

# ASX RELEASE.

## BELL FINANCIAL GROUP

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23 February 2012

### Financial results for the year ended 31 December 2011

In accordance with the Listing Rules, Bell Financial Group Ltd will be lodging materials in relation to its results for the year ended 31 December 2011 as follows:

- Part one: Appendix 4E for the year ended 31 December 2011
- Part two: Media release
- Part three: Executive Chairman's report from the Annual Report
- Part four: Annual Report (including Financial Report, Directors' Report, Independent Audit Report and Auditor's independence declaration).

Please also be advised that Bell Financial Group Ltd will hold its 2012 Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 2 May 2012 at KPMG, Ground Floor, 147 Collins St, Melbourne, Victoria.



Paul Vine  
Company Secretary

# Appendix 4E

## Preliminary Final Report

### Bell Financial Group Ltd Full year ended 31 December 2011

#### Listing Rule 4.3A

Company: Bell Financial Group Ltd

ASX Code BFG

Year Ended 31 December 2011

ABN 59 083 194 763

1. The information contained in this report is for the full year ended 31 December 2011 and the previous corresponding period, 31 December 2010.
2. Statutory results for announcement to the market for the Bell Financial Group Ltd Consolidated Group:

			\$ ('000)
Total Revenue from ordinary activities:		down 22.3% to	155,547
Profit from ordinary activities after income tax:		down 64.6% to	7,639
Basic earnings per share			3.0c
Diluted earnings per share			3.0c
<u>Dividends</u>	Amount	Amount per security	Franked amount per security
Interim dividend (paid)	\$5,053,144	2.0c	2.0c
Final dividend (declared)	\$2,596,230	1.0c	1.0c
Record date for determining entitlements to the dividend: 9 March 2012			
Date the dividend is payable: 23 March 2012			

Brief explanation of any of the figures mentioned above necessary to enable the figures to be understood: refer attached Release to the Market.

#### 3. Financial Report

Refer to Bell Financial Group Ltd's Annual Report (attached).

**4. Dividends or distribution reinvestment plans**

Dividend or distribution reinvestment plans in operation: not applicable.

The last date(s) for receipt of election notices for the dividend or distribution plans: not applicable.

**5. NTA backing**

	31 December 2011	31 December 2010
Net tangible asset backing per ordinary share	\$0.21	\$0.19

**6. Details of associates**

Entity name: Third Party Platform Pty Ltd

Percentage holding: 44.97%

**7. Entities over which control has been gained or lost**

None.

**8. Commentary on the results for the period**

Refer to Bell Financial Group Ltd Annual Report attached.

**9. Audited accounts**

The accounts have been audited and are not subject to qualification.



Paul Vine  
Company Secretary  
22 February 2012

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**DATE: 23 February 2012**

### **BELL FINANCIAL GROUP FULL-YEAR PROFIT**

**Sydney 23 February 2012:** Bell Financial Group (BFG), a leading Australian full service broking and financial advisory firm, today reported that all wholly owned business units were profitable in 2011 despite the impact of severe global economic headwinds undermining local sentiment.

“Despite these challenging conditions, particularly in the second half of the year, the firm was profitable in every month of 2011,” said Bell Financial Group Executive Chairman Colin Bell.

Moreover, the group was now extremely well placed to capitalise on growth opportunities and provide unrivalled service to clients following the successful integration of the Southern Cross Equities business and the putting in place of an excellent leadership team across the group's business lines.

Net profit for the 12 months ended December 31, 2011, was \$7.6 million, down from \$21.6 million a year earlier as reduced broking activity and corporate fee income impacted revenue and investors re-allocated assets to cash and term deposits.

Mr Bell said the group had no operating debt other than the margin lending business, and net tangible assets at December 31 were \$54 million. “We have a robust balance sheet,” he said.

Bell Financial Group will pay a final 1 cent dividend, taking the full-year payout to 3 cents per share.

**ENDS ....**

#### **About Bell Financial Group**

Bell Financial Group Ltd ([bellfg.com.au](http://bellfg.com.au), ASX: BFG) is a leading Australian full service stock broking and financial advisory firm with a strong track record of providing high quality, professional advice to private, institutional and corporate investors. Bell has 12 offices covering Australia plus one in the UK and has one of the largest distribution networks in the country. The firm's consistent aim is to meet its clients' investment objectives.

**For more information, please contact:**

#### **Cannings Corporate Communications**

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[mmullane@cannings.net.au](mailto:mmullane@cannings.net.au)

# EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



## Dear Shareholders

A little over a year ago I was cautiously optimistic about what 2011 may have in store, but as the year unfolded it quickly became clear that it would prove to be one of the toughest periods ever experienced by investors, financial markets and many industries across a wide range of sectors.

Severe economic global headwinds undermined investor sentiment, taking its toll on financial markets. There was a reallocation from risk assets to cash and term deposits. Daily transactional business in equities and exchange traded products slumped and equity capital markets were all but closed. As a result, the group's after-tax profit fell to \$7.6 million from \$21.6 million a year earlier.

However, it wasn't all bad news. All the wholly-owned business units of Bell Financial Group traded profitably despite these extremely challenging conditions. Moreover, the Group itself was profitable in every month of 2011. This performance cannot be underestimated given the prevailing financial conditions. In his Managing Director's report, Alastair Provan will expand on the performance of each of the group's business units.

Despite the awful conditions, we maintained our focus on strengthening all our business units so each will be well placed when the markets return to normalcy. When that happens, our numbers will improve dramatically simply because we have continued to do what we do best, that is, putting our clients first. Significantly, our balance sheet and cash position are robust, with no operating debt other than the margin lending business.

Bell Financial Group has always sought to provide a good company culture, and as I've often remarked, the broking industry is a people business. We also strive to provide a simple and transparent remuneration structure. These are some of the key reasons why we have managed to retain our staff and why we attract new people. During the year we added 12 new senior people to our retail business.

The integration of the Bell Potter and Southern Cross businesses was an important milestone in our history. The end result of the integration is that our full service broking business now consists of all the existing businesses – wholesale broking, retail broking, corporate and research – under the Bell Potter brand.

We've combined the specialist institutional business of Southern Cross and the extensive retail distribution of Bell Potter. Our corporate finance and research divisions comprise personnel from both businesses.

We are all excited by the potential of our business, and as part of the integration we have made strategic appointments to build momentum and deliver the best service to all our clients.

Frankly, we are in an excellent position to continue to grow the business and help our clients increase their wealth. In getting this right, everyone, including our shareholders, stands to benefit.

Much, of course, will depend on the health of the global economy but there have been some encouraging signs for investors. These include the ongoing recovery of the US economy; China maintaining its strong growth; and some progress being made to alleviate the pressures faced by European sovereigns and banks.

Whatever the situation, Bell Financial Group is well positioned to deal with a changing world. We have a first-rate leadership team and we are constantly improving our client focus and our product offerings.

For the last half we will pay a 1c dividend, making the total payout 3c per share for the full year. This represents a 100% payout of our full year profit which is slightly more than previous distributions. Our decision to take the dividend to that level was influenced by us having completed the Southern Cross acquisition and by the fact our regulatory capital requirements are well covered.

Finally, on behalf of the Board, I would like to thank all our staff and our shareholders for their contribution and support throughout the year. Alastair Provan will now present his report and give a breakdown of the 2011 profit.

Yours sincerely



**Colin Bell**  
Executive Chairman  
Bell Financial Group

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# 2011

ANNUAL REPORT

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# BELL FINANCIAL GROUP IS ONE OF AUSTRALIA'S LARGEST, INDEPENDENT FULL SERVICE STOCKBROKING FIRMS

Bell Financial Group is one of Australia's largest, independent full service stockbroking firms offering investment and financial advisory services to private, institutional and corporate clients.

We have an experienced team of over 300 advisers across a network of 13 offices.

- Adelaide
- Brisbane
- Cairns
- Geelong
- Gold Coast
- Hobart
- London
- Mackay
- Melbourne
- Mornington
- Perth
- Sydney
- Toowoomba

# EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



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Yours sincerely



**Colin Bell**  
Executive Chairman  
Bell Financial Group

# MANAGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

## Dear Shareholders

It has obviously been an extremely tough year across all divisions of the business, particularly in the second half.

Weak economic conditions in the UK and Europe and ongoing European Sovereign debt problems clearly had an adverse impact on investor confidence in Australia. However, before I detail the impact of those tough conditions across our divisions, I'd like to consider some highlights.

The completed acquisition of the Southern Cross Equities business was clearly one highlight. Since the original acquisition by the Bell Financial Group in 2008, both the Southern Cross and Bell Potter businesses operated separately pending the completion of a three-year earn-out period, which expired on 30 June 2011.

Total consideration paid for Southern Cross Equities was approximately \$70 million, consisting of \$40 million cash and 32 million shares in the company. Under the original arrangements, the potential consideration was \$145.8 million, consisting of \$72.9 million cash and 58.3 million shares.

The three-year earn out period gave us the opportunity to thoroughly get to know the Southern Cross business and its people. That has enabled us to put together the best team, combining people from both firms. We chose not to include some of the ex-Southern Cross shareholders in the reorganisation, and, although that was difficult, we are very confident we now have the best team on the field.

Charlie Aitken now heads up the wholesale business which incorporates Institutional Dealing, Research and Equity Capital Markets (ECM). Dean Surkitt, as previously announced, was appointed

to run the retail business. Geoff Louw remains in charge of futures and foreign exchange and Rowan Fell maintains responsibility for Bell Potter Capital, our Cash and Margin Lending businesses.

These individuals bring a rare combination of talent, experience and motivation to the daily task of further growing the Bell Potter brand and providing exceptional customer-focused service.

I would also like to note the impressive performance of Bell Financial Group's 45%-owned online broking business Bell Direct, Australia's fastest growing online broker that was launched in November 2007.

Bell Direct was ranked number one in 14 out of 15 categories as measured by a customer satisfaction report on online brokers produced by financial research company Investment Trends between May and December 2011. This was an outstanding performance in a very tough and demanding environment. In January 2011, BFG extended its option through to January 2015 to acquire all the remaining Bell Direct shares, reflecting our confidence in the business and management team.

We have taken the opportunity to add new advisers to our futures and foreign exchange broking teams who we expect will make a significant contribution going forward.

Our balance sheet remains strong with no operating debt other than in the Margin Lending business. Net tangible assets at 31 December 2011 were \$54 million and our cash position remains solid.

## OVERHEADS

2011 consolidated Group overheads (excluding commission paid to Advisers) were \$65.4m, down 6% on financial year 2010. The reduction in overheads was primarily attributable to a reduction in employment costs.

## BALANCE SHEET

Net Assets at 31 December were \$175m (2010 - \$176m) and Net Tangible Assets were \$54m (2010 - \$48m). The business has a solid cash position, and has no operating debt other than in the Margin Lending business.

## BELL DIRECT

The Group's ownership interest in the on-line broking business Bell Direct increased from 40.3% to almost 45% during 2011. While Bell Direct was not immune to the difficult trading conditions throughout 2011, the business continued to grow strongly across key metrics including client acquisition, cash holdings, sponsored holdings, revenue and market share.

In January 2011, Bell Financial Group extended the term of the option it holds to take its interest in Bell Direct to 100% by four years to 31 January 2015.

## OUTLOOK

While this year has been challenging and the early part of 2012 looks little different we remain optimistic that the resilience of the Australian economy will eventually be recognised for what it is and our market will be re-rated accordingly.

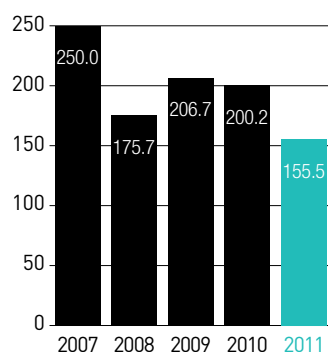
We are also confident when that occurs, most importantly, we will have within the company the right people in the right positions to take full advantage.

Yours sincerely



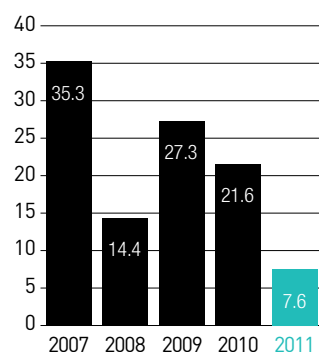
**Alastair Provan**  
Managing Director  
Bell Financial Group Ltd

**Revenue  
(\$A m) 2007-2011**



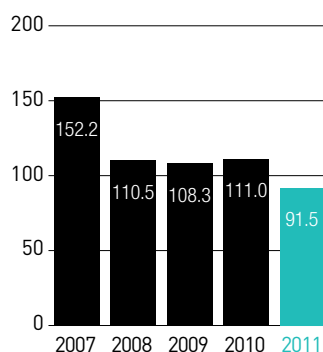
Group revenue was \$155.5m for financial year 2011, down 22% on 2010. The decrease was attributable to a significant decline in both ECM activity and Equities execution revenue particularly in the second half of the year.

**Net Profit After Tax  
(\$A m) 2007-2011**



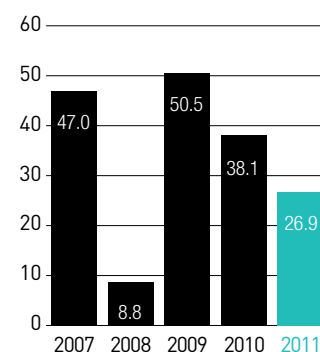
Net profit after tax was \$7.6m, a 65% decrease on 2010. Reduction in NPAT reflects the decrease in revenue particularly in the second half, and non-cash losses associated with the disposal of legacy listed and unlisted options held within Southern Cross Equities.

**Equities Execution Revenue  
(\$A m) 2007-2011**



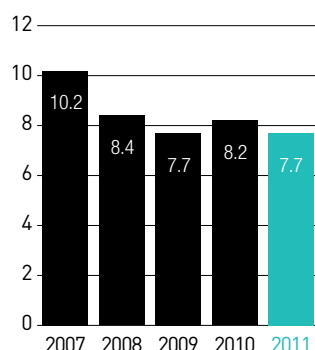
2011 consolidated revenue was \$91.5m, down 18% on financial year 2010. Second half volumes in particular were impacted by a general lack of investor confidence in markets resulting from the European sovereign debt crisis.

**Equity Capital  
Markets Revenue  
(\$A m) 2007-2011**



ECM revenue was \$26.9m, down 29% on the prior year. While first half ECM activity was solid (\$19.7m), this segment of the market was all but closed in the second half.

**Portfolio Administration  
Services Revenue  
(\$A m) 2007-2011**



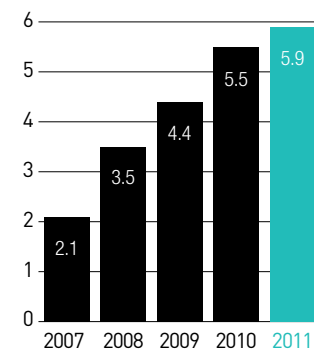
The Portfolio Administration Service (PAS) incorporates accurate and timely portfolio, tax and consolidated reporting across asset classes.

PAS Funds under Management (FUM) as at 31 December was \$1.3b.

PAS revenue for the 2011 financial year was \$7.7m, down 6% on 2010.

The decrease in revenue was attributable to a reduction in administered asset values (XJO index fell 14% for the period), offset by an increase in new business.

**Margin Lending  
and Cash Revenue  
(\$A m) 2007-2011**

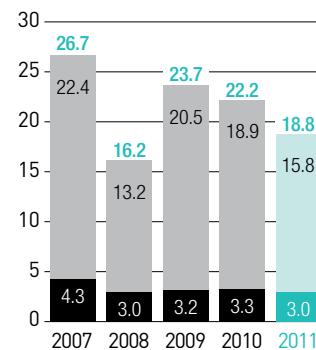


Net revenue grew 7% to \$5.9m over the 2011 financial year.

Margin Lending FUM was \$138m, down on December 2010 FUM of \$175m.

Cash was \$182m as at December 2011, marginally down on the \$189m December 2010 balance.

**Funds Under Advice  
(\$A b) 2007-2011**



Funds Under Advice (FUA) decreased 15% to \$18.8b.

The reduction in FUA was broadly consistent with the fall in Australian market indices.

Funds Under Management (FUM) decreased 9% over the same period.

FUM includes cash balances of \$863m and margin loans totalling \$253m.

# DIRECTORS' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2011

**The Directors of Bell Financial Group Ltd ("Bell Financial" or the "Company") present their report, together with the financial statements of the Company and its controlled entities (the "consolidated entity" or "Group") and the Auditor's Report thereon, for the financial year ended 31 December 2011.**

## DIRECTORS

The Directors of the Company at any time during or since the end of the financial year are:

- Mr C Bell
- Mr A Provan
- Mr C Coleman
- Mr G Cubbin
- Mr M Spry
- Mr B Wilson
- Mr B Potts (resigned 1 December 2011)

Particulars of the qualifications and experience of the Directors as at the date of this report are set out below.

### MR COLIN BELL Executive Chairman

*BEcon (Hons), Monash University*

Colin Bell founded Bell Commodities in 1970 after working with the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development in Washington DC, USA.

He is the Executive Chairman of Bell Financial and has responsibility for the business development of the Company and all associated business within the Group.

### MR ALASTAIR PROVAN Managing Director

Alastair Provan joined Bell Commodities in 1983 and held a number of dealing and management roles prior to becoming Managing Director in 1989.

He is Managing Director of Bell Financial and is responsible for the day-to-day management of all businesses within the Group. He is also a director of Third Party Platform Pty Ltd (Bell Direct).

Alastair is a member of the Remuneration Committee.

### MR CRAIG COLEMAN Non-Executive Director

*BComm, University of Western Australia*

Appointed 12 July 2007. He is also the Chairman of Bell Direct and a member of the Group Risk and Audit Committee and the Remuneration Committee.

Craig is a Senior Advisor and Non-Executive Director of private investment company, Wyllie Group Pty Ltd. Previously, he was Managing Director and a Non-Executive Director of Home Building Society Limited. Prior to joining Home Building Society, Craig held a number of senior executive positions and directorships with ANZ, including Managing Director – Banking Products, Managing Director – Wealth Management and Non-Executive Director of E\*Trade Australia Limited.

His other current public company directorships include Chairman of Rubik Financial Ltd and Amadeus Energy Limited and Non-Executive Director of Amcom Limited and Pulse Health Limited.

### MR GRAHAM CUBBIN Independent Non-Executive Director

*BEcon (Hons), Monash University  
Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors*

Appointed 12 September 2007, Mr Cubbin was a senior executive with Consolidated Press Holdings Limited (CPH) from 1990 until September 2005, including Chief Financial Officer for 13 years. Prior to joining CPH, he held senior finance positions with a number of major companies including Capita Financial Group and Ford Motor Company.

Graham has over 20 years' experience as a director and audit committee member of public companies in Australia and the US. Graham is a Director of the ASX listed Challenger Financial Services Group Limited, STW Communications Group Limited, White Energy Company Limited and McPherson's Limited.

Graham is the Chairman of the Group Risk and Audit Committee and the Chairman of the Remuneration Committee.

### MR MALCOLM SPRY Independent Non-Executive Director

*BEcon, Monash University*

Appointed 8 January 2008, Mr Spry has held a number of senior executive positions in Australia and internationally with The Nielsen Company, one of the world's largest providers of business information products and services.

Malcolm currently consults to Nielsen and is a director of Bell Direct. He was previously a director of various companies including E\*Trade Australia Limited and Travel.com and the Executive Chairman of Mojo MDA Group.

Malcolm is a member of the Group Risk and Audit Committee and Remuneration Committee.

### MR BRIAN WILSON Non-Executive Director

*MComm (Hons), Auckland*

Appointed 28 October 2009, Mr Wilson retired in 2009 as a Managing Director of the global investment bank Lazard, after co-founding the firm in Australia in 2004.

He is currently Deputy Chancellor of University of Technology, Sydney, a member of the Foreign Investment Review Board and a member of the Reserve Bank of Australia Payments System Board. He was also a member of the Commonwealth Government Review of Australia's Superannuation System and is currently a member of the ATO Superannuation Reform Steering Committee.

Brian's career as an investment banker specialising in corporate financial advice encompassed 33 years. Prior to joining Lazard, he was a Vice Chairman of Citigroup Australia and previously a director and co-Head of Investment Banking at Schroders Australia, a principal of Lloyds Corporate Advisory Services and a Director of BA Australia.

## PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

Bell Financial is an Australian based provider of stockbroking, investment and financial advisory services to private, institutional and corporate clients. Operating across a network of 13 offices, Bell Financial has over 650 employees, including more than 300 experienced advisers, serving over 125,000 active clients with funds under advice exceeding \$18 billion.

Bell Financial has a 45% holding in Third Party Platform Pty Ltd (Bell Direct) and a call option to purchase all the remaining Bell Direct shares it does not own, at any time up to 31 January 2015.

## OPERATIONS

The Group's consolidated operating profit after income tax attributable to members was \$7.6 million (2010: \$21.6 million). A review of the operations of the Group is set out in the Managing Director's Report on pages 4 to 5 of this Annual Report.

## OPTION TO ACQUIRE SHARES IN BELL DIRECT

### a) Summary

In August 2011, the Company participated in a rights issue increasing its stake in Bell Direct from 40% to 45%. The terms of the call option to acquire shares in Bell Direct, as reported in the Company's 2010 Annual Report, did not change in 2011 and are summarised in section (b) below.

### b) Details of call option

Prior to listing in December 2007, the Company was granted a call option to acquire 25% of the issued capital of Bell Direct (Bell Direct Call Option). The Company was entitled to exercise the Bell Direct Call Option in a period of 30 days after the second anniversary of listing in consideration of the issue of \$17,500,000 worth of shares.

In September 2008, the Company participated in a rights issue increasing its stake in Bell Direct from 25% to 36%. The contribution of additional capital was made on the basis that the Bell Direct Call Option was renegotiated.

Under the renegotiated arrangements (New Call Option), the Company has a call option to purchase all the shares in Bell Direct it does not own, taking its holding to 100%. The exercise price of the New Call Option is to be satisfied by Bell Financial issuing new shares and values all of Bell Direct's existing share capital at \$70 million, which is the same valuation used in the original Bell Direct Call Option. The right to exercise the New Call Option was extended under the renegotiation by 12 months to 31 January 2011.

In July 2010 the Company participated in a further rights issue increasing its stake in Bell Direct from 36% to 40%. In January 2011, the Company and the other Bell Direct shareholders agreed further amendments to the New Call Option whereby the exercise period was extended to 31 January 2015. The Company also granted a put option in favour of certain Bell Direct management shareholders (who together hold approximately 14.3% of the shares in Bell Direct) permitting them to sell their Bell Direct shares to the Company. This put option values Bell Direct at \$35 million and is exercisable at any time between 31 December 2012 and 31 January 2015.

In August 2011, the Company participated in a rights issue increasing its stake in Bell Direct from 40% to 45%.

Issue of shares under the New Call Option is subject to shareholder approval, which the Company will seek at the appropriate time in accordance with Corporations Act 2001 and ASX Listing Rule requirements and prior to the exercise of the option. Bell Financial is under no obligation to exercise the New Call Option and any decision whether or not to exercise this option will be made by the Company's independent non-executive Directors at the relevant time.

As noted in the Company's previous Annual reports, the Company applied to the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) for relief from the takeover provisions of Chapter 6 of the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth) in relation to the proposed issue of Bell Financial

shares to the grantors of the Bell Direct Call Option. Following preliminary discussions with ASIC which indicated that the relief may not be obtained, the Company withdrew this application for relief in the view that the matter would be considered at a later stage. In the event that the Company does not obtain the relevant ASIC relief, the Company may, if it is necessary to do so, seek shareholder approval to the proposed issue of Bell Financial shares in accordance with item 7 of section 611 of the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth) at a future annual meeting of the Company.

## SOUTHERN CROSS EQUITIES LIMITED (SCE)

### a) Summary

The final instalment of the cash and scrip components payable for the Company's acquisition of SCE was paid in November 2011. Total consideration paid for the SCE business was approximately \$70 million, consisting of \$40 million cash and 32 million shares in the Company. Under the original arrangements, the potential consideration was \$72.9 million cash and 58.3 million shares.

Further details of the acquisition by the Company of SCE are set out in sections (b) and (c) below.

### b) Acquisition

The Company's 2008, 2009 and 2010 Annual Reports summarised details of the acquisition by the Company of all of the issued capital of SCE and the amendments to the terms of that acquisition.

As a result of the agreements made in 2009, from 1 July 2009 SCE was entitled to pay total remuneration to front office employees of up to 50% of SCE revenue (increased from 40%). The consideration for these amendments was a reduction in the total potential purchase price for SCE from \$145.8 million to \$114.8 million. The purchase price was payable 50% in cash and 50% in Bell Financial shares.

One quarter of the original cash consideration was paid on completion (30 September 2008). The revised agreement reduced the three further equal cash instalments potentially payable on the anniversary of completion in 2009, 2010 and 2011 respectively from \$18.2 million to \$13.1 million (totalling \$39.3 million). Those payments were subject to the original performance benchmarks being met.

The scrip component of the consideration was satisfied on completion by the issue of 14,580,000 Ordinary shares, 14,580,000 A Class, 14,580,000 B Class and 14,580,000 C Class shares. In 2009, the number of A Class shares was reduced from 14,580,000 to 10,446,681, the number of B Class shares reduced from 14,580,000 to 10,446,681 and the number of C Class shares reduced from 14,580,000 to 10,446,681. Those A, B and C Class shares potentially converted into Ordinary shares on the anniversary of completion in 2009, 2010 and 2011 respectively, subject to the performance benchmarks being met. If the performance benchmarks were fully met then all A Class, B Class and C Class shares would be converted to Ordinary BFG shares on a one for one basis. If the benchmarks were not met, the purchase price would be adjusted.

SCE revenue for the financial year 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 did not reach the first benchmark of \$37.4 million therefore no cash or scrip instalment was payable to the SCE vendors for 2009. At 30 June 2010 SCE met the performance benchmark for the full second instalment, which was paid in the fourth quarter of 2010. This instalment included the B Class shares being converted into Ordinary shares on 29 September 2010.

At 30 June 2011 SCE revenue met the performance benchmark for two-thirds of the third and final instalment, which was paid in the fourth quarter of 2011. This instalment included two-thirds of the C Class shares being converted into ordinary shares of the Company on 28 November 2011. As revenue did not exceed the benchmark in the 2011 year, none of the 2009 cash instalment

was paid and the A Class shares did not convert into ordinary shares. All the A Class shares and the remaining C Class shares were each converted to 0.0001 ordinary shares on 28 November 2011.

### c) Share rights and entitlements

The B Class shares were converted to Ordinary shares in September 2010. The A and C Class shares have been converted into ordinary shares as described in section (a) above. They had the following rights and entitlements:

- a) in the event of a share consolidation, share subdivision or bonus issue of Ordinary shares, or other capital reorganisation with respect to Ordinary shares, each A and C Class share would be converted into such number of A and C Class shares as determined by the Company's Directors as being fair and equitable to the holders of A and C Class shares in the particular circumstances;
- b) if there was a change of control of the Company, as a result of takeover bid, scheme of arrangement or other analogous event, then A and C Class shares held by each shareholder would, on a date determined by the Directors, be converted into Ordinary Bell Financial shares on a one for one basis;
- c) each holder would receive the amount of \$0.0001 per share on a winding up, ranking equally with all other classes of shares in the capital of the Company;
- d) they were transferable only to an A or C Class shareholder; and
- e) they had no voting rights in general meeting, no right to receive dividends of any kind, did not permit the holder to participate in new issues of capital such as bonus issues and entitlement issues, had no right to participate in any return of capital and were not quoted on ASX.

As at the date of this report, all the A Class, B Class and C Class shares have been converted to Ordinary shares as described above.

## UBS

### a) Summary

As at the date of this report, UBS owns 16.27% of the Ordinary shares in the Company. It has certain non-dilution rights with respect to its shareholding in the Company, summarised in section (b) below. UBS chose not to subscribe for further shares following the conversion of the A and C Class shares to Ordinary shares in 2011 described above.

UBS and the Company are parties to a Strategic Alliance Agreement, summarised in section (c) below, which expires on 12 December 2013, subject to 12 months' notice of termination by either party.

### b) UBS non-dilution rights

UBS has certain non-dilution rights with respect to its shareholding in the Company. In summary, if immediately following the issue of new shares in the Company the UBS shareholding percentage is less than its percentage at the time of the Company's listing, then UBS will have the right, but not the obligation, to subscribe for up to that number of further shares so that following that subscription the UBS shareholding percentage will equal the UBS listing percentage.

UBS chose not to subscribe for further shares following the issue of Ordinary shares to the former SCE shareholders in September 2008. UBS also chose not to subscribe for further shares following the conversion of the B Class shares to Ordinary shares in September 2010 and the A and C Class shares to Ordinary shares in 2011. UBS retains its right to exercise its non-dilution rights in respect of any future issue of Ordinary shares.

Save where UBS terminates the Strategic Alliance Agreement described below for cause, the non-dilution rights will cease on the termination of the Strategic Alliance Agreement.



### c) Strategic Alliance Agreement

Under this agreement, UBS will supply to the Company for no fee a selection of research it produces relating to ASX listed entities which can be re-branded and given to the Company's retail clients. UBS may also supply research relating to entities listed on securities exchanges other than ASX for the Company's internal use only.

UBS will also give the Company a priority broker firm allocation with respect to certain securities offerings and UBS derivative products offerings. The Company will make available to UBS its retail investor distribution capabilities in certain situations and has also given certain undertakings in relation to UBS competitors.

The Strategic Alliance Agreement had an initial term of three years from 12 December 2007. Either party had the right to extend the term for a further three years, which occurred in 2010. The further three-year term of the Strategic Alliance Agreement expires on 12 December 2013, subject to 12 months' notice of termination by either party.

### MATTERS SUBSEQUENT TO THE END OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR

There has not arisen in the interval between the end of the financial year and the date of this report, any item, transaction or event of a material and unusual nature likely, in the opinion of the Directors of the Company, to significantly affect:

- a) the Group's operations in future financial years; or
- b) the results of those operations in future financial years; or
- c) the Group's state of affairs in future financial years.

### DIRECTORS' MEETINGS

The number of meetings of the Company's Board of Directors held during the year ended 31 December 2011, and the number of meetings attended by each Director, are set out below.

DIRECTOR	BOARD MEETINGS		GROUP RISK AND AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETINGS		REMUNERATION COMMITTEE MEETINGS	
	A	B	A	B	A	B
Mr C Bell (Director for the full year)	5	5	-	-	-	-
Mr A Provan (Director for the full year)	5	5	-	-	3	3
Mr G Cubbin (Director for the full year)	5	5	6	6	3	3
Mr C Coleman (Director for the full year)	5	5	6	6	3	3
Mr M Spry (Director for the full year)	5	5	6	6	3	3
Mr B Wilson (Director for the full year)	5	5	-	-	-	-
Mr B Potts (resigned 1 December 2011)	3	4	-	-	-	-

A – Number of meetings attended B – Number of meetings held during the year

### DIRECTORS' INTERESTS

The relevant interest of each director in the shares and options over such instruments issued by the Company as of the date of this report is as follows:

BELL FINANCIAL GROUP LTD NAME	ORDINARY SHARES			OPTIONS
	DIRECT	INDIRECT	TOTAL	
Colin Bell	1,824,723	31,264,862	33,089,585	-
Alastair Provan	1,693,467	31,264,862	32,958,329	-
Graham Cubbin	130,000	50,000	180,000	-
Craig Coleman	39,264	1,733,019	1,772,283	-
Malcolm Spry	150,000	-	150,000	-
Brian Wilson	-	100,000	100,000	-

There were no changes to Directors' interests in the Company's shares between 31 December 2011 and the date of this report.

## DIVIDENDS

Dividends paid or declared by the Company to members during the financial year were as follows:

DECLARED AND PAID DURING THE YEAR 2011	CENTS PER SHARE	TOTAL AMOUNT \$'000	FRANKED/ UNFRANKED	DATE OF PAYMENT
Final 2010 ordinary	4.0	10,106	Franked	25 March 2011
Interim 2011 ordinary	2.0	5,053	Franked	23 September 2011

On 22 February 2012, the Directors declared a final fully franked dividend of 1.0 cent per share, payable on 23 March 2012. This amount is not accrued within the financial statements.

All dividends declared were fully franked at the tax rate of 30%.

## COMPANY SECRETARY

The Company Secretary is Mr A Paul M Vine LLB (European) Hons, CSA (Affiliate). Mr Vine was appointed to the position in 2007 and is also the Company's General Counsel, with over 19 years' experience in legal practices in public companies and leading law firms.

## CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Bell Financial recognises the importance of good corporate governance practices. This section outlines key aspects of its corporate governance policies and frameworks.

Bell Financial developed its corporate governance framework by reference to the ASX Corporate Governance Council's Corporate Governance Principles and Recommendations (2nd ed.) released in August 2007 ("ASX Recommendations"). The ASX Recommendations are guidelines of practices designed to optimise corporate performance and accountability. The commentary below is based on the 2nd edition of the Corporate Governance Principles and Recommendations, including the 2010 amendments, which apply to the Company's financial year commencing on 1 January 2011.

Having regard to the structure, size and nature of operations of Bell Financial, the Board considers that certain ASX Recommendations are not appropriate to its particular circumstances at present. Departures from the ASX Recommendations are identified in the discussion below.

## 1. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### 1.1 Composition of the Board

The members of the Board and their experience and qualifications are set out on page 6.

### 1.2 Chairman

The Chairman of the Board is not an independent Director. This represents a departure from the ASX Recommendations. Mr Colin Bell serves as the Executive Chairman. The Board considers that this is in the best interests of Bell Financial given his experience, expertise and understanding of the business. Mr Alastair Provan, the Managing Director, has the primary responsibility for the discharge of the chief executive function including the day-to-day management of Bell Financial. In this way, the Executive Chairman is not distracted in performing the role of chair effectively.

### 1.3 Directors' independence

Directors are considered independent if they are a non-executive Director who is not a member of management and free of any business or other relationship that could materially interfere with the exercise of their unfettered and independent judgement or be perceived to do so. The Board Charter contains the principles used by the Board in assessing independence.

During 2011 there were four non-executive Directors on the Board - Mr Graham Cubbin, Mr Craig Coleman, Mr Malcolm Spry and Mr Brian Wilson. Mr Cubbin and Mr Spry are independent non-executive directors. The Board did not consider that Mr Craig Coleman was an "independent" Director during 2011 due to his pre-existing role as a consultant to Bell Potter Securities, including his involvement with the listing of the Company in 2007 and various consultant roles performed since then. Further, the Board did not consider that Mr Brian Wilson was an "independent" Director during 2011 due to his pre-existing role as a principal of a material professional adviser to the Company. Their status may change over time and this will be disclosed to the market in a timely manner. As at the date of this report the Board does not have a majority of independent Directors.

The Board considers that it has the appropriate balance of experience, expertise and independence to enable it to discharge its functions effectively.

#### 1.4 Independent professional advice

Directors are, after consultation with the Chairman, able to seek independent professional advice at the Company's expense. Where appropriate, the advice may be made available to the Board.

#### 1.5 Director education

The Group has a formal process to educate new directors about the nature of the business, current issues, the corporate strategy and the expectations of the Group concerning performance of directors. Directors also have the opportunity to meet with management to gain a better understanding of business operations. Directors are given access to continuing education opportunities to update and enhance their skills and knowledge.

### 2. BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES

The Board is responsible for the overall corporate governance of Bell Financial, which includes effective oversight of management. The Board has adopted a Board Charter, a copy of which is available on Bell Financial's website, [www.bellfg.com.au](http://www.bellfg.com.au). The Board Charter includes a description of the specific responsibilities reserved to the Board.

The Board Charter also describes the nature of matters delegated to the senior executives, and includes a description of the respective roles of the Executive Chairman and the Managing Director. This description is designed to clearly identify the division of responsibility at the senior executive level of Bell Financial. The Managing Director has authority to sub-delegate to the senior executive team. Whilst the appointment of an Executive Chairman represents a departure from the ASX Recommendations, the Board is satisfied that the division of responsibility is clearly articulated to ensure appropriate accountability.

The Board is responsible for monitoring the senior executive team's performance. As part of the delegation of authority to manage the day-to-day affairs of the Company, the Managing Director carried out a performance evaluation for senior executives in late 2011.

### 3. BOARD COMMITTEES

The Board Charter contemplates that the Board may delegate certain functions to Board committees to assist the Board in the discharge of its oversight role. These committees are required to consider particular issues in detail and then report back to and advise the Board. The Board has established two standing committees, the functions of which are discussed below. A copy of the Board committee charters are also available on Bell Financial's website, [www.bellfg.com.au](http://www.bellfg.com.au).

#### 3.1 Group Risk and Audit Committee

The Group Risk and Audit Committee (GRAC) assists the Board to carry out its oversight role in relation to risk management, accounting, auditing and financial reporting. The core responsibilities of the GRAC include reviewing and, where required, providing recommendations to the Board on:

- the effectiveness of Bell Financial's risk management and internal control systems;
- external financial reporting and financial statements;
- the discharge of the internal audit function; and
- matters relating to the appointment, independence and performance of the external auditor.

The GRAC charter stipulates that the chair of the Committee must be an independent non-executive Director, who is not the chair of the Board. The GRAC Charter also stipulates that the Committee must be comprised of a majority of non-executive Directors and have at least three members.

During 2011 the members of the GRAC were Graham Cubbin (Chairman), Craig Coleman and Malcolm Spry. The composition of the Committee during 2011 and at the date of this report follows the ASX Recommendations, which propose that such committees should consist of only non-executive Directors and a majority of members should be independent Directors. A copy of the GRAC charter is available on Bell Financial's website, [www.bellfg.com.au](http://www.bellfg.com.au).

#### 3.2 Remuneration Committee

The Remuneration Committee assists and advises the Board on remuneration matters. The role of the Remuneration Committee is to develop, review and make recommendations to the Board on the remuneration framework for the non-executive Directors, the executive Directors and other senior executives. This includes the recommendations in relation to incentive schemes and equity based plans where appropriate. Bell Financial's remuneration policy is set out in section 1 of the Remuneration Report.

The members of the Remuneration Committee during 2011 were Graham Cubbin (Chairman), Craig Coleman, Alastair Provan and Malcolm Spry. The composition of the Committee represents a departure from the ASX Recommendations that propose that a majority of members should be independent Directors. However, the Board is satisfied that, given the majority of non-executive Directors, the Remuneration Committee has the appropriate balance of experience, expertise and independence to enable it to discharge its functions effectively.

A copy of the Remuneration Committee Charter is available on Bell Financial's website, [www.bellfg.com.au](http://www.bellfg.com.au).

#### 4. BOARD NOMINATIONS AND RENEWAL

In 2007 the Board determined not to establish a separate Nominations Committee and this is the position as at the date of this report. This is a departure from the ASX Recommendations. The Board does not consider that delegating the Board selection and appointment practices of Bell Financial to a separate committee would enhance efficiency. Instead, the Board has reserved to itself relevant responsibilities, including appointing and removing the Managing Director, developing and approving succession plans for the Board and key senior executives and overseeing that membership of the Board is skilled and appropriate for Bell Financial's needs, as identified in the Board Charter. A performance evaluation in accordance with the Board Charter was carried out in 2011 in relation to the Directors and the two Board committees.

There must be an election of Directors at each annual general meeting.

The constitution of the Company provides, amongst other things, for a process of retirement of Directors by rotation (which will occur for each Director approximately every three years except for the Managing Director, Alastair Provan).

Directors who retire from office are eligible to stand for re-election.

#### 5. COMPANY POLICIES

##### 5.1 Ongoing disclosure

With a view to ensuring that investors are informed of all major developments affecting Bell Financial and its businesses, the Board has adopted policies designed to ensure that Bell Financial meets its continuous disclosure obligations imposed by the ASX Listing Rules and the Corporations Act.

Information is communicated to shareholders through ASX announcements, annual reports and half yearly updates which are accessible on Bell Financial's website, [www.bellfg.com.au](http://www.bellfg.com.au)

A copy of the Disclosure and Communications Policy and Guidelines is available on Bell Financial's website, [www.bellfg.com.au](http://www.bellfg.com.au).

##### 5.2 Securities trading guidelines

Bell Financial has adopted a Trading Policy that applies to the Directors, executives and employees of Bell Financial.

