



## ASX/MEDIA RELEASE

### WHSP Reports Half Year Results, Increases Dividend

	<b>6 months to 31 Jan 2014</b>	6 months to 31 Jan 2013	% Change
<b>Revenue from continuing operations (\$000)</b>	<b>335,780</b>	384,320	(12.6)
<b>Profit after tax attributable to shareholders (\$000)</b>	<b>73,723</b>	74,255	(0.7)
<b>Regular profit after tax* attributable to shareholders (\$000)</b>	<b>63,496</b>	80,516**	(21.1)
<b>Total earnings per share (cents)</b>	<b>30.8</b>	31.0	(0.6)
<b>Earnings per share from regular profit after tax* attributable to shareholders (cents)</b>	<b>26.5</b>	33.6**	(21.1)
<b>Interim dividend (cents)</b>	<b>19.0</b>	18.0	5.6

**Thursday 27 March 2014:** Diversified investment company, Washington H. Soul Pattinson and Company Limited (WHSP, ASX: SOL), today announced profit after tax attributable to shareholders for the half year ended 31 January 2014 of \$73.7 million, a slight decrease on the \$74.3 million reported for the previous corresponding period.

The regular profit after tax\* for the half year ended 31 January 2014 was \$63.5 million, a decrease of 21.1% compared to the previous corresponding period of \$80.5 million\*\*. The net decrease was primarily attributable to a lower contribution from New Hope Corporation Limited (New Hope), which was partly offset by increased contributions from Brickworks Limited and TPG Telecom Limited.

The profit on non-regular items for the half year ended 31 January 2014 was \$10.3 million.

Mr Robert Millner, Chairman of WHSP said: "Our half year results have remained broadly in line with last year's half year result as a consequence of our diversified portfolio of investments. We are pleased to announce an increase in the interim dividend to 19 cents, up from 18 cents for the previous corresponding half year.

"Importantly, we have seen a steady increase in the market value of our listed equity investments, which is a positive sign that investors are returning to the market. We maintain our focus on diversification as it continues to deliver long-term returns to our shareholders.

\* 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 half year financial report – Note 2, Segment information.

\*\* The regular profit after tax and non-regular items for the half year ended 31 January 2013 have been restated for consistency with the current period. Refer to Note 2, Segment Information, of the half year financial report for further information.

“WHSP remains in a strong financial position with cash reserves including wholly-owned subsidiaries of \$180 million.” said Mr Millner.

### **Interim dividend**

Directors have declared a fully franked interim dividend of 19 cents per share for the half year ended 31 January 2014, an increase of 5.6 per cent over last year’s interim dividend of 18 cents per share. The record date for the dividend will be 17 April 2014 with payment due on 8 May 2014.

The Company receives cash dividends from its investments and interest from funds on deposit. This year’s interim dividend represents 60.6% of the ordinary dividends and interest received during the half year.

### **Parent company**

The market value of WHSP’s listed equities held, including controlled entities and associates, was \$4.66 billion at 31 January 2014, an increase of 11.0% since 31 July 2013. The cost of acquiring these assets was \$851.5 million.

Excluding controlled entities and associates, the market value of WHSP’s listed equities was \$558.0 million. This represents an increase of 7.1% since 31 July 2013.

For the half year ended 31 January 2014 dividend and distribution income from listed equities held, excluding those from controlled entities and associates, was \$12.1 million, an increase of 17.0% on the previous corresponding period.

Interest income for the half year, excluding that from controlled entities and associates, totalled \$4.8 million. This compares to \$7.7 million for the same period last year and is attributable to both lower interest rates and less funds on deposit.

### **Controlled entities’ contributions:**

- New Hope (59.7% held<sup>\*\*\*</sup>) – contributed a net profit of \$13.5 million to the Group for the half year (HY2013: \$41.1 million net profit)
- CopperChem Limited (100% held<sup>\*\*\*</sup>) – contributed a net loss of \$21.4 million to the Group for the half year. (HY2013: 93.4% held, \$16.1 million net loss)
- Exco Resources Limited (100% held<sup>\*\*\*</sup>) – contributed a net profit of \$0.7 million to the Group (HY2013: \$0.4 million net profit)
- Pitt Capital Partners Limited (100% held<sup>\*\*\*</sup>) – contributed a net profit of \$1.0 million to the Group (HY2013: \$0.9 million net profit)
- Australian Logistics Property Fund (100% held<sup>\*\*\*</sup>) – contributed a net profit of \$4.0 million to the Group (HY2013: nil)

### **Associated entities’ contributions:**

- Ampcontrol Pty. Limited (43.4% held<sup>\*\*\*</sup>) – contributed a net profit of \$2.2 million to the Group (HY2013: \$4.0 million net profit)
- Apex Healthcare Berhad (30.3% held<sup>\*\*\*</sup>) – contributed a net profit of \$1.4 million to the Group for the half year ended 31 December 2013 (HY2012: \$1.4 million net profit)

<sup>\*\*\*</sup> Percentage of the issued capital of the company held by the Group as at 31 January 2014.

- Australian Pharmaceutical Industries Limited (24.6% held<sup>\*\*\*</sup>) – contributed a net profit of \$2.8 million to the Group for the half year ended 31 August 2013 (HY2012: \$2.9 million net profit)
- BKI Investment Company Limited (11.9% held<sup>\*\*\*</sup>) – contributed a net profit of \$2.3 million to the Group for the half year ended 31 December 2013 (HY2012: 13.0% held, \$2.5 million net profit)
- Brickworks Limited (44.3% held<sup>\*\*\*</sup>) – contributed a net profit of \$12.2 million to the Group (HY2013: 44.4% held, \$9.6 million net profit) These contributions exclude the WHSP profit taken up by Brickworks under the equity accounting method.
- Clover Corporation Limited (28.6% held<sup>\*\*\*</sup>) – contributed a net profit of \$0.4 million to the Group (HY2013: \$0.7 million)
- Ruralco Holdings Limited (23.5% held<sup>\*\*\*</sup>) – contributed a net profit of \$1.5 million to the Group for the half year ended 30 September 2013 (HY2012: 23.5% held, \$0.9 million net profit)
- TPG Telecom Limited (26.9% held<sup>\*\*\*</sup>) – contributed a net profit of \$24.2 million to the Group (HY2013: \$21.1 million net profit)

<sup>\*\*\*</sup> Percentage of the issued capital of the company held by the Group as at 31 January 2014.

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#### **Briefing details:**

Robert Millner, Chairman of WHSP, 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. Dial-in details are available upon request.

#### **About Washington H. Soul Pattinson and Company Limited**

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 in basic commodities such as building products, property, coal, equities, telecommunications, rural services, financial services and pharmaceuticals.

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

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

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#### **For further information contact:**

##### **Investors**

Robert Millner, Chairman - 02 9232 7166

##### **Media**

Rebecca Piercy, Kreab Gavin Anderson – 0422 916 422