NEW ZEALAND EQUITY RESEARCH 30 JULY 2020

TRANSPORT

PORT OWNER & OPERATOR

Port of Tauranga

Cargo Light, Valuation Heavy

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UNDERPERFORM (2)



Port of Tauranga's (POT) share price has defied both ours and the consensus view on valuation for an extended period of time. It is a high quality asset that could materially benefit from industry structure change, given uncertainty about the future of Ports of Auckland (POAL). POT has taken share in the upper North Island over the longer term, and will likely continue to do so in the absence of supply chain certainty for users of POAL, in our opinion. This provides support to a higher level of cargo, revenue and profit growth over the medium to long term. COVID-19 has impacted near term, albeit the foregone cargo is largely forestry related and therefore deferred rather than lost. Higher growth and lower bond yields support a higher target price, yet there remains a sizeable gap between our revised NZ\$6.20 and the current share price. UNDERPERFORM.

NZX Code	POT	Financials: Jun/	19A	20E	21E	22E	Valuation (x)	19A	20E	21E	22E
Share price	NZ\$7.71	NPAT* (NZ\$m)	100.6	94.0	102.2	110.8	EV/EBITDA	32.0	34.3	31.4	28.5
Target price	NZ\$6.20	EPS* (NZc)	14.8	13.8	15.0	16.3	EV/EBIT	38.0	41.8	37.9	34.1
Risk rating	Low	EPS growth* (%)	5.8	-6.6	8.7	8.4	PE	52.2	55.9	51.4	47.4
Issued shares	680.6m	DPS (NZc)	18.3	15.8	16.2	17.3	Price / NTA	4.5	4.5	4.3	4.5
Market cap	NZ\$5,247m	Imputation (%)	100	100	100	100	Cash div yld (%)	2.4	2.0	2.1	2.2
Avg daily turnover	156.4k (NZ\$1,052k)	*Based on normalised profits					Gross div yld (%)	3.3	2.8	2.9	3.1

What's changed?

- NPAT: FY20 -3% and FY21 -2% reflecting COVID-19 impact from Alert Level 4
- Target price: Raised to NZ\$6.20 to reflect higher medium/long term growth assumptions

Export logs

Stats NZ data suggests POT's log exports fell -22% in FY20 reflecting (1) the impact of weaker prices in mid-2019, (2) the closure of Chinese ports in February 2020, and (3) the non-essential nature of forestry during Alert Level 4. This is consistent with our previous assumption and implies ~5.5mT of log exports. The outlook for log exports is mixed given lower prices but an impending wall of wood.

Container growth has softened

Ministry of Transport data for the nine months to March suggest POT's container volumes were flat against the prior year, compared to +3% through the first six months. We expect some further softening in 4Q20 to reflect a decline in 'non-essential' exports, including processed forestry products.

Upper North Island uncertainty

The Upper North Island Supply Chain Strategy will be reliant on future governments to take it forward given the forthcoming election. We expect it will likely be less of a political priority in light of COVID-19 and therefore believe that the current status quo is likely to continue for the foreseeable future.

Valuation premium

POT trades at an elevated one year forward PE multiple of ~51x despite ~20% of its earnings stemming from lower multiple associate/JV entities other than the core port business. While we believe POT deserves a valuation premium (to the market) we question how big the premium should be, particularly in an environment when trade cargo trends are subdued.

FORSYTH BARR

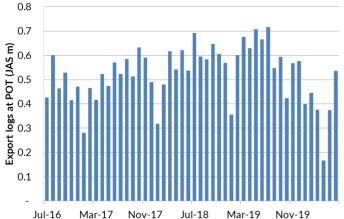
Port of Tauranga Ltd (POT)

