## **BÉLL POTTER**

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### **Smartpay Holdings Ltd (SMP)**

The preferred way to pay

### Recommendation

Hold (unchanged)
Price

\$1.15

Target (12 months)

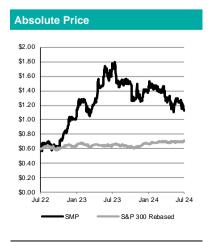
\$1.30 (unchanged)

#### Sector

**Diversified Financials** 

Expected Return	
Capital growth	13.0%
Dividend yield	0.0%
Total expected return	13.0%
Company Data & Ratios	
Enterprise value	\$282.7m
Market cap	\$278.4m
Issued capital	242.1m
Free float	67.7%
Avg. daily val. (52wk)	\$387,316
12 month price range	\$1.11-\$1.80

Price Performance					
	(1m)	(3m)	(12m)		
Price (A\$)	1.29	1.32	1.67		
Absolute (%)	-10.9	-12.9	-31.1		
Pol market (%)	-12 1	-14 9	-44 6		



SOURCE: IRESS

### New merchant verticals look to deliver value

Smartpay's AGM included a trading update that highlighted merchant conditions over April and May. Milestone progress on the New Zealand proposition was also provided.

**Merchant terminals:** The Australian terminals fleet grew to 19,100 units and the all-important net adds were +700 over April-May. The Australian merchant base rose to 13,500 (13,000 FY24) and we estimate similar onboarding rates have been sustained, with an average 1.4x terminals per new customer in April and May. While the company no longer provides quarterly updates, our forecast net adds in 1Q25 is +700.

**Acquiring revenues:** We estimate monthly recurring revenue of NZ\$384 per average unit deployed in May. Management guided to soft total transaction value for hospitality merchants (down ~10% in the worst effected vertical), so aggregate growth of 0.7% versus 1H24 (~NZ\$381) looks positive. We believe that recent customer acquisitions are starting to bear fruit, driven by back-book churn (including attrition from the legacy integrations) and newly onboarded merchants that exhibit better value and margin.

We estimate a 1.31% revenue margin for May 2024 (1.27% 1H24). In our opinion this reinforces the end-to-end payments proposition; and suggests a continued take-up for the company's Zero Cost™ EFTPOS surcharge solution.

**Network effect:** End-to-end testing for the New Zealand android terminal is on-track and scheduled to commence with partners in July.

1Q is usually soft for net adds and we make no change to our revenue forecasts.

### Investment view: Maintain Hold; PT \$1.30 p/s

SMP has an implied 7.6% market share for small business EFTPOS terminals. While we see headroom to further grow market share, our investment thesis is predicated on scalability. Insufficient cash conversion could limit unit deployments and double-digit revenue growth on our estimates. We note that unit hardware capex and marketing costs increased in 2H24. Likely catalysts will be: (1) further ARPU improvement; and (2) operating leverage from expensed CACs when the NZ proposition is launched.

Earnings Forecast							
Year Ending 31 March	2024	2025e	2026e	2027e			
Sales (NZ\$m)	96.5	113.9	143.2	172.5			
EBITDA (Underlying) (NZ\$m)	22.3	21.4	31.6	39.1			
NPAT (Reported) (NZ\$m)	8.5	8.7	15.8	20.2			
NPAT (Adjusted) (NZ\$m)	9.5	8.7	15.8	20.2			
EPS (Adjusted) (NZ¢ps)	4.0	3.6	6.6	8.5			
EPS Growth (%)	9.1%	-8.4%	82.3%	27.3%			
PER (x)	32.1	35.0	19.2	15.1			
EV/EBITDA (x)	13.8	14.4	9.8	7.9			
FCF Yield (%)	0.1%	1.1%	5.1%	6.6%			
Dividend (NZ¢ps)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0			
Yield (%)	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%			
Franking (%)	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%			
ROE (%)	20.0%	15.3%	23.0%	23.2%			

SOURCE: BELL POTTER SECURITIES ESTIMATES

## **Smartpay Holdings Ltd (SMP)**

### **Company Description**

Smartpay Holdings (SMP) is an independent full-service provider of payment solutions, offering omni-channel EFTPOS capabilities that are designed, developed and implemented through a B2B arrangement for customers in Australia and New Zealand. This includes facilitating electronic payment methods, integrating data management and connectivity between EFTPOS and PoS devices; and providing transaction processing services that settle funds to merchant bank accounts for predominantly SMEs in Australia.

### **Investment Thesis and Valuation**

We maintain our Hold recommendation and Target Price of \$1.30 p/s. SMP should benefit from system growth within digital payments and capture market share, balanced by difficult economic conditions and higher investment costs. We view the unit economics as attractive, where each additional Australian unit is estimated to provide for an NPV of NZ\$13,000 over an implied 10-year asset duration.

