
Note 20

Fair values of financial assets and liabilities continued

The following methods and significant assumptions have been applied in determining the fair values of financial instruments which are carried at amortised cost:

- the fair values of liquid assets and other instruments maturing within three months are approximate to their carrying amounts. This assumption is applied to liquid assets and the short-term elements of all other financial assets and financial liabilities;
- the fair value of demand deposits with no fixed maturity is approximately their carrying amount as they are short term in nature or are payable on demand;
- the fair values of variable rate financial instruments, including certain loan assets and liabilities carried at amortised cost, cash collateral on securities borrowed/cash collateral on securities lent and reverse repurchase/repurchase agreements, are approximate to their carrying amounts. The fair value of loan assets repayable without penalty is approximated by their carrying value. Fair values of all loan assets is determined with reference to changes in credit markets as well as interest rates;
- the fair value of fixed rate loans and debt carried at amortised cost is estimated by reference to current market rates offered on similar loans and the creditworthiness of the borrower;
- the fair value of debt issued and subordinated debt is based on market prices where available. Where market prices are not available the fair value is based on discounted cash flows using rates appropriate to the term and issue and incorporates changes in the Consolidated Entity's own credit spread;
- substantially all of the Consolidated Entity's commitments to extend credit are at variable rates. As such, there is no significant exposure to fair value fluctuations resulting from interest rate movements relating to these commitments; and
- in the financial statements of the Company, the fair value of balances due from/to subsidiaries is approximated by their carrying amount as the balances are generally receivable/payable on demand.