

Notes to the financial statements

for the financial year ended 31 March 2012

continued

Note 36

Employee equity participation

Macquarie Group Employee Retained Equity Plan

In December 2009, the Company's shareholders approved the implementation of the Macquarie Group Employee Retained Equity Plan (MEREP) in conjunction with remuneration arrangements. These arrangements included a decrease in the portion of staff profit share paid in cash and an increase in the portion delivered as equity, an increase in the proportion of deferred remuneration and cessation of new option grants under the Macquarie Group Employee Share Option Plan (MGESOP).

Award Types under the MEREP

Restricted Share Units (RSUs)

A RSU is a beneficial interest in a Macquarie share held on behalf of a MEREP participant by the plan trustee (Trustee). The participant is entitled to receive dividends on the share and direct the Trustee how to exercise voting rights in the share. The participant also has the right to request the release of the share from the Trust, subject to the vesting and forfeiture provisions of the MEREP.

Deferred Share Units (DSUs)

A DSU represents the right to receive on exercise of the DSU either a share held in the Trust or a newly issued share (as determined by the Company in its absolute discretion) for no cash payment, subject to the vesting and forfeiture provisions of the MEREP. A MEREP participant holding a DSU has no right or interest in any share until the DSU is exercised. The Company may issue shares to the Trustee or procure the Trustee to acquire shares on-market for potential future allocations to holders of DSUs. Generally DSUs will provide for cash payments in lieu of dividends paid on Company shares before the DSU is exercised. Further, the number of shares underlying a DSU will be adjusted upon any bonus issue or other capital reconstruction of the Company in accordance with the ASX Listing Rules, so that the holder of a DSU does not receive a benefit that holders generally of Company shares do not receive. These provisions are intended to provide the holders of DSUs, as far as possible, with the same benefits and risks as are provided to holders of RSUs. However, holders of DSUs will have no voting rights as to any underlying MGL shares. DSUs will only be offered in jurisdictions where legal or tax rules make the grant of RSUs impractical, or where PSUs are structured as DSUs (see PSUs below).

Performance Share Units (PSUs)

PSUs are structured as DSUs or RSUs with performance hurdles that must be met before the underlying share or cash equivalent (as the case may be) will be delivered. Where PSUs are structured as DSUs, holders have no right to dividend equivalent payments before the PSUs vest. In all other respects, holders of these PSUs will have the same rights as holders of DSUs. For 2011, the PSUs granted to the Executive Committee, including the CEO, are structured as DSUs with performance hurdles. The rights under any future PSUs structured as RSUs will generally be the same as the rights under RSUs, except for the PSU performance hurdles which will not apply to RSUs.