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National Australia Bank (NAB)

1Q22 result preview

Recommendation

Buy (unchanged)

Price

\$27.25

Target (12 months)

\$31.00 (unchanged)

GICS Sector

Banks

Expected Return

Capital growth	13.8%
Dividend yield	4.6%
Total expected return	18.4%

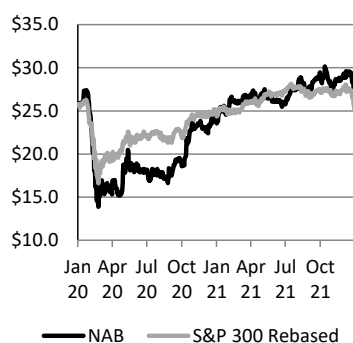
Company Data & Ratios

Enterprise value	n/m
Market cap	\$88,767m
Issued capital	3,257m
Free float	100%
Avg. daily val. (52wk)	\$175.8m
12 month price range	\$22.85 - \$30.30

Price Performance

	(1m)	(3m)	(12m)
Price (A\$)	28.89	28.74	24.13
Absolute (%)	-5.68	-5.18	12.93
Rel market (%)	2.26	3.06	12.64

Absolute Price



SOURCE: IRESS

Expecting \$1.59bn cash earnings

Back in FY21, cash earnings and cash EPS were \$6.56bn and 199¢ and there was no difference to numbers ex-large notable items (i.e. excluding restructuring-related costs and customer-related remediation). On a quarterly basis, these would be around \$1.61bn cash earnings and 49¢ cash EPS respectively and would be equivalent to our forecasts of close to \$1.59bn cash earnings and around 49¢ cash EPS in 1Q22 (again with no difference to ex-large notable items).

Level 2 CET1 ratio is expected to be around 12.2% after taking into account total proceeds from the Citi acquisition (~32bp) and \$2.5bn buyback (~60bp). While NAB continues to manage overall Level 2 CET1 towards 10.75-11.25%, we still think this will be more at around 11.75% in the foreseeable future. Finally, we have made immaterial changes in the credit impairment charge. This is determined by better credit impairment outcomes overall including ongoing momentum across home lending, SME lending and New Zealand. The COVID-19 outlook still calls for calm but the bank remains “optimistic about the long-term outlook for Australia and New Zealand” – something that we can still agree with.

\$31.00 price target and Buy rating maintained

Our forecast cash earnings are increased by 2-3%, all else being equal. These are mainly due to higher other income by as much as 8% (but mainly fee income from Corporate and Institutional Banking and M&T). On the other hand, we have also slightly increased the risk metrics to the ones now used by ANZ: 1) discount rate to 10.00% (previously 9.75%); and 2) sustainable dividend valuation yield to 4.00% (previously 3.75%). On a net basis, there would thus be little change to NAB’s valuation – and the price target is still maintained at \$31.00. The Buy rating is similarly maintained based on a 12-month Total Shareholder Return of over 15%.

Earnings Forecast

Year end 30 September	2021	2022e	2023e	2024e
Statutory earnings (A\$m)	6,364	6,231	6,530	6,787
Cash earnings (A\$m)	6,558	6,349	6,648	6,905
EPS (cash) (A¢)	199	192	198	204
EPS (cash) growth (%)	65%	-4%	3%	3%
PER (x)	13.7	14.2	13.8	13.3
P/Book (x)	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.2
P/NTA (x)	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.3
Dividend (A¢)	127	136	140	144
Yield (%)	4.6%	5.0%	5.1%	5.3%
ROE (%)	10.8%	10.0%	9.9%	9.9%
NIM (%)	1.72%	1.68%	1.66%	1.66%
Franking (%)	100%	100%	100%	100%

SOURCE: BELL POTTER SECURITIES ESTIMATES

1Q22 result preview

Expecting \$1.59bn cash earnings

Comparisons are relative to 2H21 quarterly averages unless otherwise denoted in pcp terms. Back in FY21, cash earnings and cash EPS were \$6.56bn and 199¢ and there was no difference to numbers ex-large notable items (i.e. excluding restructuring-related costs and customer-related remediation). On a quarterly basis, these would be around \$1.61bn cash earnings and 49¢ cash EPS respectively and would be equivalent to our forecasts of close to \$1.59bn cash earnings and around 49¢ cash EPS in 1Q22 (again with no difference to ex-large notable items).

