>1</sup>

"PLUS enables investors to achieve potential outperformance, for a much lower cost than actively managed bond funds, with management costs of just 0.32% per annum. Investors also like the relative security of Australian corporate credit compared to shares, as well as the attractive yields corporate bonds provide above cash and term deposits," Neiron said.

PLUS tracks the Markit iBoxx AUD Corporates Yield Plus Index which selects the top 50% highest yielding corporate bonds issued in Australia. The Index offers access to around 100 Australian-issued corporate

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> http://us.spindices.com/spiva/#/reports



## Access the opportunities.

bonds and is designed to reflect the performance of higher-yielding AUD dominated corporate bond market with at least 80% of the bonds being 'investment grade'.

Over three years to 20 September 2017, the Index has returned an average of 5.41% per annum, compared to 3.90% per annum for the Australian fixed income market benchmark, the Bloomberg AusBond Comp 0+Yr Index. As at 3 November 2017, the running yield on Markit iBoxx AUD Corporates Yield Plus Index was 4.07%.

"Another key attraction is that the duration of the PLUS Index, or its sensitivity to interest rate changes, is less than that on the Australian market benchmark for bonds, the Bloomberg AusBond Composite 0+ Yr Index. So if interest rates rise, the bonds in the PLUS Index could be expected to fall in value less than those in the Australian fixed income market benchmark," said Mr Neiron.

"PLUS and FLOT may suit investors in retirement or the many who are underweight fixed income in their portfolios. Many Australians are heavily invested in shares, cash and low yielding term deposits. PLUS and FLOT provide important opportunities for investors to diversify into bonds, which are significantly underrepresented in many portfolios in a simple trade on the ASX."

## **ENDS**

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