Priced as at 29 Jul 2020 (NZ\$)					7.71						
12-month target price (NZ\$)*					6.20	Spot valuations (NZ\$)					
Expected share price return					-19.6%	1. DCF					5.98
Net dividend yield					2.1%	2. Sum-of-the-parts					5.87
Estimated 12-month return					-17.5%	3. n/a					n/a
Key WACC assumptions						DCF valuation summary (NZ\$m)					
Risk free rate					2.00%	Total firm value					4,624
Equity beta					0.75	(Net debt)/cash					(527)
WACC					6.2%	Less: Capitalised operating leases					(25)
Terminal growth					2.5%	Value of equity					4,072
Profit and Loss Account (NZ\$m)	2018A	2019A	2020E	2021E	2022E	Valuation Ratios	2018A	2019A	2020E	2021E	2022E
Sales revenue	283.7	313.3	304.5	326.7	351.1	EV/EBITDA (x)	35.7	32.0	34.3	31.4	28.5
Normalised EBITDA	154.1	173.2	162.4	177.9	195.9	EV/EBIT (x)	42.7	38.0	41.8	37.9	34.1
Depreciation and amortisation	(25.3)	(27.6)	(29.1)	(30.7)	(32.1)	PE (x)	55.2	52.2	55.9	51.4	47.4
Normalised EBIT	128.8	145.6	133.3	147.2	163.8	Price/NTA (x)	4.7	4.5	4.5	4.3	4.5
Net interest Associate income	(18.0) 15.1	(18.2) 8.1	(19.4) 12.0	(22.4) 13.0	(26.7) 13.5	Free cash flow yield (%) Net dividend yield (%)	1.6 2.3	1.4 2.4	1.4 2.0	0.4 2.1	0.4 2.2
Tax	(31.8)	(34.4)	(31.9)	(35.6)	(39.7)	Gross dividend yield (%)	3.2	3.3	2.8	2.9	3.1
Minority interests	(31.0)	(34.4)	(31.7)	(33.0)	0	Gross dividend yield (70)	5.2	5.5	2.0	2.7	5.1
Normalised NPAT	95.1	100.6	94.0	102.2	110.8	Capital Structure	2018A	2019A	2020E	2021E	2022E
Abnormals/other	0.8	0	0	0	0	Interest cover EBIT (x)	7.1	8.0	6.9	6.6	6.1
Reported NPAT	94.3	100.6	94.0	102.2	110.8	Interest cover EBITDA (x)	8.5	9.5	8.4	7.9	7.3
Normalised EPS (cps)	14.0	14.8	13.8	15.0	16.3	Net debt/ND+E (%)	26.3	27.5	29.2	30.2	34.5
DPS (cps)	17.7	18.3	15.8	16.2	17.3	Net debt/EBITDA (x)	2.6	2.6	3.0	3.0	3.1
Growth Rates	2018A	2019A	2020A	2021A	2022A	Key Ratios	2018A	2019A	2020E	2021E	2022E
Revenue (%)	10.6	10.4	-2.8	7.3	7.5	Return on assets (%)	7.8	8.3	7.3	7.7	8.4
EBITDA (%)	11.3	12.4	-6.2	9.5	10.1	Return on equity (%)	8.5	8.6	8.1	8.4	9.5
EBIT (%)	13.1	13.0	-8.4	10.4	11.3	Return on funds employed (%)	18.4	19.4	17.6	17.3	17.3
Normalised NPAT (%)	13.4	5.8	-6.6	8.7	8.4	EBITDA margin (%)	54.3	55.3	53.3	54.5	55.8
Normalised EPS (%)	13.4	5.8	-6.6	8.7	8.4	EBIT margin (%)	45.4	46.5	43.8	45.1	46.6
Ordinary DPS (%)	13.4	4.7	0.0	2.9	8.4	Capex to sales (%)	6.2	11.2	11.5	33.7	31.3
						Capex to depreciation (%)	70	127	120	358	342
Cash Flow (NZ\$m)	2018A	2019A	2020E	2021E	2022E	Imputation (%)	100	100	100	100	100
EBITDA	154.1	173.2	162.4	177.9	195.9	Pay-out ratio (%)	127	124	114	108	107
Working capital change	0	0	0	0	0.0						
Interest & tax paid	(50.1)	(52.6)	(50.3)	(56.9)	(65.4)	Operating Performance	2018A	2019A	2020E	2021E	2022E
Other	(4.5)	(10.1)	(1.6)	7.9	(1.7)	Revenue (NZ\$m)			0.00		
Operating cash flow	99.4	110.4	110.4	128.8	128.8	Port operations	251.4	276.8	269.3	290.3	313.5
Capital expenditure (Acquisitions)/divestments	(17.7) 0.4	(35.0) 0	(35.0) 0	(110.0) 0	(110.0) 0	Property services	26.9	28.8	30.2	31.1 5.3	32.0
Other	10.1	9.0	9.0	10.1	10.1	Marshalling Services Total revenue	4.9 283.7	4.9 313.3	5.0 304.5	326.7	5.5 351.1
Funding available/(required)	92.1	84.4	84.4	28.9	28.9	lotarrevenue	203.7	313.3	304.3	320.7	331.1
Dividends paid	(115.0)	(122.9)	(122.9)	(116.5)	(116.5)	Port operations revenue (NZ\$m)					
Equity raised/(returned)	(1.6)	0	0	0	0	Container revenue	164.1	182.5	183.7	197.7	213.0
(Increase)/decrease in net debt	(24.5)	(38.5)	(38.5)	(87.6)	(87.6)	Bulk revenue	51.3	58.3	50.2	55.1	60.7
						Marine revenue	36.0	36.0	35.3	37.5	39.8
Balance Sheet (NZ\$m)	2018A	2019A	2020E	2021E	2022E	Total	251.4	276.8	269.3	290.3	313.5
Working capital	19.4	28.3	16.6	17.7	18.9						
Fixed assets	1,446.3	1,531.2	1,567.8	1,647.7	1,672.2	EBITDA (NZ\$m)					
Intangibles	18.5	19.0	19.0	19.0	19.0	Port operations	251.4	276.8	269.3	290.3	313.5
Right of use asset	124.4	122.7	23.9	23.9	23.9	Property services	26.9	28.8	30.2	31.1	32.0
Other assets Total funds employed	134.4	132.7	144.7	157.7	171.2 1 905.2	Marshalling Services	(128.0)	4.6	4.9	5.1	5.4 (155.0)
Net debt/(cash)	1,618.5 399.5	1,711.3 442.3	1,772.0 480.8	1,866.0 525.6	1,905.2 613.1	Unallocated expenses Other income	(128.0) 0.1	(140.5)	(142.0) 0.0	(148.7) 0.0	(155.0) 0.0
Lease liability	399.5	442.3					154.1	3.4 173.2			
Other liabilities	97.0	103.1	24.1 102.8	24.1 102.8	24.1 102.8	Total EBITDA	154.1	173.2	162.4	177.9	195.9
Shareholder's funds	1,122.0	1,165.9	1,164.3	1,213.6	1,165.2	Containers (TEU'000)	1,161	1,215	1,212	1,289	1,371
Minority interests	0	1,103.7	1,104.5	1,213.0	1,103.2	Logs (JAS m)	6.3	7.1	5.5	6.1	6.7
Total funding sources	1,618.6	1,711.3	1,772.0	1,866.0	1,905.2	Other bulk (tonnes m)	5.1	5.4	4.9	5.2	5.5
* Favor the Danu tanget unions unflest		_,,	_,, ,	ita da a a talan	_,, JJ		5.1	5.7		J.2	5.5

