

# Quarterly Update

Issued February 2025



# **3rd Qtr outcomes:**

- EPS +5%
- HY dividends increased
- 22% 1 Yr return

#### Earnings – EPS +5.1%

Whitefield reports a profit after tax for the nine months ended 31 December 2024 of \$14,968,448 an increase of 4.4% on the equivalent nine months in the prior year.

After allowing for increases in capital across the year, the result translates to earnings per ordinary share for the nine-months of 12.5 cents, up from 11.9 cents in the prior year, an increase of 5.1%.

Stronger earnings growth across the nine months has come from IAG, The Lotteries Corp, QBE, Flight Centre, Suncorp, JB HiFi, AGL, Origin, Brambles, Super Group, Aristocrat and the major banks. The restart of dividends from Kogan.com was also a positive development.

Against this, companies cutting dividends during the financial year to date included Magellan Financial, Corporate Travel, Seek, Incitec, Metcash, Dexus, Graincorp and Macquarie Group.

# **Financial Summary**

	9 Months to 31 Dec 24	9 Months to 31 Dec 23	% Change
Revenue <sup>1</sup>	18,497,672	17,604,035	5.1%
Profit <sup>1</sup> before Tax	16,201,253	15,472,811	4.7%
Income Tax Expense	(1,232,905)	(1,136,965)	8.4%
Profit <sup>1</sup> after Tax	14,968,448	14,335,845	4.4%
Earnings <sup>1,2</sup> Per Share	12.5cps	11.9cps	5.1%

<sup>1</sup> Revenue, Profit and Earnings include investment distributions and dividends but do not include movements in the value of investments or capital gains.

<sup>2</sup> Earnings Per Share reflects Net Profit After Tax and After Preference Share Dividends per Ordinary Share.

# Six Monthly Dividend Increase<sup>a</sup>

Whitefield paid an increased fully franked half year dividend in December 2024 of 10.5 cents per Ordinary Share (up from 10.25 cents previously).

The company expects to similarly increase its year-end dividend to 10.5 cents (from 10.25 cents). The year end dividend will be payable in June 2025.

<sup>a</sup> Investors should recognise that while this dividend outlook represents the Company's expectation at the present time, no dividend is certain until declared and paid. Whitefield shall consider its income, market conditions and other relevant factors prior to finalising and declaring the next dividend.

# **Net Asset Backing**

#### NET ASSET BACKING

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At 31 Dec 2024°	
Net Asset Backing [NAB] (Pre Deferred Tax)	\$753m
Ordinary Shares on Issue	120,107,652
Net Asset Backing per Share (Pre-Deferred Tax)	\$6.27
Net Asset Backing per Share (Post-Deferred Tax)	\$5.54
Share Price	\$5.58
(Discount)/Premium to NAB (Pre-Tax)	(11.0%)
(Discount)/Premium to NAB (Post-Tax)	0.6%

<sup>b</sup> Asset Backing Releases after this date are made available on the Company's website or ASX Announcements

# \_WHITEFIELD

A structured and disciplined investment strategy consistently applied over time.

# Portfolio Return – 1 Yr +22.3%

The investment portfolio generated a return of 2.7% for the quarter, 0.4% above the ASX200 Industrials benchmark of 2.3%.

The portfolio return over the rolling year to December 2024 amounted to 22.3% compared to the benchmark S&P/ASX200 Industrials return of 21.3% (and to the return of the broader S&P/ASX200 Index of 11.4%).

Strength of return in the quarter was evident from Promedicus, Technology One, Computershare, Qantas, Aristocrat, QBE, Sigma Healthcare, Block, Insignia Financial, Pinnacle and News Corp.

#### INVESTMENT RETURNS

At 31 December 2024	One	One	Five
At 51 December 2024	Quarter	Year	Year pa
Portfolio Returns			
(Before tax, cost, franking)			
Investment Portfolio	2.7%	22.3%	8.7%
Benchmark [ASX200 Ind XJIAI]	2.3%	21.3%	8.4%
Shareholder Returns			
(After Tax, Cost, Gross of			
Franking Credits)			
Net Asset Backing (Pre-Def Tax)	3.0%	22.9%	9.5%
Share Price	3.1%	16.3%	7.3%

#### CONTRIBUTION TO RETURN

Quarter Ended 31 December 2024	Portfolio Weight	Weighted Contribution to Performance
Top 5 Contributors		
Commonwealth Bank of Australia	13.3%	1.6%
Aristocrat Leisure Limited	2.5%	0.4%
Computershare Limited	1.2%	0.3%
Westpac Banking Corporation	5.8%	0.3%
QBE Insurance Group Limited	1.6%	0.2%
Top 5 Detractors		
Woolworths Group Limited	1.6%	(0.2%)
James Hardie Industries PLC	1.0%	(0.2%)
Wisetech Global Limited	1.2%	(0.1%)
Macquarie Group Limited	3.7%	(0.1%)
ANZ Group Holdings Limited	4.4%	(0.1%)

### **Investment Exposures**

At quarter-end the Company held overweight exposures to the property investment, finance, insurance, heavy industry and consumer discretionary sectors and an underweight to infrastructure, consumer staple, property development and healthcare.

