



Australia's First Bank

Westpac Banking Corporation ABN 33 007 457 141

Group Secretariat

Level 25, 60 Martin Place

SYDNEY NSW 2000

Telephone: (61 2) 9216 0390

Facsimile: (61 2) 9226 1888

9 December 2005

Company Announcements Platform
Australian Stock Exchange Limited
20 Bridge Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Sir/Madam

Subsection 259C(2) Exemption Notice

In accordance with subsection 259C(2) of the Australian Securities and Investments Commission Corporations Act, we attach our Notice of Subsection 259C(2) exemption.

Yours faithfully

Emma Lawler
Company Secretary

**Notice given in accordance with Australian Securities and Investments
Commission Corporations Act Subsection 259C(2) Exemption**

To: Company Announcements Office
 The Australian Stock Exchange Limited
 20 Bridge Street
 Sydney NSW 2000

Westpac Banking Corporation (ABN 33 007 457 141) ("The Company") gives notice of the aggregated percentage of voting shares in the company, in respect of which its controlled entities have the power to control voting or disposal of in accordance with the terms of an exemption granted by the Australian Securities and Investments Commission pursuant to subsection 259C(2) of the Corporations Act.

1. Previous Notice

Particulars of the aggregated percentage of voting share in the Company at the time at which it was last required to give a notice to the Australian Stock Exchange ("The ASX") are contained in the notice given to the ASX on: 25/11/2005

The notice was dated: 25/11/2005

2. Issued Share Capital

25,769,493 Ordinary shares in the capital of the Company have been issued as at: 07/12/2005

3. Aggregate percentage of voting shares

The aggregated percentage of voting shares in respect of which the Company's controlled entities have the power to control voting or disposal and voting shares underlying derivatives held by the Company's controlled entities is:

1.38% of total number of voting shares on issue.

4. Details of relevant interests

Details of present beneficial holders as at 28/09/05 for Westpac Banking Corporation and associated entities:

Holder of interest	Registered holder of securities	Nature of interest (7)	Class and number of securities
BT Funds Management Limited	JP Morgan Custodial Services Limited/Westpac Custodian Nominees Limited	BT Funds Management Limited is the manager, trustee or responsible entity of various superannuation funds,	Ordinary 6,501,904

		institutional investor portfolios and unit trusts and, in that capacity, can exercise the power to vote or dispose of the shares.	
BT Investment Management No.2 Limited	Westpac Custodian Nominees Limited	BT Investment Management No.2 Limited is the manager, trustee or responsible entity of various superannuation funds, institutional investor portfolios and unit trusts and, in that capacity, can exercise the power to vote or dispose of the shares.	Ordinary 5,935,163
BT Investment Management No.3 Pty Limited	Westpac Custodian Nominees Limited	BT Investment Management No.3 Pty Limited is the manager, trustee or responsible entity of various superannuation funds, institutional investor portfolios and unit trusts and, in that capacity, can exercise the power to vote or dispose of the shares.	Ordinary 12,737,610
Perpetual Trustee Company Limited	RBC Global Services Pty Limited	Perpetual is the Trustee for the underlying shares for the Endowment Warrants issued by Challenger Equities Limited ("Challenger"). On 30 April 2004 by Deed of Amendment and Assignment, Challenger assigned its rights and interests in Endowment Warrants issued by Challenger to Westpac Banking Corporation. By Deed of Assignment and Amendment dated 30 April 2004 Westpac appointed Perpetual Trustee Company Limited as a trustee of the underlying securities replacing Challenger.	Ordinary 594,816

5. Addresses

The addresses of persons named in this form are as follows:

Name	Address
Westpac Banking Corporation (WBC)	Level 25, 60 Martin Place, Sydney NSW 2000
Westpac Financial Services Group Limited (WFSG)	Level 15, Chifley Tower, 2 Chifley Square, Sydney NSW 2000
BT Investment Management No.2 Limited	Level 15, Chifley Tower, 2 Chifley Square, Sydney NSW 2000
BT Investment Management No.3 Pty Limited	Level 15, Chifley Tower, 2 Chifley Square, Sydney NSW 2000
BT Funds Management Limited	Level 15, Chifley Tower, 2 Chifley Square, Sydney 2000
Perpetual Trustee Company Limited	39 Hunter Street, Sydney NSW 2000
RBC Global Services Australia Pty Limited	Level 18, 56 Pitt Street, Sydney NSW 2000

Signature

print name Emma Lawler capacity Company Secretary

sign here _____ date 09/12/2005