

I present to you the Group's consolidated results for the year ended 30 June 2025.

### **Group's operations and results**

Profit for the year ended 30 June 2025 was \$38,807,000 compared to \$38,771,000 for the prior 2024 financial year, an increase of \$36,000 or 0.1%.

Dividends and distributions received totalled \$40,385,000, compared to the prior year's dividends and distributions of \$40,408,000, a decrease of \$23,000 or 0.1%. The above amounts included special dividends received of \$346,000 and \$769,000 respectively. Fully franked dividends of \$11,083,000 (2024: \$10,467,000) were received by the Group from EVT Limited (EVT) during the year ended 30 June 2025.

Interest income received totalled \$1,217,000, compared with the prior year's interest of \$1,170,000. This increase is attributable to continuing high interest rates and an increase in the weighted average term deposits during the year ended 30 June 2025. The weighted average term deposits held during the year ended 30 June 2025 was \$23,817,000 (2024 \$23,120,000) and the weighted average interest rate on term deposits increased from 4.67% in the prior year to 4.88%.

Administration expenses were \$919,000 compared to \$924,000 in the previous year. The management expense ratio (MER) for the year ended 30 June 2025 was 0.08%, compared to the prior year of 0.09%.

### **Earnings per ordinary share**

Basic and diluted earnings were \$1.468 per ordinary share for the year to 30 June 2025 compared to \$1.465 per share for the 2024 financial year.

### **Dividends**

On 19 August 2025 the directors declared a final fully franked dividend of 68 cents per ordinary share, payable on 17 September 2025. The prior year final fully franked dividend was 63 cents per ordinary share, which was paid on 16 September 2024.

On 25 February 2025 the directors declared a fully franked interim dividend of 45 cents per ordinary share, which was paid on 24 March 2025. The prior year interim fully franked dividend was 41 cents per ordinary share which was paid on 18 March 2024.

Total ordinary share dividends paid and payable for year ended 30 June 2025, amount to \$1.13 per share, being an increase of 8.7% on the prior year dividends paid.

A final preference share dividend of 7 cents per share fully franked is also payable on 17 September 2025.

The Dividend Reinvestment Plan remains suspended.

### Net tangible asset backing

The net tangible asset backing for each issued ordinary share at 30 June 2025, prior to the payment of the final dividend noted above and before provision for estimated capital gains tax in respect of unrealised investment portfolio gains, was \$48.39 (2024: \$39.71). Although the Board has no present intention of disposing of any of the Group's equity investments, the net tangible asset backing per share after provision for tax on unrealised capital gains was \$39.52 (2024: \$33.26). The relevant figures as at 31 July 2025 were \$49.23 and \$40.13 respectively.

### Investments

The market value of the equity investment portfolio as at 30 June 2025 was \$1,255,395,000 compared to \$1,021,639,000 at the prior year end. Short term cash holdings and term deposits totalled \$20,784,000 as at 30 June 2025 (2024: \$26,864,000).

The Board's policy is to acquire additional investments in equities that meet the criteria of providing high levels of income through predominantly fully franked dividends and have the potential for long term capital growth. The cost of equity investments purchased for cash during the year to 30 June 2025 totalled \$21,085,000 (2024: \$14,041,000).

Acquisitions above \$500,000 during the year were:

IPH	\$3,026,000	Dalrymple Bay Infrastructure	\$1,001,000
Origin Energy	\$3,002,000	Super Retail Group	\$1,000,000
Whitehaven Coal	\$2,006,000	Ventia Services Group	\$1,000,000
Metcash	\$2,001,000	Westpac Banking Corporation	\$1,000,000
Aurizon Holdings	\$1,007,000	Telstra Group	\$999,000
BHP Group	\$1,005,000	Medibank Private	\$996,000
Deterra Royalties	\$1,002,000	Elders	\$507,000
ANZ Group Holdings	\$1,001,000	Ampol	\$502,000

The Group did not receive any shares as takeover consideration during the year to 30 June 2025. In the prior the Group received shares as takeover consideration in the following companies:

- Newmont Corporation with a fair value at the time of \$99,000 in respect of its takeover of Newcrest Mining.
- SGH with a fair value at the time of \$5,090,000 in respect of its takeover of Boral.

In addition to the above investment acquisitions, the Company under its on-market buy-back, also bought-back 55,252 (2024: 26,290) of its own shares for total consideration of \$1,727,000 (2024: \$810,000).

During the year to 30 June 2025 the Group disposed of its investments in ADBRI, CSR, Sierra Rutile and Virgin Money UK. These disposals were all from accepting takeover offers. The consideration received for all investment disposals during the year was \$5,324,000. In the prior year, consideration received on all investment disposals totalled \$9,912,000, including shares with a fair value of \$5,189,000 received as takeover consideration. A Capital Return of \$583,000 was received from Suncorp during the year to 30 June 2025. No capital returns were received in the prior year.

During the year to 30 June 2025, there was a very strong performance from the Group's holding in EVT together with strong performances in Group's holdings in the banks, Wesfarmers, Telstra and SGH, whilst the holdings in the big miners, energy stocks and James Hardie all trailed the overall market. We still consider that these companies have sound long term prospects.

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### Results and review of operations (continued)

For the year, the fair value of the Group's investment portfolio increased by \$218,580,000 or 21.1% (2024: increase of \$55,922,000, or 5.8%), after adjusting for investment acquisitions and disposals. The performance of the Group's portfolio included an increase of 43.3% in the fair value of the Group's largest holding, EVT. Excluding the EVT holding, the increase in the fair value of Group's investment portfolio was 9.4%. The S&P/ASX 200 Index increased during the year to 30 June 2025 by 13.5% (2024: increase 7.8%).

On a total portfolio return basis (measured by the movement in NTA per share assuming dividends are reinvested), the return for the year was 22.7% (2024: 9.4%) compared with an increase in the S&P ASX 200 Accumulation Index over the period of 13.8% (2024: increase 12.1%).

The Group continues to hold its equity investments for the long term and does not act as a share trader nor does it invest in speculative stocks.

### Outlook and likely developments

We anticipate that the Australian equity markets will remain volatile for the foreseeable future. Whilst interest rates are expected to fall over the next 6-18 months, any resulting benefit may be at least partially offset by other influences including domestic and international economic and political issues.

The Board continues to have confidence in the mix and quality of the companies in which the Group has invested. The Group will continue to take a cautious approach when pursuing its policy of purchasing equity investments for the long term through reinvesting dividends and other income in entities listed on the Australian Securities Exchange.



A G RYDGE AM  
Chairman  
19 August 2025

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