

Analyst
TS Lim 612 8224 2810

Authorisation
Chris Savage 612 8224 2835

Commonwealth Bank (CBA)

Forest for the trees

Recommendation

Buy (unchanged)

Price

\$98.99

Target (12 months)

\$111.00 (previously \$118.00)

GICS Sector

Banks

Expected Return

Capital growth	12.1%
Dividend yield	3.8%
Total expected return	15.9%

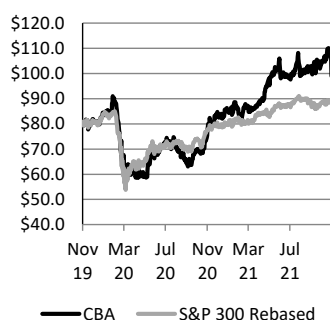
Company Data & Ratios

Enterprise value	n/m
Market cap	\$168,916m
Issued capital	1,706m
Free float	100%
Avg. daily val. (52wk)	\$279.5m
12 month price range	\$74.60 - \$110.19

Price Performance

	(1m)	(3m)	(12m)
Price (A\$)	101.91	105.88	73.07
Absolute (%)	-2.87	-6.51	35.47
Rel market (%)	-3.79	-3.92	19.95

Absolute Price



SOURCE: IRESS

1Q22: ~\$2.20bn unaudited cash NPAT (BP \$2.36bn)

CBA's 1Q22 result components are: 1) unaudited statutory NPAT ~\$2.30bn (BP \$2.51bn); 2) unaudited cash NPAT ~\$2.20bn (BP \$2.36bn); 3) operating income down 1% but flat excluding AHL with above system growth offsetting margin pressure and lower non-interest income; 4) operating expenses down 1% – lower remediation costs more than offset higher staff expenses; 5) credit quality stable and reverting back to normal – loan impairment expense \$0.10bn or 5bp GLA (BP \$0.24bn); 6) credit provisions unchanged; 7) strong balance sheet – 74% customer deposit funding ratio, 131% NSFR and 132% LCR; and 8) Level 2 CET1 capital 12.5% (BP 12.0%) – net of final dividend and buyback, the ratio would be 11.2% (but climbing back to 11.6-11.7% with announced asset sales).

Operating income was disappointingly and 1% lower with 1% higher net interest income more than offset by much lower non-interest income. On the other hand, growth was ahead of system in core markets at \$17.0bn but this was offset by lower NIM. Non-interest income was also 8% lower due to the removal of AHL among other things (excluding these, it was better and flat overall). Finally, operating expense was down by 1% and driven by lower remediation costs (but was only 3% higher mainly due to staff expenses plus 1.5 additional working days). Overall, cash NPAT of around \$2.2bn was still higher than for the same period last year – a plus in a way.

Price target a more realistic \$111.00 but maintain Buy rating

Given its lower quarterly performance, CBA's cash NPAT is reduced by 3% across the forecast horizon. This is mainly due to lower NII (-1%) and other income (-2%) but flat in total excluding the AHL divestment (above system growth that offset margin pressures and lower other income), slightly lower operating expenses (+1% based on lower remediation costs) and just a minor change in loan impairment expense in FY22 of -33% (i.e. a lower expense). The price target is however lowered by 6% to \$111.00 (previously \$118.00) after also considering added dividend and ROE risks. Based on a 12-month TSR of greater than 15%, CBA is still regarded as a Buy.

