

RELEASE TO AUSTRALIAN STOCK EXCHANGE LIMITED 23 February 2009

Wide Bay Australia Ltd (WBB) reports strong six months

The Board of Directors of Wide Bay Australia Ltd (Wide Bay) are pleased to advise that although the last six months has provided a difficult economic environment, it has been a successful trading period for the Company.

The past six months have seen the culmination of the acquisition of Mackay Permanent Building Society Ltd (MPBS), the full integration of their operations and the implementation and extraction of the anticipated synergies.

The Company has experienced strong growth in profit for the period with an after tax profit of \$9.585 million – an increase of 16.5% compared to the corresponding period of 2007/2008.

The Cost to Income ratio increased to 58.1% for the period, as compared with 55.3%, affected to some extent by higher funding costs. Lending for the Half was down as expected at \$209 million compared to \$266 million for the previous corresponding period, resulting in a slight increase in the outstanding loan book. Lending demand continues to be steady and with the advent of lower interest rates and the introduction of the increased First Home Owners Grant, the Company expects a steady performance for the remainder of this financial year.

The bad and doubtful debt expense for the period shows a credit of \$40,887 as a result of adjustments to previous provisioning. This reflects strong lending activities, where the bulk of the loans are secured by residential mortgages and insured with lenders mortgage insurance.

Wide Bay does not actively participate in unsecured commercial loans or personal loans and has never been involved in 'sub-prime' or 'low-doc' lending.

The Company's wholly owned captive mortgage insurer has had a reduced result for the period with a higher provisioning for possible claims, delivering an after tax surplus for the six months of \$612,006. Provisioning for possible future claims are assessed quarterly by an external actuary based on the outstanding arrears in the loan book and reflects their estimate as at 31 December 2008. With the current economic situation it is expected that there will be a greater number of claims than in the past, however the Company continues to anticipate a strong result.

With the integration of MPBS, Wide Bay has carefully analysed the operations of the 45 branches throughout Queensland. In Cairns and Townsville, where we were unhappy with the locations of the branches, the Company is now in the process of repositioning them to stronger locations and in the case of Townsville, reducing the number of branches to two.

Wide Bay continues to maintain its "BBB-" credit rating with Standard and Poors.

While wholesale funding costs have increased substantially over recent periods, the Company has been able to maintain its margins and the management forecasts anticipate a further steady growth for 2008/2009.

In respect of funding, initiatives are in place with warehousing facilities, a repurchase facility has been established with the Reserve Bank of Australia and the Company has experienced steady growth in retail deposits.

The Rights Issue in December was well received and resulted in an issue of a further 1,265,996 shares. The Board has resolved to pay a 30 cent dividend on 23 March 2009, which will also be payable on the shares issued under the Rights Issue.

The Directors have also resolved to increase the discount for shares issued under the Company's Dividend Reinvestment Plan. The discount will be increased from 2.5 per cent to 7.5 per cent and will apply to future dividends until further notice.

2009 is clearly going to be a difficult year, where the focus will be on tight credit quality and containment of costs, particularly wholesale funding and with areas such as arrears. The recent reductions in the official interest rates enabled us to pass on the bulk of these reductions, which has and will continue to assist the management of any arrears, which develop through the current economic difficulties.

On behalf of the Board, we extend our appreciation to the Management team, to all of our staff, customers and shareholders for your continued support.



John Pressler OAM
Chairman



Ron Hancock AM
Managing Director

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Appendix 4D

Half year report

Period ending 31 December 2008

Name of Entity	Wide Bay Australia Ltd
ABN	40 087 652 060
Half Year Ended	31 December 2008
Previous Corresponding Reporting Period	6 months to 31 December 2007

Results for announcement to the market

\$A'000

Revenue from ordinary activities	Up	32.92%	to	101,609
Profit from ordinary activities after tax attributable to members	Up	16.47%	to	9,585
Net profit for the period attributable to members	Up	16.47%	to	9,585
Dividends (distributions) - Ordinary shares			Amount per security	Franked amount per security
Final dividend (30 June 2008) - paid 3 October 2008			33.0c	33.0c
Interim dividend (31 December 2008)			30.0c	30.0c
The record date for determining entitlements to the dividends			11 March 2009	