### **Risks to Investment Thesis**

Key downside risks to an investment in SMP include but are not limited to:

**Economic risk:** There is a risk that an economic downturn could reduce retail transactions for SME customers or even jeopardise their survivorship, leading to an adverse impact on SMP's future financial performance.

**Innovation risk:** Product development could take longer or be more expensive than expected, not be attractive to potential customers, or not be successful at all. There is also a risk that financial intermediation removes the current acquiring partnership with Cuscal, or undermines the provision of value-add services, which could adversely affect SMP's competitive position and profitability.

**Strategy execution risk:** SMP's future profitability will be contingent to the provision of ongoing service and support functionality and to ensure that customers remain with the business. Any increase in customer churn could prevent SMP from achieving its overall growth targets which could, in turn, adversely affect its profitability.

**Disruption risk:** SMP is heavily reliant on the capability and reliability of its IT systems and backup systems, and those of its external service providers such as communication carriers, ISPs and the switching partner (Cuscal), to process transactions and generally to enable it to operate its transaction processing capabilities. Any disruption to, or failure in, these processes could materially impact the operations and financial performance.

**Data security risk:** SMP processes sensitive end customer information and is heavily reliant on the security of its payment systems infrastructure to ensure that Merchants retain confidence when using the products and services. Any breach of security or customer data privacy could lead to the transmission of information, which may result in reputational damage and/or possible liability claims.

**Competition risk:** The New Zealand EFTPOS terminal rental market is mature. There is a risk that price competition could become more intense if SMP is unable to differentiate its value-add services. This could deteriorate the competitive advantage over independent equipment providers.