Earnings Forecast

Year end 30 June	2021	2022e	2023e	2024e
NPAT (reported) (A\$m)	8,843	9,854	10,003	10,335
NPAT (cash, continuing) (A\$m)	8,653	9,256	9,405	9,737
EPS (cash, continuing) (A¢)	489	532	551	571
EPS (cash) growth (%)	20%	9%	4%	4%
PER (x)	20.3	18.6	18.0	17.3
P/Book (x)	2.1	2.2	2.1	2.1
P/NTA (x)	2.4	2.4	2.3	2.2
Dividend (A¢)	350	394	415	430
Yield (%)	3.5%	4.0%	4.2%	4.3%
ROE (continuing) (%)	11.5%	12.2%	12.2%	12.1%
NIM (continuing) (%)	2.03%	1.99%	1.97%	1.98%
Franking (%)	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

SOURCE: BELL POTTER SECURITIES ESTIMATES

Forest for the trees

1Q22: ~\$2.20bn unaudited cash NPAT (BP \$2.36bn)

For the quarter ended 30 September 2021, all financial comparisons are to the average of the two quarters of the second half of FY21 unless noted otherwise.

CBA's 1Q22 result components are:

1. Unaudited statutory NPAT ~\$2.30bn (BP \$2.51bn);
2. Unaudited cash NPAT ~\$2.20bn (BP \$2.36bn);
3. Operating income down 1% but flat excluding AHL with above system growth offsetting margin pressure and lower non-interest income;
4. Operating expenses down 1% – lower remediation costs more than offset higher staff expenses;
5. Credit quality stable and reverting back to normal – loan impairment expense \$0.10bn or 5bp GLA (BP \$0.24bn);
6. Credit provisions unchanged;
7. Strong balance sheet – 74% customer deposit funding ratio, 131% NSFR and 132% LCR; and
8. Level 2 CET1 capital 12.5% (BP 12.0%) – net of final dividend and buyback, the ratio would be 11.2% (but climbing back to 11.6-11.7% with announced asset sales).

CBA's performance reflected above-system growth in the core markets, sound credit quality and balance sheet strength. The \$6.0bn off-market share buyback in October 2021 was oversubscribed and the bank returned \$12.0bn to shareholders in the last 12 months. The bank also released the final report on the remedial action plan with all milestones completed and all recommendations now closed.

Operating income was 1% lower with 1% higher net interest income (NII) offset by much lower non-interest income. On the other hand, growth was ahead of system in core markets at \$17.0bn (including home lending \$10.1bn driven by proprietary funding and fixed rate loans, strong business lending +13% pcp and with stable margins, >\$20.0bn in household deposits plus 1.5 additional working days) but this was offset by lower NIM (mainly due to higher liquid assets, home loan competition, switching to lower margin fixed rate loans and the overall impact of low interest rates in general; we had a decline of 3bp but have now adjusted this from 2.01% to 1.97-1.98%).

Non-interest income was 8% lower due to the removal of AHL, the reversal of minority gains and reduced retail lending fees and commissions linked to COVID-19. Excluding these, it was around flat and thus also acceptable.

Finally, operating expense was down by 1% and driven by lower remediation costs. Excluding these, it was 3% higher mainly due to staff expenses (i.e. lower annual leave taken from COVID-19 and staff needed to cope with higher volumes and other strategic priorities) plus 1.5 additional working days. Overall, cash NPAT of around \$2.2bn was still higher than for the same period last year.