^{*}Forsyth Barr target prices reflect valuation rolled forward at cost of equity less the next 12-months dividend

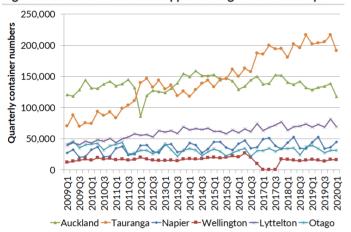
Data suggests some near term volume headwinds

Figure 1. Log exports from POT 8.0



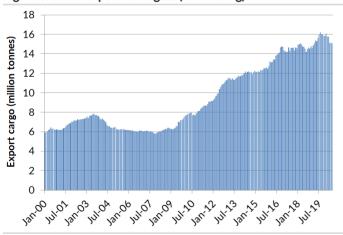
Source: Stats NZ, Forsyth Barr analysis

Figure 3. Container volumes dropped through March 2020 qtr



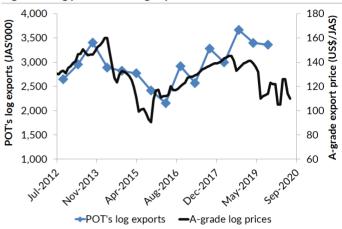
Source: Ministry of Transport, Forsyth Barr analysis

Figure 5. Softer export tonnage.... (12m rolling)



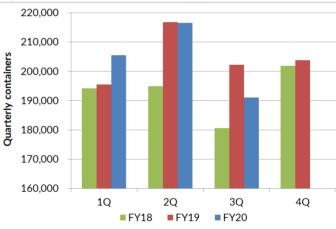
Source: NZ Stats, Forsyth Barr analysis

Figure 2. Log price risk to log export volumes



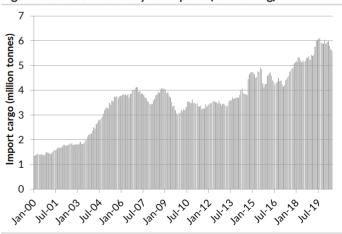
Source: Agri HQ, POT, Forsyth Barr analysis

Figure 4. POT's container volumes by quarter for FY18-FY20



Source: Ministry of Transport, Forsyth Barr analysis NOTE: data refers to container not TEU

Figure 6.and similar story for imports (12m rolling)



Source: NZ Stats, Forsyth Barr analysis

Earnings revisions

We lower our earnings forecasts for POT throughout our outlook period to principally reflect lower container volumes as a result of COVID-19 supply chain restrictions and the ongoing economic fall-out. Our revised FY20 NPAT forecast of NZ\$94m compares to the previous company guidance band of NZ\$94m-NZ\$99m, which was suspended on 26 March 2020, in light of COVID-19 uncertainty.