The Trading Policy is intended to explain the type of conduct in relation to dealings in the Company's securities that is prohibited under the Corporations Act, and establish procedures in relation to Directors, executives or employees dealing in securities of the Company. Under the Trading Policy, Directors and other designated employees may not deal in securities of the Company during the following "black-out periods" (subject to limited exceptions):

- from the end of the Company's financial year (31 December) until release of its full year results in February; and
- from the end of the Company's half-year (30 June) until release of its half-year results in August.

Other "black-out periods" may be declared from time to time. The policy also contains an approval process to be followed by Directors and other designated employees if they propose to deal in the Company's securities. A copy of the Trading Policy is available on Bell Financial's website, [www.bellfg.com.au](http://www.bellfg.com.au).

##### 5.3 Code of Conduct

Bell Financial has developed a Code of Conduct (Code), which applies to all Directors, officers and employees. Bell Financial is committed to honesty and integrity in all its dealings, as well as ensuring the highest quality of service is provided to customers and clients at all times. The Code sets out the ethical standards, values and policies of the Company and provides a framework to guide compliance with legal and other obligations to stakeholders, commitment to which the Board believes will maintain the confidence of the Company's key stakeholders.

The Code provides that all potential or actual conflicts of interest must be avoided or disclosed. Directors must keep the Board advised, on an ongoing basis, of any interest that could potentially conflict with those of the Company. Where the Board believes that a significant conflict exists for a Director on a board matter, the Director concerned would not receive the relevant board papers and would not be present at the meeting whilst the item is considered. Details of the Director related entity transactions with the Company and the Group are set out in note 34 of the financial statements.

##### 5.4 Diversity

Considerable diversity exists throughout the Bell Financial Group, in terms of age, culture and gender. The Company values diversity in the workplace and is committed to employing people on the basis of the "best fit" for the job, based on relative ability, performance or potential. Bell Financial has established a Diversity Policy, which is available on the Company's website, [www.bellfg.com.au](http://www.bellfg.com.au).

##### 5.5 Risk assessment and management

The Board understands that the management of risk is a continuous process and an integral part of good business management and corporate governance. The GRAC plays a key role in assisting the Board with its responsibilities relating to accounting, internal control systems, reporting practices, risk management and ensuring the independence of the company's external auditors.

The Company has implemented a Risk Management Policy and Framework based on Australian/New Zealand standard AS/NZ ISO 3100:2009 Risk Management Standard. A summary of the Risk Management Policy and Framework is available from Bell Financial's website, [www.bellfg.com.au](http://www.bellfg.com.au).

The GRAC reviewed and approved the Company's Risk Management Policy and its Risk Management Plan in 2011. The GRAC reported to the Company's Board on these matters and the Board is satisfied that the Company's risk management and internal control system is appropriate.

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The Group's principal financial instruments comprise listed securities, derivatives, term deposits and cash. The main risks arising from the Group's financial instruments are market risk, credit risk and liquidity risk. These are examined in more detail in note 3, Financial Risk Management.

### 5.6 Financial reporting

The Managing Director and Chief Financial Officer have declared in writing to the Board that the declaration provided to the Board in accordance with section 295A of the Corporations Act 2001 is founded on a sound system of risk management and internal control and that the system is operating effectively in all material respects in relation to financial reporting risks.

### 5.7 External auditors

The Company policy is to appoint external auditors who demonstrate quality and independence. The performance of the auditor is reviewed annually. KPMG is Bell Financial's external auditor.

An analysis of fees paid to the external auditors is provided in note 38 of the financial report.

The external auditor will attend the Annual General Meeting and be available to answer shareholder questions about the conduct of the audit and the preparation and content of the auditor's report.

The Company may decide to engage the auditor on assignments additional to their statutory audit duties where the auditor's expertise in relation to the Group is important. The Board has considered the position and, in accordance with the advice from the GRAC, is satisfied that the provision of the non-audit services is compatible with the general standard of independence for auditors outlined by the Corporations Act 2001. The Directors are satisfied that the auditor's independence is not compromised in relation to non-audit services for the following reasons:

- all non-audit services have been reviewed by the GRAC to ensure they do not impact the impartiality and objectivity of the auditor; and

- none of the services undermine the general principles relating to auditor independence as set out in Professional Statement F1.

### 5.8 Internal audit

The internal auditors assist the GRAC in ensuring compliance with internal controls and risk management programs by regularly reviewing the effectiveness of Company's internal controls and systems. The GRAC is responsible for approving the program of internal audit visits to be conducted each financial year and for the scope of the work to be performed. The GRAC is responsible for recommending to the Board the appointment and dismissal of the Internal Audit and Risk Manager.

## 6. ASX CORPORATE GOVERNANCE RECOMMENDATIONS

The ASX Listing Rules require listed entities to include in their annual report a statement disclosing the extent to which they have followed the 30 ASX corporate governance recommendations during the reporting period, identifying the recommendations that have not been followed and providing reasons for that variance. The statement below is based on the 2nd edition of the Corporate Governance Principles and Recommendations, including the 2010 amendments.

	ASX 'BEST PRACTICE' CORPORATE GOVERNANCE RECOMMENDATION	REFERENCE <sup>1</sup>	COMPLY
<b>PRINCIPLE 1: LAY SOLID FOUNDATIONS FOR MANAGEMENT AND OVERSIGHT</b>			
1.1	Establish and disclose the functions reserved to the Board and those delegated to management	2	✓
1.2	Disclose the process for evaluating the performance of senior executives	2	✓
1.3	Provide the information indicated in the Guide to reporting on Principle 1	2	✓
<b>PRINCIPLE 2: STRUCTURE THE BOARD TO ADD VALUE</b>			
2.1	A majority of the Board should be independent Directors	1.3	Non-comply
2.2	The chair should be an independent Director	1.2	Non-comply
2.3	The roles of chair and Managing Director should not be exercised by the same individual	1.2, 2	✓
2.4	The Board should establish a nomination committee	4	Non-comply
2.5	Disclose the process for evaluating the performance of the Board, committees and individual directors	4	✓
2.6	Provide the information indicated in the Guide to reporting on Principle 2	1, Directors' Report	✓
<b>PRINCIPLE 3: PROMOTE ETHICAL AND RESPONSIBLE DECISION MAKING</b>			
3.1	Establish a code of conduct and disclose the code or a summary of the code as to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ the practices necessary to maintain confidence in the Company's integrity</li> <li>■ the practices necessary to take into account the Company's legal obligations and the reasonable expectations of stakeholders</li> <li>■ the responsibility and accountability of individuals for reporting and investigating reports of unethical practices</li> </ul>	5.3	✓
3.2	Establish a policy concerning diversity and disclose the policy or a summary of that policy. The policy should include requirements for the Board to establish measurable objectives for achieving gender diversity for the Board to assess annually both the objectives and progress for achieving them	5.4	✓
3.3	Disclose in each annual report the measurable objectives for achieving gender diversity set by the Board in accordance with the diversity policy and progress towards achieving them	5.4	✓
3.4	Disclose in each annual report the proportion of women employees in the whole organisation, women in senior executive positions and women on the Board	5.4	Non-Comply
3.5	Provide the information indicated in the Guide to reporting on Principle 3	5.4	✓
<b>PRINCIPLE 4: SAFEGUARD INTEGRITY IN FINANCIAL REPORTING</b>			
4.1	The Board should establish an audit committee	3.1	✓
4.2	Structure the audit committee so that it: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ consists of only non-executive Directors</li> <li>■ consists of a majority of independent Directors</li> <li>■ is chaired by an independent chair, who is not chair of the Board</li> <li>■ has at least three members</li> </ul>	3.1	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓
4.3	The audit committee should have a formal charter	3.1	✓
4.4	Provide the information indicated in the Guide to reporting on Principle 4	3.1, 5.6, Directors' Report	✓

	ASX 'BEST PRACTICE' CORPORATE GOVERNANCE RECOMMENDATION	REFERENCE <sup>1</sup>	COMPLY
<b>PRINCIPLE 5: MAKE TIMELY AND BALANCED DISCLOSURE</b>			
5.1	Establish written policies and procedures designed to ensure compliance with ASX Listing Rule disclosure requirements and to ensure accountability at a senior executive level for that compliance and disclose those policies or a summary of those policies	5.1	✓
5.2	Provide the information indicated in the Guide to reporting on Principle 5	5.1	✓
<b>PRINCIPLE 6: RESPECT THE RIGHTS OF SHAREHOLDERS</b>			
6.1	Design a communications policy for promoting effective communication with shareholders and encourage their participation at general meetings and disclose the policy or a summary of that policy	5.1	✓
6.2	Provide the information indicated in the Guide to reporting on Principle 6	5.1	✓
<b>PRINCIPLE 7: RECOGNISE AND MANAGE RISK</b>			
7.1	Establish policies for the oversight and management of material business risks and disclose a summary of those policies	5.5	✓
7.2	The Board should require management to design and implement the risk management and internal control system to manage the company's material business risks and report to it on whether those risks are being managed effectively. The Board should disclose that management has reported to it as to the effectiveness of the company's management of its material business risks	5.5	✓
7.3	The Board should disclose whether it has received assurance from the Managing Director and the Chief Financial Officer that the declaration provided in accordance with section 295A of the Corporations Act is founded on a sound system of risk management and internal control and that the system is operating efficiently in all material respects in relation to financial reporting risks	5.6, Directors' Report	✓
7.4	Provide the information indicated in the Guide to reporting on Principle 7	5.5, Directors' Report	✓
<b>PRINCIPLE 8: REMUNERATE FAIRLY AND RESPONSIBILITY</b>			
8.1	The Board should establish a remuneration committee	3.2, Remuneration Report	✓
8.2	The remuneration committee should be structured so that it: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ consists of a majority of independent directors</li> <li>■ is chaired by an independent director</li> <li>■ has at least 3 members</li> </ul>	3.2, Remuneration Report	Non-comply ✓ ✓
8.3	Clearly distinguish the structure of non-executive directors' remuneration from that of executive directors and senior executives	Remuneration Report	✓
8.4	Provide the information indicated in the Guide to reporting on Principle 8	3.2, Remuneration Report, Directors' Report	✓

<sup>1</sup> Cross references to the relevant sections of this Corporate Governance Statement, the Directors' Report or the Remuneration Report in the 2011 Annual Report.

## REMUNERATION REPORT (AUDITED)

### 1. Remuneration policy

Bell Financial remunerates key executives, management and advisers by a combination of fixed salary, commission entitlements and other short and long-term incentives.

The Company has established the following equity-based plans to assist in the attraction, retention and motivation of Directors, management and employees of the Company:

- Long Term Incentive Plan (pursuant to which the option offer, open to the Executive Chairman, the Managing Director and selected other Directors, senior executives and employed advisers, is made); and
- Employee Share Acquisition (Tax Exempt) Plan (pursuant to which the employee grant offer, open to eligible employees, is made).

Each plan contains customary and standard terms for dealing with the administration of the plan, and the termination and suspension of the plan. Participants in the Long Term Incentive Plan must not enter into a transaction or arrangement or otherwise deal in financial products which operate to limit the economic risk of the unvested Company securities issued under that plan.

Compensation packages include a combination of fixed and variable compensation and short-term and long-term performance-based incentives.

### 2. Fixed compensation

Fixed compensation consists of base compensation as well as employer contributions to superannuation funds. Compensation levels are reviewed annually through a process that considers individual performance and that of the overall Group.

### 3. Commission

Commission entitlements are determined by the Board from time to time and aim to align the remuneration of key executives and advisers with the Company's performance. In general, certain executives and advisers are paid a commission based on revenue generated by the individual during the year. This creates a strong incentive for key executives and advisers to maximise the Company's revenues and performance.

### 4. Performance linked compensation

Performance linked compensation includes both short-term and long-term incentives and is designed to reward key management personnel for meeting or exceeding their financial and personal objectives. The short-term incentive is an 'at risk' bonus provided in the form of cash, while the long-term incentive is provided as options or performance rights over ordinary shares of the Company.

### 5. Short-term incentive bonus

The Company pays its key executives, including the Executive Chairman and Managing Director, a short-term incentive (STI) payable annually. The Company's Remuneration Committee is responsible for determining who is eligible to participate in STI arrangements, as well as the structure of those arrangements.

There are two types of STI arrangements:

- the STI payable to executives who are not remunerated by reference to commission is a discretionary annual cash bonus determined based on the Company's financial performance during the year, key performance indicators and industry competitive measures as well as individual performance over the period; and

- the STI payable to the Executive Chairman and the Managing Director is a discretionary annual cash bonus, up to three times their annual salary, which is determined based on the Company's financial performance during the year, key performance indicators as well as individual performance over the period.

These STI arrangements ensure that executive remuneration is aligned with the Company's financial performance and growth.

### 6. Long-term incentive (LTIP)

The LTIP is part of the Company's remuneration strategy and is designed to align the interests of the Company's Directors, executives and advisers with the interests of Shareholders to assist the Company in the attraction, motivation and retention of Directors, executives and advisers. In particular, the LTIP is designed to provide relevant executives and advisers with an incentive for future performance, with conditions for the vesting and exercise of the options or performance rights under the LTIP, therefore encouraging those Directors, executives and advisers to remain with the Company and contribute to its future performance.

Under the LTIP eligible persons participating may be granted options or performance rights on terms and conditions determined by the Board from time to time. An option or performance right is a right, subject to the satisfaction of the applicable vesting conditions and exercise conditions, to subscribe for a share in the Company.

If persons become entitled to participate in the LTIP and their participation requires approval under Chapter 10 of the Listing Rules, they will not participate in the LTIP until shareholder approval is received pursuant to Listing Rule 10.4.



## 7. Service agreements

### 7.1 Executive Chairman and Managing Director

Bell Financial entered into service agreements with its Executive Chairman, Colin Bell, and its Managing Director, Alastair Provan, effective from listing in December 2007. These agreements set out the terms of the appointment, including responsibilities, duties, rights and remuneration.

A summary of the remuneration packages including benefits under the short and long-term incentive plans for each of Colin Bell and Alastair Provan is set out in the following section of this report.

Bell Financial may terminate the service agreements on twelve (12) months' notice, or immediately for cause. If those agreements are terminated on 12 months' notice, Bell Financial has agreed to vest early any unvested options under the LTIP and to allow their early exercise. Colin Bell and Alastair Provan may terminate their respective service agreements on six (6) months' notice. Each of Colin Bell and Alastair Provan have entered into non-competition covenants with Bell Financial which operate for six (6) months from termination of their respective service agreements.

### 7.2 Craig Coleman

Craig Coleman is currently a non-executive Director of the Company. Before he was appointed to that role, he served as an executive director of Bell Financial from 6 June 2007 to 29 October 2007. During 2011 Craig Coleman provided consultancy services to Bell Financial and was paid \$200,000 (2010: \$300,000) in relation to those services.

Mr Coleman is the Chairman of Bell Direct.

### 7.3 Brian Wilson

Brian Wilson is currently a non-executive Director of the Company. Before appointment to that role, he was Managing Director of the global investment bank Lazard, which was a professional adviser to Bell Financial. During 2011 Mr Wilson provided consultancy services to the Company and was paid \$75,000 (2010: nil) in relation to those services.

### 7.4 Non-Executive Directors

On appointment to the Board, all the non-executive Directors (Mr Coleman, Mr Cubbin, Mr Spry and Mr Wilson) were provided with a letter of appointment setting out the terms of the appointment, including responsibilities, duties, rights and remuneration, relevant to the office of Director. A summary of the annual remuneration package for those Directors is in the following section of this report.

NAME	DIRECTORS' FEES	SUPERANNUATION	TOTAL
	\$	\$	\$
Mr C Coleman	91,743	8,257	100,000
Mr M Spry	91,743	8,257	100,000
Mr B Wilson	91,743	8,257	100,000
Mr G Cubbin	91,743	8,257	100,000

### 7.5 Executives

All of the key executives are permanent employees of Bell Financial. Each executive has an employment contract with no fixed end date. Any executive may resign from their position by giving four weeks written notice. The Company may terminate an employment contract by providing written notice and making payment in lieu of notice in accordance with the Company's termination policies. The Company may terminate an employment contract at any time for serious misconduct.

REMUNERATION REPORT (AUDITED) CONTINUED

8. Directors' and executive officers' remuneration (Company and Consolidated)

Details of the nature and amount of each major element of remuneration of each Director of the Company and each of the five named Company executives and relevant Group executives who receive the highest remuneration and other key management personnel are:

IN AUD		SHORT-TERM			TOTAL \$
		SALARY & FEES \$	STI CASH BONUS \$	NON-MONETARY BENEFITS \$	
<b>DIRECTORS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS</b>					
Colin Bell, Executive Chairman <sup>1</sup>	2011	569,794	-	-	569,794
	2010	570,000	450,000	-	1,020,000
Alastair Provan, Managing Director <sup>1</sup>	2011	528,789	-	-	528,789
	2010	529,446	450,000	-	979,446
Brent Potts, Director <sup>3</sup>	2011	259,604	-	-	259,604
	2010	350,000	200,000	-	550,000
<b>NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS</b>					
Graham Cubbin	2011	91,743	-	-	91,743
	2010	91,743	-	-	91,743
Craig Coleman	2011	291,743	-	-	291,743
	2010	391,743	-	-	391,743
Malcolm Spry	2011	91,743	-	-	91,743
	2010	91,743	-	-	91,743
Brian Wilson	2011	161,248	-	-	161,248
	2010	91,743	-	-	91,743
<b>Total compensation: Directors (consolidated)</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>1,994,664</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,994,664</b>
	<b>2010</b>	<b>2,116,418</b>	<b>1,100,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,216,418</b>
<b>Total compensation: Directors (company)</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>636,477</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>636,477</b>
	<b>2010</b>	<b>666,972</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>666,972</b>

1 Colin Bell and Alastair Provan volunteered to forego any discretionary annual cash bonus in 2011.

2 Voluntary super contributions above the minimum legislative requirements are classified as post-employment benefits.

3 Brent Potts resigned on 1 December 2011. Amounts shown above are for the period 1 January 2011 to 30 November 2011.

4 Termination benefits paid to Brent Potts include long service leave and annual leave accrued.

<b>EXECUTIVES</b>					
Lewis Bell, Head of Compliance	2011	339,502	-	-	339,502
	2010	339,502	150,000	-	489,502
Andrew Bell, Executive Director of Bell Potter Securities	2011	310,203	-	-	310,203
	2010	327,785	-	-	327,785
Dean Davenport, Chief Financial Officer and Chief Operating Officer	2011	284,513	125,000	-	409,513
	2010	275,369	250,000	-	525,369
Rowan Fell, Director – Investment Services	2011	280,866	110,000	-	390,866
	2010	315,170	165,000	-	480,170
Paul Vine, General Counsel and Company Secretary	2011	234,513	10,000	-	244,513
	2010	232,670	25,000	-	257,670
<b>Total compensation: key management personnel (consolidated)</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>1,449,597</b>	<b>245,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,694,597</b>
	<b>2010</b>	<b>1,490,496</b>	<b>590,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,080,496</b>
<b>Total compensation: key management personnel (company)</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
	<b>2010</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

POST-EMPLOYMENT	SHARE-BASED PAYMENTS				TOTAL	PROPORTION OF REMUNERATION PERFORMANCE RELATED	VALUE OF OPTIONS AS PROPORTION OF REMUNERATION
	SUPERANNUATION BENEFITS <sup>2</sup>	OTHER LONG TERM	TERMINATION BENEFITS <sup>4</sup>	TOTAL AMORTISATION VALUE OF LTI OPTIONS			
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	%	%
	50,206	-	-	-	620,000	-	-
	50,000	-	-	6,550	1,076,550	42	1
	15,487	-	-	-	544,276	-	-
	14,830	-	-	6,550	1,000,826	46	1
	40,396	-	112,258	-	412,258	-	-
	50,000	-	-	-	600,000	33	-
	8,257	-	-	-	100,000	-	-
	8,257	-	-	328	100,328	1	1
	8,257	-	-	-	300,000	-	-
	8,257	-	-	-	400,000	-	-
	8,257	-	-	-	100,000	-	-
	8,257	-	-	-	100,000	-	-
	13,752	-	-	-	175,000	-	-
	8,257	-	-	-	100,000	-	-
	<b>144,612</b>	-	<b>112,258</b>	-	<b>2,251,534</b>	-	-
	<b>147,858</b>	-	-	<b>13,428</b>	<b>3,377,704</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>1</b>
	<b>38,523</b>	-	-	-	<b>675,000</b>	-	-
	<b>33,028</b>	-	-	<b>328</b>	<b>700,328</b>	-	-
	50,000	-	-	-	389,502	-	-
	50,000	-	-	2,620	542,122	28	1
	48,125	-	-	-	358,328	-	-
	50,369	-	-	-	378,154	-	-
	15,487	-	-	-	425,000	29	-
	24,631	-	-	3,989	553,989	46	1
	49,134	-	-	-	440,000	25	-
	14,830	-	-	1,965	496,965	34	1
	15,487	-	-	-	260,000	4	-
	14,830	-	-	491	272,991	9	-
	<b>178,233</b>	-	-	-	<b>1,872,830</b>	<b>13</b>	-
	<b>154,660</b>	-	-	<b>9,065</b>	<b>2,244,221</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>1</b>
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

REMUNERATION REPORT (AUDITED) CONTINUED

Notes in relation to the table of Directors' and executive officers' remuneration

- a) In relation to the executive officers, the short-term incentive bonus is for performance during the financial year ended 31 December 2011 using the criteria set out in section 5 of the Remuneration Report.
- b) Options were issued to Directors and executives in October 2007. The fair value of the options is calculated at the date of grant using an option-pricing model and allocated to each reporting period evenly over the period from grant date to vesting date. The value disclosed is the portion of the fair value of the options recognised in this reporting period. None of the options were exercised and they expired in December 2011.