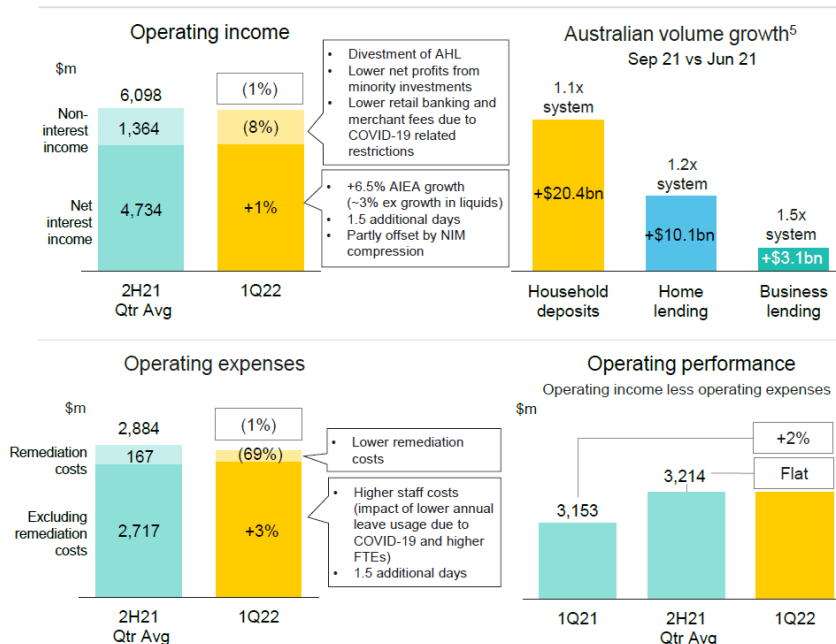
Table 1 – 1Q22

CBA Y/E 30 June (cash basis, continuing operations, \$m)		2H21	2H21 quarterly average	1Q22	Movement 1Q22 vs. 2H21 quarterly average
Operating income	As reported	12,195	6,098	6,037	-1.0%
	Mortgage Broking consolidation & other	0	0		
	Operating income excluding notable items	12,195	6,098	6,098	0.0%
Operating expenses	As reported	5,768	2,884	2,855	-1.0%
	Insurance recovery	0	0		
	Mortgage Broking consolidation	0	0		
	Customer remediation	-333	-167		
	Risk & compliance uplifts	0	0		
	Operating expense excluding customer remediation	5,435	2,718	2,799	3.0%
Loan impairment expense (LIE)		-328	-164	103	n/m
Cash NPBT excluding notable items as reported		7,088	3,544	3,195	-
Cash NPAT as reported		4,785	2,393	2,200	-
Statutory NPAT as reported		5,084	2,542	2,300	-

SOURCE: COMPANY DATA

Figure 1 – Operational performance

Operating performance

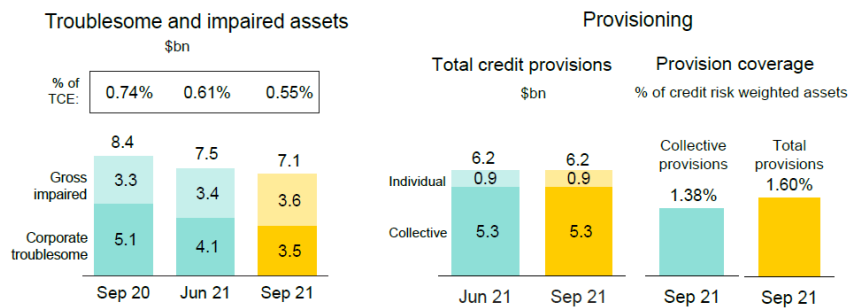
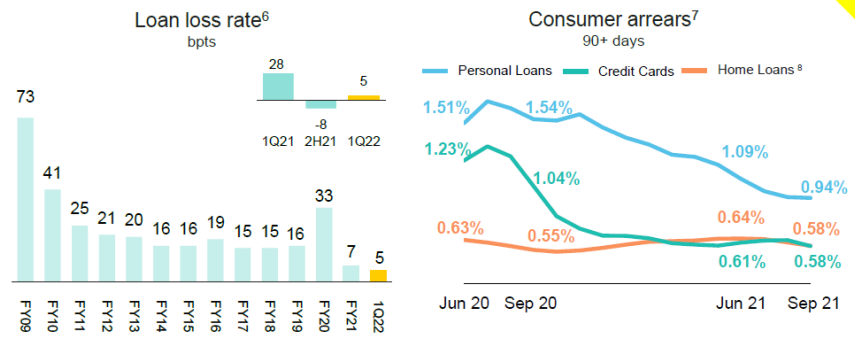


SOURCE: COMPANY DATA

The loan impairment expense was \$105m, still short of the \$204m as predicted. This was mainly due to broadly unchanged credit provisions (\$6.2bn) with lower consumer (unsecured arrears linked to reduced spending among other things) and lower home loan arrears (including the impact of new temporary loan repayment deferral arrangements). Be that as it may, the bank still considers a modest uptick in arrears as the NSW and VIC economies reopen. Finally, TIA were also lower at \$7.1bn or 0.55% TCE.