Net tangible assets per security

	Current period	Previous corresponding period
Net tangible asset backing per ordinary share	\$ 3.50	\$ 3.76

Details of associates and joint venture entities

Controlled entities	Country of incorporation	% Holding		Contribution to consolidated operating profit after income tax	
		Current period	Previous corresponding period	Current period	Previous corresponding period
				\$A'000	\$A'000
Mortgage Risk Management Pty Ltd	Australia	100	100	612	1,475
Wide Bay Australia Mini Lease Pty Ltd	Australia	51	51	(20)	(68)
Mackay Permanent Building Society Ltd	Australia	100	-	-	-
MPBS Insurance Pty Ltd	Australia	100	-	-	-
MPBS Holdings Pty Ltd	Australia	100	-	(28)	-
F.I. Software Solutions Pty Ltd	Australia	100	-	-	-

Dividends

Amount per security		Amount per security	Franked amount per security	Amount per security of foreign source dividend
Interim dividend	Current year	30.0c	30.0c	Nil
	Previous year	33.0c	33.0c	Nil

Interim dividends on all securities		Current period	Previous corresponding period
		\$A'000	\$A'000
Ordinary securities			
Interim dividend payable 23 March 2009 - previous period paid 21 March 2008		9,259	9,625
Total		9,259	9,625

DIVIDEND REINVESTMENT PLAN

The Dividend Reinvestment Plan has been reintroduced by the Board of Directors.

The choices are for Full Participation where the dividend on all fully paid shares or contributing shares held is reinvested in new shares, or Partial Participation where the dividend on a specified number of shares is reinvested in new shares.

To participate in the plan, shareholders must complete the Application Form and lodge the form with the Company's Share Registry. Full terms and conditions of the dividend reinvestment plan and the application form will be forwarded to shareholders by the Company's Share Registry.

Ranking for dividend

Shares issued under the plan will rank equally in every respect with existing fully paid permanent ordinary shares and will participate in all cash dividends declared after the date of issue.

Issue price of the new shares

The shares issued under the Plan in respect of the interim dividend for the current year will be issued at a discount of 7.5% on the weighted average sale price of the Company's shares sold during the five trading days immediately following the Record Date.

The final date for the receipt of the application form for participation in the dividend reinvestment plan is 11 March 2009.

	\$A'000
Shares issued under dividend reinvestment plan 3 October 2008	
166,622 shares issued at \$8.38 per share	1,396

WIDE BAY AUSTRALIA LTD - ABN 40 087 652 060
CONDENSED INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE HALF YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2008

	CONSOLIDATED	
	6 MONTHS TO	6 MONTHS TO
	31/12/2008	31/12/2007
	\$000's	\$000's
Interest revenue	93,479	69,223
Finance costs	68,692	51,350
	24,787	17,873
Net interest revenue		
Non interest revenue	8,130	7,224
	32,917	25,097
Total operating income		
Bad and doubtful debts expense	(41)	65
Other expenses	19,161	13,809
	13,797	11,223
Profit before income tax		
Income tax expense	4,230	3,060
	9,567	8,163
Profit after tax from continuing operations		
Profit attributable to minority interest	(18)	(66)
	9,585	8,229
Net profit attributable to members of the parent company		
Basic earnings per share (cents per share)	32.60	32.90
Diluted earnings per share (cents per share)	32.60	32.90

WIDE BAY AUSTRALIA LTD
CONDENSED BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2008

	CONSOLIDATED	
	AS AT	AS AT
	31/12/2008	30/06/2008
	\$000's	\$000's
ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	100,402	72,360
Due from other financial institutions	5,708	12,309
Accrued receivables	16,584	13,372
Financial assets available for sale	174,423	98,372
Loans and advances	2,031,663	1,995,970
Other investments	7,307	7,310
Property, plant & equipment	21,072	21,892
Deferred income tax assets	1,842	2,531
Other assets	8,509	12,280
Goodwill	42,057	41,310
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TOTAL ASSETS	2,409,567	2,277,706
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LIABILITIES		
Deposits and short term borrowings	1,193,568	1,127,041
Due to other financial institutions	141,228	390
Payables and other liabilities	32,251	29,994
Securitised loans	870,201	947,998
Income tax payable	(1,615)	(1,021)
Deferred income tax liabilities	3,098	2,914
Provisions	10,699	10,362
Subordinated capital notes	10,000	20,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	2,259,430	2,137,678
	<hr/>	<hr/>
NET ASSETS	150,137	140,028
	<hr/>	<hr/>
EQUITY		
Parent entity interest in equity		
Contributed equity	116,144	105,931
Reserves	14,939	14,939
Retained profits	19,526	19,612
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Total parent entity interest in equity	150,609	140,482
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Outside equity interest in controlled entities		
Contributed equity	1	1
Retained profits	(473)	(455)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total outside equity interest	(472)	(454)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL EQUITY	150,137	140,028
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WIDE BAY AUSTRALIA LTD
CONDENSED CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE HALF YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2008