POT has not received a wage subsidy from the Government and did pay an interim dividend of 6c per share.

Despite a decline in EPS we expect the company to pay a final FY20 dividend of 7.3c per share, on par with the prior year, in addition to the special dividend of 2.5c per share.

Figure 7. Earnings revisions (NZ\$m)

	FY20E				FY21E		FY22E			
	Old	New	Chg	Old	New	Chg	Old	New	Chg	
Sales revenue	310.8	304.5	-2.0%	331.0	326.7	-1.3%	355.8	351.1	-1.3%	
EBITDA	166.9	162.4	-2.7%	180.8	177.9	-1.6%	199.4	195.9	-1.7%	
EBIT (post-associates)	150.4	145.9	-3.0%	163.7	160.8	-1.8%	181.4	177.9	-1.9%	
Underlying NPAT	97.3	94.0	-3.4%	104.4	102.2	-2.1%	113.4	110.8	-2.3%	
Underlying EPS (cps)	14.3	13.8	-3.4%	15.3	15.0	-2.1%	16.7	16.3	-2.3%	
Ordinary DPS (cents)	13.3	13.3	0.0%	14.0	13.7	-2.1%	15.2	14.8	-2.3%	
Special DPS (cents)	2.5	2.5	0.0%	2.5	2.5	0.0%	2.5	2.5	0.0%	

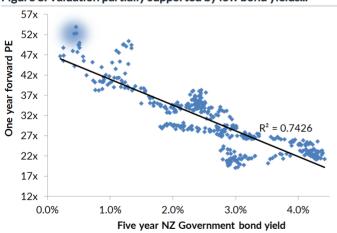
Source: Forsyth Barr analysis

Valuation

Notwithstanding the small downward adjustments to our earnings forecasts, as outlined above, our DCF and sum-of-the-parts driven target price increases to NZ\$6.20 to reflect (1) higher medium to long term growth assumptions as a result of POT's positioning in the Upper North Island Supply Chain, and lack of certainty with the future of POAL, and (2) a higher core port multiple (PE of ~40x) applied to our sum-of-the-parts calculation.

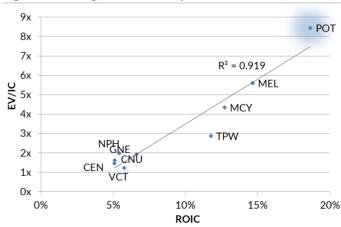
POT's elevated share price is partly supported by low bond yields and a high return on capital. Yet when compared to its own trading history (Figure 8) and peers (Figure 9), it appears expensive on both counts.

Figure 8. Valuation partially supported by low bond yields...



Source: Eikon, Forsyth Barr analysis

Figure 9. ...and higher return on capital



Source: Eikon, Forsyth Barr analysis

Investment Summary

Port of Tauranga (POT) is a key strategic asset within New Zealands international export/import supply chain. The company is sensibly pursuing a hub port strategy by investing in capacity and enhancing its cargo aggregation capabilities. However, other ports are also investing which is damaging industry returns given industry over-investment. Following several years of above trend growth, activity rates are slowing given weaker log prices and more subdued economic conditions. UNDERPERFORM.

Business quality

- **Hub-port**: POT's strategy evolves around its objective of being New Zealand's hub port. Its favourable draught following recent dredging facilitates bigger ships and greater transhipments from elsewhere in NZ.
- Multi-year agreements: POT has long term agreements with key shippers including Kotahi and Zespri. These agreements provide volume certainty.

Earnings and cashflow outlook

- **Earnings growth phase**: De-synchronisation of log export and container growth mean the company has entered into another soft patch.
- Container handling: POTs business model is focussed on container terminal expansion, container aggregation and inland supply
 chains. A key requirement of the Kotahi deal was transhipments of South Island exports through Tauranga. This doesnt appear
 likely near term.
- Log export volumes: Higher margin logs represent a key earnings stream. The location of POT and the central North Island forestry harvest prole are supportive to long term log revenues at or around current levels.