The following factors and assumptions were used in determining the fair value of options on grant date:

GRANT DATE	OPTION EXERCISE DATE	FAIR VALUE PER OPTION	EXERCISE PRICE	PRICE OF SHARES ON GRANT DATE	EXPECTED VOLATILITY	RISK FREE INTEREST RATE	DIVIDEND YIELD
10 Oct 07	15 Dec 2010 <sup>1</sup>	\$0.0262	\$3.10 <sup>2</sup>	\$1.55	25%	6.55%	5.0%

1 Options could be exercised for a period of up to 12 months from exercise date.

2 Represents exercise price at grant. Exercise price at listing date was \$2.00.

Equity instruments

All options refer to options over Ordinary shares of Bell Financial, which are exercisable on a one-for-one basis under the LTI plan.

9. OPTIONS GRANTED AS COMPENSATION – ALL EXPIRED

Details on options over Ordinary shares in the Company that were granted as compensation to each key management person in 2007 were disclosed in previous Annual Reports. Those options were exercisable until 12 December 2011 and expired on that date. No options were granted in 2011.

9.1 Modification of terms of equity-settled share-based payment transactions

No terms of equity settled share based payment transactions (including options granted to key management personnel) have been altered or modified by the issuing entity during the reporting period.

9.2 Exercise of options granted as compensation

Following the vesting date or the accelerated vesting of an option, the vested option may be exercised by the executive subject to any exercise conditions and the payment of the exercise price (if any), and the executive will then be allocated or issued shares on one-for-one basis.

No options granted as compensation were exercised during the period.

9.3 Analysis of options granted as compensation

Details of vesting profile of the options granted as remuneration to each Director of the Company and each of the named Company executives are detailed below.

	OPTIONS GRANTED		% VESTED IN YEAR	FINANCIAL YEARS IN WHICH GRANT VESTS
	NUMBER	DATE		
<b>DIRECTORS</b>				
Colin Bell	1,000,000	10 Oct 2007	-	15 Dec 2010
Alastair Provan	1,000,000	10 Oct 2007	-	15 Dec 2010
Graham Cubbin	50,000	10 Oct 2007	-	15 Dec 2010
<b>EXECUTIVES</b>				
Lewis Bell	400,000	10 Oct 2007	-	15 Dec 2010
Dean Davenport	608,959	10 Oct 2007	-	15 Dec 2010
Rowan Fell	300,000	10 Oct 2007	-	15 Dec 2010
Paul Vine	75,000	10 Oct 2007	-	15 Dec 2010

There were no options granted as compensation during the period.

9.4 Analysis of movements in options

All options disclosed above lapsed on 12 December 2011.

## INDEMNIFICATION AND INSURANCE OF DIRECTORS

### Indemnification

The Company has agreed to indemnify the Directors against all liabilities to another person (other than the Company or related entity) that may arise from their position as Directors of the Company or its controlled entities, except where the liability arises out of conduct including a lack of good faith.

Except for the above, neither the Company nor its controlled entities has indemnified any person who is or has been an officer or auditor of the Company or its controlled entities.

### Insurance premiums

Since the end of the previous financial year the Company has paid a premium for an insurance policy for the benefit of the Directors, officers, secretaries and senior executives of the Company. In accordance with commercial practice, the policy prohibits disclosure of the nature of insurance or amount of the premium.

## ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION

The operations of the Group are not subject to any particular and significant environmental regulation under a law of the Commonwealth of a State or Territory. To the best of the Company's knowledge no member of the Group has incurred any material environmental liability during the year.

## NON-AUDIT SERVICES

The Company may decide to engage the auditor on assignments additional to their statutory audit duties where the auditor's expertise with the Group is important. The provision of these services and the auditor's independence are discussed in the Corporate Governance Statement.

Details of the amounts paid to the auditor of the Company, KPMG, and its related practices for audit and non-audit services provided during the year are set in note 38.

## LIKELY DEVELOPMENTS

Further details of likely developments in the operations of the Group and its prospects in future financial years are contained in the Executive Chairman's and the Managing Director's Reports set out on pages 2 to 5. In the opinion of the Directors, disclosure of any further information would be likely to result in unreasonable prejudice to the Group.

## LEAD AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION

The lead auditor's independence declaration is set out on page 22 and forms part of the Directors' report for the financial year ended 31 December 2011.

## ROUNDING OF AMOUNTS

The Company is of a kind referred to in ASIC Class Order 98/100 dated 10 January 1998 and in accordance with that Class Order, amounts in the financial report and Directors' report have been rounded off to the nearest thousand dollars, unless otherwise stated.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Directors.



**Colin Bell**  
Executive Chairman

22 February 2012

# LEAD AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION

UNDER SECTION 307C OF THE CORPORATIONS ACT 2001

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## TO: THE DIRECTORS OF BELL FINANCIAL GROUP LIMITED

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, in relation to the audit for the financial year ended 31 December 2011 there have been:

- i) no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in the Corporations Act 2001 in relation to the audit; and
- ii) no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.



**KPMG**



**Don Pasquariello**

Partner

Melbourne

22 February 2012

# INCOME STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2011

	NOTE	CONSOLIDATED \$ '000	
		2011	2010
Rendering of services	6.	140,540	171,837
Finance income	9.	19,837	19,902
Investing income / (expense)	7.	(5,646)	7,608
Other income	8.	816	898
<b>Total revenue</b>		<b>155,547</b>	<b>200,245</b>
Employee expenses	10.	(94,383)	(119,593)
Depreciation and amortisation expenses	16,17.	(1,398)	(1,592)
Occupancy expenses		(9,646)	(10,007)
Systems and communication expenses		(14,580)	(14,295)
Professional expenses		(3,043)	(2,334)
Finance expenses	9.	(9,527)	(9,722)
Other expenses		(10,136)	(10,061)
<b>Total expenses</b>		<b>(142,713)</b>	<b>(167,604)</b>
<b>Results from operating activities</b>		<b>12,834</b>	<b>32,641</b>
Share of profit / (loss) of equity accounted investments, net of income tax	18.	(1,134)	(1,034)
<b>Profit before income tax</b>		<b>11,700</b>	<b>31,607</b>
Income tax (expense) / benefit	11.	(4,061)	(10,038)
<b>Profit for the year</b>		<b>7,639</b>	<b>21,569</b>
<b>ATTRIBUTABLE TO:</b>			
Equity holders of the Company		7,639	21,569
<b>Profit for the year</b>		<b>7,639</b>	<b>21,569</b>
<b>EARNINGS PER SHARE:</b>		<b>CENTS</b>	<b>CENTS</b>
Basic earnings per share (AUD)	29.	3.0	8.7
Diluted earnings per share (AUD)	29.	3.0	8.7

The notes on pages 28 to 59 are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.

# STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2011

	CONSOLIDATED \$ '000	
	2011	2010
<b>Profit for the year</b>	<b>7,639</b>	<b>21,569</b>
<b>OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME</b>		
Change in fair value of cash flow hedge	(220)	(205)
<b>Other comprehensive income for the year, net of tax</b>	<b>(220)</b>	<b>(205)</b>
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b>	<b>7,419</b>	<b>21,364</b>
<b>ATTRIBUTABLE TO:</b>		
Equity holders of the Company	7,419	21,364
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b>	<b>7,419</b>	<b>21,364</b>

Other movements in equity arising from transactions with owners as owners are set out in note 27.

The notes on pages 28 to 59 are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.



# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2011

	NOTE	CONSOLIDATED \$ '000	
		2011	2010
<b>ASSETS</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	12.	109,933	126,674
Trade and other receivables	13.	52,411	64,778
Loans and advances	20.	138,498	174,907
Financial assets	14.	2,088	18,044
Prepayments		542	701
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>303,472</b>	<b>385,104</b>
Investments in equity accounted investees	18.	11,068	10,439
Deferred tax assets	19.	2,298	2,908
Property, plant and equipment	16.	3,111	2,530
Goodwill	17.	118,819	126,479
Intangible assets	17.	1,741	2,036
<b>Total non-current assets</b>		<b>137,037</b>	<b>144,392</b>
<b>Total assets</b>		<b>440,509</b>	<b>529,496</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
Trade and other payables	21.	72,351	93,333
Financial liabilities	15.	-	2,449
Deposits and borrowings	22.	182,402	204,215
Current tax liabilities	23.	1,020	3,159
Derivatives	31.	228	8
Employee benefits	25.	6,670	21,107
Provisions	24.	750	24,482
<b>Total current liabilities</b>		<b>263,421</b>	<b>348,753</b>
Deferred tax liability	19.	3	1,781
Employee benefits	25.	2,444	2,621
<b>Total non-current liabilities</b>		<b>2,447</b>	<b>4,402</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<b>265,868</b>	<b>353,155</b>
<b>Net assets</b>		<b>174,641</b>	<b>176,341</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Contributed equity	27.	164,284	157,666
Reserves	27.	25,736	34,054
Retained earnings / (losses)	27.	(15,379)	(15,379)
<b>Total equity attributable to equity holders of the Company</b>		<b>174,641</b>	<b>176,341</b>

The notes on pages 28 to 59 are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.

# STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

CONSOLIDATED	SHARE CAPITAL \$ '000	TREASURY SHARES RESERVE \$ '000	SHARE BASED PAYMENTS RESERVE \$'000	DISTRIBUTABLE PROFITS RESERVE \$ '000	CASH FLOW HEDGE RESERVE \$ '000	RETAINED EARNINGS \$ '000	TOTAL EQUITY \$ '000
<b>Balance at 1 January 2010</b>	<b>147,742</b>	-	-	<b>33,081</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>(15,379)</b>	<b>165,641</b>
<b>TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME</b>							
Profit for the year	-	-	-	-	-	21,569	21,569
<b>OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME</b>							
Change in fair value of cash flow hedges	-	-	-	-	(205)	-	(205)
Total other comprehensive income	-	-	-	-	(205)	-	(205)
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b>	-	-	-	-	<b>(205)</b>	<b>21,569</b>	<b>21,364</b>
<b>TRANSACTIONS WITH OWNERS, DIRECTLY IN EQUITY</b>							
Transfer of retained earnings	-	-	-	21,569	-	(21,569)	-
New equity issue	9,924	-	-	-	-	-	9,924
Dividends	-	-	-	(20,588)	-	-	(20,588)
<b>Balance at 31 December 2010</b>	<b>157,666</b>	-	-	<b>34,062</b>	<b>(8)</b>	<b>(15,379)</b>	<b>176,341</b>
<b>Balance at 1 January 2011</b>	<b>157,666</b>	-	-	<b>34,062</b>	<b>(8)</b>	<b>(15,379)</b>	<b>176,341</b>
<b>TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME</b>							
Profit for the year	-	-	-	-	-	7,639	7,639
<b>OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME</b>							
Change in fair value of cash flow hedges	-	-	-	-	(220)	-	(220)
Total other comprehensive income	-	-	-	-	(220)	-	(220)
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b>	-	-	-	-	<b>(220)</b>	<b>7,639</b>	<b>7,419</b>
<b>TRANSACTIONS WITH OWNERS, DIRECTLY IN EQUITY</b>							
Transfer of retained earnings	-	-	-	7,639	-	(7,639)	-
New equity issue	6,618	-	-	-	-	-	6,618
Purchase of treasury shares	-	(863)	-	-	-	-	(863)
Share based payments	-	-	8	-	-	-	8
Dividends	-	-	-	(15,159)	-	-	(15,159)
Other	-	-	-	277	-	-	277
<b>Balance at 31 December 2011</b>	<b>164,284</b>	<b>(863)</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>26,819</b>	<b>(228)</b>	<b>(15,379)</b>	<b>174,641</b>

The notes on pages 28 to 59 are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.

# STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2011

	NOTE	CONSOLIDATED \$ '000	
		2011	2010
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM / (USED IN) OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Cash receipts from customers		163,012	199,526
Cash paid to suppliers and employees		(176,863)	(176,664)
<b>Cash generated from operations</b>		<b>(13,851)</b>	<b>22,862</b>
Dividends received		146	184
Interest received		19,543	19,767
Interest paid		(9,527)	(9,722)
Income taxes paid		(7,189)	(12,261)
<b>Net cash from operating activities</b>	26.	<b>(10,878)</b>	<b>20,830</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM / (USED IN) INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Net proceeds from sale of investments		8,031	5,117
Southern Cross consideration		(8,705)	(13,059)
Acquisition of property, plant and equipment		(1,684)	(1,330)
Acquisition of other investments		(2,079)	(7,698)
<b>Net cash from / (used in) investing activities</b>		<b>(4,437)</b>	<b>(16,970)</b>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM / (USED IN) FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Dividends paid		(15,159)	(20,588)
On market share purchases		(863)	-
<i>Bell Potter Capital (Margin Lending)</i>			
Deposits		(6,730)	47,166
Loans		36,409	18,124
Repayment of borrowings		(15,083)	(47,085)
<b>Net cash from / (used in) financing activities</b>		<b>(1,426)</b>	<b>(2,383)</b>
Net increase / (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		(16,741)	1,477
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January		126,674	125,197
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at 31 December</b>	12, 26.	<b>109,933</b>	<b>126,674</b>

The notes on pages 28 to 59 are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2011

Bell Financial Group Ltd ("Bell Financial" or the "Company") is domiciled in Australia. The address of the Company's registered office is Level 29, 101 Collins Street, Melbourne, VIC. The consolidated financial statements of the Company comprise of the Company and its subsidiaries (the "Group" or "Consolidated Entity") and the Group's interest in associates.

## 1. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Set out below is a summary of significant accounting policies adopted by the Company, its subsidiaries and associates in the preparation of the consolidated financial statements.

### a) Basis of preparation

#### Statement of compliance

The financial report is a general purpose financial report prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (AASBs) (including Australian Accounting Interpretations) adopted by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) and the Corporations Act 2001. The consolidated financial report of the Group and the financial report of the Company comply with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) and interpretations adopted by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB).

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors on 22 February 2012.

The accounting policies set out below, except as noted, have been applied consistently to all periods presented in these consolidated financial statements, and have been consistently applied by all entities within the consolidated entity.

#### Basis of measurement

These consolidated financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, except for financial assets and liabilities (including derivative instruments) at fair value through the profit and loss.

### Functional and presentation currency

These consolidated financial statements are presented in Australian dollars, which is the Company's functional currency and the functional currency of the majority of the Group. The Company is of a kind referred to in ASIC Class Order 98/100 dated 10 July 1998 and in accordance with that Class Order, all financial information presented in Australian dollars has been rounded to the nearest thousand dollars unless otherwise stated.

### Removal of parent entity financial statements

The Group has applied amendments to the Corporations Act (2001) that remove the requirement for the Group to lodge parent entity financial statements. Parent entity financial statements have been replaced by the specific parent entity disclosures in note 33.

### b) Principles of consolidation

#### Business combinations

The Group has adopted revised AASB 3 Business Combinations (2008) and amended AASB 127 Consolidated and Separate Financial Statements (2008) for business combinations occurring in the financial year starting 1 January 2009. All business combinations occurring before this date are accounted for by applying the acquisition method.

#### Subsidiaries

Subsidiaries are all entities controlled by the Group. Control exists where the Group has the power to govern the financial and operating policies of the entity so as to obtain benefits from its activities. In assessing control, potential voting rights that are currently exercisable are taken into account. The financial statements of subsidiaries are included in the consolidated financial statements from the date that control commenced until the date that control ceases. All controlled entities have a 31 December balance date.

Intra-group balances, and any unrealised income and expenses arising from intra-group transactions, are eliminated in preparing the consolidated financial statements.

### Investments in associates

Associates are those entities in which the Company has significant influence, but not control, over the financial and operating policies. Associates are accounted for using the equity method. The consolidated financial statements include the Group's share of the income and expenses of equity accounted investees, from the date significant influence commences until the date that significant influence ceases. When the Group's share of losses exceeds its interest in an equity accounted investee, the carrying amount of that interest is reduced to nil.

Unrealised gains arising from transactions with equity accounted investees are eliminated against the investment to the extent of the Group's interest in the investee. Unrealised losses are eliminated in the same way as unrealised gains, but only to the extent that there is no evidence of impairment.

### Special purpose entities

The Group has established a special purpose entity (SPE) to manage margin loans. The Group does not have direct or indirect shareholdings in this entity. The SPE is consolidated if, based on an evaluation of the substance of its relationship with the Group and the SPE's risks and rewards, the Group concludes that it controls the SPE.

SPE's consolidated by the Group were established under terms that impose strict limitations on the decision making powers of the SPE's management and that result in the Group receiving the majority of the benefits related to the SPE's operations and net assets, being exposed to risks incident to the SPE's activities and retaining the majority of the residual or ownership risks related to the SPE or its assets.

### c) Revenue recognition

Revenue is recognised to the extent that it is probable that the economic benefit will flow to the Group and the revenue can be reliably measured. The following specific criteria must also be met before revenue can be recognised.

## Rendering of services

Revenue arising from brokerage, commissions, fee income and corporate finance transactions are recognised by the Group on an accruals basis as and when services have been provided, net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST). Provision is made for uncollectible debts arising from such services. Securities held at balance date are valued by directors at market value at each balance date, with any unrealised gains and losses being taken to the income statement.

## Interest income

Interest income is recognised as it accrues using the effective interest method.

## Dividend income

Dividends are bought to account as revenue when the right to receive the payment is established.

## d) Statement of cash flows

The Statement of Cash Flows is prepared on the basis of net cash flows in relation to settlement of trades. This is consistent with the Group's revenue recognition policy whereby the entity acts as an agent and receives and pays funds on behalf of its clients, however only recognises as revenue, the Group's entitlement to brokerage commission.

For the purpose of the Statement of Cash Flows, cash and cash equivalents comprise cash at bank and on hand, investments in money market instruments maturing within less than 14 days (net of bank overdrafts) and short-term deposits with an original maturity of 3 months or less. It is important to note that the statement of financial position discloses trade debtors and payables that represent net client accounts being the accumulation of gross trading.

## e) Income tax

Income tax expense or revenue for the period comprises current and deferred tax. Income tax is recognised in the Income Statement except to the extent that it relates to items recognised directly in equity, in which case it is recognised in equity.

Current tax is the expected tax payable on the taxable income for the year, using tax rates enacted or substantially enacted at the balance sheet date, and any adjustments to tax payable in respect of previous years.

Deferred tax is recognised using the balance sheet method, providing for temporary differences between the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities for financial reporting purposes and the amounts used for taxation purposes. Deferred tax is not recognised for the following temporary differences: the initial recognition of goodwill, the initial recognition of assets or liabilities in a transaction that is not a business combination and that affects neither accounting nor taxable profit, and differences relating to investments in subsidiaries to the extent that they probably will not reverse in the foreseeable future. Deferred tax is measured at the tax rates that are expected to be applied to the temporary differences when they reverse, based on the laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the reporting date.