	NOTE	CONSOLIDATED 6 MONTHS TO 31/12/2008 \$000's	CONSOLIDATED 6 MONTHS TO 31/12/2007 \$000's
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Interest received		93,083	68,711
Borrowing costs		(63,029)	(49,504)
Other non interest income received		7,291	8,802
Cash paid to suppliers & employees		(10,291)	(6,222)
Income tax paid		(4,424)	(4,496)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
NET CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		22,630	17,291
		<hr/>	<hr/>
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Net increase in investment securities		(77,472)	(29,131)
Net increase in amounts due from other financial institutions		8,022	2,753
Net increase in loans		(42,704)	(47,214)
Net increase in other investments		3	(643)
Purchase of non current assets		(458)	(524)
Proceeds from sale of property, plant & equipment		12	-
		<hr/>	<hr/>
NET CASH USED IN INVESTING ACTIVITIES		(112,597)	(74,759)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Net increase in deposits and other borrowings		64,253	28,425
Purchase (redemption) of subordinated capital notes		(10,000)	-
Net increase in amounts due to other financial institutions and other liabilities		63,680	42,436
Proceeds from share issue		8,346	438
Dividends paid	2	(8,270)	(7,499)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
NET CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES		118,009	63,800
		<hr/>	<hr/>
NET INCREASE/(DECREASE) IN CASH HELD		28,042	6,332
Cash at beginning of financial year		72,360	50,073
		<hr/>	<hr/>
CASH AT END OF HALF YEAR		100,402	56,405
		<hr/>	<hr/>

WIDE BAY AUSTRALIA LTD
CONDENSED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR THE HALF YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2008

CONSOLIDATED	Share Capital Ordinary	Retained Profits	Asset Revaluation Reserve	General Reserve	Statutory Reserve	Doubtful Debts Reserve	Minority Interests	Total
	\$000's	\$000's	\$000's	\$000's	\$000's	\$000's	\$000's	\$000's
Balance at 01 July 2007	59,621	18,810	4,041	5,834	2,676	1,929	(394)	92,517
Profit attributable to members of parent entity	-	8,229	-	-	-	-	-	8,229
Profit attributable to minority shareholders	-	-	-	-	-	-	(66)	(66)
Sub-total	59,621	27,039	4,041	5,834	2,676	1,929	(460)	100,680
Issue of share capital	1,104	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,104
Dividends provided for or paid - ordinary shares	-	(7,499)	-	-	-	-	-	(7,499)
Balance at 31 December 2007	60,725	19,540	4,041	5,834	2,676	1,929	(460)	94,285
Balance at 01 July 2008	105,931	19,612	4,041	5,834	2,676	2,388	(453)	140,029
Profit attributable to members of parent entity	-	9,585	-	-	-	-	-	9,585
Profit attributable to minority shareholders	-	-	-	-	-	-	(19)	(19)
Sub-total	105,931	29,197	4,041	5,834	2,676	2,388	(472)	149,595
Issue of share capital	10,213	-	-	-	-	-	-	10,213
Dividends provided for or paid - ordinary shares	-	(9,671)	-	-	-	-	-	(9,671)
Balance at 31 December 2008	116,144	19,526	4,041	5,834	2,676	2,388	(472)	150,137

WIDE BAY AUSTRALIA LTD
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE HALF YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2008

1. BASIS OF PREPARATION

The half year consolidated financial statements are a general purpose financial report prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Corporations Act 2001*, Accounting Standard AASB 134: Interim Financial Reporting and other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board, including Australian Accounting Interpretations.

