



Australia's First Bank

Group Secretariat

Level 20, 275 Kent Street

SYDNEY NSW 2000

Telephone: (61 2) 8253 0390

Facsimile: (61 2) 8253 1215

2 January 2009

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

Alex Crompton
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 2001.

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: **19/12/2008**

The notice was dated: **18/12/2008**

2. Issued Share Capital

2,880,294,417 Ordinary shares in the capital of the Company have been issued as at **31/12/2008**.

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:

1.70 % of total number of voting shares on issue.

4. Details of relevant interests

Details of present beneficial holders as at **31/12/2008** 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	HSBC Custody Nominees (Australia) Limited.	BT Funds Management Limited is the manager, trustee or responsible	Ordinary 3,412,884

		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.	
BT Investment Management (RE) Limited	HSBC Custody Nominees (Australia) Limited	BT Investment Management Limited is the RE and fund manager 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 24,570,916
BT Investment Management No.2 Limited	HSBC Custody Nominees (Australia) 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 81,947
BT Investment Management No.3 Pty Limited	HSBC Custody Nominees (Australia) 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 4,351,386
Westpac Institutional Banking.	Westpac Institutional Banking (WIB).	Westpac Institutional Banking is the Investment 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 1,544,756
BT Funds Management No.2 Limited	HSBC Custody Nominees (Australia) Limited.	BT Funds Management No.2 Limited is the manager, trustee or responsible entity of various superannuation	Ordinary 1,322,352

		funds, institutional investor portfolios and unit trusts and, in that capacity, can exercise the power to vote or dispose of the shares.	
Westpac Financial Services Group Limited	HSBC Custody Nominees (Australia) Limited.	Westpac Financial Services Group Limited Registered Holder of Securities. ABN: 50 000 326 312.	Ordinary 3,940,278
Asgard Capital Management Limited	Asgard Capital Management Limited	Asgard Capital Management Limited ABN 92 009 279 592 AFSL 240695 RSE Licence L0001946 is the trustee, administrator and custodian of all Asgard superannuation entities, the (Hillross) PortfolioCare Retirement Plan and the BEACON Superannuation Plan. In those capacities, Asgard has the power to exercise the right to vote attached to, and to dispose of, the securities held by these entities.	Ordinary 1,694,261
Advance Asset Management Limited	NCS Custodian Services	Advance Asset Management Limited is the RE of various unit trusts and, in that capacity, can exercise the power to vote or dispose of the shares.	Ordinary 8,130,107
BT Funds Management (NZ) Limited	BT Funds Management (NZ) Limited (BTNZ).	BT Funds Management (NZ) Limited is the manager 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 20,000

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 Limited	Level 15, Chifley Square, 2 Chifley Square, Sydney NSW 2000
BT Investment Management No.2 Limited	Level 20, Westpac Place, 275 Kent Street, Sydney

