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#### **Group Highlights**



- Underlying NPAT \$18.2m (77% pcp)
- NPAT \$21.5m (including GST holdback refund, before impairment and writedowns)
- Impairment and write downs \$23.3m (pre-tax)
- Statutory net loss \$1.8m
- Group revenue \$1.6b, (94% pcp)
- EBITDA1 90% pcp at \$50.4m
- EBITDA margin 3.1% (3.3% pcp)
- EPS¹ of 9.5c (12.4c)
- Interim dividend of 4.0c fully franked (7.25c)
- Solid operating performance in difficult market conditions
- Continued growth in Logistics' revenue and earnings

#### Group Performance



	31 Dec 08 \$m <sup>2 3</sup>	31 Dec 08 \$m <sup>12</sup>	31 Dec 07 \$m <sup>3</sup>	% pcp
Revenue	\$1,601	1,601	1,703.1	94
EBITDA	55.2	50.4	55.8	90
EBITDA Margin (%)	3.45	3.15	3.28	96
EBIT	47.5	42.8	49.3	86
NPBT	32.0	27.3	34.5	79
NPAT – attributable to shareholders	21.8	18.2	23.7	77
Basic EPS (cents per share)	11.4	9.5	12.4	77
Interest Cover	3.1	2.8	3.3	85

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Excluding GST holdback refund (\$4.3m pre-tax) <sup>2</sup>Excluding impairment and write downs (\$23.3m pre-tax) <sup>3</sup>Based on continuing operations

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Excluding GST holdback refund and impairment and writedowns.

### Unusual Items

AHG
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	\$m
GST Holdback Refund (pre-tax)	\$4.7
Impairment Adjustments	
- Goodwill – Automotive	(13.7)
- Franchise Rights – Automotive	(8.8)
Writedowns	(0.9)

# Divisional Operating Performance



	31 Dec. 08 \$ million <sup>1</sup> <sup>2</sup>	31 Dec. 07 \$ million <sup>2</sup>	% pcp
Automotive Retail			
- Total Revenue	1,395.4	1,519.0	92
- EBITDA	34.8	45.1	77
- EBITDA Margin (%)	2.5	3.0	84
Logistics			
- Total Revenue	205.5	184.1	111
- EBITDA	15.6	10.7	145
- EBITDA Margin (%)	7.6	5.8	130

¹Excluding extraordinary item – GST Holdback and impairment and writedowns

#### **Economic conditions**



- Softening new vehicle sales/stable used vehicle sales
- Automotive retailing margins decline
- High fuel prices and interest rates impacted start of December half year
- Consumer sentiment affected by general economic downturn
- Improvement in conditions towards end of the half
- Stable outlook expected for second half aided by lower interest rates, fuel prices and Government economic stimulus package including ATO Investment Allowance (from 10% to 30%)
- Unemployment rising

#### AHG's strategic response



- Manage the business for the prevailing conditions
- Proactive management of cost base and asset utilisation
- Early intervention to counter changes in consumer demand
  - Re-alignment of used vehicle pricing, reduction of inventories and floor plan financing requirement
- Focus on maximising 5 automotive retailing income streams
- Strong focus on capital management, financing levels

#### Net Operating Cashflow

AHG

Cash generated from operations is positive.

	31 Dec 08 \$m	31 Dec 07 \$m
Net operating cashflows	78.7	86.9
Increase/(Decrease) in inventories	(37.5)	(53.6)
	41.2	33.3

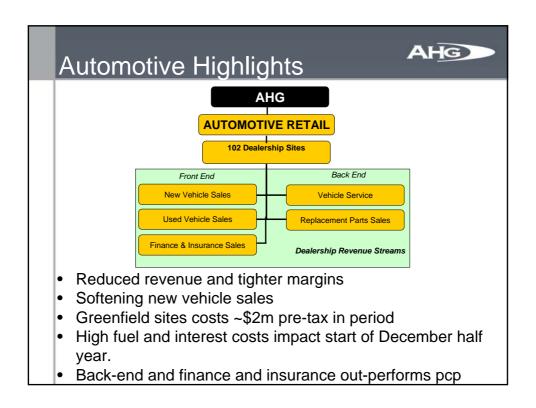
#### Capital Management



Continued strength in the Group's balance sheet and capital management:

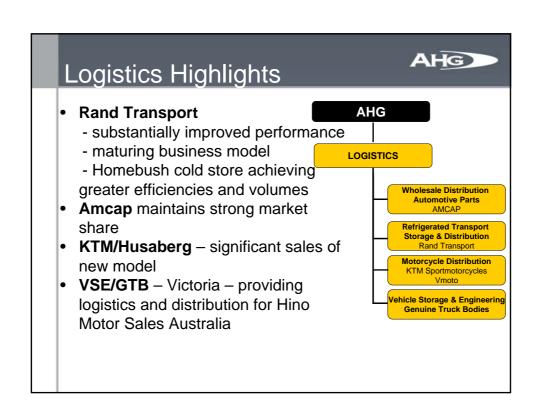
- Floor plan facilities of \$183.1m re-financed after withdrawal from Australia of key funders GE and GMAC Australia
- AHG finance company floorplan loans decreased 13% while automotive revenue declined 8%
- Stock turns maintained resulting in a \$44m reduction in vehicle inventories in the period
- Cash generated from operations of \$79m for half year to 31 December 2008

Capital Management - Net Debt Position			AHG
		Dec 08 \$m	30 June 08 \$m
Total Debt			·
Current		353	414
Less, finance company floorplan loar	าร	346	398
Short Term Debt (excl Floorplan)		7	16
Less Cash		(34)	(39)
Net Current Cash Position (excl. Floorplan	n)	(27)	(23)
Non Current Debt		80	78
Net Position (excl Floorplan)		53	55
NOTE: Undrawn Bill Facility at 31 Dec 2008 - \$33m Floorplan headroom at 31 Dec 2008 - \$126m	(sul	piect to i	nventory level



#### National New Vehicle Sales AHG - by Buyer Type HY Dec % HY Dec % chge CY2008 CY2007 (units) (units) chge 80 07 (units) (units) 460,773 204,619 240,438 Private 498,748 (7.6)(17.5)381,010 Business 389,958 2.3 179,819 192,726 (7.2)Govt. 71,037 74,523 (4.7)37,153 37,021 0.0 Rental 54,471 58,470 (6.8)29,949 34,740 (16.0)**TOTAL** 976,239 1,012,751 (3.6)451,540 504,925 (11.8)

Business and Private sales represents 87% of total market.



## Strengthened management team



- Senior management team strengthened by 3 new appointments
  - Hamish Williams Executive Director, Strategy and Planning
  - Ron Nuich Chief Financial Officer
  - Jack Maroney General Manager Organisational Effectiveness
- Focus on continued tight management of business units and maximising group synergies and efficiencies

#### Outlook



- Strong Logistics performance expected to continue
- Stable second half relative to first half
- Continued focus on corporate strategy and maximising returns from existing operations
- Continued management of costs/inventories
- Maintain strict criteria for any acquisition growth
- Lower fuel prices, interest rates and Government stimulus package to support consumer confidence
- The effects of further softening of new vehicle sales should be cushioned by solid performance from parts, service, finance and insurance
- Manufacturer incentives expected to boost sales
- Concentrate on maintaining organic growth of greenfield sites