Level 2 CET1 ratio is expected to be around 12.2% after taking into account total proceeds from the Citi acquisition (~32bp) and \$2.5bn buyback (~60bp). To recap and at the end of FY21, this was 13.0% with movements comprising: 1) cash earnings +75bp; 2) dividend net of DRP -47bp; 3) RWA movements +15bp; 4) share buyback -12bp; 5) M&A +29bp; and 6) other +3bp. M&A also includes activity on the sale of MLC Wealth and purchase of 86 400. While NAB continues to manage overall Level 2 CET1 towards 10.75-11.25%, we still think this will be more at around 11.75% in the foreseeable future.

Finally, we have made immaterial changes in the credit impairment charge. This is determined by better credit impairment outcomes overall including ongoing momentum across home lending, SME lending and New Zealand. The COVID-19 outlook still calls for calm but the bank remains “optimistic about the long-term outlook for Australia and New Zealand” – something that we can still agree with.

Figure 1 – Citi acquisition

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial considerations - Pro forma impact on cash profits ¹	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Pro forma financial impact assumes Target Business underlying earnings of ~\$330 million and cash NPAT of ~\$145 million for the year to June 2021² ✓ Key considerations for future revenue impact (post completion) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – mortgage balances expected to decline over time (partly offset by customers retained through refinancing); – short term outlook for card balances to reflect ongoing COVID conditions (elevated repayment rates); – detailed integration planning and management action to mitigate potential customer loss ✓ Total pre-tax annual cost synergies of ~\$130 million p.a. expected to more than offset the impact of revenue decline in the mortgage book ✓ Impact of acquisition on Group cash opex target to be confirmed at 1H22 – Target Business pro forma cash opex of ~\$410 million on a pre-synergies basis. Impact on forecast group cash opex subject to finalisation of TSAs with Citigroup and more detailed integration planning
Key metrics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 8x pro forma Target Business NPAT based on upfront equity required of \$1.2 billion ✓ 1.25x Price to book based on pro forma capital structure under NAB ownership ✓ CET1 impact on completion of 32bps with ~\$220 million of capital (~5bps) released from achieving A-IRB status (approx. 3 years post completion) ✓ Expected to be marginally Cash EPS and Cash ROE accretive from completion³ ✓ Targeting pre-tax cost synergies of ~\$130m p.a.

1. Pro forma financial impact of Target Business based on estimated income and operating expenses for Target Business
 2. Assumes credit impairment charges of ~2.7% on unsecured lending portfolio, consistent with average charges observed on NAB unsecured lending portfolio from 2008 to 2020
 3. Assumes targeted completion date of 31 March 2022, subject to regulatory approvals



1Q22 operating performance is estimated as follows.

1. Cash earnings would be somehow flat at \$1.59bn and this is the same for the amount ex-large notable items.
2. NIM would also be stable at 1.68% but NIE would be supported by higher banking volumes in home, SME and New Zealand lending. Excluding higher liquidity and M&T, NIM should again be up “modestly” with the benefit of lower wholesale funding costs more than offset lower rates, competition in home lending and mix. As usual, negative movements would include generally lower interest rates, competitive pressures mainly from housing lending margins and changes in customer preferences towards lower margin fixed rate home loans. On the positive side, there would be offsets from lower retail and wholesale funding costs.
3. There is now slightly higher other income mainly due to reversal in Markets & Treasury (M&T) component (that was on the decline earlier) that more than offset fees and commissions plus trading income. Net of large notable items, fees and commissions would again be positive due to higher fee income in Corporate and Institutional Banking and merchant acquiring income from increased trading volumes.
4. Expenses fell by 7.6% due to productivity savings (through simplification of operations) and this was despite higher technology and investment spend. We assume the target of negative FY22 growth and therefore negative 1Q22 expense growth still remains.
5. Credit impairment charge in 2H21 was a write-back of \$89m (reflecting ongoing asset quality improvement in home and business lending, price improvements and low specific charges) but we believe there would now be an expense of around \$130m or roughly 4bp in 1Q22.
6. Finally, collective provisions would also be higher although there would be no change to Economic/Forward Looking adjustments.

\$31.00 price target and Buy rating maintained

Our forecast cash earnings are increased by 2-3%, all else being equal. These are mainly due to higher other income by as much as 8% (but mainly fee income from Corporate and Institutional Banking and M&T). On the other hand, we have also slightly increased the risk metrics to the ones now used by ANZ: 1) discount rate to 10.00% (previously 9.75%); and 2) sustainable dividend valuation yield to 4.00% (previously 3.75%). On a net basis, there would thus be little change to NAB's valuation – and the price target is still maintained at \$31.00. The Buy rating is similarly maintained based on a 12-month Total Shareholder Return of over 15%.