Deferred tax assets and liabilities are offset if there is a legally enforceable right to offset current tax liabilities and assets, and they relate to income taxes levied by the same tax authority on the same taxable entity, or on different tax entities, but they intend to settle current tax liabilities and assets on a net basis or their tax assets and liabilities will be realised simultaneously.

A deferred tax asset is recognised to the extent that it is probable that future taxable profits will be available against which temporary differences can be utilised. Deferred tax assets are reviewed at each reporting date and are reduced to the extent that it is no longer probable that the related tax benefit will be realised.

## Tax consolidation

Effective 1 January 2003, the Company elected to apply the tax consolidation legislation. All current tax amounts relating to the Group have been assumed by the head entity of the tax-consolidated group, Bell Financial Group. Deferred tax amounts in relation to temporary differences are allocated as if each entity continued to be a taxable entity in its own right.

## f) Goods and services tax

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST), except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Tax Office (ATO). In these circumstances the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of the expense.

Receivables and payables are stated with the amount of GST excluded. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included as a current asset or liability in the Statement of Financial Position.

Cash flows are included in the statement of cash flows on a gross basis. The GST components of cash flows arising from investing and financing activities that are recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO are classified as operating cash flows.

## g) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash balances, investments in money market instruments maturing within less than 14 days and short-term deposits with original maturity of less than three months. Bank overdrafts that are repayable on demand are included as a component of cash and cash equivalents for the purpose of the Statement of Cash Flows.

## 1. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES CONTINUED

### h) Derivatives

Derivative financial instruments are contracts whose value is derived from one or more underlying price indices or other variable. They include swaps, forward rate agreements, options or a combination of all three.

Certain derivative instruments are held for trading for the purpose of making short-term gains. These derivatives do not qualify for hedge accounting. The right to receive options arising from the provision of services to corporate fee clients are valued using the Black and Scholes model. On disposal of options any realised gains/losses are taken to the Income Statement. Derivatives are recognised initially at fair value and attributable transaction costs are recognised in profit or loss when incurred.

Derivative financial instruments are also used for hedging purposes to mitigate the Group's exposure to interest rate risk. Derivative financial instruments are recognised initially at fair value. Where the derivative is designated effective as a hedging instrument, the timing of the recognition of any resultant gain or loss is dependant on the hedging designation. The Group designated interest rate swaps as cash flow hedges during the period. Details of the hedging instruments are outlined below:

#### Cash flow hedges

Changes in the fair value of cash flow hedges are recognised directly in equity to the extent that the hedges are effective. To the extent hedges are ineffective, changes in the fair value are recognised in the profit and loss. Hedge effectiveness is tested at each reporting date and is calculated using the dollar offset method. Effectiveness will be assessed on a cumulative basis by calculating the change in fair value of the interest rate swap as a percentage of the change in fair value of the designated hedge item. If the ratio change in the fair value is within the 80 - 125% range, a hedge is deemed to be effective.

If the hedging instrument no longer meets the criteria for hedge accounting, expires or is sold, terminated or exercised, the hedge accounting is discontinued prospectively. The cumulative gain or loss previously recognised in equity remains there until the forecast transaction occurs.

### i) Impairment of assets

At each reporting date, the Group reviews the carrying values of its tangible and intangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have been impaired. If such an indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use, is compared to the asset's carrying value. Any excess of the asset's carrying value over its recoverable amount is expensed to the Income Statement.

Where it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of an individual asset, the Group estimates the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs.

An impairment loss is reversed if the reversal can be related objectively to an event occurring after the impairment loss was recognised. For financial assets measured at amortised cost and available-for-sale financial assets that are debt securities the reversal is recognised in profit or loss.

For available-for-sale financial assets that are equity securities, the reversal is recognised in equity. Impairment losses on goodwill are not reversed.

### j) Trade and other receivables

Trade debtors to be settled within 3 trading days are carried at amounts due. Term debtors are carried at the amount due. The collectability of debts is assessed at balance date and specific provision is made for any doubtful accounts.

### k) Trade and other payables

Liabilities for trade creditors and other amounts are carried at cost which is the fair value of the consideration to be paid in the future for goods and services received, whether or not billed to the parent entity or Group. Trade accounts payable are normally settled within 60 days.

### l) Leased assets

Leases in terms of which the Group assumes substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership are classified as finance leases. Upon initial recognition the leased asset is measured at an amount equal to the lower of its fair value and the present value of minimum lease payments. Subsequent to initial recognition, the asset is accounted for in accordance with the accounting policy applicable to that asset.

Other leases are operating leases and are not recognised on the Group's Statement of Financial Position.

### m) Borrowing costs

Borrowing costs are recognised as expenses in the period in which they are incurred.

### n) Provisions

A provision is recognised if, as a result of a past event, the Group has a present legal or constructive obligation that can be estimated reliably, and it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation. Provisions are determined by discounting the expected future cash flows at a pre-tax rate that reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and the risks specific to the liability.

### o) Deposits and borrowings

All deposits and borrowings are recognised at cost, being the fair value of the consideration received net of issue costs associated with the borrowings.

## p) Goodwill and intangible assets

### Goodwill

Goodwill on acquisition is initially measured at cost being the excess of the costs of the business combination over the acquirer's interest in the net fair value of the identifiable assets, liabilities and contingent liabilities.

Following initial recognition, goodwill is measured at cost less accumulated impairment losses. Goodwill is reviewed for impairment, annually or more frequently if events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount is impaired.

### Other intangible assets

Other intangible assets that are acquired by the Group, which have finite lives, are measured at cost less accumulated amortisation and accumulated impairment losses.

Amortisation is recognised in the profit and loss on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful lives of intangible assets. The estimated useful lives are as follows:

	2011	2010
Customer list	10 years	10 years

## q) Financial instruments

All investments are initially recognised at fair value of the consideration given, plus directly attributable transaction costs. Subsequent to initial recognition, investments, which are classified as financial assets are measured as described below.

### Fair value estimation

For investments actively traded in organised financial markets, fair value is determined by reference to Stock Exchange quoted market bid prices at the close of business on the balance sheet date.

For investments where there is no quoted market price and a reliable estimate of fair value is not available the security is recorded at the lower of cost and recoverable amount, being a Directors' valuation, by reference to the current

market value of another instrument that is substantially the same. Realised and unrealised gains and losses are included in the income statement. Dividends are brought to account when declared.

### Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss

A financial asset is classified in this category if acquired principally for the purpose of selling in the short term or if so designated by management and within the requirements of AASB 139: Recognition and Measurement of Financial Instruments. Realised and unrealised gains and losses arising from changes in the fair value of these assets are included in the income statement in the period in which they arise.

### Loans and advances

All loans and advances are recognised at amortised cost. Impairment assessments are performed at least at each reporting date and impairment is reviewed on each individual loan. Impairment provisions are raised if the recoverable amount is less than the carrying value of the loan. Loans are secured by holding equities as collateral.

### Share capital

#### Ordinary shares

Ordinary shares are classified as equity. Incremental costs directly attributable to issue of ordinary shares and share options are recognised as a deduction from equity, net of any tax effects.

#### Dividends

Dividends are recognised as a liability in the period in which they are declared, being appropriately authorised and no longer at the discretion of the Company.

#### Treasury shares

When share capital recognised as equity is repurchased, the amount of the consideration paid is recognised as a deduction from equity. Repurchased shares are classified as treasury shares and are presented in the reserve until sold or reissued.

## r) Property, plant and equipment

Property, plant and equipment is included at cost less accumulated depreciation and any impairment in value. All property, plant and equipment is depreciated over its estimated useful life, commencing from the time assets are held ready for use.

Items of property, plant and equipment are depreciated/amortised using the straight-line method over their estimated useful lives. The depreciation rates for each class of asset are as follows:

	2011	2010
Leasehold improvements	20 – 25%	20 – 25%
Office equipment	20 – 50%	20 – 50%
Furniture and fittings	20 – 50%	20 – 50%

## s) Employee entitlements

### Wages, salaries and annual leave

The provisions for entitlements to wages, salaries and annual leave expected to be settled within 12 months of reporting date represent the amounts which the Group has a present obligation to pay resulting from employees' services provided up to reporting date.

### Long service leave

The provision for salaried employee entitlements to long service leave represents the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made resulting from employees' service provided up to reporting date. Liabilities for employee entitlements, which are not expected to be settled within twelve months, are discounted using the rates attaching to national government securities at balance date, which most closely match the terms of maturity of the related liabilities.

In determining the liability for employee entitlements, consideration has been given to future increases in wage and salary rates, and experience with staff departures. Related on-costs have also been included in the liability.

## 1. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES CONTINUED

### Bonuses

The Company recognises a liability and an expense for bonuses. The Company recognises a provision where contractually obliged or where there is a past performance that has created a constructive obligation.

### Defined contribution plans

A defined contribution plan is a post-employment benefit plan under which the Company pays fixed contributions into a separate entity and will have no legal or constructive obligation to pay further amounts. Obligations for contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised as an employee expense in profit or loss when they are due.

### Share based payments

The Company has adopted a number of share based Equity Incentive Plans in which employees and Directors participate. The grant date fair value of shares expected to be issued under the various Equity Incentive Plans, including options, granted to employees and Directors is recognised as an employee expense, with a corresponding increase in equity over the period in which the employees become unconditionally entitled to the shares.

The fair value of options at grant date is independently determined using the Black and Scholes option pricing model that takes into account the exercise price, the vesting period, the vesting and performance criteria, the impact of dilution, the share price at grant date and the expected price volatility of the underlying share and the risk free interest rate for the vesting period.

### t) Earnings per share

The Group presents basic and diluted earnings per share (EPS) data for its ordinary shares.

#### Basic earnings per share

Basic EPS is calculated by dividing the profit or loss attributable to ordinary shareholders of the Company by the weighted average number of ordinary shares outstanding during the period.

#### Diluted earnings per share

Diluted EPS is determined by adjusting the profit or loss attributable to ordinary shareholders and the weighted average number of ordinary shares outstanding for the effects of all dilutive potential ordinary shares and share options granted to employees and Directors.

### u) Foreign currency transactions

Transactions in foreign currencies are translated to the functional currency of the Group at exchange rates at the date of the transaction. Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies at the reporting date are retranslated to the functional currency at the foreign exchange rate at that date. Non-monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies that are measured at fair value are retranslated to the functional currency at the exchange rate at the date that the fair value was determined.

Foreign currency differences arising on retranslation are recognised in profit or loss, except for differences arising on available for sale equity instruments that are recognised directly in equity.

### v) Segment reporting

The Group determines and presents operating segments based on the information that is internally provided to the Chief Decision Maker in accordance with AASB 8 Operating Segments.

An operating segment is a component of the Group that engages in business activities from which it may earn revenues and incur expenses, including revenues and expenses that relate to transactions with any of the Group's other components. An operating segment's operating results are reviewed regularly by management to make decisions about resources to be allocated to the segment and assess its performance. Segment results that are reported to management include items directly attributable to a segment as well as to those that can be allocated on a reasonable basis.

### w) New standards and interpretations not yet adopted

A number of new standards, amendments to standards and interpretations are effective for annual periods beginning after 1 January 2011 and have not been applied in preparing these consolidated financial statements. None of these is expected to have a significant effect on the consolidated financial statements of the Group, except for IFRS 9 Financial Instruments, which becomes mandatory for the Group's 2013 consolidated financial statements and could change the classification and measurement of financial assets. The Group does not plan to adopt this standard early and the extent of the impact has not been determined.

## 2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING JUDGEMENTS, ESTIMATES AND ASSUMPTIONS

In applying the Group's accounting policies management continually evaluates judgements, estimates and assumptions based on experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that may have an impact on the Group. All judgements, estimates and assumptions made are believed to be reasonable based on the most current set of circumstances available to management and are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Actual results may differ from the judgements, estimates and assumptions. Significant judgements, estimates and assumptions made by management in the preparation of these financial statements are outlined below:

#### Recovery of deferred tax assets

Deferred tax assets are recognised for deductible temporary differences as management considers that it is probable that future taxable profits will be available to utilise those temporary differences (refer to note 19).

#### Impairment of loans and advances

The Company assesses impairment of all loans at each reporting date by evaluating any issues particular to an asset that may lead to impairment. In the Directors' opinion, no such impairment exists beyond that provided at 31 December 2011 (refer to note 20).



### Long service leave provisions

The liability for long service leave is recognised and measured as the present value of the estimated future cash flows to be made in respect of all employees at balance date. In determining the present value of a liability, attrition rates and pay increases through promotion and inflation have been taken into account. A discount rate equal to the government bond rate has been used in determining the present value of the obligation (refer to note 25).

### Legal provision

As at 31 December 2011, a provision has been accrued to reflect potential claims. In the Directors' opinion, the outcome of these legal claims is unlikely to give rise to any significant loss beyond the amounts provided at 31 December 2011 (refer to note 24).

### Intangible assets

The intangible assets acquired have been valued using the net present value of the unlevered free cash flow from each business' client list. These valuations are outlined below:

#### Bell Foreign Exchange and Futures business

The amortisation period for the acquired intangible assets of the Foreign Exchange and Futures business is deemed to be 10 years. This was determined by analysing the average length of the relationship clients have with the business.

#### Impairment of goodwill

Goodwill is tested for impairment at each reporting date, or more frequently if events or changes in circumstances indicated that it might be impaired. For the purpose of impairment testing, goodwill is allocated to Bell Potter Broking and Margin Lending which represents the lowest level at which it is monitored for internal management purposes.

The recoverable amount of the business to which each goodwill component is allocated is estimated based on its value in use and is determined by discounting the future cash flows generated from continuing use. The result of the impairment testing performed did not result in any impairment being identified.

### Key assumptions used in discounted cash flow projections

The key assumptions used in calculation of the recoverable amounts are discount rates and terminal value multiples.

	DISCOUNT RATE	
	2011 %	2010 %
Broking	10	10
Margin Lending	11	11

	TERMINAL VALUE MULTIPLE	
	2011	2010
Broking	n/a	n/a
Margin Lending	7x	7x

The discount rate used is a pre-tax measure based on the risk-free rate, adjusted for a risk premium to reflect both the increased risk of investing in equities and the systematic risk of the specific business.

## 3. FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT

### Overview

The Group's principal financial instruments comprise listed securities, derivatives, term deposits and cash. The Group has exposure to the following risks from its use of financial instruments:

- market risk;
- credit risk; and
- liquidity risk.

### Risk management framework

The Board of Directors has overall responsibility for the establishment and oversight of the risk management framework. The Board has established the Group Risk and Audit Committee, which is responsible for developing and monitoring risk management policies. The Committee reports regularly to the Board of Directors on its activities.

Risk management policies are established to identify and analyse the risks faced by the Group, to set appropriate risk limits and controls, and to monitor risks and adherence to limits. Risk management policies and systems are reviewed regularly to reflect changes in market conditions and the Group's activities. The Group, through its training and management standards and procedures, aims to develop a disciplined and constructive control environment in which all employees understand their roles and obligations.

The Group Risk and Audit Committee oversees how management monitors compliance with the Group's risk management policies and procedures and reviews the adequacy of the risk management framework in relation to the risks faced by the Group. Internal Audit assists the Group Risk and Audit Committee in its oversight role. Internal Audit undertakes both regular and ad hoc reviews of risk management controls and procedures, the results of which are reported to the Group Risk and Audit Committee.

### Market risk

Market risk is the risk that changes in market prices, such as interest rates, equity prices and foreign exchange rates will affect the Group's income or the value of its holdings of financial instruments. The objective of market risk management is to manage and control exposures within acceptable parameters, while optimising returns.

### Equity price risk

All instruments are subject to the risk that future changes in market conditions may make an instrument less valuable. As trading instruments are valued with reference to the market or Black and Scholes model, changes in equity prices directly affect reported income in each period. The Group continually monitors equity price movements to ensure the impact on the Group's activities is managed.

### 3. FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT CONTINUED

#### Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk arises from the potential for change in interest rates to have an adverse effect on the Group's net earnings. The Group continually monitors movements in interest rates and manages exposure accordingly.

The Board has also approved the use of derivatives, in the form of interest rate swaps, to mitigate its exposure to interest rate risk. Changes in the fair value and effectiveness of interest rate swaps (which are designated cash flow hedging instruments) are monitored on a six-monthly basis.

#### Currency risk

The Group is exposed to currency risk on monetary assets and liabilities held in a currency other than the respective functional currency of the Group. The Group ensures the net exposure is kept to an acceptable level by buying or selling foreign currencies at spot rates where necessary to address short-term imbalances.

#### Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Group will not be able to meet its financial obligations as they fall due. The Group's approach to managing this risk is to ensure that it will always have sufficient liquidity to meet its liabilities when due, under both normal and stressed conditions, without incurring unacceptable losses or risking damage to the Group's reputation.

Ultimate responsibility for liquidity risk management rests with the Board of Directors, which has built an appropriate liquidity risk management framework for the management of the Group's short, medium and long-term funding requirements. The Group manages liquidity by maintaining reserves, banking facilities and reserve borrowing facilities and by continuously monitoring forecast and actual cash flows and matching up maturity profiles of financial assets and liabilities.

With respect to the maturity of financial liabilities, the Group also:

- holds financial assets for which there is a liquid market and that they are readily saleable to meet liquidity needs; and
- has committed borrowing facilities or other lines of credit that it can access to meet liquidity needs.

#### Credit risk

Credit risk is the financial loss to the Group if a debtor or counterparty to a financial instrument fails to meet its contractual obligations.

#### Trade and other receivables

The credit risk for these accounts is that financial assets recognised on the balance sheet exceed their carrying amount, net of any provisions for doubtful debts. In relation to client debtors, the Group's credit risk concentration is minimised as transactions are settled on a delivery versus payment basis with a settlement regime of trade day plus three days.

#### Margin lending

Management has a process in place and the exposure to credit risk is monitored on an ongoing basis. The Group requires collateral in respect of margin loans made in the course of business. This collateral is generally in the form of the underlying security the margin loan is used to invest in. Loan to value ratios (LVRs) are assigned to determine the amounts of lending allowed against each security. Loans balances are reviewed daily and are subject to margin calls once the geared value falls 10% lower than the loan balance. Warnings are sent between 5% and 10%.

#### Capital management

The Board's policy is to maintain a strong capital base so as to maintain investor, creditor and market confidence and to sustain future development of the business. The Group is required to comply with certain capital and liquidity requirements imposed by regulators as a licensed broking firm. All capital requirements are monitored by the Board and the Group was in compliance with all requirements throughout the year.

#### Security arrangements

The ANZ Bank has a Registered Mortgage Debenture over the assets and undertakings of the Company.

### 4. DETERMINATION OF FAIR VALUES

A number of the Group's accounting policies and disclosures require the determination of fair value, for both financial and non-financial assets and liabilities. Fair values have been determined and disclosed based on the following methods. Where applicable, further information about the assumptions made in determining fair values is disclosed in the notes specific to that asset or liability.

#### Intangible assets

The fair value of intangible assets acquired in a business combination is based on the discounted cash flows expected to be derived from the assets.

#### Investments in equity

The fair values of financial assets at fair value through profit and loss are determined with reference to the quoted bid price or if unquoted determined using a valuation model at reporting date.

#### Derivatives

The fair value of interest rate swaps is based on a mark-to-market model with reference to prevailing fixed and floating interest rates. These quotes are tested for reasonableness by discounting estimated future cash flows based on term to maturity of each contract and using market interest rates for a similar instrument at the measurement date.

The fair value of options is determined using the Black and Scholes option-pricing model.

#### Share based payments

The fair value of employee stock options is determined using a Black and Scholes model. Measurement inputs include share price, exercise price, volatility, weighted average expected life of the instrument, expected dividends and risk free interest rate. Service and non-market conditions are not taken into account in determining fair value.

## 5. SEGMENT REPORTING

### Business segments

The Group comprises the following main business segments:

- Broking – equities, futures, foreign exchange, corporate fee income and portfolio administration services; and
- Margin lending and deposits.