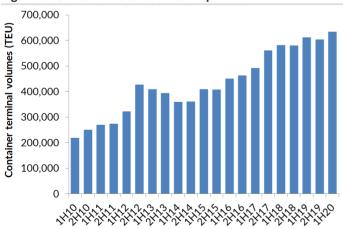
Financial structure

- Balance sheet: Net debt has doubled over the past six years given the capex bulge which has facilitated the hub port strategy.
- **Dividends**: POT has extended its special dividend programme for a further four years from FY20 albeit at a lower level than previously (2.5c compared to 5c each year). The current ordinary dividend pay-out is ~90% within the targeted range of 70%—100%.

Risk factors

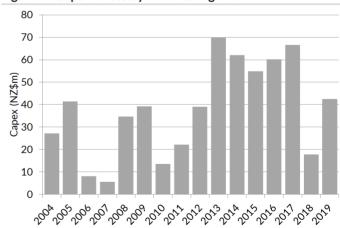
- Industry competition: Over investment by other ports is impacting industry ROIC.
- Chinese log demand: POT's log exporters are heavily exposed to Chinese construction industry demand for unprocessed timber.

Figure 10. Container volumes in recent periods



Source: Forsyth Barr analysis

Figure 11. Capex necessary to facilitate growth



Source: Forsyth Barr analysis

Figure 12. Price performance



Source: Forsyth Barr analysis

Figure 13. Substantial shareholders

Shareholder	Latest Holding
Quayside Securities	54.1%

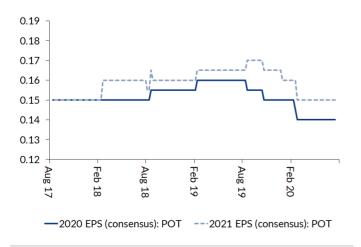
Source: NZX, Forsyth Barr analysis, NOTE: based on SPH notices only

Figure 14. International valuation comparisons

Company	Code Price Mkt Cap PE		E	EV/EBITDA			EV/EBIT			
(metrics re-weighted to reflect POT's bala	(m)	2020E	2021E	2020E	2021E	2020E	2021E	2021E		
Port of Tauranga	POT NZ	NZ\$7.71	NZ\$5,247	>50x	>50x	35.0x	32.0x	42.7x	38.7x	1.8%
NAPIER PORT *	NPH NZ	NZ\$3.35	NZ\$670	32.2x	34.0x	16.9x	16.2x	25.6x	24.6x	2.1%
QUBE HOLDINGS	QUB AT	A\$2.79	A\$5,255	43.6x	41.6x	25.8x	23.6x	47.4x	43.8x	1.9%
GLOBAL PORTS INV-GDR REG S	GLPR LI	US\$3.10	US\$592	16.3x	6.2x	6.4x	5.8x	8.6x	7.6x	1.0%
HAMBURGER HAFEN UND LOGISTIK	HHFA GR	€15.12	€1,100	27.3x	29.0x	5.5x	5.8x	11.3x	12.3x	3.4%
WESTSHORE TERMINALS INVESTME	WTE CN	C\$16.99	C\$1,107	8.4x	10.6x	5.9x	7.1x	6.6x	8.2x	4.6%
MITSUBISHI LOGISTICS CORP	9301 JP	¥2729.00	¥240,045	19.6x	17.7x	11.2x	11.1x	n/a	n/a	2.3%
EUROKAI KGAA	EUK2 GR	€29.00	€360	25.1x	29.3x	6.6x	7.6x	9.2x	10.8x	n/a
AUCKLAND AIRPORT *	AIA NZ	NZ\$6.35	NZ\$9,343	48.5x	<0x	29.2x	>75x	40.4x	>75x	0.0%
SYDNEY AIRPORT	SYD AT	A\$5.45	A\$12,316	<0x	36.8x	28.5x	32.2x	>75x	>75x	1.8%
			Compco Average:	27.6x	25.7x	15.1x	13.7x	21.3x	17.9x	2.1%
EV = Current Market Cap + Actual Net De	POT Relative:	n/a	n/a	132%	134%	100%	116%	-17%		

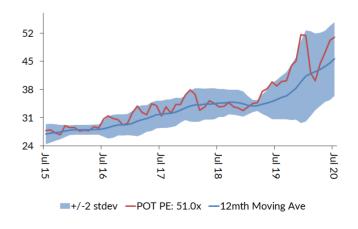
 $Source: *Forsyth\ Barr\ analysis,\ Bloomberg\ Consensus,\ Compco\ metrics\ re-weighted\ to\ reflect\ headline\ (POT)\ companies\ fiscal\ year\ end$

Figure 15. Consensus EPS momentum (NZ\$)



Source: Forsyth Barr analysis

Figure 16. One year forward PE (x)



Source: Forsyth Barr analysis



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