# Smartpay Holdings Ltd as at 12 July 2024

RecommendationHoldPrice\$1.15Target (12 months)\$1.30

Table 1 - Financial sum	IIIai y										
March Year End						Price (A\$)					\$1.15
Profit & Loss (NZ\$m)	2023	2024	2025e	2026e	2027e	Implied Price (NZ\$)					\$1.28
Sales Revenue	77.8	96.5	113.9	143.2	172.5	Recommendation					Hold
% Change	61.8%	24.1%	18.0%	25.7%	20.5%	Shares on Issue (m)					242.1
EBITDA	18.6	22.3	21.4	31.6	39.1	Market Cap (A\$m)					278.4
% Change	67.8%	20.0%	-4.0%	47.5%	23.7%	Target Price (A\$ps)					\$1.30
Depreciation & Amortisation	(9.9)	(11.6)	(12.1)	(12.7)	(13.2)						
EBIT	8.8	10.8	9.3	18.9	25.9	Valuation Ratios	2023	2024	2025e	2026e	2027e
Net Interest	(0.6)	(0.5)	0.3	0.9	2.1	Core EPS (NZ¢ps)	3.6	4.0	3.6	6.6	8.5
EBT (Before Impairments)	8.1	10.3	9.7	19.8	28.0	% Change	291.8%	9.1%	-8.4%	82.3%	27.3%
Impairments & FX Adj.	(0.3)	(0.5)	-	-	-	DPS (NZ¢ps)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
EBT	7.8	9.9	9.7	19.8	28.0	P/E (x)	35.0	32.1	35.0	19.2	15.1
Tax Benefit/(Expense)	0.9	(0.4)	(1.0)	(4.0)	(7.8)	P/CF (x)	82.9	1,842.8	88.9	19.5	15.2
Underlying NPAT	8.7	9.5	8.7	15.8	20.2	EV/EBITDA (x)	16.6	13.8	14.4	9.8	7.9
Significant Items (Post-Tax)	(0.2)	(1.0)	-	-	-	EV/EBIT (x)	35.2	28.6	33.2	16.3	11.9
Reported NPAT	8.5	8.5	8.7	15.8	20.2	NTA (NZ¢ps)	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.3
	****		***	***		P/NTA (x)	21.4	15.2	11.5	7.4	5.1
Cashflow (NZ\$m)	2023	2024	2025e	2026e	2027e	B ( 0 )			0005	0000	
EBITDA	18.6	22.3	21.4	31.6	39.1	Perf. & Leverage Ratios	2023	2024	2025e	2026e	2027e
Changes in Working Capital	5.0	4.1	0.3	4.7	4.7	EBITDA Margin (%)	23.9%	23.1%	18.8%	22.1%	22.7%
Gross Cash Flow	23.6	26.4	21.8	36.3	43.8	EBIT Margin (%)	11.3%	11.2%	8.2%	13.2%	15.0%
Net Interest Expense	(8.0)	(0.5)	0.3	0.9	2.1	OCF Realisation (%)	100.1%	92.4%	101.7%	116.4%	114.1%
Income Tax Paid	0.6	(1.7)	(1.0)	(4.0)	(7.8)	FCF Realisation (%)	42.2%	1.7%	39.3%	98.6%	99.0%
Residual Operating Items	(4.9)	(4.8)				ROA (%)	10.9%	7.9%	6.1%	10.8%	11.4%
Operating Cash Flow	18.6	19.4	21.2	33.3	38.1	ROE (%)	22.2%	20.0%	15.3%	23.0%	23.2%
Finance Leases	(1.1)	(1.5)	(1.9)	(1.9)	(1.9)	ROIC (%)	22.5%	23.9%	17.6%	34.0%	46.5%
Lease Adjusted OCF	17.5	17.9	19.2	31.4	36.1	Payout Ratio (%)	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Capital Expenditure	(13.8)	(17.8)	(15.8)	(15.7)	(16.2)	Dividend Yield (%)	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Free Cash Flow	3.7	0.2	3.4	15.6	20.0	Franking (%)	-	-	-	-	-
Dividends Paid	-	-	-	-	-	Net Interest Cover (x)	13.7	23.9	(27.4)	(20.8)	(12.6)
Share Issues	-	-	-	-	-	Net Debt/EBITDA (x)	(0.1)	(0.1)	(0.3)	(0.7)	(1.1)
Change in Borrowings	(1.3)	(1.0)	(1.0)	(1.0)	(1.0)	Net Debt/Equity (%)	-4.8%	-4.2%	-9.2%	-27.6%	-42.4%
Net Change in Cash	2.4	(0.8)	2.4	14.6	19.0	Net Debt/Net Debt+Equity (%)	-5.1%	-4.4%	-10.1%	-38.1%	-73.7%
				****			***			****	
Balance Sheet (NZ\$m)	2023	2024	2025e	2026e	2027e	Segment Revenue (NZ\$m)	2023	2024	2025e	2026e	2027e
Cash & Equivalents	12.0	11.2	13.6	28.2	47.2	New Zealand	14.6	14.1	19.6	31.7	41.3
Restricted Bank Accounts	7.4	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0	Australia	63.2	82.4	94.3	111.5	131.2
Receivables	16.0	61.5	33.8	42.5	51.3	Other	0.0	0.0			
Other	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	Revenue	77.8	96.5	113.9	143.2	172.5
Current assets	35.5	81.9	56.6	79.9	107.6	11.50	0000	0004	2225	0000	
Plant, Property & Equipment	15.6	25.4	28.9	32.7	36.9	Unit Assumptions	2023	2024	2025e	2026e	2027e
Right-of-Use Assets	4.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	New Zealand Units	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
Contract Costs	2.5	2.6	2.3	2.1	1.9	Australian Units	15,700	18,400	21,500	25,000	28,900
Intangible Assets	13.3	17.6	20.0	21.3	22.2	Group Units	45,700	48,400	51,500	55,000	58,900
Goodwill	14.8	14.8	14.8	14.8	14.8	Madel Drivere (Avetable)	2022	2024	2025	2020-	2027-
Other	2.2	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	Model Drivers (Australia)	2023	2024	2025e	2026e	2027e
Non Current Assets	52.7	69.7	75.3	80.2	85.1	Value/Average Unit (NZ\$'000)	328.6	322.1	317.0	323.4	329.8
Total Assets	88.3	151.6	131.9	160.2	192.7	Volume/Average Unit (#'000)	10.9	10.2	11.2	12.2	13.2
Payables	29.8	79.4	52.1	65.5	78.9	GP Margin (%)	51.3%	48.6%	48.2%	47.0%	45.9%
Borrowings	1.0	-	- 24	- 0.4	- 2.4						
Other	2.6	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4						
Current Liabilities	33.3	81.8	54.5	67.9	81.2						
Borrowings	9.0	9.0 5.3	8.0 5.3	7.0 5.3	6.0 5.3						
Lease liabilities Other	3.6	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3						
Non Current Liabilities	12.6	17.4	16.4		1//						
Total Liabilities				15.4	14.4						
Net Assets	46.0 42.3	99.2 52.4	70.8 61.1	83.2 76.9	95.6 97.1						
~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~				76.9							
Contributed Equity	91.6	91.6	91.6	91.6	91.6						
Share Performance Rights	1.9	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2						
Forex Translation Reserve	0.2	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5						
Retained Profits/(Losses)	(51.4)	(42.9)	(34.3)	(18.4)	1.7						
	42.3	52.4	61.1	76.9	97.1						
Shareholders Equity	72.5										
Net Debt/(Cash)	(2.0)	(2.2)	(5.6)	(21.2)	(41.2)						

SOURCE: 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

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.

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