	BROKING 2011 \$ '000	MARGIN LENDING 2011 \$ '000	ELIMINATIONS 2011 \$ '000	CONSOLIDATED 2011 \$ '000
Revenue from operations	139,521	16,026	-	155,547
Profit / (loss) after tax	6,013	1,626	-	7,639
Segment assets	237,381	200,214	(8,154)	429,441
Investment in associates	11,068	-	-	11,068
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>248,449</b>	<b>200,214</b>	<b>(8,154)</b>	<b>440,509</b>
Segment liabilities	80,917	193,105	(8,154)	265,868
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>80,917</b>	<b>193,105</b>	<b>(8,154)</b>	<b>265,868</b>
<b>OTHER SEGMENT DETAILS</b>				
Interest revenue	4,400	16,016	(579)	19,837
Interest expense	(342)	(9,764)	579	(9,527)
Depreciation / amortisation	(1,398)	-	-	(1,398)
Share of net losses of associates	(1,134)	-	-	(1,134)

	BROKING 2010 \$ '000	MARGIN LENDING 2010 \$ '000	ELIMINATIONS 2010 \$ '000	CONSOLIDATED 2010 \$ '000
Revenue from operations	183,991	16,254	-	200,245
Profit / (loss) after tax	20,047	1,522	-	21,569
Segment assets	305,549	226,735	(13,227)	519,057
Investment in associates	10,439	-	-	10,439
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>315,988</b>	<b>226,735</b>	<b>(13,227)</b>	<b>529,496</b>
Segment liabilities	145,351	221,031	(13,227)	353,155
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>145,351</b>	<b>221,031</b>	<b>(13,227)</b>	<b>353,155</b>
<b>OTHER SEGMENT DETAILS</b>				
Interest revenue	4,303	16,230	(631)	19,902
Interest expense	(252)	(10,101)	631	(9,722)
Depreciation / amortisation	(1,592)	-	-	(1,592)
Share of net losses of associates	(1,034)	-	-	(1,034)

### Geographical segments

The Group operates predominantly within Australia and has a subsidiary in London.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS CONTINUED  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2011

6. RENDERING OF SERVICES

	CONSOLIDATED	
	2011 \$ '000	2010 \$ '000
Brokerage	98,403	118,257
Corporate fee income	26,861	38,069
Trailing commissions	6,377	6,314
Portfolio administration fees	7,717	8,212
Other	1,182	985
	<b>140,540</b>	<b>171,837</b>

7. INVESTING INCOME

Dividends received	146	184
Profit / (loss) on trading of listed and unlisted securities	(5,792)	7,424
	<b>(5,646)</b>	<b>7,608</b>

8. OTHER INCOME

Bad debts recovered	15	10
Sundry income	801	888
	<b>816</b>	<b>898</b>

9. FINANCE INCOME AND EXPENSES

Interest income on bank deposits	3,821	3,672
Interest income on loans and advances	16,016	16,230
<b>Total finance income</b>	<b>19,837</b>	<b>19,902</b>
Bank interest expense	(1,424)	(1,621)
Interest expense on deposits	(8,103)	(8,101)
<b>Total finance expense</b>	<b>(9,527)</b>	<b>(9,722)</b>
<b>Net finance income / (expense)</b>	<b>10,310</b>	<b>10,180</b>

10. EMPLOYEE EXPENSES

Wages and salaries	(80,100)	(105,388)
Superannuation	(7,607)	(7,258)
Payroll tax	(4,679)	(4,935)
Other employee expenses	(1,989)	(1,936)
Equity-settled share-based payments	(8)	(76)
	<b>(94,383)</b>	<b>(119,593)</b>

## 11. INCOME TAX EXPENSE

	CONSOLIDATED	
	2011 \$ '000	2010 \$ '000
<b>CURRENT TAX EXPENSE</b>		
Current period	5,206	8,611
Adjustment for prior periods	23	23
	<b>5,229</b>	<b>8,634</b>
<b>DEFERRED TAX EXPENSE</b>		
Origination and reversal of temporary differences	(1,168)	1,404
<b>Total income tax expense / (benefit)</b>	<b>4,061</b>	<b>10,038</b>

### Numerical reconciliation between tax-expense and pre-tax profit

Accounting profit (before income tax)	11,700	31,607
Income tax using the Company's domestic tax rate of 30% (2010: 30%)	3,510	9,482
Non-deductible expenses	528	533
Adjustments in respect of current income tax of previous year	23	23
	<b>4,061</b>	<b>10,038</b>

### Tax consolidation

Bell Financial Group and its wholly owned Australian controlled entities are a tax-consolidated group.

## 12. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

Cash on hand	9	9
Cash at bank	23,082	41,545
Short-term deposits	15,372	27,311
	<b>38,463</b>	<b>68,865</b>
<b>MARGIN LENDING CASH</b>		
Cash at bank	5,452	26,233
Short-term deposits	40,000	5,026
	<b>45,452</b>	<b>31,259</b>
<b>CLIENT CASH</b>		
Cash at bank (Trust account)	17,744	20,706
Segregated cash at bank (client)	8,274	5,844
	<b>26,018</b>	<b>26,550</b>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents in the statement of cash flows</b>	<b>109,933</b>	<b>126,674</b>

Cash on hand, Cash at bank and Short-term deposits represent Group cash reserves.

Cash on hand and at bank earns interest at floating rates based on daily bank deposit rates. Short-term deposits are made for periods of between 7 days and 90 days.

Segregated cash and Trust bank balances earn interest at floating rates based on daily bank rates.

The Group's exposure to interest rate risk for financial assets and liabilities is disclosed in note 31.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS CONTINUED  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2011

13. TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES

	CONSOLIDATED	
	2011 \$ '000	2010 \$ '000
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Trade debtors	23,513	28,829
Less: Impairment	(4)	(19)
	<b>23,509</b>	<b>28,810</b>
Segregated deposits with clearing brokers <sup>1</sup>	25,101	32,207
Sundry debtors	3,801	3,761
	<b>52,411</b>	<b>64,778</b>

The movement for the allowance in impairment in respect of loans and receivables during the year was as follows:

Balance at 1 January	19	29
Bad debts written off	-	-
Bad debts recovered	(15)	(10)
<b>Balance at 31 December</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>19</b>

1 MF Global Australia Limited ('MFGA') was placed into Voluntary Administration on 1 November 2011 as a result of the failure of its parent company MF Global Inc. At the time MFGA was placed into Administration, all client positions were fully funded in segregated accounts. Open futures and options positions held at 1 November have now either been closed out or have been transferred to another broker, and the net Australian dollar cash equivalent owed to Bell Potter Securities by MFGA is \$3.8 million. The \$3.8 million is carried on the statement of financial position as a receivable at 31 December.

14. FINANCIAL ASSETS

CURRENT (AT FAIR VALUE)		
Shares in listed corporations	1,840	10,980
Unlisted options held for trading	248	7,064
	<b>2,088</b>	<b>18,044</b>

15. FINANCIAL LIABILITIES

CURRENT (AT FAIR VALUE)		
Trading liabilities	-	2,449
	-	<b>2,449</b>

## 16. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

CONSOLIDATED	FIXTURES AND FITTINGS \$ '000	OFFICE EQUIPMENT \$ '000	LEASEHOLD IMPROVEMENTS \$ '000	TOTAL \$ '000
<b>YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2011</b>				
Balance at 1 January 2011 (net accumulated depreciation)	548	836	1,146	2,530
Additions	245	1,146	293	1,684
Disposals	-	-	-	-
Depreciation charge for the year	(161)	(533)	(409)	(1,103)
<b>Balance at 31 December 2011</b>	<b>632</b>	<b>1,449</b>	<b>1,030</b>	<b>3,111</b>
<b>BALANCE AT 1 JANUARY 2011</b>				
Cost	1,852	3,931	5,697	11,480
Accumulated depreciation	(1,304)	(3,095)	(4,551)	(8,950)
<b>Net carrying amount</b>	<b>548</b>	<b>836</b>	<b>1,146</b>	<b>2,530</b>
<b>BALANCE AT 31 DECEMBER 2011</b>				
Cost	2,097	5,077	5,990	13,164
Accumulated depreciation	(1,465)	(3,628)	(4,960)	(10,053)
<b>Net carrying amount</b>	<b>632</b>	<b>1,449</b>	<b>1,030</b>	<b>3,111</b>
<b>YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2010</b>				
Balance at 1 January 2010 (net accumulated depreciation)	628	658	1,354	2,640
Additions	92	949	289	1,330
Disposals	(23)	(42)	(78)	(143)
Depreciation charge for the year	(149)	(729)	(419)	(1,297)
<b>Balance at 31 December 2010</b>	<b>548</b>	<b>836</b>	<b>1,146</b>	<b>2,530</b>
<b>BALANCE AT 1 JANUARY 2010</b>				
Cost	2,037	6,398	5,673	14,108
Accumulated depreciation	(1,409)	(5,740)	(4,319)	(11,468)
<b>Net carrying amount</b>	<b>628</b>	<b>658</b>	<b>1,354</b>	<b>2,640</b>
<b>BALANCE AT 31 DECEMBER 2010</b>				
Cost	1,852	3,931	5,697	11,480
Accumulated depreciation	(1,304)	(3,095)	(4,551)	(8,950)
<b>Net carrying amount</b>	<b>548</b>	<b>836</b>	<b>1,146</b>	<b>2,530</b>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS CONTINUED  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2011

17. GOODWILL AND INTANGIBLE ASSETS

CONSOLIDATED	GOODWILL \$ '000	IDENTIFIABLE INTANGIBLES \$ '000	TOTAL \$ '000
<b>YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2011</b>			
Balance at 1 January 2011	126,479	2,036	128,515
Additions <sup>1</sup>	(7,660)	-	(7,660)
Amortisation	-	(295)	(295)
Impairment	-	-	-
<b>Balance at 31 December 2011</b>	<b>118,819</b>	<b>1,741</b>	<b>120,560</b>
<b>BALANCE AT 1 JANUARY 2011</b>			
Cost (gross carrying amount)	126,479	2,945	129,424
Accumulated amortisation	-	(909)	(909)
Accumulated impairment	-	-	-
<b>Net carrying amount</b>	<b>126,479</b>	<b>2,036</b>	<b>128,515</b>
<b>BALANCE AT 31 DECEMBER 2011</b>			
Cost (gross carrying amount)	118,819	2,945	121,764
Accumulated amortisation	-	(1,204)	(1,204)
Accumulated impairment	-	-	-
<b>Net carrying amount</b>	<b>118,819</b>	<b>1,741</b>	<b>120,560</b>

1. This is the adjustment relating to the final instalment payment of the SCE acquisition. Refer to note 24 for further information.

<b>YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2010</b>			
Balance at 1 January 2010	103,496	2,331	105,827
Additions	22,983	-	22,983
Amortisation	-	(295)	(295)
Impairment	-	-	-
<b>Balance at 31 December 2010</b>	<b>126,479</b>	<b>2,036</b>	<b>128,515</b>
<b>BALANCE AT 1 JANUARY 2010</b>			
Cost (gross carrying amount)	103,496	2,945	106,441
Accumulated amortisation	-	(614)	(614)
Accumulated impairment	-	-	-
<b>Net carrying amount</b>	<b>103,496</b>	<b>2,331</b>	<b>105,827</b>
<b>BALANCE AT 31 DECEMBER 2010</b>			
Cost (gross carrying amount)	126,479	2,945	129,424
Accumulated amortisation	-	(909)	(909)
Accumulated impairment	-	-	-
<b>Net carrying amount</b>	<b>126,479</b>	<b>2,036</b>	<b>128,515</b>



## 18. INVESTMENTS IN EQUITY ACCOUNTED INVESTEEES

The Group's share of the loss (after tax) in its equity accounted investees for the year was \$1,134,182 (2010: \$1,034,440). Equity accounted investees also have a 31 December balance date.

Summary financial information for equity accounted investees, not adjusted for the percentage ownership held by the Group.

IN THOUSANDS OF AUD	OWNERSHIP %	TOTAL ASSETS \$ '000	TOTAL LIABILITIES \$ '000	REVENUES \$ '000	EXPENSES \$ '000	PROFIT/ (LOSS) AFTER TAX \$ '000
<b>2011</b>						
Third Party Platform Pty Ltd	45%	38,570	(31,633)	7,231	(11,061)	(2,689)
(Bell Direct)		<b>38,570</b>	<b>(31,633)</b>	<b>7,231</b>	<b>(11,061)</b>	<b>(2,689)</b>
<b>2010</b>						
Third Party Platform Pty Ltd	40%	51,754	(44,796)	5,789	(9,700)	(2,743)
(Bell Direct)		<b>51,754</b>	<b>(44,796)</b>	<b>5,789</b>	<b>(9,700)</b>	<b>(2,743)</b>

The Company has a call option to purchase all the Bell Direct shares it does not own, taking its holding to 100%, exercisable at any time up until 31 January 2015. The exercise price of the call option is to be satisfied by the Company issuing new shares and values all of Bell Direct's existing share capital at \$70 million and its exercise is subject to approvals by non-executive Directors and shareholders.

In August 2011 the Company participated in a rights issue increasing its stake in Bell Direct from 40% to 45%.

## 19. DEFERRED TAX ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

Deferred tax assets are attributable to the following:

THE BALANCE COMPRISES TEMPORARY DIFFERENCES ATTRIBUTABLE TO:	STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION		INCOME STATEMENT	
	2011 \$ '000	2010 \$ '000	2011 \$ '000	2010 \$ '000
<b>CONSOLIDATED</b>				
Depreciation	354	427	(73)	(94)
Employee benefits	1,203	1,872	(669)	517
Other items	741	609	132	(522)
Gross deferred income tax assets	<b>2,298</b>	<b>2,908</b>		
Deferred income tax charge			<b>(610)</b>	<b>(99)</b>

Deferred tax liabilities are attributable to the following:

Investments	(3)	1,781	1,778	(1,305)
	<b>(3)</b>	<b>1,781</b>	<b>1,778</b>	<b>(1,305)</b>

## 20. LOANS AND ADVANCES

	CONSOLIDATED	
	2011 \$ '000	2010 \$ '000
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Margin Lending	138,498	174,907
	<b>138,498</b>	<b>174,907</b>

Refer to note 31 for further detail on the Margin Lending loans.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS CONTINUED

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2011

## 21. TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES

	CONSOLIDATED	
	2011 \$ '000	2010 \$ '000
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Settlement obligations	30,907	35,580
Sundry creditors and accruals	6,872	10,511
Segregated client liabilities	34,572	47,242
	<b>72,351</b>	<b>93,333</b>

Settlement obligations are non-interest bearing and are normally settled on 3-day terms. Sundry creditors are normally settled on 60-day terms.

## 22. DEPOSITS AND BORROWINGS

This note provides information about the contractual terms of the Group's interest-bearing loans and borrowings. For more information about the Group's exposure to interest rate and foreign currency risk, see note 31.

CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Finance lease liabilities	-	83
Deposits (cash account) <sup>1</sup>	182,402	189,132
Cash advance facility <sup>2</sup>	-	15,000
	<b>182,402</b>	<b>204,215</b>

1 Borrowings relate to Margin Lending / Cash Account business (Bell Potter Capital) which are largely at call.

2 Represents drawn funds from available cash advance facility of \$150 million (Bell Potter Capital).

### Interest rate risk exposures

Details of the Group's exposure to interest rate changes on borrowings is set out in note 31.

### Terms and debt repayment schedule

Terms and conditions of outstanding deposits and borrowings were as follows:

CONSOLIDATED	CURRENCY	AVERAGE EFFECTIVE INTEREST RATE	YEAR OF MATURITY	2011		2010	
				FACE VALUE \$ '000	CARRYING AMOUNT \$ '000	FACE VALUE \$ '000	CARRYING AMOUNT \$ '000
Cash advance facility*	AUD	-	2012	-	-	15,000	15,000
Deposits (Cash Account)*	AUD	3.93%	2012	182,402	182,402	189,132	189,132
Finance lease liabilities	AUD	-	2011	-	-	83	83
				<b>182,402</b>	<b>182,402</b>	<b>204,215</b>	<b>204,215</b>

\* Borrowings relate to Margin Lending / Cash Account business (Bell Potter Capital) which are largely at call.

## Finance lease liabilities

Finance lease liabilities of the Group are payable as follows:

CONSOLIDATED	MINIMUM LEASE PAYMENTS	INTEREST	PRINCIPAL	MINIMUM LEASE PAYMENTS	INTEREST	PRINCIPAL
	2011 \$ '000	2011 \$ '000	2011 \$ '000	2010 \$ '000	2010 \$ '000	2010 \$ '000
Less than one year	-	-	-	83	-	83
Between one and five years	-	-	-	-	-	-
More than five years	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	<b>83</b>	-	<b>83</b>

## 23. CURRENT TAX LIABILITIES

The current tax liability of the Group is \$1,019,859 (2010: \$3,158,803). This amount represents the amount of income taxes payable in respect of current and prior financial periods.

## 24. PROVISIONS

	CONSOLIDATED	
	2011 \$ '000	2010 \$ '000
<b>CURRENT</b>		
SCE provision	-	22,983
Legal provision	750	1,213
Other	-	286
	<b>750</b>	<b>24,482</b>
Balance at 1 January	24,482	24,692
<b>ARISING DURING THE YEAR:</b>		
SCE	-	22,983
Legal/other	-	77
<b>UTILISED:</b>		
SCE	(22,983)	(22,983)
Legal/other	(749)	(287)
<b>Balance at 31 December</b>	<b>750</b>	<b>24,482</b>

## SCE provision

The Company's 2008, 2009 and 2010 Annual Reports summarised details of the acquisition by the Company of all of the issued capital of SCE and the amendments to the terms of that acquisition.

As a result of the agreements made in 2009, from 1 July 2009 SCE was entitled to pay total remuneration to front office employees of up to 50% of SCE revenue (increased from 40%). The consideration for these amendments was a reduction in the total potential purchase price for SCE from \$145.8 million to \$114.8 million. The purchase price was payable 50% in cash and 50% in Bell Financial shares.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS CONTINUED

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2011

## 24. PROVISIONS CONTINUED

One quarter of the original cash consideration was paid on completion (30 September 2008). The revised agreement reduced the three further equal cash instalments potentially payable on the anniversary of completion in 2009, 2010 and 2011 respectively from \$18.2 million to \$13.1 million (totalling \$39.3 million). Those payments were subject to the original performance benchmarks being met.

The scrip component of the consideration was satisfied on completion by the issue of 14,580,000 Ordinary shares, 14,580,000 A Class, 14,580,000 B Class and 14,580,000 C Class shares. In 2009, the number of A Class shares was reduced from 14,580,000 to 10,446,681, the number of B Class shares reduced from 14,580,000 to 10,446,681 and the number of C Class shares reduced from 14,580,000 to 10,446,681. Those A, B and C Class shares potentially converted into Ordinary shares on the anniversary of completion in 2009, 2010 and 2011 respectively, subject to the performance benchmarks being met. If the performance benchmarks were fully met then all A Class, B Class and C Class shares would be converted to Ordinary BFG shares on a one for one basis. If the benchmarks were not met, the purchase price would be adjusted.

SCE revenue for the financial year 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 did not reach the first benchmark of \$37.4 million therefore no cash or scrip instalment was payable to the SCE vendors for 2009. At 30 June 2010 SCE met the performance benchmark for the full second instalment, which was paid in the fourth quarter of 2010. This instalment included the B Class shares being converted into Ordinary shares on 29 September 2010.

At 30 June 2011 SCE revenue met the performance benchmark for two-thirds of the third and final instalment, which was paid in the fourth quarter of 2011. This instalment included two-thirds of the C Class shares being converted into ordinary shares of the Company on 28 November 2011. As revenue did not exceed the benchmark in the 2011 year, none of the 2009 cash instalment was paid and the A Class shares did not convert into ordinary shares. All the A Class shares and the remaining C Class shares were each converted to 0.0001 ordinary shares on 28 November 2011.

Total consideration paid for the SCE business was approximately \$70 million, consisting of \$40 million cash and 32 million shares in the Company. Under the original arrangements, the potential consideration was \$72.9 million cash and 58.3 million shares.

### Legal provision

This amount represents a provision for certain legal claims brought against the Group. In the Directors' opinion, the outcome of these legal claims is unlikely to give rise to any significant liability beyond the amounts provided at 31 December 2011.