Table 1 – Composite valuation					Table 2 – SOP valuation				
Composite Valuation	Value (\$m)	Per NAB share	Weighting	Composite value per NAB share	Sum-of-Parts (As Is)	FY22e NPAT	Pros. PE (times)	Value (\$m)	Per NAB share
DCF	87,211	\$26.77	25%	\$6.69	Business & Private Banking	2,584	15.5	40,057	\$12.29
Dividend yield (sustainable)	110,347	\$33.88	25%	\$8.47	Personal Banking	1,602	14.0	22,430	\$6.88
ROE (sustainable)	107,411	\$32.97	25%	\$8.24	Corporate & Institutional Banking	1,096	15.0	16,440	\$5.05
Sum-of-Parts	94,920	\$29.14	25%	\$7.28	Wealth Management	0	-	-	-
Surplus capital*	1,612	\$0.49		\$0.49	NZ Banking	1,066	15.0	15,993	\$4.91
Total				\$31.18	Other including distributions	0	0.0	0	\$0.00
* Less estimated NZ new capital requirement					Total	6,349	15.0	94,920	\$29.13

SOURCE: COMPANY DATA AND BELL POTTER SECURITIES ESTIMATES

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Table 3 – Estimate changes

National Australia Bank Y/e September 30 (\$m)	FY22e			FY23e			FY24e			FY25e		
	Current	Previous	Change	Current	Previous	Change	Current	Previous	Change	Current	Previous	Change
Profit & Loss												
Net interest income	13,894	13,984	-1%	14,253	14,286	0%	14,621	14,596	0%	14,999	14,912	1%
Other income	3,125	3,061	2%	3,345	3,153	6%	3,496	3,248	8%	3,614	3,345	8%
Net operating income	17,019	17,045	0%	17,598	17,440	1%	18,117	17,844	2%	18,613	18,257	2%
Operating expenses	-7,450	-7,480	0%	-7,436	-7,435	0%	-7,413	-7,383	0%	-7,382	-7,323	-1%
Credit impairment charge	-522	-524	0%	-688	-688	0%	-862	-859	0%	-950	-943	-1%
Cash earnings b4 tax/distributions	9,047	9,042	0%	9,474	9,316	2%	9,841	9,601	2%	10,281	9,991	3%
Income tax expense	-2,698	-2,696	0%	-2,826	-2,778	-2%	-2,936	-2,863	-2%	-3,067	-2,980	-3%
Distributions	0	0	n/m	0	0	n/m	0	0	n/m	0	0	n/m
Cash earnings	6,349	6,345	0%	6,648	6,538	2%	6,905	6,738	2%	7,213	7,011	3%
Statutory earnings	6,231	6,227	0%	6,530	6,420	2%	6,787	6,620	3%	7,095	6,893	3%
Cash earnings ex-notable items	6,305	6,302	0%	6,605	6,494	2%	6,862	6,695	3%	7,170	6,968	3%
DPS (c)	136	133	2%	140	135	4%	144	141	2%	150	145	3%
EPS (cash basis) (c)	192	192	0%	198	195	2%	204	200	2%	213	207	3%
- ex-notable items (c)	191	191	0%	196	193	2%	203	199	2%	211	206	3%
Cash payout ratio	71%	69%	2%	71%	69%	1%	70%	70%	0%	70%	70%	1%
- ex-notable items	71%	69%	2%	71%	70%	2%	71%	71%	0%	71%	70%	1%
ROE	10.0%	10.0%	0.0%	9.9%	9.7%	0.2%	9.9%	9.7%	0.2%	10.0%	9.7%	0.3%
NIM	1.68%	1.68%	0.00%	1.66%	1.67%	0.00%	1.66%	1.66%	0.00%	1.66%	1.66%	0.00%
CIR	44%	44%	0%	42%	43%	0%	41%	41%	0%	40%	40%	0%
- ex-notable items	44%	44%	0%	43%	43%	0%	41%	42%	0%	40%	40%	0%
Underlying cost base	7,512	7,542	0%	7,498	7,497	0%	7,475	7,445	0%	7,444	7,385	1%
Impairment expense as % of GLA	0.08%	0.08%	0.00%	0.11%	0.11%	0.00%	0.13%	0.13%	0.00%	0.14%	0.14%	0.00%
Effective tax rate	30%	30%	0%	30%	30%	0%	30%	30%	0%	30%	30%	0%

SOURCE: COMPANY DATA AND BELL POTTER SECURITIES ESTIMATES

National Australia Bank

Company description

NAB is a well-diversified financial services organisation providing a comprehensive range of retail and wholesale banking products and services. The bank largely operates in Australia (under the NAB umbrella brands) and in New Zealand (under the BNZ brand) and remains a leader in SME/business banking.

