

St. George Bank

**Investor Conferences
London and New York
March 2008**

**Paul Fegan
Managing Director & CEO
Michael Cameron
Chief Financial Officer**



St. George Bank is....

- Australia's 5th largest bank
- Differentiated by customer service
- Strongly capitalised and well funded with >\$110bn of high quality lending assets
- Diversified across consumer, business banking and wealth management in multiple geographies and customer segments
- A low risk, solely domestically focused, growth orientated financial services company

On track to meet FY08 EPS growth target



Profit result – FY07

	Sep-07	Sep-06	Change %
Cash profit*	\$1,160m	\$1,026m	13.1
Net profit^	\$1,163m	\$1,048m	11.0
Earnings per share*	218.9¢	195.8¢	11.8
Return on equity*	23.2%	22.9%	
Expense to income*	42.5%	44.0%	
Dividend	168¢	151¢	11.3



^Net profit includes hedging and derivatives and significant items. *Cash basis excludes these items

Challenges for the sector

Review of core businesses

Outlook and targets

Global environment

- World economic view has become more pessimistic
- Massive sub-prime losses and write-offs for global investment banks
- Equity markets weaker – off c.16% from 2007 high*
- Interest rate gap between Australia and US widening
- Australian banks re-pricing interest rates outside RBA changes
- Investor sentiment has increasingly become more nervous
- Massive equity placements by Chinese Banks and Sovereign Entities
- Dividends suspended eg Citi
- Capital depletion, funding issues
- Major fraud eg Societe Generale
- Corporate impairment
- International ratings downgrades – corporates, banks, monolines

*ASX S&P 200 Acc Index to 4 Mar-08



This has produced new challenges for the sector...

Higher funding costs

Tighter access to funding

Renewed focus on credit quality

Increased demands on capital

Slower recovery for NSW economy

Strong and flexible sources of funding

Total funding by source as at Jan-08

	\$bn
Retail	50.7
Short term wholesale	28.8
Term wholesale	14.9
Securitisation ^{^^}	17.4
Subordinated debt	1.9
Preference shares	0.7
Total	114.4

- Retail deposits growing at 18.1%[^]
- Strong base of retail deposits accounting for:
 - 64% of all retail lending*
 - 52% of total funding excluding securitised assets
 - 44% of total funding including securitised assets
- \$7.1bn of business deposits and \$4.1bn of Wealth cash balances are strongly growing sources of funding

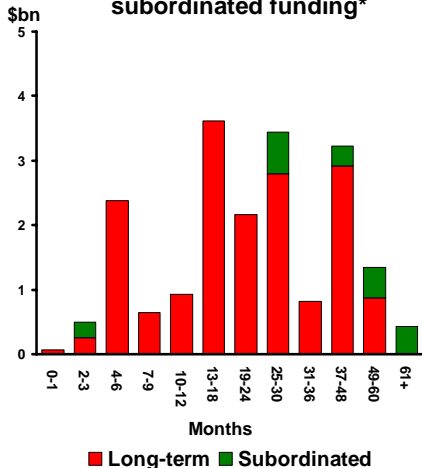
Liquidity in the bank is high at 12%^{**}

All data as at 31 Jan-08 *Including securitised assets. [^]Including c.\$1bn of asset backed conduit funding
^{^^}Annualised percentage Sep-07 to Jan-08. ^{**}Includes liquid assets and treasury securities



Committed term funding - ahead of schedule

Maturity profile of term and subordinated funding*



- Committed term funding represents 36% of total wholesale funding
- <15% of committed term funding is maturing in next 6 months
- Average weighted maturity of committed funding is 26 months
- \$4.1bn committed term funding issued since 1 Oct-07
- Over 50% of \$8bn of planned committed funding achieved YTD

Increasing flexibility and diversity to counter challenging market conditions



Wholesale funding costs and the impact on NIM

Widening spreads*

	Oct-07 bps	Mar-08 bps
Cash/90 days**	35	65
Senior debt		
3 year^	35	90
5 year^	45	120

Mitigants

- Growth in retail deposits matching growth in consumer and home lending
- Deposits spreads increased
- Corporate borrowing rates widened
- Free funds benefit from recent capital raisings
- Active management of product spreads:
 - standard mortgage variable rate up 20bps
 - business lending variable rate up 25bps
 - margin lending rate up 10bps
 - credit cards lending rates up 25-75bps

