Notes to the consolidated financial statements
for the half-year ended 30 September 2014
continued

Note 20
Fair values of financial assets and liabilities

Fair value reflects the amount for which an asset could be exchanged or a liability settled, between knowledgeable, willing parties in an arm's length transaction. Quoted prices or rates are used to determine fair value where an active market exists. If the market for a financial instrument is not active, fair values are estimated using present value or other valuation techniques, using inputs based on market conditions prevailing on the measurement date.

The values derived from applying these techniques are affected by the choice of valuation model used and the underlying assumptions made regarding inputs such as timing and amounts of future cash flows, discount rates, credit risk, volatility and correlation.

Financial instruments measured at fair value are categorised in their entirety, in accordance with the levels of the fair value hierarchy as outlined below:

Level 1: quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities;

Level 2: inputs other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly (i.e. as prices) or indirectly (i.e. derived from prices); and

Level 3: inputs for the asset or liability that are not based on observable market data (unobservable inputs).

The appropriate level for an instrument is determined on the basis of the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement.

The Consolidated Entity uses the portfolio exemption in AASB 13 *Fair Value Measurement* to measure the fair value of certain groups of financial assets and financial liabilities. These are measured using the price that would be received to sell a net long position, or transfer a net short position, for a particular risk exposure.

The following methods and significant assumptions have been applied in determining the fair values of financial instruments:

- trading portfolio assets and liabilities, financial assets and liabilities at fair value through profit or loss, derivative financial instruments and other transactions undertaken for trading purposes are measured at fair value by reference to quoted market prices when available (e.g. listed securities). If quoted market prices are not available, then fair values are estimated on the basis of pricing models or other recognised valuation techniques;
- investment securities classified as available for sale are measured at fair value by reference to quoted market prices when available (e.g. listed securities). If quoted market prices are not available, then fair values are estimated on the basis of pricing models or other recognised valuation techniques. Unrealised gains and losses, excluding impairment write-downs, are recorded in the available for sale reserve in equity until the asset is sold, collected or otherwise disposed of;
- fair values of fixed rate loans and issued debt classified as at fair value through profit or loss is estimated by reference to current market rates offered on similar loans and issued debt;
- for financial assets carried at fair value, in order to measure counterparty credit risk, a Credit Valuation Adjustment (CVA) is incorporated into the valuation. The CVA is calculated at a counterparty level taking into account all exposures to that counterparty;
- for financial liabilities carried at fair value, in order to measure the Consolidated Entity's own credit risk, a Debit Valuation Adjustment (DVA) is incorporated into the valuations;
- for uncollateralised derivative positions, the Consolidated Entity has incorporated the market implied funding costs for these uncollateralised derivative positions as a Funding Valuation Adjustment (FVA).

Where valuation techniques are used to determine fair values, they are validated and periodically reviewed by qualified personnel independent of the area that created them. All models are certified before they are used, and models are calibrated periodically to test that outputs reflect prices from observable current market transactions in the same instrument or other available observable market data. To the extent possible, models use only observable market data (e.g. for over-the-counter derivatives), however management is required to make assumptions for certain inputs that are not supported by prices from observable current market transactions in the same instrument, such as, volatility and correlation.