Investment strategy

NAB's turnaround and de-risking phase is complete following the demerger and IPO of CYB. The bank is now focused on the lower risk, capital efficient Australian and New Zealand retail, business and corporate banking market space. Our investment strategy is predicated upon NAB improving its NIM (through repricing and pricing discipline), maintaining tight cost management and lifting its overall ROE to levels that are closer to those of its major bank peers.

Valuation

Our price target is broadly based on a blend of DCF, sustainable dividend yield play, sustainable ROE and fully de-risked SOP valuation weighted equally and as its ROE outlook normalises towards at least 10-12% in the medium term.

Table 4 – Composite valuation					Table 5 – SOP valuation				
Composite Valuation	Value (\$m)	Per NAB share	Weighting	Composite value per NAB share	Sum-of-Parts (As Is)	FY22e NPAT	Pros. PE (times)	Value (\$m)	Per NAB share
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Total				\$31.18	Other including distributions	0	0.0	0	\$0.00
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SWOT analysis

Strengths

1. Agribusiness and SME / commercial banking capabilities;
2. Highest proportion of investment grade exposures in the sector;
3. Lowest exposure to mining and energy;
4. High quality mortgage loan book;
5. Well diversified geographically;
6. Management execution; and
7. Cost and growth discipline, and ROE focus.

Weaknesses

1. NIM still soft in business lending; and
2. Market share loss in SME and business banking segments.

Opportunities

1. Further domestic banking and wealth management opportunities based on securing alternate distribution strategies;
2. Upside risk to planned cost savings following \$1.5bn investment spend; and
3. Driving the Personal and Business Banking cost ratio to below 35%.

Threats

1. Slippage in planned productivity increases;
2. Royal Commission and other political uncertainties;
3. Macroeconomic factors, e.g. unemployment and slowing credit growth;
4. Changes in regulatory environment, especially higher liquidity/capital/funding constraints under proposed global regulatory reforms, and the potential capping of funds management and advice fees that would crimp wealth management earnings growth; and
5. Increased competition specifically from the majors and disruptors on the domestic front in retail and wholesale banking and wealth management.

Sensitivities

Table 6 – Sensitivities									
Y/e September 30	2022e	2023e	2024e	2025e	2026e	2027e	2028e	2029e	2030e
Sensitivities									
Group NIM +10bp									
- NPAT upside (cash basis)	9.1%	9.0%	8.9%	8.8%	8.6%	8.4%	8.2%	8.1%	7.9%
- Price target upside	\$2.83	\$2.80	\$2.77	\$2.72	\$2.66	\$2.61	\$2.56	\$2.50	\$2.45
Group Loans +1%									
- NPAT upside (cash basis)	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%	0.6%	0.6%	0.6%	0.6%
- Price target upside	\$0.21	\$0.21	\$0.21	\$0.20	\$0.20	\$0.20	\$0.20	\$0.19	\$0.19
Australian 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	\$0.13	\$0.13	\$0.13	\$0.12	\$0.12	\$0.12	\$0.12	\$0.12	\$0.12
NZ loans +1%									
- NPAT upside (cash basis)	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%
- Price target upside	\$0.05	\$0.05	\$0.05	\$0.05	\$0.05	\$0.05	\$0.05	\$0.05	\$0.05
Other income +1%									
- NPAT upside (cash basis)	0.3%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%
- Price target upside	\$0.11	\$0.11	\$0.11	\$0.11	\$0.11	\$0.11	\$0.10	\$0.10	\$0.10
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	-\$0.02	-\$0.02	-\$0.03	-\$0.03	-\$0.03	-\$0.03	-\$0.03	-\$0.03	-\$0.03
Costs +1%									
- NPAT upside (cash basis)	-0.8%	-0.8%	-0.8%	-0.7%	-0.7%	-0.6%	-0.6%	-0.6%	-0.5%
- Price target upside	-\$0.25	-\$0.24	-\$0.23	-\$0.22	-\$0.21	-\$0.20	-\$0.19	-\$0.18	-\$0.17

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.

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T S Lim, authoring analyst, holds a long position in NAB.

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