Underlying FY08 net interest margin compression (excluding the impact of increased excess liquidity) expected to be around 10bps

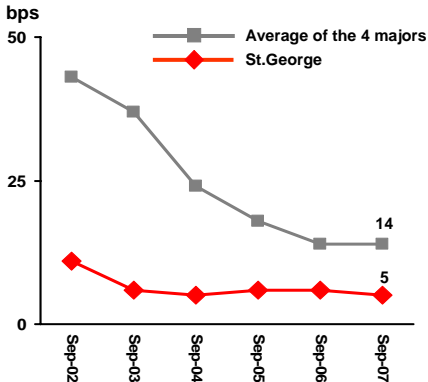
*Spreads to 90 day bank bill swap rate

**Differential between overnight cash rate and 90 day bank bill swap rate



Credit quality remains robust

Net impaired assets/net receivables*



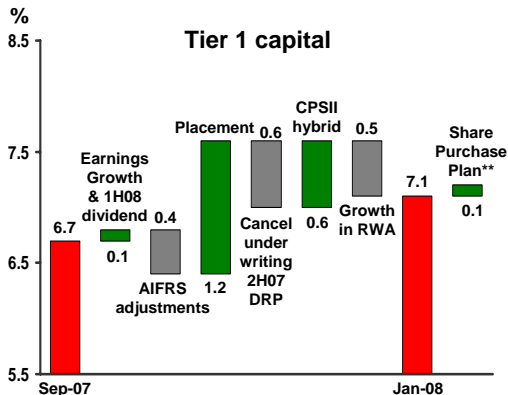
Bad and doubtful debts 0.18% of average total receivables

- Low risk business mix
- Proven track record
- Credit quality in retail division remains excellent, with the arrears performance strong
- Overall credit quality in business banking remains strong, exposures to individual entities are being closely monitored
- No exposures to:
 - US or domestic sub-prime lending
 - CDOs
 - hedge funds

*Sep-05 onwards includes securitisation and bill acceptances



Optimising the capital equation



- Tier 1 capital currently >7%*
- Lower Tier 1 minimum of 6.25% agreed by APRA in Dec-07
- Factors impacting 2009 capital requirements include:
 - 1 Jan-09 Basel II accreditation[^]
 - growth in risk weighted assets
 - state of securitisation markets
 - DRP participation rate

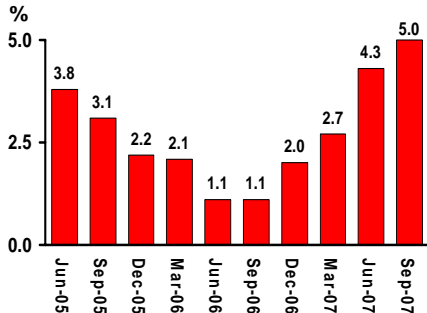
Sufficient capital to meet FY08 requirements and beyond

*As at 29 Feb-08. **Share Purchase RWA Plan to be completed in Mar-08. [^]Accreditation subject to APRA approval



NSW economy remains strong and resilient

NSW state final demand*
(GDP equivalent^)



NSW economy has displayed a convincing rebound

- NSW contributes 32% of national GDP
- NSW unemployment rate at 4.5% is near long term lows
- Residential vacancy rates remain tight at 1.4%, encouraging property investment
- Sydney's median house price rose by 8% in 2007
- Overseas immigration is strong at 50,000pa
- State government supportive of business and public sector investment has accelerated
- Private capital expenditure now growing at double digit annual rate



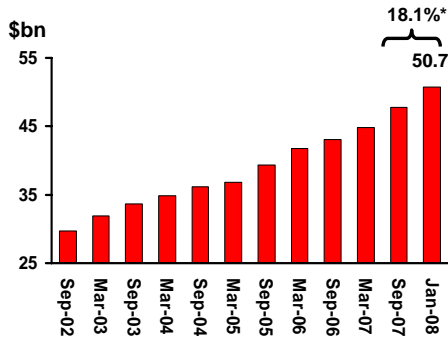
Challenges for the sector

Review of core businesses

Outlook and targets

Deposits – outstanding growth

Retail deposit balances



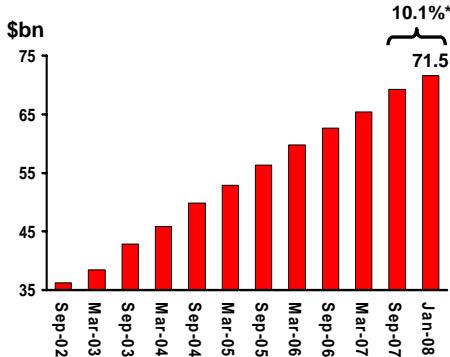
- Balance growth benefiting from:
 - flight to quality
 - focus on core offering
 - instability in investment markets
 - changes in superannuation legislation
- Margin performance improved due to:
 - robust growth in transaction accounts
 - recent rises in official interest rates