It is recommended that this financial report be read in conjunction with the annual financial report for the year ended 30 June 2008 and any public announcements made by Wide Bay Australia Ltd and its controlled entities during the half year in accordance with continuous disclosure requirements arising under the *Corporations Act 2001*.

Except as described below, the accounting policies applied by the consolidated entity in this consolidated interim financial report are the same as those applied by the consolidated entity in its consolidated financial report as at and for the year ended 30 June 2008.

The half year report does not include full disclosures of the type normally included in an annual financial report.

a) PRINCIPLES OF CONSOLIDATION

A controlled entity is any entity Wide Bay Australia Ltd has the power to control the financial and operating policies of so as to obtain benefits from its activities.

All inter-company balances and transactions between entities in the economic entity, including any unrealised profits or losses, have been eliminated on consolidation. Accounting policies of subsidiaries have been changed where necessary to ensure consistencies with those policies applied by the parent company.

Where controlled entities have entered or left the economic entity during the year, their operating results have been included/excluded from the date control was obtained or until the date control ceased.

Minority equity interests in the equity and results of the entities that are controlled are shown as a separate item in the consolidated financial report.

b) INCOME TAX

The economic entity adopts the liability method of tax-effect accounting whereby the income tax expense is based on the profit from ordinary activities adjusted for any non-assessable or disallowed items.

Deferred tax is accounted for using the balance sheet liability method in respect of temporary differences arising between the tax bases of assets and liabilities and their carrying amounts in the financial statements. No deferred income tax will be recognised from the initial recognition of an asset or liability, excluding a business combination, where there is no effect on accounting or taxable profit or loss.

Deferred tax is calculated at the tax rates that are expected to apply to the period when the asset is realised or liability is settled. Deferred tax is credited in the income statement except where it relates to items that may be credited directly to equity, in which case the deferred tax is adjusted directly against equity.

Deferred income tax assets are recognised to the extent that it is probable that future tax profits will be available against which deductible temporary differences can be utilised.

The amount of benefits brought to account or which may be realised in the future is based on the assumption that no adverse change will occur in income taxation legislation and the anticipation that the economic entity will derive sufficient future assessable income to enable the benefit to be realised and comply with the conditions of deductibility imposed by the law.

Tax consolidation legislation

The company and all its wholly-owned Australian resident entities are part of a tax-consolidated group under Australian taxation law. Wide Bay Australia Ltd is the head entity in the tax consolidation group, and as a consequence recognises current and deferred tax amounts relating to transactions, events and balances of the wholly-owned Australian controlled entities in this group as if those transactions, events and balances were its own, in addition to the current and deferred tax amounts arising in relation

to its own transactions, events and balances.

The tax consolidated group has not entered into a tax sharing agreement.

c) PROPERTY, PLANT & EQUIPMENT

Each class of property, plant and equipment is carried at cost or fair value less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses.

Freehold land and buildings are shown at their fair value (being the amount for which an asset could be exchanged between knowledgeable willing parties in an arm's length transaction), based on periodic, but at least triennial, valuations by external independent valuers, less subsequent depreciation for buildings.

Any accumulated depreciation at the date of revaluation is eliminated against the gross carrying amount of the asset and the net amount is restated to the re-valued amount of the asset.

Plant and equipment are measured on the cost basis less depreciation and impairment losses.

The carrying amount of plant and equipment is reviewed annually by directors to ensure it is not in excess of the recoverable amount from these assets. The recoverable amount is assessed on the basis of the expected net cash flows that will be received from the assets employment and subsequent disposal. The expected net cash flows have been discounted to their present values in determining recoverable amounts.

Subsequent costs are included in the asset's carrying amount or recognised as a separate asset, as appropriate, only when it is probable that future economic benefits associated with the item will flow to the group and the cost of the item can be measured reliably. All other repairs and maintenance are charged to the income statement during the financial period in which they are incurred.

Increases in the carrying amount arising on revaluation of land and buildings are credited to a revaluation reserve in shareholders' equity. Decreases that offset previous increases of the same asset are charged against fair value reserves directly in equity; all other decreases are charged to the income statement.

Depreciation

The depreciable amount of all fixed assets including building and capitalised lease assets, but excluding freehold land, is depreciated on a straight line basis over their useful lives to the economic entity commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use. Leasehold improvements are depreciated over the shorter of either the unexpired period of the lease or the estimated useful lives of the improvements.

