



ASX/MEDIA RELEASE

WHSP announces \$156 million full year regular profit, up 27%

	Year to 31 July 2015	Year to 31 July 2014	% Change
Regular profit after tax* (\$000)	156,449	123,205	27.0
Profit after tax (\$000)	83,330	131,729	(36.7)
Earnings per share from regular profit after tax* attributable to shareholders (cents)	65.4	51.5	27.0
Interim dividend (cents)	20	19	5.3
Final dividend (cents)	30	29	3.4
Total dividends (cents)	50	48	4.2

Thursday, 24 September 2015: Diversified investment house, Washington H. Soul Pattinson and Company Limited (WHSP, ASX: SOL) today announced its financial results for the year ended 31 July 2015, reporting a regular profit after tax* attributable to shareholders of \$156.4 million, an increase of 27% over last year's result of \$123.2 million.

The increase in regular profit can be attributed to another strong contribution from TPG Telecom (up 30.5%), a solid operating result by New Hope in a very difficult market (up 19.8%); Brickworks capitalised on the improving building sector (up 15.2%); Australian Pharmaceutical Industries continued its recent upward trend in profitability (up 24.3%); and an improved operating result from CopperChem Limited.

The Group's profit after tax (including non-regular items) was \$83.3 million, a 36.7% decrease on last year's result of \$131.7 million.

The net loss from non-regular items was \$73.1 million, compared with a profit of \$8.5 million last year.

Chairman of WHSP Mr Robert Millner said: "It was pleasing to see that all of our major listed investments increased their regular profits.

"In addition to the increased regular profit, the overall value of WHSP's portfolio increased by 6.1% during the year. The increase in value was driven by the major strategic investments increasing in value by 12.6%. This compared favourably to the All Ordinaries Index which only increased by 1% over the same period.

"We take a conservative and value focused approach to create a portfolio that is diversified and delivers value over the long term. With this approach we have outperformed the ASX All Ordinaries Accumulation Index over the last 15 years by 5.2% per annum," he added.

* Regular profit after tax is a non-statutory profit measure and represents profit from continuing operations before non-regular items. A reconciliation to statutory profit is included in the full year financial report – Note 3, Segment Information.

Final dividend

Directors have declared a fully franked final dividend of 30 cents per share for the full year ended 31 July 2015, an increase of 3.4% over last year's final dividend of 29 cents per share. The record date for the dividend will be 16 November 2015 with payment due on 7 December 2015.

The Company receives dividends and distributions from its investments and interest from funds on deposit. This final dividend represents 87.9% of the ordinary dividends and interest received net of regular operating costs (2014: 81.8%).

Assets of WHSP

The assets of WHSP are summarised below. The value of these assets as at 31 July 2015 was \$5.5 billion, an increase of \$319 million on the value of the assets last year.

As at 31 July 2015	WHSP's Holding %	Value of WHSP's Holding \$m	12 month Movement	
			\$m	%
Major Strategic Investments - listed (at market value)				
TPG Telecom Limited	26.9	2,030	852	72.3
Brickworks Limited	44.2	978	39	4.2
New Hope Corporation Limited	59.7	947	(540)	(36.3)
Aust. Pharmaceutical Industries Limited	24.6	191	119	165.0
BKI Investment Company Limited	11.1	108	3	3.2
Ruralco Holdings Limited	20.3	61	6	11.0
Apex Healthcare Berhad	30.3	55	9	19.8
Sub-total (Major Strategic Investments)		4,370	488	12.6
Other listed investments (at market value)		629	35	5.8
Unlisted investments*		254	(71)	(21.9)
Property*		69	(132)	(65.7)
Cash and net funds on deposit		154	(8)	(4.8)
Loans and other assets		23	6	37.9
TOTAL (pre-tax)		5,499	318	6.1

*Directors' valuations

The pre-tax value of the portfolio increased by 6.1% which was driven by an increase of 12.6% in the value of the major strategic investments.

Outlook

“We expect interest rates will stay low for a long time, which means it is a good time to invest in real assets.

“We have been fairly buffered against the recent share market volatility. In August, WHSP’s share price outperformed the All Ordinaries Index by 7%. We take a long view and have been reinvesting, and will continue to reinvest, in the capital markets throughout this time.

“Our strong balance sheet and cash flows will also enable us to continue to deliver reliable cash returns to our shareholders in the form of fully franked dividends,” Mr Millner said.

Briefing details:

Chairman of WHSP Robert Millner will be presenting the results with a Q&A session afterwards today at the Austral Bricks Design Studio, 50 Carrington Street, Sydney (opposite Wynyard Station) – 12.15pm for 12.30pm start. Please note Brickworks will be presenting first.

The briefing will be live streamed at: <http://www.streamgate.co/webcast/brickworks/24-09-15/>

About Washington H. Soul Pattinson and Company Limited

WHSP is Australia’s second oldest listed company. Beginning as a chemist shop in Pitt Street, Sydney in 1872, the company listed on the Australian Securities Exchange 30 years later. Since listing, WHSP has paid a dividend every year, including throughout the depression of the 1930s. Today, WHSP is a diversified investor with many investments including: telecommunications, building products, coal, equities, pharmaceuticals, rural services, property, copper and financial services.

WASHINGTON H. SOUL PATTINSON AND COMPANY LIMITED (ASX CODE: SOL)

www.whsp.com.au

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