Figure 2 – Credit quality

Provisions and credit quality

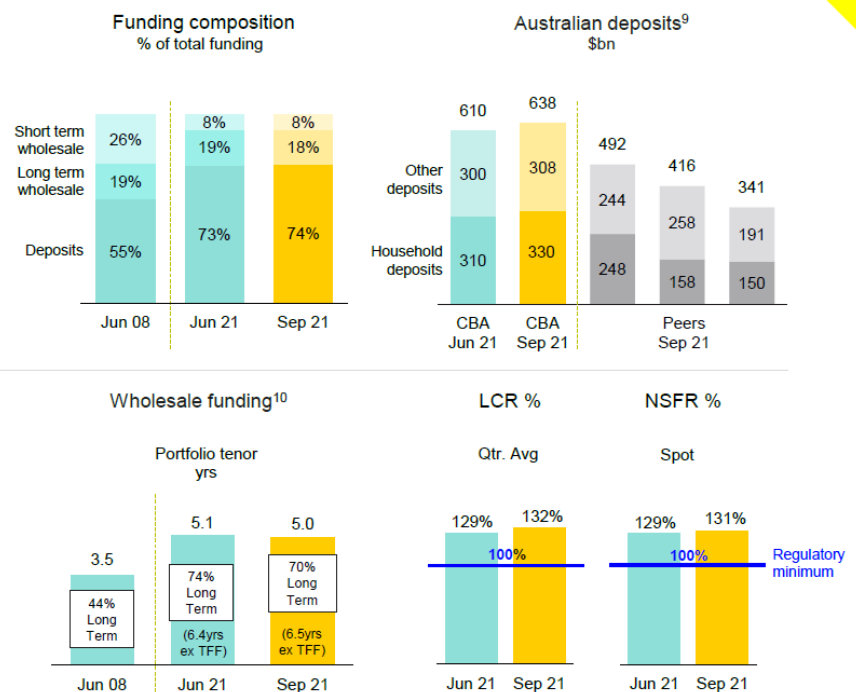


SOURCE: COMPANY DATA

Balance sheet strength was maintained with strong funding. Both the NSFR and LCR were in good shape, likewise from a wholesale funding perspective with 70% long term and a weighted average tenor of 5 years.

Figure 3 – Balance sheet strength

Funding and liquidity



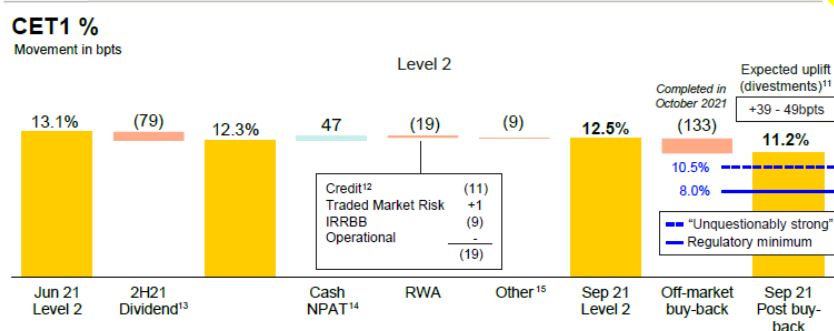
SOURCE: COMPANY DATA

Level 2 CET1 ratio was 12.5% at the end of 1Q22, up by 19bp net of the final dividend payment of 79bp. In origination terms and other than the final dividend, cash NPAT of +47bp was offset by RWA movement (-19bp made up of credit and IRRBB offset by traded market risk) and other regulatory adjustments (-9bp). Following the \$6.0bn buyback, Level 2 CET1 ratio would now be 11.2%. The bank will still target a full year payout ratio of 70-80% of cash NPAT, likewise an interim figure of around 70%.