The depreciation periods used for each class of depreciable assets are:

Buildings - 40 years

Plant and equipment - 4 to 6 years

Leasehold improvements - 4 to 6 years or the term of the lease, whichever is the lesser

The assets' residual values and useful lives are reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate, at each balance sheet date.

An asset's carrying amount is written down immediately to its recoverable amount if the asset's carrying amount is greater than its estimated recoverable amount.

Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing proceeds with the carrying amount. These gains and losses are included in the income statement. When revalued assets are sold, amounts included in the revaluation reserve relating to that asset are transferred to retained earnings.

d) LEASES

Leases of fixed assets where substantially all the risks and benefits incidental to the ownership of the asset, but not the legal ownership that are transferred to entities in the economic entity are classified as finance leases.

Finance leases are capitalised by recording an asset and a liability at the lower of the amounts equal to the fair value of the leased property or the present value of the minimum lease payments, including any guaranteed residual values. Lease payments are allocated between the reduction of the lease liability and the lease interest expense for the period.

Leased assets are depreciated on a straight-line basis over their estimated useful lives where it is likely

that the economic entity will obtain ownership of the asset or over the term of the lease.

Lease payments for operating leases, where substantially all the risks and benefits remain with the lessor, are charged as expenses in the periods in which they are incurred.

e) FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

Recognition

Financial instruments are initially measured at cost on trade date, which includes transaction costs, when the related contractual rights or obligations exist. Subsequent to initial recognition these instruments are measured as set out below.

Financial assets at fair value through profit and loss

A financial asset is classified in this category if acquired principally for the purpose of selling in the short term or if so designated by management. Realised and unrealised gains and losses arising from changes in the fair value of these assets are included in the income statement in the period in which they arise.

Loans and receivables

Loans and receivables are non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market and are stated at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method.

Held-to-maturity investments

These investments have fixed maturities and it is the group's intention to hold these investments to maturity. Any held-to-maturity investments held by the group are stated at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method.

Available-for-sale financial assets

Available-for-sale financial assets include any financial assets not included in the above categories. Available-for-sale financial assets are reflected at fair value. Unrealised gains and losses arising from changes in fair value are taken directly to equity.

Financial liabilities

Non-derivative financial liabilities are recognised at amortised cost, comprising original debt less principal payments and amortisation.

Fair value

Fair value is determined based on current bid prices for all quoted investments. Valuation techniques are applied to determine the fair value for all unlisted securities, including recent arm's length transactions, reference to similar instruments and option pricing models.

Impairment

At each reporting date, the group assess whether there is objective evidence that a financial instrument has been impaired. In the case of available-for-sale financial instruments, a prolonged decline in the value of the instrument is considered to determine whether an impairment has arisen. Impairment losses are recognised in the income statement.

f) INVESTMENTS IN ASSOCIATES

Investments in associate companies are recognised in the financial statements by applying the equity method of accounting where significant influence is exercised over an investee. Significant influence exists where the investor has the power to participate in the financial and operating policy decisions of the investees but does not have control or joint control over those policies.

The financial statements of the associate are used by the group to apply the equity method. The reporting dates of the associate and the group are identical and both use consistent accounting policies.

The investment in the associate is carried in the consolidated balance sheet at cost plus post-acquisition changes in the group's share of net assets of the associate, less any impairment in value. The consolidated income statement reflects the group's share of the results of operations of the associate.

Where there has been a change recognised directly in the associate's equity, the group recognises its share of any changes and discloses this, when applicable, in the consolidated statement of changes in equity.

g) GOODWILL

Goodwill acquired in a business combination is initially measured at its cost, being the excess of the cost of the business combination over the group's interest in the net fair value of the identifiable assets, liabilities and contingent liabilities recognised at the date of the acquisition. Goodwill is subsequently measured at its cost less any accumulated impairment losses. For the purpose of impairment testing, goodwill is allocated to each of the group's cash-generating units, or groups of cash-generating units, expected to benefit from the synergies of the business combination. Cash-generating units or groups of cash-generating units to which goodwill has been allocated are tested for impairment annually, or more frequently if events or changes in circumstances indicate that goodwill might be impaired.