#### TOP TWENTY HOLDINGS

As at 31 December 2024	
COMMONWEALTH BANK OF AUSTRALIA	13.3%
CSL LIMITED	6.7%
WESTPAC BANKING CORPORATION	5.8%
NATIONAL AUSTRALIA BANK	5.8%
ANZ GROUP HOLDINGS LIMITED	4.4%
WESFAMERS LIMITED	4.0%
MACQUARIE GROUP LIMITED	3.7%
GOODMAN GROUP	3.6%
ARISTOCRAT LESIURE LIMITED	2.5%
TELSTRA GROUP LIMITED	2.2%
TRANSURBAN GROUP	1.9%
BRAMLBES LIMITED	1.7%
WOOLWORTHS GROUP LIMITED	1.6%
QBE INSURANCE GROUP LIMITED	1.6%
COLES GROUP LIMITED	1.4%
RESMED INC	1.3%
XERO LIMITED	1.2%
INSURANCE AUSTRALIA GROUP LIMITED	1.2%
COMPUTERSHARE LIMITED	1.2%
SUNCORP GROUP LIMITED	1.1%

#### SECTOR BREAKDOWN

As at 31 December 2024	
Financials	42.3%
Health Care	10.9%
Consumer Discretionary	10.1%
Industrials	10.0%
Real Estate	9.2%
Consumer Staples	4.7%
Communication Services	4.2%
Information Technology	4.0%
Materials	2.2%
Utilities	1.8%
Cash & Cash Equivalents	0.7%

# **Conversion of WHFPBs on maturity**

During the last quarter Whitefield provided WHFPB holders with the ability to sell their WHFPB securities on market or convert these securities to Ordinary shares on their final expiry date of 30 Nov 2024.

As a consequence 115,573 WHFPBs were bought back and 134,383 WHFPBs were converted to Ordinary shares.

# Launch of Whitefield Income Ltd

In November 2024 existing Whitefield Industrials shareholders were offered a priority to subscribe for shares in Whitefield Income Ltd, a new ASX listed investment company. The Whitefield Income IPO closed and the new company listed on ASX in December with a market capitalisation of \$200m.

Whitefield Income is managed by the same investment team as Whitefield Industrials. The company invests in a diversified portfolio of ASX300 shares over their income recognition and dividend payment periods with an objective of generating a high level of income and long term strength of total return that may be distributed to shareholders as regular monthly franked dividends.

The Whitefield Income portfolio and strategy is designed to be differentiated, but complementary, to that of Whitefield Industrials. Shares in Whitefield Income [ASX Code: WHI] may be bought or sold on ASX.

# **Market Outlook**

The Australian economy has continued to display resilience across the 2024 year notwithstanding cost of living pressures for many households.

Strong wages growth and full employment across many industry sectors have continued to assist consumers in managing interest costs and living expenses.

In turn, the most recent economic data has shown improvements in retail sales, cash deposit levels and housing approvals.

Government spending across the 2025 election year, significant continuing projects in healthcare, education and transport infrastructure and strong demand for new residential housing are also likely to provide support for the Australian economy in the near term.

While core inflation is likely to remain sticky over upcoming years, the recent easing in some measures of headline inflation has created a window for the Reserve Bank to consider limited lowering of official cash rates, to support households. The potential for global tariffs to reignite inflation or for rate cuts to translate into higher house prices however are realistic considerations that are likely to see the Reserve Bank act cautiously in forming their monetary policy choices.

In aggregate, current conditions and the economic outlook suggest that the Australian industrial economy is likely to achieve a moderate level of growth across the 2025 calendar year.

We will look forward to reporting to investors on our full year outcome subsequent to our financial year end at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025.

Angus Gluskie Managing Director

#### IMPORTANT INFORMATION

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Level 19, 68 Pitt Street Sydney NSW 2000 Phone +61 2 8215 7900 Email mail@whitefield.com.au Whitefield Industrials Limited ABN 50 000 012 895