Net of previously announced divestments to do with Colonial First State (sale of 55% to be completed at the end of calendar year 2021) and Commlnsure General Insurance (divestment to be completed the second half of calendar year 2022), this will add 39-49bp and bring the total Level 2 CET1 ratio to 11.59-11.69%.

Figure 4 – Capital

Capital



SOURCE: COMPANY DATA

Price target \$111.00, maintain Buy rating

Given its lower quarterly performance, CBA's cash NPAT is reduced by 3% across the forecast horizon. This is mainly due to lower NII (-1%) and other income (-2%) but flat in total excluding the AHL divestment (above system growth that offset margin pressures and lower other income), slightly lower operating expenses (+1% based on lower remediation costs) and just a minor change in loan impairment expense in FY22 of -33% (i.e. a lower expense).

The price target is however lowered by 6% to \$111.00 (previously \$118.00) after also considering added dividend and ROE risks. Based on a 12-month TSR of greater than 15%, CBA is still regarded as a Buy.

Table 2 – Estimate changes

Commonwealth Bank Y/e June 30 (\$m)	FY22e			FY23e			FY24e			FY25e		
	Current	Previous	Change	Current	Previous	Change	Current	Previous	Change	Current	Previous	Change
Profit & Loss (continuing)												
Net interest income	19,453	19,699	-1%	19,669	19,968	-1%	20,123	20,428	-1%	20,590	20,901	-1%
Other income	5,265	5,516	-5%	5,533	5,636	-2%	5,650	5,755	-2%	5,770	5,879	-2%
Total operating income	24,718	25,215	-2%	25,202	25,604	-2%	25,773	26,184	-2%	26,360	26,779	-2%
Operating expenses	-10,914	-10,839	-1%	-10,805	-10,727	-1%	-10,789	-10,710	-1%	-10,691	-10,610	-1%
Loan impairment expense	-729	-973	33%	-1,109	-1,109	0%	-1,229	-1,229	0%	-1,352	-1,352	0%
Net profit before income tax	13,075	13,404	-2%	13,288	13,767	-3%	13,756	14,245	-3%	14,317	14,817	-3%
Corporate tax expense	-3,819	-3,919	3%	-3,883	-4,026	4%	-4,019	-4,165	4%	-4,182	-4,331	4%
Investment experience	0	0	n/a	0	0	n/a	0	0	n/a	0	0	n/a
NPAT (cash basis)	9,256	9,485	-2%	9,405	9,741	-3%	9,737	10,080	-3%	10,135	10,486	-3%
DPS (cps)	394	406	-3%	415	427	-3%	430	442	-3%	445	457	-3%
EPS (cash basis) (cps)	532	544	-2%	551	569	-3%	571	588	-3%	594	612	-3%
Payout ratio	74%	75%	-1%	75%	75%	0%	75%	75%	0%	75%	75%	0%
ROE	12.2%	12.5%	-0.3%	12.2%	12.6%	-0.4%	12.1%	12.5%	-0.4%	12.1%	12.5%	-0.4%
NIM	1.99%	2.01%	-0.03%	1.97%	2.00%	-0.03%	1.98%	2.01%	-0.03%	1.98%	2.01%	-0.03%
Cost ratio	44%	43%	-1%	43%	42%	-1%	42%	41%	-1%	41%	40%	-1%
Impairment expense as % of GLA	0.09%	0.12%	0.03%	0.13%	0.13%	0.00%	0.14%	0.14%	0.00%	0.15%	0.15%	0.00%
Effective tax rate	29%	29%	0%	29%	29%	0%	29%	29%	0%	29%	29%	0%

SOURCE: COMPANY DATA AND BELL POTTER SECURITIES ESTIMATES

Table 3 – Composite valuation

Composite Valuation	Value (\$m)	Per share	Weighting	Composite value per share
DCF	173,837	\$101.87	25%	\$25.47
Dividend yield (sustainable)	202,329	\$118.57	25%	\$29.64
ROE (sustainable)	182,135	\$106.74	25%	\$26.68
Sum-of-Parts	173,610	\$101.74	25%	\$25.44
Surplus capital *	5,287	\$3.10		\$3.10
Total				\$110.33

