



Australia's First Bank

Westpac Banking Corporation ABN 33 007 457 141

Group Secretariat

Level 20, 275 Kent Street

SYDNEY NSW 2000

Telephone: (61 2) 8253 0390

Facsimile: (61 2) 8253 1215

18 August 2006

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

Anna O'Connell
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: 03/08/2006

The notice was dated: 03/08/2006

2. Issued Share Capital

22,849,039 Ordinary shares in the capital of the Company have been issued as at: 17/08/2006

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:

1.24% of total number of voting shares on issue.

4. Details of relevant interests

Details of present beneficial holders as at 03/08/2006 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 5,255,592

		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 5,310,743
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 11,756,563
Westpac Custodian Nominees Limited	Westpac Custodian Nominees Limited	Westpac Custodian Nominees Limited holds legal title over Westpac shares underlying Endowment Warrant on behalf of the issuer, Endowment Warrants Limited. Perpetual Trustee Company Limited holds a beneficial interest under a Deed of Charge over the same shares on behalf of Endowment Warrant holders.* (Net Nominees Limited, a subsidiary of Westpac, may from time to time hold some Endowment Warrants in its capacity as market maker. This would give it an economic exposure to the Westpac shares underlying these Warrants).	Ordinary 526,441

*Westpac Custodian Nominees replaced Perpetual as trustee on 5 April 2005. Notices issued since that date should have referred to the legal title holding by Westpac Custodian Nominees Limited.

5. Addresses

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

Name	Address
Westpac Banking Corporation (WBC)	Level 20, Westpac Place, 275 Kent Street, Sydney NSW 2000
Westpac Financial Services Group Limited (WFSG)	Level 20, Westpac Place, 275 Kent Street, Sydney NSW 2000
BT Investment Management No.2 Limited	Level 20, Westpac Place, 275 Kent Street, Sydney NSW 2000
BT Investment Management No.3 Pty Limited	Level 20, Westpac Place, 275 Kent Street, Sydney NSW 2000
BT Funds Management Limited	Level 20, Westpac Place, 275 Kent Street, Sydney NSW 2000
Westpac Custodian Nominees Limited	Level 1, Westpac Place, 275 Kent Street, Sydney NSW 2000

Signature

print name Anna O'Connell capacity Company Secretary

sign here _____ date 18/08/2006