# **Strength in uncertain times**

Why CBA is well positioned in this period of global financial markets uncertainty

Presentation to Macquarie Capital Securities Australia Conference 8 May 2008

**Determined** to be different

Commonwealth Bank of Australia ACN 123 123 124

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Agenda for today....

Global uncertainty - current state-of-play

- CBA well positioned
- Strategy update



# Current state-of-play ......Globally

- Crisis averted?
- (Reported) losses to date over \$200bn
- Credit Markets:
  - Concerted policy & central bank response
  - Some early signs of easing
  - Sustained recovery will take time
- Bank recapitalisation and balance sheet strengthening
- Broader contagion:
  - > "Sub-prime" to "prime"
  - Slowing US growth
  - Bad Debts



# Current state-of-play .... Australia

- Minimal direct sub-prime exposures
- Major impacts:
  - Higher funding costs
  - Single-name corporates
- Changing competitive dynamics:
  - Flight-to-quality
  - Non-bank models under pressure
- Economic conditions remain sound:
  - Robust labour market + strong income growth + high commodity prices
  - > Generally healthy corporate profitability
  - > Extent of US downturn the key risk



## A return to stability....some prerequisites

- Full disclosure of all sub-prime and related losses
- Minimum two "clean" reporting cycles
- Central Bank intervention (success of)
- US house price stabilisation
- Positive surprises US economic activity
- Asset quality risk back to within normal parameters



### Share price movements

Australia		%
СВА		37
St George		32
NAB		30
ANZ		27
Westpac		25
Global		
Citigroup	▼	37
Merrill Lynch		26
Credit Suisse		23
	•	
HSBC	V	16

Movements reflect closing price 31 December 2007 compared to lowest closing price in the period to 31 March 2008



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# Why CBA is well-positioned

- Strong competitive position
- - Prudent funding and liquidity management
- Strong capital position



Sound risk management



Low-risk, domestically focussed strategy



# ✓ Strong Competitive Position

- CBA brand a key strength
- Diversified earnings streams
- Volume & share growth <u>at the right price</u>
- Changing competitive dynamics:
  - Flight-to-quality response
  - Non-bank models under pressure
  - Shifting home loan channel dynamics
  - Re-intermediation
  - AA credit rating a key differentiator



\* Six months ended Dec-07



# Prudent funding and liquidity management



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# Higher funding costs – our response

- Dislocation expected to last through calendar 2008
- Costs of ~\$100m in 1H08 no easing Q308
- Pricing response;
  - Product rates under constant review
  - > Transfer pricing adjusted monthly
  - Customer pricing progressively adjusted
  - PACC-driven pricing models
- Funding response;
  - Highly diversified, surplus liquids, stable duration





# Strong capital position

- Basel II advanced accreditation:
  - More sophisticated internal systems
  - More flexible decision-making
- Very strong capital position:
  - Upper end of target range
  - Well-placed compared to peer group
- No current plans (or need) to raise additional capital



#### Sound risk management....Consumer

- Conservative policies and approach:
  - Interest rate buffer
  - Home loan portfolio LVR ~50%
  - 60% two+ payments in advance
  - Disciplined arrears management
  - No zero-rate cards
- Portfolio quality remains very sound:
  - Up-tick in Q3 arrears consistent with seasonal trends
  - Home loan arrears remain low by historical standards
  - Few signs of stress in unsecured portfolios
  - Resilient income/employment growth





## Sound risk management...Commercial

- Healthy corporate profitability + low gearing
- CBA portfolio quality remains sound:
  - Two-thirds of exposures investment grade
  - Security over 82% of non-investment grade exposure
  - Financial and property exposures well diversified
  - > No exposure to stock-broking sector
  - > CBA margin lending book in very good shape
- Single-name exposures not industry/sector specific



#### Low risk, domestically focussed strategy

- Focus on core domestic franchise
- Significant organic growth potential:
  - Customer service upside
  - Cross-sell to 9m customers
  - Potential scale advantage
  - Disciplined investment program
  - Selective Asian growth strategy:
    - Long term focus
    - Capability/knowledge transfer



Source: Roy Morgan Research. Aust MFI Population 14+, % "Very" or "Fairly Satisfied"



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#### Strategy ... key achievements to date

- Customer satisfaction at 10 year high
- Over 1,000 new frontline staff
- Sales & Service training over 7,500 "Masters"
- New branch operating model and new design branches
- Market-leading front-end systems CommSee, CommSec etc
- Ongoing IT efficiency savings
- Strong cultural gains
- Selective Asian expansion



#### Core Banking Modernisation - our next important step



- Sales & Service Training
- Over 1,000 new frontline staff
- Branch Improvements
- Market-leading front-end systems;
  - CommSee
  - NetBank
  - CommSec
  - CommBiz
  - First Choice

- "Back-End" systems and processes the key impediment to step-change in customer service
- The time is right:
  - Next generation customer-centric systems have matured
  - Strong technical expertise (EIT, SAP, Accenture)
  - Over 2 years preparatory work
  - Initial integrated capability already built – "Steel thread"



#### A step-change improvement in customer service

- Improved customer interactions
- Real time, 24x7 processing removes hand-offs and improves service
- Introduction of common processes across businesses and segments
- Improved product functionality, agility and speed-to-market
- Efficiency improvements through system and process consolidation



# Summary – strength in uncertain times

Strong competitive position

Prudent funding & liquidity management

Strong capital position

Sound risk management

Low risk strategy

- CBA brand a key strength
- Flight-to-quality response in key markets
- Non-bank models under pressure
- Diverse funding sources market leading retail funding
- Globally respected funding operation. AA credit rating
- Long term funding maturity maintained
- Significant surplus liquid assets
- Basel II advanced accreditation
- Strong capital ratios at upper end of target ranges
- No current plans (or need) to raise further capital
- Conservative lending standards
- Sound consumer credit quality
- No systemic issues in commercial book
- Domestically-focussed
- Significant organic growth potential
- Core Banking Modernisation the next key step

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