* Less estimated capital deductions

SOURCE: COMPANY DATA AND BELL POTTER SECURITIES ESTIMATES

Table 4 – SOP valuation

SOP Valuation	FY23e NPAT	Pros. PE (times)	Value (\$m)	Per share
Retail Banking	4,712	17.5	82,458	\$48.32
B&PB / IB&M	3,803	18.5	70,353	\$41.23
Wealth Management	0	0.0	-	-
New Zealand	1,189	17.5	20,799	\$12.19
Other	-298	-	-	-
Total	9,405	18.5	173,610	\$101.74

SOURCE: COMPANY DATA AND BELL POTTER SECURITIES ESTIMATES

Commonwealth Bank

Company description

CBA is Australia's leading integrated financial services organisation, providing banking and wealth management (funds management, superannuation, insurance and investment advice) products and services to over 10m customers. It currently occupies pole positions in home lending and retail deposits. The bank's strategic strengths of scale, brand and diversified mix is supported by an irreplaceable infrastructure consisting of over 1,100 branches, 3,800 Australia Post agencies and nearly 3,600 ATMs.

Investment strategy

CBA's strategy is built upon continuous service and sales improvement backed by IT and operational excellence, and a leadership position in retail banking. Incremental value add is expected to come from opportunities in the SME banking, ECM / DCM and wealth management space (particularly in advice, private banking and life risk where the market is 80% underinsured) and selective Asian expansion (East Asia and Singapore).

Valuation

The price target is based on a composite valuation of DCF, dividend yield, ROE and Sum-of-Parts weighted equally.

Table 5 – Composite valuation

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Other	-298	-	-	-
Total	9,405	18.5	173,610	\$101.74

SOURCE: COMPANY DATA AND BELL POTTER SECURITIES ESTIMATES

SWOT analysis

Strengths

1. Retail and business banking (sales and service);
2. Strong management and execution capabilities;
3. Cost discipline;
4. Lower risk banking assets; and
5. IT capabilities.

Weaknesses

1. WA market although recovering slowly; and
2. Ongoing liquidity drag in a low rate environment that is a systemic issue.

Opportunities

1. Value add from ECM / DCM opportunities in capitalising on the bank's AA- rating and balance sheet strength;
2. Selected capital-light offshore e-banking opportunities; and
3. Leveraged to the strength of NSW and VIC economies.

Threats

1. Macroeconomic factors such as higher unemployment and slowing credit growth;
2. COVID-19 fallout;
3. Changes in regulatory environment;
4. Disruptors;
5. Negative fallout from offshore regulator civil actions and domestic class actions;
6. Bank re-regulation; and
7. Some sovereign risk.