## 25. EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

	CONSOLIDATED	
	2011 \$ '000	2010 \$ '000
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Salaries and wages accrued	3,520	18,499
Liability for annual leave	3,150	2,608
<b>Total employee benefits - current</b>	<b>6,670</b>	<b>21,107</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT</b>		
Liability for long-service leave	2,444	2,621
<b>Total employee benefits - non-current</b>	<b>2,444</b>	<b>2,261</b>

The present value of employee entitlements not expected to be settled within twelve months of balance date have been calculated using the following inputs or assumptions:

	CONSOLIDATED	
	2011	2010
Assumed rate of increase on wage / salaries	5.5%	5.5%
Discount rate	4.3%	4.8%
Settlement term (years)	7	7
Number of employees at year end	658	661

## 26. RECONCILIATION OF CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	CONSOLIDATED	
	2011 \$ '000	2010 \$ '000
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Profit after tax	7,639	21,569
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation & amortisation	1,398	1,592
Loss on disposal of property, plant & equipment	-	143
Net (gain) / loss on investments	5,792	(7,424)
Share of losses of equity accounted investees	1,134	1,034
Equity settled share-based payments	8	76
	<b>15,971</b>	<b>16,990</b>
(Increase) / decrease current client receivables	12,407	16,795
(Increase) / decrease current other receivables	(40)	(816)
(Increase) / decrease other current assets	159	9
(Increase) / decrease deferred tax assets	610	99
Increase / (decrease) current client payables	(17,343)	(8,812)
Increase / (decrease) current other payables	(3,639)	2,016
Increase / (decrease) current tax liabilities	(2,139)	(3,627)
Increase / (decrease) current provisions	(14,909)	(3,473)
Increase / (decrease) non-current payables	(1,778)	1,305
Increase / (decrease) non-current provisions	(177)	344
<b>Net cash from operating activities</b>	<b>(10,878)</b>	<b>20,830</b>
<b>RECONCILIATION OF CASH</b>		
For the purpose of the cash flow statement, cash and cash equivalents comprise:		
Cash on hand	9	9
Cash at bank	23,082	41,545
Short-term deposits	15,372	27,311
	<b>38,463</b>	<b>68,865</b>
<b>MARGIN LENDING CASH</b>		
Cash at bank	5,452	26,233
Short-term deposits	40,000	5,026
	<b>45,452</b>	<b>31,259</b>
<b>CLIENT CASH</b>		
Cash at bank (Trust account)	17,744	20,706
Segregated cash at bank (client)	8,274	5,844
	<b>26,018</b>	<b>26,550</b>
	<b>109,933</b>	<b>126,674</b>

## 27. CAPITAL AND RESERVES

### Share capital

ORDINARY SHARES	CONSOLIDATED	
	2011 \$ '000	2010 \$ '000
On issue at 1 January	157,666	147,742
Share issue	6,618	9,924
<b>On issue at 31 December</b>	<b>164,284</b>	<b>157,666</b>

### Movements in ordinary share capital

DATE	DETAILS	NUMBER OF SHARES
1 January 2010	Opening balance	242,210,523
29 September 2010	Share Issue (B Class Shares conversion)	10,446,681
31 December 2010	<b>Balance</b>	<b>252,657,204</b>
1 January 2011	Opening Balance	252,657,204
28 November 2011	Share Issue (A Class Shares conversion)	1,045
28 November 2011	Share Issue (C Class Shares conversion)	6,964,800
31 December 2011	<b>Balance</b>	<b>259,623,049</b>

### Ordinary Shares

On the 28 November 2011, 6,964,454 fully paid C Class shares were converted into fully paid Ordinary shares as a result of Southern Cross Equities meeting 2011 performance benchmarks. On the same date, the remaining 3,482,227 C Class shares and the remaining 10,448,681 fully paid A Class shares were converted to 0.0001 fully paid Ordinary shares, totalling 1,391 Ordinary shares. For further information, refer to note 24.

The authorised capital of the Group is \$164,283,700 representing 259,623,049 fully paid ordinary shares.

The holders of ordinary shares are entitled to receive dividends as declared from time to time and are entitled to one vote per share at meetings of the Company.

All ordinary shares rank equally with regard to the Company's residual assets.

### Treasury Shares

As at 31 December 2011, there were 1,437,749 treasury shares outstanding (2010: nil).

### Distributable profits reserve

The distributable profits reserve records profits that are distributable as dividends.

### Cash flow hedging reserve

The cash flow hedging reserve comprises the effective portion of the cumulative net change in the fair value of the interest rate swap related to hedged transactions.

### Share based payments reserve

The share based payments reserve arises on the grant of options, performance rights and deferred share rights to select employees under the Company's equity-based remuneration plans.

### Treasury shares reserve

The treasury shares reserve represents the cost of shares held by the Employee Share Trust that the Group is required to include in the consolidated financial statements.

## 28. DIVIDENDS

Dividends recognised in the current year by the Group are:

	CENTS PER SHARE	TOTAL AMOUNT \$ '000	FRANKED / UNFRANKED	DATE OF PAYMENT
<b>2011</b>				
Interim 2011 ordinary	2.0	5,053	Franked	23 September 2011
<b>2010</b>				
Interim 2010 ordinary	2.5	6,056	Franked	23 September 2010
Final 2010 ordinary	4.0	10,106	Franked	25 March 2011

	COMPANY	
	2011 \$ '000	2010 \$ '000
<b>DIVIDEND FRANKING ACCOUNT</b>		
30 per cent franking credits available to shareholders of Bell Financial Group Ltd for subsequent financial years	17,636	16,908

On 22 February 2012, the Directors declared a final fully franked dividend of 1.0 cent per share, payable on 23 March 2012. This amount is not accrued within the financial statements.

The above available amounts are based on the balance of the dividend franking account at year-end adjusted for:

- 1) Franking credits that will arise from the payment of current tax liabilities.
- 2) Franking debits that will arise from payment of dividends recognised as a liability at year-end.
- 3) Franking credits that will arise from the receipt of dividends recognised as receivable at year-end.

The ability to utilise the franking credits is dependent upon there being sufficient available profits to declare dividends.

The impact on the dividend franking account of dividends declared but not recognised as a liability is to reduce it by \$1,112,670 (2010: \$4,331,266).

## 29. EARNINGS PER SHARE

Earnings per share at 31 December 2011 based on profit after tax and a weighted average number of shares outlined below was 3.0 cents (2010: 8.7 cents). Diluted earnings per share at 31 December 2011 was 3.0 cents (2010: 8.7 cents).

### Reconciliation of earnings used in calculating EPS

BASIC EARNINGS PER SHARE	CONSOLIDATED	
	2011 \$ '000	2010 \$ '000
Profit after tax	7,639	21,569
<b>Profit attributable to ordinary equity holders used for basic EPS</b>	<b>7,639</b>	<b>21,569</b>
Adjustments for calculation of diluted earnings per share:		
Profit attributable to ordinary equity holders used to calculate basic EPS	7,639	21,569
Effect of stock options issued	-	-
<b>Profit attributable to ordinary equity holders used for diluted EPS</b>	<b>7,639</b>	<b>21,569</b>

29. EARNINGS PER SHARE CONTINUED

Weighted average number of ordinary shares used as the denominator

	CONSOLIDATED	
	2011 NUMBER	2010 NUMBER
Weighted average number of ordinary shares used to calculate basic EPS (net of treasury shares)	256,071,016	247,476,788
Weighted average number of ordinary shares at year-end	256,071,016	247,476,788
<b>Weighted average number of ordinary shares used to calculate diluted EPS</b>	<b>256,071,016</b>	<b>247,476,788</b>

30. SHARE-BASED PAYMENTS

Long-term Incentive Plan (LTIP)

The Board is responsible for administering the LTIP Rules and the terms and conditions of specific grants of options or performance rights to participants in the LTIP. The LTIP Rules include the following provisions:

- The Board may determine which persons will be eligible to participate in the LTIP from time to time. Eligible persons may be invited to apply to participate in the LTIP. The Board may in its discretion accept such applications.
- A person participating in the LTIP ("Executive") may be granted options or performance rights on conditions determined by the Board.
- The options or performance rights will vest on, and become exercisable on or after, a date predetermined by the Board ("the Vesting Date"), provided that the Executive remains employed as an executive of the Company as at that date. These terms may be accelerated at the discretion of the Board under specified circumstances.
- An unvested option or performance right will generally lapse at the expiry of the exercise period applicable to that option or performance right.
- Following the Vesting Date, the vested option or performance right may be exercised by the Executive subject to any exercise conditions and the payment of the exercise price (if any), and the Executive will then be allocated or issued Shares on a one-for-one basis.
- The Company has established an Employee Share Trust for the purpose of acquiring and holding shares in the Company for the benefit of participants.

Fair value of options granted

There were no options granted during the year to 31 December 2011. The assessed fair value at grant date of options issued in 2007 was \$319,923. The fair value was independently determined using the Black and Scholes option-pricing model. An outline of details and assumptions used in the valuation of share options granted is provided below:

FAIR VALUE OF SHARE OPTIONS AND ASSUMPTIONS	2007
Fair value at grant date	\$0.0262
Share price at grant date	\$1.55
Exercise price at grant date	\$3.10
Option life (expected weighted average life)	15 Dec 2010 <sup>1</sup>
Expected volatility (weighted average volatility)	25%
Risk-free interest rate (based on government bonds)	6.55%

<sup>1</sup> Options can be exercised for a period of up to 12 months from exercise date.



The number and weighted average exercise prices of share options is as follows:

	WEIGHTED AVERAGE EXERCISE PRICE 2011	NUMBER OF OPTIONS 2011	WEIGHTED AVERAGE EXERCISE PRICE 2010	NUMBER OF OPTIONS 2010
Outstanding 1 January	\$2.00	17,708,959	\$2.00	18,193,959
Granted	-	-	-	-
Forfeited	-	-	-	(485,000)
Expired	-	(17,708,959)	-	-
<b>Outstanding 31 December</b>	-	-	<b>\$2.00</b>	<b>17,708,959</b>
<b>Exercisable 31 December</b>	-	-	-	-

### Performance rights

Under the LTIP Rules, performance rights are deferred equity taken as 100% shares, with the conditions, including vesting and the period of deferral, governed by the terms of the grant. Unvested performance rights are forfeited in certain situations set out in the LTIP Rules. Ordinary shares allocated under the LTIP on exercise of performance rights may be held in trust beyond the deferral period. The issue price for performance rights is based on the closing price of the shares traded on the ASX on the grant date.

During the 2011 year, 2,000,000 performance rights with an issue price of \$0.60 were granted under the LTIP (2010: nil).

### Expenses arising from share-based payment transactions

	CONSOLIDATED	
	2011 \$ '000	2010 \$ '000
Share options granted in 2007 – equity settled	-	76
Performance rights	8	-
<b>Total expense recognised as employee costs</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>76</b>

## 31. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

Exposure to credit, interest rate, currency and liquidity risks arise in the normal course of the Group's business.

### Credit risk

Management has a process in place to monitor the exposure to credit risk on an ongoing basis. The Group requires collateral in respect of margin loans made in the course of business within Bell Potter Capital. This collateral is generally in the form of the underlying security the margin loan is used to invest in. A loan to value ratio (LVR) is determined for each security with regard to market weight, index membership, liquidity, volatility, dividend yield, industry sector and advice from Bell Financial's research department. A risk analyst performs a review of the LVR and the recommendation is submitted to Management. Management does not expect any counterparty to fail to meet its obligations.

Advisers and clients are provided with early warning of accounts in deficit from 5% up to 10% and clients receive a margin call if their account is in deficit by more than 10%. Margin calls are made based on the end-of-day position but can be made intraday at Management's discretion.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS CONTINUED

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2011

## 31. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS CONTINUED

The maximum exposure to credit risk is represented by the carrying amount of each financial asset on the Statement of Financial Position as outlined below:

	NOTE	CONSOLIDATED	
		2011 \$ '000	2010 \$ '000
Trade debtors	13.	23,509	28,810
Segregated deposits with clearing brokers	13.	25,101	32,207
Loans and advances	20.	138,498	174,907
Sundry debtors	13.	3,801	3,761

The ageing of trade receivables at reporting date is outlined below.

CONSOLIDATED AGEING OF RECEIVABLES	GROSS	IMPAIRMENT	GROSS	IMPAIRMENT
	2011 \$ '000	2011 \$ '000	2010 \$ '000	2010 \$ '000
Not past due	22,763	-	27,292	-
Past due 0 – 30 days	578	-	1,352	-
Past due 31-120 days	55	-	49	-
More than one year	117	(4)	136	(19)

Collectability of trade receivables is reviewed on an ongoing basis. Debts that are known to be uncollectible are written off. A provision for impairment of trade receivables is established when there is evidence that the Company will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms. Significant financial difficulties of the debtor, probability that the debtor will enter bankruptcy and default or delinquency in payments (for amounts greater than 30 days overdue) are considered indicators that the trade receivable is impaired.

### Liquidity risk

The following are the contractual maturities of financial liabilities, including estimated interest excluding the impact of netting agreements.

CONSOLIDATED 2011	CARRYING AMOUNT \$ '000	CONTRACTED CASHFLOW \$ '000	6-MONTHS OR LESS \$ '000	6-12 MONTHS \$ '000	1-2 YEARS \$ '000	2-5 YEARS \$ '000	5+ YEARS \$ '000
<b>NON-DERIVATIVE LIABILITIES</b>							
Trade & other payables	72,351	(72,351)	(72,351)	-	-	-	-
Finance lease liabilities	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cash deposits	182,402	(182,402)	(182,402)	-	-	-	-
Cash advance facilities	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>DERIVATIVE LIABILITIES</b>							
Hedging derivative	228	(228)	(228)	-	-	-	-

CONSOLIDATED 2010	CARRYING AMOUNT \$ '000	CONTRACTED CASHFLOW \$ '000	6-MONTHS OR LESS \$ '000	6-12 MONTHS \$ '000	1-2 YEARS \$ '000	2-5 YEARS \$ '000	5+ YEARS \$ '000
<b>NON-DERIVATIVE LIABILITIES</b>							
Trade & other payables	93,333	(93,333)	(93,333)	-	-	-	-
Finance lease liabilities	83	(83)	(83)	-	-	-	-
Cash deposits	189,132	(189,132)	(188,660)	(472)	-	-	-
Cash advance facilities	15,000	(15,000)	-	(15,000)	-	-	-
<b>DERIVATIVE LIABILITIES</b>							
Hedging derivative	8	(8)	(8)	-	-	-	-

The Group manages liquidity by maintaining reserves, banking facilities and reserve borrowing facilities and by continuously monitoring forecast and actual cash flows and matching up maturity profiles of financial assets and liabilities. Rolling cash projections are used to monitor cash flow requirements and optimise cash returns on investments. A bank facility is also available to be drawn upon in order to meet both short and long-term liquidity requirements.

### Market risk

Market risk is the risk that changes in market prices, such as interest rates, equity prices and foreign exchange rates will affect the Group's income or the value of its holdings of financial instruments. The objective of market risk management is to manage and control exposures within acceptable parameters, while optimising returns.

### Interest rate risk

The Group's investments in fixed-rate debt securities and its fixed-rate borrowings are exposed to a risk of change in their fair value due to changes in interest rates. The Group's investments in variable-rate debt securities and its variable-rate borrowings are exposed to a risk of change in cash flows due to changes in interest rates. Interest rate swaps are used to hedge exposure to fluctuations in interest rates. Changes in the fair value of these derivative hedging instruments are recognised directly in equity to the extent that the hedge is effective. To the extent the hedge is ineffective, changes in the fair value are recognised in profit and loss.

In managing interest rate risk the Group aims to reduce the impact of short-term fluctuations on the Group's earnings. Over the longer-term, however, permanent changes in interest rates will have an impact on profit.

Investments in equity securities and short-term receivables and payables are not exposed to interest rate risk.

### Equity price risk

All instruments are subject to the risk that future changes in market conditions may make an instrument less valuable. As trading instruments are valued with reference to the market or Black and Scholes model, changes in equity prices directly affect reported income each period. The Group monitors equity price movements to ensure there is no material impact on the Group's activities.

The Group is exposed to equity price risks through its listed and unlisted investments. These investments are classified as financial assets or liabilities at fair value through the profit and loss.

### Foreign currency risk

The Group is exposed to insignificant currency risk on monetary assets and liabilities held in a currency other than the respective functional currency of the Group. The Group ensures the net exposure is kept to an acceptable level by buying or selling foreign currencies at spot rates where necessary to address short-term imbalances.

### Sensitivity analysis

#### Interest rate risk

At 31 December 2011, it is estimated that a general decrease of one-percentage point in interest rates would decrease the Group's profit before income tax by approximately \$0.9 million (2010: \$0.8 million). Interest rate swaps have been included in this calculation. A general increase of one-percentage point in interest rates would have an equal but opposite effect.

#### Equity price risk

At 31 December 2011, it is estimated that a 10% decrease in equity prices would decrease the Group's profit before income tax by approximately \$0.2 million (2010: \$1.6 million). A 10% increase in equity prices would have an equal but opposite effect.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS CONTINUED

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2011

## 31. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS CONTINUED

### Effective interest rates

In respect of income-earning financial assets and interest-bearing financial liabilities, the following tables indicate their average effective interest rates at the reporting date and the periods in which they mature.

CONSOLIDATED	NOTE	AVERAGE EFFECTIVE INTEREST RATE	2011					
			TOTAL \$ '000	6 MONTHS OR LESS \$ '000	6-12 MONTHS \$ '000	1-2 YEARS \$ '000	2-5 YEARS \$ '000	MORE THAN 5 YEARS \$ '000
<b>FIXED RATE INSTRUMENTS</b>								
Cash and cash equivalents	12.	5.75%	55,372	55,372	-	-	-	-
Finance lease liabilities	22.	n/a	-	-	-	-	-	-
Loans and advances	20.	7.99%	37,221	37,056	165	-	-	-
Deposits and borrowings	22.	5.58%	(19,587)	(19,587)	-	-	-	-
Cash advance facility	22.	n/a	-	-	-	-	-	-
			<b>73,006</b>	<b>72,841</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>VARIABLE RATE INSTRUMENTS</b>								
Cash and cash equivalents	12.	4.25%	54,561	54,561	-	-	-	-
Loans and advances	20.	8.48%	101,277	101,277	-	-	-	-
Deposits and borrowings	22.	3.74%	(162,815)	(162,815)	-	-	-	-
			<b>(6,977)</b>	<b>(6,977)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

### Fair value measurements

#### Loans

Fixed loan assets on the balance sheet are stated at amortised cost for the year ended 31 December 2011. The fair value of these loans at reporting date would be \$0.1 million less (2010: \$0.1 million less) than the carrying value based on prevailing interest rates. All other assets and liabilities carrying values approximate fair value.

#### Financial assets and liabilities

As at 31 December 2011, the Group used both quoted prices and observable market inputs, other than quoted prices to fair value certain financial assets and liabilities. The table below categorises financial assets and liabilities that are recognised and measured at fair value and the valuation methodology used according to the following hierarchy:

- quoted prices in active markets – level 1
- valuation technique using observable inputs – level 2
- valuation technique using significant unobservable inputs – level 3.

CONSOLIDATED	FAIR VALUE AT 31 DECEMBER 2011			
	LEVEL 1 \$ '000	LEVEL 2 \$ '000	LEVEL 3 \$ '000	TOTAL \$ '000
<b>ASSETS</b>				
Fair value through Income Statement	1,840	248	-	2,088
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>1,840</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,088</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>				
Fair value through Income Statement	-	-	-	-
Derivative liabilities	-	228	-	228
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>228</b>

There was no movement between categories in 2011 (2010: nil).