Retail deposits growth YTD matching retail lending growth



Home Loans – solid growth continues

Residential receivables



- Market share in NSW 14.4%, up from 14.2% in Nov-06[^]
- 30+ day arrears to total mortgages is 0.98%, down from 1.34% in Jan-07
- Houses in possession 74, down from 86 in Sep-07
- Credit quality remains excellent

On track to grow broadly in line with system

*Annualised percentage Sep-07 to Jan-08 [^]Cannex derived Jan-08



Middle Market – growing market share

Market share by state[^]

	Dec-07	Dec-06
NSW	13.1	9.9
ACT	39.4	34.9
BankSA	21.2	18.5
Victoria	3.7	2.7
Queensland	4.0	4.0
Western Australia	10.4	9.7
National	9.0	7.5

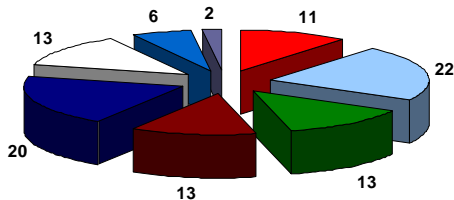
- 31% annualised growth Sep-07 to Jan-08
- 31% annualised growth in NSW
- Strong performance driven by:
 - continued investment in people and processes
 - consistent adherence to proven relationship model
 - robust national system growth with solid NSW contribution

On track to achieve receivables growth rates >25%



Commercial lending - well secured and diversified

Distribution by loan size %

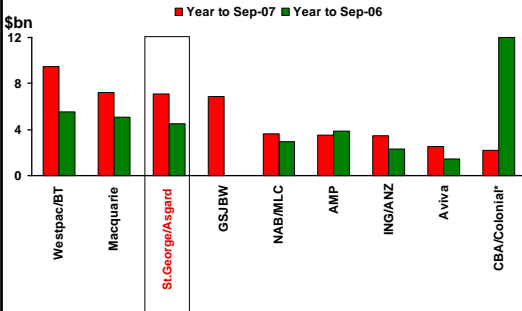


State	Geographical distribution %
NSW/ACT	48
SA/NT	18
WA	16
VIC	11
QLD	7

- 82% of the portfolio in chosen industries
- 68% of new business sourced from existing customers
- 79% of total portfolio balances are <\$50m
- >90% of the portfolio secured

Wealth Management – meeting the challenges

Yearly platform net flows



- Managed funds balances have fallen 8.8% over the four months ended Jan-08
- Balance growth impacted by:
 - deteriorating investments markets
 - reallocation of investments to bank deposits
- Gross inflows have grown at 14% for the four months ended Jan-08
- Asgard, Advance, insurance and margin lending businesses remain strong contributors to group earnings

Consistently ranked in top 5 for net flows



Substantial investment agenda maintained

- 230 new ATMs already in place in FY08
- 10 new retail branches scheduled in FY08
- 3 new business sites scheduled in FY08
- Continuing to attract and hire quality new frontline sales people across our retail, business banking and financial planning businesses
- Substantial investment in brand and marketing
- New credit cards processing platform completed in Feb-08
- Significant investment in technology platform supporting business banking
- Investing in wealth's underlying infrastructure and customer interface
- Ongoing Basel II and Anti-Money Laundering compliance projects



Challenges for the sector

Review of core businesses

Outlook and targets

Sector outlook

- Wholesale funding costs to remain high in the medium term
- Expect increased discernment between differentiated credit risks
- St.George to benefit from increased risk focus over time due to quality of underlying assets and businesses
- Competitive environment to moderate as pressures from non-bank lenders and peripheral players subside
- Home loan and consumer credit growth, while remaining robust, may moderate due to recent interest rate rises
- Business lending to remain strong due to sound economic environment
- Markets factoring in additional rises in interest rates