Sensitivities

Table 7 – Sensitivities

Y/e June 30	2022e	2023e	2024e	2025e	2026e	2027e	2028e	2029e	2030e
Sensitivities									
Group NIM +10bp									
- NPAT upside (cash basis)	7.4%	7.4%	7.3%	7.2%	7.0%	6.9%	6.8%	6.6%	6.5%
- Price target upside	\$8.21	\$8.25	\$8.13	\$7.97	\$7.82	\$7.66	\$7.51	\$7.36	\$7.22
Group Loans +1%									
- NPAT upside (cash basis)	0.8%	0.8%	0.8%	0.8%	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%
- Price target upside	\$0.84	\$0.84	\$0.84	\$0.83	\$0.83	\$0.83	\$0.82	\$0.82	\$0.81
RBS loans +1%									
- NPAT upside (cash basis)	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%
- Price target upside	\$0.55	\$0.56	\$0.55	\$0.55	\$0.54	\$0.54	\$0.54	\$0.54	\$0.54
B&PB/IB&M loans +1%									
- NPAT upside (cash basis)	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%
- Price target upside	\$0.46	\$0.45	\$0.45	\$0.45	\$0.45	\$0.45	\$0.44	\$0.44	\$0.44
NZ loans +1%									
- NPAT upside (cash basis)	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
- Price target upside	\$0.14	\$0.14	\$0.14	\$0.15	\$0.15	\$0.15	\$0.16	\$0.16	\$0.16
Other income +1%									
- NPAT upside (cash basis)	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%
- Price target upside	\$0.44	\$0.46	\$0.45	\$0.44	\$0.43	\$0.43	\$0.42	\$0.41	\$0.40
BDD +1%									
- NPAT upside (cash basis)	-0.1%	-0.1%	-0.1%	-0.1%	-0.1%	-0.1%	-0.1%	-0.1%	-0.1%
- Price target upside	-\$0.06	-\$0.09	-\$0.10	-\$0.10	-\$0.11	-\$0.11	-\$0.11	-\$0.10	-\$0.10
Costs +1%									
- NPAT upside (cash basis)	-0.8%	-0.8%	-0.8%	-0.7%	-0.7%	-0.7%	-0.6%	-0.6%	-0.6%
- Price target upside	-\$0.92	-\$0.89	-\$0.86	-\$0.82	-\$0.78	-\$0.75	-\$0.71	-\$0.68	-\$0.65

SOURCE: COMPANY DATA AND BELL POTTER SECURITIES ESTIMATES

Recommendation structure

Buy: Expect >15% total return on a 12 month view. For stocks regarded as 'Speculative' a return of >30% is expected.

Hold: Expect total return between -5% and 15% on a 12 month view

Sell: Expect <-5% total return on a 12 month view

Speculative Investments are either start-up enterprises with nil or only prospective operations or recently commenced operations with only forecast cash flows, or companies that have commenced operations or have been in operation for some time but have only forecast cash flows and/or a stressed balance sheet.

Such investments may carry an exceptionally high level of capital risk and volatility of returns.

Research Team

Staff Member	Sector	Phone	@bellpotter.com.au
Chris Savage	Head of Research/Industrials	612 8224 2835	csavage
Analyst			
TS Lim	Banks	612 8224 2810	tslim
John Hester	Healthcare	612 8224 2871	jhester
Tanushree Jain	Healthcare	612 8224 2849	tnjain
Steven Anastasiou	Industrials	613 9235 1952	sanastasiou
Marcus Barnard	Industrials	618 9326 7673	mbarnard
Sam Brandwood	Industrials	612 8224 2850	sbrandwood
James Filius	Industrials	613 9235 1612	jfilius
Sam Haddad	Industrials	612 8224 2819	shaddad
Hamish Murray	Industrials	613 9235 1813	hmurray
Jonathan Snape	Industrials	613 9235 1601	jsnape
David Coates	Resources	612 8224 2887	dcoates
Stuart Howe	Resources	613 9235 1856	showe
Joseph House	Resources	613 9235 1624	jhouse
Regan Burrows	Resources	618 9326 7677	rburrows
Brad Watson	Resources	618 9326 7672	bwatson
Associate			
Michael Ardrey	Associate Analyst	613 9235 8782	mardrey
Olivia Hagglund	Associate Analyst	612 8224 2813	ohagglund
Daniel Laing	Associate Analyst	612 8224 2886	dlaing

Bell Potter Securities Limited
ACN 25 006 390 7721
Level 29, 101 Collins Street
Melbourne, Victoria, 3000
Telephone +61 3 9256 8700
www.bellpotter.com.au

Bell Potter Securities (HK) Limited
Room 1701, 17/F
Prosperity Tower, 39 Queens Road
Central, Hong Kong, 0000
Telephone +852 3750 8400

Bell Potter Securities (US) LLC
Floor 39
444 Madison Avenue, New York
NY 10022, U.S.A
Telephone +1 917 819 1410

Bell Potter Securities (UK) Limited
16 Berkeley Street
London, England
W1J 8DZ, United Kingdom
Telephone +44 7734 2929

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