h) INTANGIBLES

Goodwill and goodwill on consolidation are initially recorded at the amount by which the purchase price for a business or for an ownership interest in a controlled entity exceeds the fair value attributed to its net assets at date of acquisition. Goodwill on acquisitions of subsidiaries is included in intangible assets. Goodwill on acquisition of associates is included in investments in associates. Goodwill is tested annually for impairment and carried at cost less accumulated impairment losses. Gains and losses on the disposal of an entity include the carrying amount of goodwill relating to the entity sold.

i) EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

Provision is made for the company's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to balance date. Employee benefits that are expected to be settled within one year have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled, plus related on-costs. Employee benefits payable later than one year have been measured at the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made for those benefits.

j) PROVISIONS

Provisions are recognised when the group has a legal or constructive obligation, as a result of past events, for which it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will result and that outflow can be reliably measured.

k) CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

Cash and cash equivalents includes cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks, and other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

l) GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Tax Office. In these circumstances the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of the expense. Receivables and payables in the balance sheet are shown inclusive of GST.

Cash flows are presented in the cash flow statement on a gross basis, except for the GST component of investing and financing activities, which are disclosed as operating cash flows.

m) REVENUE

Revenue is recognised to the extent that it is probable that the economic benefits will flow to the group and the revenue can be reliably measured.

Interest is recognised as it accrues (using the effective interest method, which is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash receipts through the expected life of the financial instrument) to the net carrying amount of the financial asset.

Dividend revenue is recognised when the shareholder's right to receive the payment is established.

Fees and commissions are recognised as revenue or expenses on an accrual basis.

Premium Revenue - Mortgage Risk Management Pty Ltd

Premiums have been brought to account as income from the date of attachment of risk. Direct Premiums comprise amounts charged to the policy holder, excluding stamp duties collected on behalf of the statutory authorities. The earned portion of premiums received and receivable is recognised as revenue.

n) LOANS AND ADVANCES - DOUBTFUL DEBTS

The society has extended its lending to incorporate limited fully secured commercial lending and

continues to insure the majority of new mortgage loans approved, in particular in excess of 75% LVR, with the society's wholly owned subsidiary, Mortgage Risk Management Pty Ltd, a registered lender's mortgage insurer.

There are no loans on which interest is not being accrued and no specific provision for doubtful debts for any type of loan.

Specific provisions for doubtful debts and write-off of debts are in respect of overdrawn savings accounts, leases and relevant non recoverable amounts.

o) COMPARATIVE FIGURES

When required by Accounting Standards, comparative figures have been adjusted to conform to changes in presentation for the current financial year.

p) ROUNDING OF AMOUNTS

The parent entity has applied the relief available to it under ASIC Class Order 98/100 and accordingly, amounts in the financial report and directors' report have been rounded off to the nearest \$1,000.

q) CRITICAL ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES AND JUDGMENTS

The directors evaluate estimates and judgments incorporated into the financial report based on historical knowledge and best available current information. Estimates assume a reasonable expectation of future events and are based on current trends and economic data, obtained both externally and within the consolidated entity.

WIDE BAY AUSTRALIA LTD
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE HALF YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2008

2. DIVIDENDS PROVIDED FOR OR PAID

The Board declared a dividend of 30.0 cents per ordinary share (\$9.259 million), for the six months to 31 December, 2008, payable on 23 March, 2009.

3. SEGMENT INFORMATION

The Society operates predominantly in one industry. The principal activities of the Society are confined to the raising of funds and the provision of finance for housing. The Society operates within the States of Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia.

4. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

There has been no change in contingent liabilities since the last annual reporting date.

5. VALUE OF INVESTMENTS

At 31 December 2008, the consolidated entity held an investment in a Global Bank Note having a book value of \$1m. The trustee will not permit the issuer to make any further swap payments and coupon payments have been suspended. The trustee has taken steps to preserve all available funds and collateral pending receipt of directions from noteholders which may result in early redemption of the investment.

Due to the uncertain position, the directors of the consolidated entity are not in a position to assess the potential impact (if any) on the value of this investment. The value of the investment is currently reflected at face value in the consolidated entity's balance sheet.

6. EVENTS SUBSEQUENT TO BALANCE DATE

There have been no events subsequent to balance date of a nature which require reporting.