St. George outlook

- Retail deposits growth to remain robust and match growth in retail lending
- Home loan growth strong at around current levels of 10%*
- Personal lending and credit cards to continue to grow at 14%*
- Middle market growing at 31%* with strong pipeline supporting future growth
- Wealth management net inflows to continue to exceed system growth, though absolute growth will be impacted by deteriorating investment markets
- Product spreads repricing to have full run rate earnings impact in 2H08

Momentum across all core businesses remains strong



FY08 guidance

As at Sep-07

As at Mar-08

As at Sep-07		As at Mar-08
EPS growth FY08	10%*	On track* Assuming no one-off material credit losses
Cost to income	Manage to low end of peer group	On track while maintaining solid investment program
Capital	Tier 1 minimum 6.5% pending APRA review^	Currently >7% with new minimum Tier 1 ratio of 6.25% agreed to by APRA
Credit quality	Maintain positive differential to majors	On track
Customer satisfaction	Maintain positive differential to majors	On track with differential currently 6%

^As part of Basel II transition

*Targets exclude impact of hedging and derivatives and assumes a reasonably sound economic environment

**Roy Morgan Research Dec-07 rolling 3 mth average respondents (aged 14+) with transaction accounts at institution



In conclusion

- Robust growth across all businesses continues
- Management is actively managing the businesses to counter headwinds through:
 - product repricing
 - prudent cost disciplines
 - focused reinvestment
 - superior service offerings delivering market share gains
- A strong management team is in place with further strengthening to be announced soon
- Overall credit quality remains solid
- Franchise is well diversified, solely domestically focused, growing and of high quality

10% EPS growth guidance is reaffirmed

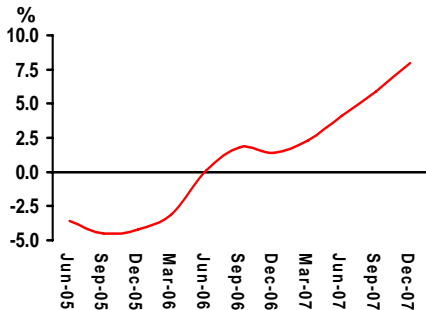




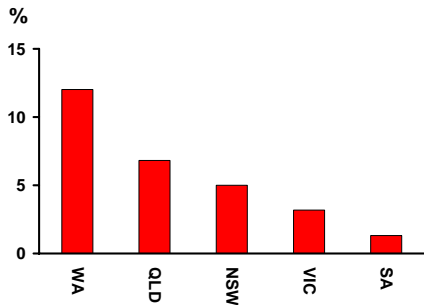
Appendix

NSW economy

Sydney house price*
(annual percent change)



Annual economic growth by state
(state final demand^)



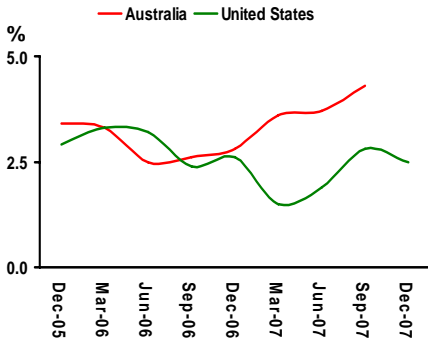
*Annual percent change, seasonally adjusted.

^Annual percent change to Sep-07 (seasonally adjusted data), excludes imports and exports. Source: ABS Source: ABS



National economy

US vs AUSTRALIA (annual GDP growth*)



Decoupling: Economist 2008
GDP forecast for US 1.6%,
Australia 3.5%*

- 2007 Australian GDP growth of 3.8% well ahead of advanced economy average of 2.6%^
- Housing market upswing in place after 2003-05 downturn. National house price increased 12.3% in 2007
- Trade patterns have changed. China now 2nd largest export market. Japan 1st, India 6th and United States 7th
- Commodity price support for the economy continues with coal, iron ore and gold (top 3 merchandise exports) at or near record prices

The material in this presentation is general background information about the Bank's activities current at the date of the presentation. It is information given in summary form and does not purport to be complete. It is not intended to be relied upon as advice to investors or potential investors and does not take into account the investment objectives, financial situation or needs of any particular investor. These should be considered, with or without professional advice when deciding if an investment is appropriate.

For further information visit

www.stgeorge.com.au

or contact

Sean O'Sullivan

Head of Investor Relations

Ph: +61 2 9236 3618

Mb: +61 412 139 711

Email: osullivans@stgeorge.com.au