2010						
AVERAGE EFFECTIVE INTEREST RATE	TOTAL \$ '000	6 MONTHS OR LESS \$ '000	6-12 MONTHS \$ '000	1-2 YEARS \$ '000	2-5 YEARS \$ '000	MORE THAN 5 YEARS \$ '000
5.75%	32,338	32,338	-	-	-	-
7.76%	(83)	(83)	-	-	-	-
7.64%	43,560	43,395	165	-	-	-
5.89%	(20,281)	(19,809)	(472)	-	-	-
5.70%	(15,000)	-	(15,000)	-	-	-
	<b>40,534</b>	<b>55,841</b>	<b>(15,307)</b>	-	-	-
3.95%	94,336	94,336	-	-	-	-
8.91%	131,347	131,347	-	-	-	-
3.00%	(168,851)	(168,851)	-	-	-	-
	<b>56,832</b>	<b>56,832</b>	-	-	-	-

FAIR VALUE AT 31 DECEMBER 2010			
LEVEL 1 \$ '000	LEVEL 2 \$ '000	LEVEL 3 \$ '000	TOTAL \$ '000
10,980	7,064	-	18,044
<b>10,980</b>	<b>7,064</b>	-	<b>18,044</b>
2,449	-	-	2,449
-	8	-	8
<b>2,449</b>	<b>8</b>	-	<b>2,457</b>

### 32. OPERATING LEASE COMMITMENTS

#### Leases as lessee

Future minimum rental payments under the non-cancellable operating leases at 31 December are as follows:

	CONSOLIDATED	
	2011 \$ '000	2010 \$ '000
Less than one year	11,410	7,931
Between one and five years	34,770	21,288
More than five years	30,146	3,285
	<b>76,326</b>	<b>32,504</b>

The Group has entered into commercial property leases for its office accommodation. These leases have a remaining life of up to ten years. The Group has no other capital or lease commitments.

### 33. PARENT ENTITY DISCLOSURES

As at, and throughout the financial year ending 31 December 2011 the parent company of the Group was Bell Financial Group Ltd.

	COMPANY	
	2011 \$ '000	2010 \$ '000
<b>RESULTS OF THE PARENT ENTITY</b>		
Profit for the year	15,320	20,575
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b>	<b>15,320</b>	<b>20,575</b>
<b>FINANCIAL POSITION OF PARENT ENTITY AT YEAR END</b>		
Current assets	8,162	11,651
Non-current assets	150,570	157,936
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>158,732</b>	<b>169,587</b>
Current liabilities	10,320	27,376
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>10,320</b>	<b>27,376</b>
<b>TOTAL EQUITY OF THE PARENT ENTITY COMPRISING OF:</b>		
Contributed equity	164,284	157,666
Reserves	(250)	167
Retained earnings / (losses)	(15,622)	(15,622)
<b>Total equity</b>	<b>148,412</b>	<b>142,211</b>

### 34. RELATED PARTIES

The following were key management personnel of the group at any time during the reporting period:

#### Executive directors

- C Bell
- A Provan
- B Potts – resigned 1 December 2011

#### Executives

- L Bell
- A Bell
- R Fell
- D Davenport
- P Vine

#### Non-executive directors

- C Coleman
- G Cubbin
- M Spry
- B Wilson

#### Key management personnel compensation

The key management personnel compensation comprised:

	CONSOLIDATED	
	2011 \$	2010 \$
Short-term employee benefits	3,689,261	5,296,914
Other long-term benefits	-	-
Post-employment benefits	322,845	302,518
Termination benefits	112,258	-
Share-based payments	-	22,493
	<b>4,124,364</b>	<b>5,621,925</b>

#### Loans to key management personnel and their related parties

Details regarding loans outstanding at the reporting date to key management personnel and their related parties at any time in the reporting period, are as follows:

	BALANCE 1 JANUARY 2011 \$	BALANCE 31 DECEMBER 2011 \$	INTEREST PAID AND PAYABLE IN THE REPORTING PERIOD \$	HIGHEST BALANCE IN PERIOD \$
<b>DIRECTORS</b>				
C Bell	284,727	277,349	11,830	284,727
A Provan	-	-	-	-
B Potts	-	-	-	-
C Coleman	1,738,303	1,167,715	132,950	1,822,802
G Cubbin	-	-	-	-
M Spry	-	-	-	-
B Wilson	-	-	-	-
<b>EXECUTIVES</b>				
L Bell	3,500	-	171	3,521
A Bell	517,324	500,000	39,171	704,605
R Fell	1,033,347	242,534	56,685	1,074,927
D Davenport	265,156	122,949	17,097	286,722
P Vine	162,126	138,659	13,533	170,498

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS CONTINUED  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2011

34. RELATED PARTIES CONTINUED

	BALANCE 1 JANUARY 2010 \$	BALANCE 31 DECEMBER 2010 \$	INTEREST PAID AND PAYABLE IN THE REPORTING PERIOD \$	HIGHEST BALANCE IN PERIOD \$
<b>DIRECTORS</b>				
C Bell	785,688	284,727	59,285	1,149,674
A Provan	-	-	-	-
B Potts	-	-	-	-
C Coleman	1,608,308	1,738,303	129,994	1,738,303
G Cubbin	-	-	-	-
M Spry	-	-	-	-
B Wilson	-	-	-	-
<b>EXECUTIVES</b>				
L Bell	3,500	3,500	290	3,500
A Bell	500,000	517,324	37,162	1,062,836
R Fell	1,763,246	1,033,347	98,434	1,835,324
D Davenport	228,996	265,156	19,748	265,156
P Vine	119,945	162,126	12,081	162,126

Loans totalling \$2,449,206 (2010: \$4,004,483) were made to key management personnel and their related parties during the year. The recipients of these loans were Colin Bell, Craig Coleman, Lewis Bell, Andrew Bell, Rowan Fell, Dean Davenport and Paul Vine. The loans represent margin loans held with Bell Potter Capital Limited. Interest is payable at prevailing market rates. Related parties also have deposits on normal terms and conditions.

Details regarding the aggregate of loans made, guaranteed or secured by any entity in the group to key management personnel and their related parties, and the number of individuals in each Group, are as follows:

	OPENING BALANCE \$	CLOSING BALANCE \$	INTEREST PAID AND PAYABLE IN THE REPORTING PERIOD \$	NUMBER IN GROUP AT 31 DECEMBER
Total for key management personnel 2011	4,000,983	2,449,206	271,266	11
Total for key management personnel 2010	5,006,183	4,000,983	356,704	11
Total for other related parties 2011	3,500	-	171	-
Total for other related parties 2010	3,500	3,500	290	1
<b>Total for key management personnel and their related parties 2011</b>	<b>4,004,483</b>	<b>2,449,206</b>	<b>271,437</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Total for key management personnel and their related parties 2010</b>	<b>5,009,683</b>	<b>4,004,483</b>	<b>356,994</b>	<b>12</b>

Interest is payable at prevailing market rates on all loans to key management persons and their related entities. These rates are available to all clients and may vary marginally depending on individual negotiations. The principal amounts are repayable per terms agreed on an individual basis. Interest received on the loans totalled \$271,437 (2010: \$356,994). No amounts have been written-down or recorded as allowances for impairment, as the balances are considered fully collectible.



## Movements in shares 2011

The movement during the reporting period in the number of ordinary shares in Bell Financial Group Ltd held, directly, indirectly or beneficially, by each Director and key management person, including their related parties, is as follows:

	HELD AT 1 JANUARY 2011	PURCHASES	RECEIVED ON EXERCISE OF OPTIONS	SALES	HELD AT 31 DECEMBER 2011
<b>DIRECTORS</b>					
C Bell <sup>1</sup>	32,839,585	250,000	-	-	33,089,585
A Provan <sup>1</sup>	32,708,329	250,000	-	-	32,958,329
C Coleman	1,772,283	-	-	-	1,772,283
G Cubbin	180,000	-	-	-	180,000
M Spry	150,000	-	-	-	150,000
B Wilson	100,000	-	-	-	100,000
B Potts <sup>2,3</sup>	3,990,692	1,007,771	-	4,998,463	-
<b>EXECUTIVES</b>					
LM Bell <sup>1</sup>	32,321,837	98,025	-	-	32,419,862
AG Bell <sup>1</sup>	24,793,746	68,675	-	-	24,862,421
R Fell	610,000	-	-	-	610,000
D Davenport	184,949	-	-	-	184,949
P Vine	50,300	-	-	-	50,300

- 1 The number of shares held by Colin Bell, Alastair Provan, Lewis Bell and Andrew Bell includes those held indirectly through Bell Group Holdings Pty Limited.
- 2 Brent Potts resigned as a Director on 1 December 2011.
- 3 "Purchases" were shares issued to Brent Potts on conversion of A Class and C Class shares on 28 November 2011.

## Movements in shares 2010

	HELD AT 1 JANUARY 2010	PURCHASES	RECEIVED ON EXERCISE OF OPTIONS	SALES	HELD AT 31 DECEMBER 2010
<b>DIRECTORS</b>					
C Bell	32,598,276	241,309	-	-	32,839,585
A Provan	32,443,020	265,309	-	-	32,708,329
C Coleman	1,772,283	-	-	-	1,772,283
G Cubbin	180,000	-	-	-	180,000
M Spry	100,000	50,000	-	-	150,000
B Wilson	-	100,000	-	-	100,000
B Potts	2,479,337	1,511,355	-	-	3,990,692
<b>EXECUTIVES</b>					
LM Bell	32,089,350	232,487	-	-	32,321,837
AG Bell	24,616,171	177,575	-	-	24,793,746
R Fell	610,000	-	-	-	610,000
D Davenport	180,651	4,298	-	-	184,949
P Vine	50,300	-	-	-	50,300

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS CONTINUED

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2011

## 34. RELATED PARTIES CONTINUED

### Other key management personnel transactions

Bell Financial has an option to purchase the remaining shares of Bell Direct from the current shareholders. The current shareholders include Directors of Bell Financial.

Craig Coleman, currently a non-executive director, provided consultancy services to Bell Financial and was paid \$200,000 for those services (2010: \$300,000).

Brian Wilson, currently a non-executive director, provided consultancy services to Bell Financial and was paid \$75,000 for those services (2010: nil).

There are no other transactions with key management persons or their related parties other than those that have been disclosed in this report.

### Ultimate parent

Bell Group Holdings Pty Ltd is the ultimate parent company of Bell Financial. There are no outstanding amounts owed by the ultimate parent entity at 31 December 2011 (2010: \$nil). There is no interest receivable at 31 December 2011 (2010: \$nil).

### Subsidiaries

The table below outlines loans made by the Company to wholly owned subsidiaries.

	2011 \$	2010 \$
<b>SUBSIDIARY</b>		
Bell Potter Securities Limited	-	-
Bell Potter Financial Planning Limited <sup>2</sup>	816	3,225
Bell Potter Investments Pty Limited <sup>2</sup>	50,343	50,343
Bell Potter Capital Limited <sup>1</sup>	8,053,930	13,101,969
Southern Cross Equities Limited	-	1,158,774
SCSH Investments Pty Ltd	-	152,661
	<b>8,105,089</b>	<b>14,466,972</b>
<b>PARENT</b>		
Bell Group Holdings Pty Ltd	-	-
	<b>8,105,089</b>	<b>14,466,972</b>

1 The loan from the parent entity to Bell Potter Capital Limited represents a subordinated loan that attracts interest at 5.69% per annum (2010: 4.85% per annum).

2 Loan is interest free and unsecured.

The table below outlines loans made by wholly owned subsidiaries to the Company.

<b>SUBSIDIARY</b>		
Bell Potter Securities Limited	5,133,079	2,906,860
Southern Cross Equities Limited	3,607,609	-
	<b>8,740,688</b>	<b>2,906,860</b>

During the course of the financial year subsidiaries conducted transactions with each other and associates on terms equivalent to those on an arm's length basis. They are fully eliminated on consolidation. As at 31 December 2011, all outstanding amounts are considered fully collectable.

### 35. GROUP ENTITIES

PARENT ENTITY BELL FINANCIAL GROUP LTD	COUNTRY OF INCORPORATION	OWNERSHIP INTEREST	
		2011	2010
<b>SIGNIFICANT SUBSIDIARIES</b>			
Bell Potter Securities Limited	Australia	100%	100%
Bell Potter Capital Limited	Australia	100%	100%
<b>ASSOCIATE</b>			
Third Party Platform Pty Ltd (Bell Direct)	Australia	45%	40%

In the financial statements of the Company investments in subsidiaries and investments in associates are accounted for at cost. The Company has no jointly controlled entities.

### 36. GUARANTEES

From time to time Bell Financial has provided financial guarantees in the ordinary course of business which amount to \$17.1m (2010: \$5.7m) and are not recorded in the Statement of Financial Position as at 31 December 2011.

### 37. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

There were no significant events from 31 December 2011 to the date of this report.

### 38. AUDITOR'S REMUNERATION

	CONSOLIDATED	
	2011 \$	2010 \$
<b>AUDIT SERVICES</b>		
Auditors of the Company		
KPMG Australia:		
Audit and review of financial reports	325,330	386,000
<b>Total remuneration for audit services</b>	<b>325,330</b>	<b>386,000</b>
<b>AUDIT RELATED SERVICES</b>		
Auditors of the Company		
KPMG Australia:		
Other regulatory audit services	82,810	97,911
<b>Total remuneration for audit related services</b>	<b>82,810</b>	<b>97,911</b>
	<b>408,140</b>	<b>483,911</b>

# DIRECTORS' DECLARATION

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1. In the opinion of the Directors of Bell Financial Group Ltd ('the Company'):
  - a) the consolidated financial statements and notes that are set out on pages 23 to 59 and the Remuneration report on pages 16 to 20 in the Directors' report, are in accordance with the Corporations Act 2001, including:
    - i) giving a true and fair view of the Group's financial position as at 31 December 2011 and of its performance for the financial year ended on that date; and
    - ii) complying with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the Corporations Regulations 2001;
  - b) there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Company will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.
2. The Directors have been given the declarations required by section 295A of the Corporations Act 2001 from the Managing Director and Chief Financial Officer for the financial year ended 31 December 2011.
3. The Directors draw attention to note 1(a) of the consolidated financial statements which includes a statement of compliance with International Financial Reporting Standards.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Directors:

Dated at Sydney this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of February 2012.



**Colin Bell**  
Executive Chairman

# INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

## TO THE MEMBERS OF BELL FINANCIAL GROUP LIMITED

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### REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL REPORT

We have audited the accompanying financial report of Bell Financial Group Limited (the company), which comprises the consolidated statement of financial position as at 31 December 2011, and consolidated income statement and consolidated statement of comprehensive income, consolidated statement of changes in equity and consolidated statement of cash flows for the year ended on that date, notes 1 to 38 comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information and the directors' declaration of the Group comprising the company and the entities it controlled at the year's end or from time to time during the financial year.

### Directors' responsibility for the financial report

The directors of the company are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the Corporations Act 2001 and for such internal controls as the directors determine are necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement whether due to fraud or error. In note 1(a), the directors also state, in accordance with Australian Accounting Standard AASB 101 Presentation of Financial Statements, that the financial statements of the Group comply with International Financial Reporting Standards.

### Auditor's responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These Auditing Standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal controls relevant to the entity's preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal controls. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the directors, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

We performed the procedures to assess whether in all material respects the financial report presents fairly, in accordance with the Corporations Act 2001 and Australian Accounting Standards, a true and fair view which is consistent with our understanding of the Group's financial position and of its performance.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

### Independence

In conducting our audit, we have complied with the independence requirements of the Corporations Act 2001.

### Auditor's opinion

In our opinion:

- a) the financial report of the Group is in accordance with the Corporations Act 2001, including:
  - i) giving a true and fair view of the Group's financial position as at 31 December 2011 and of its performance for the year ended on that date; and
  - ii) complying with Australian Accounting Standards and the Corporations Regulations 2001.
- b) the financial report also complies with International Financial Reporting Standards as disclosed in note 1(a).

**REPORT ON THE REMUNERATION REPORT**

We have audited the Remuneration Report included in pages 16 to 20 of the directors' report for the year ended 31 December 2011. The directors of the company are responsible for the preparation and presentation of the remuneration report in accordance with Section 300A of the Corporations Act 2001. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the remuneration report, based on our audit conducted in accordance with auditing standards.

**AUDITOR'S OPINION**

In our opinion, the remuneration report of Bell Financial Group Limited for the year ended 31 December 2011, complies with Section 300A of the Corporations Act 2001.



**KPMG**



**Don Pasquariello**

Partner

Melbourne  
22 February 2012

# ASX ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Additional information required by the ASX Limited Listing Rules and not disclosed elsewhere in this report is set out below.

Shareholder information was applicable at 17 February 2012

## VOTING RIGHTS

### Ordinary shares

Refer to note 27 in the financial statements.

### Options

There are no voting rights attached to the options.

## DISTRIBUTION OF EQUITY SECURITY HOLDERS

CATEGORY	NUMBER OF EQUITY SECURITY HOLDERS		
	NUMBER OF HOLDERS	NUMBER OF SHARES	% OF TOTAL SHARES ISSUED
1 - 1,000	287	183,102	0.07
1,001 - 5,000	941	3,192,116	1.23
5,001 - 10,000	443	3,776,381	1.45
10,001 - 100,000	623	19,841,036	7.65
100,001 and over	100	232,630,414	89.60
	<b>2,394</b>	<b>259,623,049</b>	<b>100</b>

The number of shareholders holding less than a marketable parcel of ordinary shares is 180.

## SECURITIES EXCHANGE

The Company is listed on the Australian Securities Exchange. The home exchange is Melbourne.

### Other information

Bell Financial Group Ltd, incorporated and domiciled in Australia, is a publicly listed company limited by shares.

### On-market buy-back

There is no current on-market buy-back.

**TWENTY LARGEST SHAREHOLDERS**

NAME	NUMBER OF ORDINARY SHARES HELD	% OF CAPITAL HELD
Bell Group Holdings Pty Limited	117,967,345	45.44
UBS Nominees Pty Ltd	42,232,044	16.27
RBC Dexia Investor Services Australia Nominees Pty Limited	16,855,162	6.49
Equitas Nominees Pty Limited	9,905,000	3.82
Cypress Point Investments Pty Ltd	4,802,181	1.85
Cherryburn Pty Ltd	2,600,000	1.00
Bell Potter Nominees Ltd	2,514,600	0.97
Fatty Holdings Pty Ltd	1,733,019	0.67
Mr Lionel Alexander McFadyen	1,687,480	0.65
Zelman Pty Ltd	1,300,914	0.50
Teragoal Pty Ltd	1,300,000	0.50
Mr Angus William Napier Atken	1,299,478	0.50
Colin Bell Pty Ltd	1,109,562	0.43
Rubi Holdings Pty Ltd	1,100,000	0.42
Moat Investments Pty Ltd	1,049,985	0.40
Walter James Unger & Danielle Angela Unger	1,013,147	0.39
Merivale Investments Pty Ltd	970,000	0.37
Teragoal Pty Ltd	933,986	0.36
J P Morgan Nominees Australia Limited	909,015	0.35
Mr Alastair Provan & Mrs Janis Provan	839,730	0.32

**SUBSTANTIAL SHAREHOLDINGS**

	NUMBER OF SHARES	% OF ISSUED CAPITAL
Bell Group Holdings Pty Limited (BGH)	117,967,345	45.44
Colin Bell	119,792,068	46.14 <sup>1,4</sup>
Alastair Provan	119,660,812	46.09 <sup>2,4</sup>
Lewis Bell	119,072,345	45.86 <sup>3,4</sup>
UBS AG, Australia Branch	42,232,044	16.27

1 Registered holder of 1,824,723 shares.

2 Registered holder of 1,693,467 shares.

3 Registered holder of 1,105,000 shares.

4 BGH is the registered holder of 117,967,345 shares. Colin Bell, Alastair Provan and Lewis Bell are deemed to have BGH's relevant interests in these shares because each has voting power in BGH above 20% (pursuant to section 608(3) of the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth)).

**VOLUNTARY RESTRICTIONS**

Details of the shares that are currently held in voluntary escrow are as follows: none.



# CORPORATE DIRECTORY

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## BELL FINANCIAL GROUP LTD

Incorporated in Victoria  
on 30 June 1998

## ABN

59 083 194 763

## DIRECTORS

### Colin Bell

Executive Chairman

### Alastair Provan

Managing Director

### Craig Coleman

Non-executive Director

### Graham Cubbin

Non-executive Director

### Malcolm Spry

Non-executive Director

### Brian Wilson

Non-executive Director

## COMPANY SECRETARY

Paul Vine

## REGISTERED AND HEAD OFFICE

Level 29, 101 Collins Street  
Melbourne VIC 3000

## SHARE REGISTRY

### Computershare Investor Services Pty Limited

452 Johnston Street  
Abbotsford VIC 3067

Telephone (03) 9415 5000

## ASX CODE

### BFG

Shares are listed on the Australian  
Securities Exchange

## BANKER

Australia and New Zealand  
Banking Group

## AUDITOR

KPMG

## WEBSITE ADDRESS

[www.bellfg.com.au](http://www.bellfg.com.au)

