

MEDIA RELEASE

17 MARCH 2023

MSC TRUSTEES RECEIVES GENERAL NOTE APPROVAL

MSC Trustees has become the first Australian corporate trustee firm to be appointed as trustee under new general note authority granted by ASIC.

ASIC officially granted MSC Trustees general authority to act as trustee in any circumstances for note, debenture and bond issues by listed and Australian companies under section 283AC(1)(f) of the Corporations Act.

This is a brand new authority granted by the Australian regulator, previously only granted by acts of parliament in the original formation of Australian trustee companies and follows extensive lobbying by MSC Trustees over 7 years including participation in the 2020 Parliamentary enquiry into the Australian Corporate Bond Market¹ and as a serving member of the Corporate Bond Reform Group².

MSC Group Managing Director, Mr Matthew Fletcher, said *“This is a fantastic development for Australian companies seeking to raise debt and a positive outcome for retail and wholesale investors.*

“Raising capital from the Australian corporate debt market has presented real challenges to Australian companies, largely because of lack of options due to a lack of understanding and appetite by traditional debt providers and extreme cautiousness by the Australian corporate regulator following the global financial crisis in 2008.

“This defunct market and lack of options presents a serious limitation to for Australian companies seeking to raise capital, often requiring restructuring of capital in less appropriate

¹ [The Development of the Australian Corporate Bond Market: A Way Forward – Parliament of Australia \(aph.gov.au\)](http://aph.gov.au)

² Other Corporate Bond Reform Group participants include representatives from ASX, Morgan Stanley, UBS, Barrenjoey, Australian Unity, Westpac, NAB, Wesfarmers, KWM, Gilbert & Tobin.



or from more inefficient sources. This can simultaneously have the effect of limiting investors to higher risk capital options in the form of equity or less priority in the event of wind up, as well as missing out on an opportunity to benefit from other enhancements related to debt including security and oversight by independent parties such as trustees, auditors and sometimes even ASIC.

We welcome the work done by Parliament, ASIC and industry participants in this area and strongly believe this now opens up options for listed and unlisted companies to raise debt finance and for investors to participate in lower risk corporate investment with appropriate independent oversight and governance.”

MSC Trustees’ first appointment under its new general note authority is for a \$30M note issue for ASX-listed CVC Limited. MSC has substantive history in this corporate debt trustee space prior to gaining the general authority, being previously appointed for Australia’s largest note issue (\$1.1Bn for Spark Infrastructure’s previous ownership structure), as well as other note issues for the likes of Australian Unity, Centuria, Flight Centre and Mosaic Brands. In 2016, MSC Trustees took over the unlisted debenture book from Sandhurst Trustees after owner Bendigo & Adelaide Bank decided to exit the market.

Further Information:

Mr Matthew Fletcher

Managing Director

MSC Group

+61 488 600 600

media@msc.group

Ph. 1300 798 790

About MSC Group

An established, highly credentialled provider of fund services including corporate trust, financial intermediary and fund administration services to domestic and international fund managers, fintech businesses and other financial service providers. MSC Group’s core businesses, MSC Trustees, MSC Abacus and MSC Capital Partners and related entities are active across a full range of finance and investment markets and capital structures. MSC Group operates offices in Melbourne, Sydney and Singapore.



End