NEW ZEALAND EQUITY RESEARCH | INDUSTRIALS 19 FEBRUARY 2021

OEM PRODUCT/COMPONENT MANUFACTURER

# Skellerup Holdings

# 1H21 - Refined Processes Unlocks Margin

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### OUTPERFORM 2



Skellerup (SKL) delivered a stellar 1H21 result, ahead of expectations, and characterised by impressive margin expansion across the group. Growth was broad based with both its operating divisions achieving >+50% year on year EBIT growth. SKL has experienced meaningful multiple expansion over the past seven months, which management believes is sustainable due to operational improvements, with notable optimism around medium-term earnings growth through its project pipeline. SKL has strong cash generation, earnings momentum, a positive growth outlook, and a conservative balance sheet which offers optionally. Trading on a 20x 12 month forward PE — broadly in line with the market — we continue to see value and retain our **OUTPERFORM** rating.

NZX Code	SKL	Financials: Jun/	20A	21E	22E	23E	Valuation (x)	20A	21E	22E	23E
Share price	NZ\$4.15	NPAT* (NZ\$m)	29.1	37.5	40.9	42.8	PE	27.8	21.6	19.8	18.9
Target price	NZ\$4.50	EPS* (NZc)	14.9	19.2	21.0	22.0	EV/EBIT	20.2	15.9	14.6	13.8
Risk rating	Medium	EPS growth* (%)	0.0	28.9	9.2	4.7	EV/EBITDA	15.5	12.9	12.1	11.5
Issued shares	194.8m	DPS (NZc)	13.0	15.5	16.5	18.0	Price / NTA	6.2	5.8	5.4	5.1
Market cap	NZ\$808m	Imputation (%)	50	50	50	50	Cash div yld (%)	3.1	3.7	4.0	4.3
Avg daily turnover	169.7k (NZ\$447k)	*Based on normalis	ed profit	S			Gross div yld (%)	3.7	4.5	4.7	5.2

### What's changed?

- Earnings: We lift FY21E NPAT +11% to NZ\$37.5m. Recent performance and margin commentary gives us increased confidence in the medium-term earnings outlook. We lift FY22E and FY23E NPAT c. +20% each as we factor in higher margins.
- Target price: We lift our target price +NZ\$1.00 to NZ\$4.50 reflecting significant earnings revisions.

### Firing on all cylinders

SKL reported group NPAT of NZ\$19.5m (up +61% against the prior year period and +33% ahead of our expectations). Its earnings beat was broad based, driven primarily by margin expansion in both divisions, with group revenue in line (1H21 NZ\$137m vs. Forsyth Barr NZ\$136m).

### FY21 guidance range increased; Lift long-term margin assumptions

SKL raised its FY21 NPAT guidance range, +8% at the mid-points, to NZ\$33m to NZ\$37m (previously NZ\$30m to NZ\$35m). Guidance appears conservative, in our view, although acknowledge potential 2H21 headwinds from supply chain congestion, elevated freight costs, and FX. These headwinds appear largely transitional in nature (COVID-19 related) or relate to timing (delay in revenue recognition pushing earnings into 1H22), which gives us further confidence in the medium-term earnings outlook. Margin expansion was largely driven by operational gains, as opposed to one-off product mix changes, supporting the assumption improvements are sustainable. We lift our longer-term margin assumptions across our explicit forecast period, which is the key driver of our valuation changes.

### Conservative dividend; Balance sheet flexibility

SKL announced an interim dividend of 6.5cps (50% imputed, 65% payout ratio). We suspect the 1H21 dividend reflects the caution captured in FY21 guidance, which we view as conservative.

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### Skellerup Holdings (SKL)

Priced as at 18 Feb 2021 (NZ\$)					4.15						
12-month target price (NZ\$)*					4.50	Spot valuations (NZ\$)					
Expected share price return					8.4%	1. DCF					4.18
Net dividend yield					3.9%	2. Relative valuation					4.40
Estimated 12-month return					12.3%	3. n/a					n/a
Estimated 12-month return					12.3%	3. II/a					n/a
Key WACC assumptions						DCF valuation summary (NZ\$m)					
Risk free rate					2.30%	Total firm value					814
Equity beta					1.10	(Net debt)/cash					(29)
WACC					7.3%	Less: Capitalised operating leases					(68)
Terminal growth					1.5%	Value of equity					718
Profit and Loss Account (NZ\$m)	2019A	2020A	2021E	2022E	2023E	Valuation Ratios	2019A	2020A	2021E	2022E	2023E
Sales revenue	245.8	251.4	270.2	282.9	295.1	EV/EBITDA (x)	17.2	15.2	12.7	11.8	11.3
Normalised EBITDA	48.9	55.3	65.6	70.1	73.3	EV/EBIT (x)	20.1	19.8	15.6	14.2	13.5
Depreciation and amortisation	(7.1)	(12.8)	(12.3)	(12.2)	(12.0)	PE (x)	27.8	27.8	21.6	19.8	18.9
Normalised EBIT	41.8	42.5	53.3	57.9	61.3	Price/NTA (x)	6.3	6.2	5.8	5.4	5.1
Net interest	(1.8)	(2.6)	(2.0)	(1.9)	(1.8)	Free cash flow yield (%)	3.0	5.4	5.4	5.5	5.7
Associate income	0.0	(0.1)	0	0	0	Net dividend yield (%)	3.1	3.1	3.7	4.0	4.3
Tax	(11.0)	(10.8)	(13.8)	(15.1)	(16.7)	Gross dividend yield (%)	3.7	3.7	4.5	4.7	5.2
Minority interests	0	0	0	0	0						
Normalised NPAT	29.1	29.1	37.5	40.9	42.8	Capital Structure	2019A	2020A	2021E	2022E	2023E
Abnormals/other	0	0	0	0	0	Interest cover EBIT (x)	23.4	16.5	26.2	30.3	33.5
Reported NPAT	29.1	29.1	37.5	40.9	42.8	Interest cover EBITDA (x)	27.4	21.4	32.3	36.6	40.0
Normalised EPS (cps)	14.9	14.9	19.2	21.0	22.0	Net debt/ND+E (%)	17.0	13.4	8.1	4.4	0.0
DPS (cps)	13.0	13.0	15.5	16.5	18.0	Net debt/EBITDA (x)	0.7	0.5	0.3	0.1	0.0
Growth Rates	2019A	2020A	2021E	2022E	2023E	Key Ratios	2019A	2020A	2021E	2022E	2023E
Revenue (%)	2.2	2.3	7.5	4.7	4.3	Return on assets (%)	16.3	15.0	18.6	20.0	21.0
EBITDA (%)	3.6	12.9	18.8	6.8	4.6	Return on equity (%)	16.3	15.7	19.2	20.1	20.0
EBIT (%)	5.1	1.6	25.5	8.6	5.8	Return on funds employed (%)	14.5	14.5	18.3	19.9	20.7
Normalised NPAT (%)	6.5	0.0	28.9	9.2	4.7	EBITDA margin (%)	19.9	22.0	24.3	24.8	24.8
Normalised EPS (%)	5.5	0.0	28.9	9.2	4.7	EBIT margin (%)	17.0	16.9	19.7	20.5	20.8
Ordinary DPS (%)	18.2	0.0	19.2	6.5	9.1	Capex to sales (%)	1.9	1.7	1.9	1.8	1.7
						Capex to depreciation (%)	64	34	41	42	43
Cash Flow (NZ\$m)	2019A	2020A	2021E	2022E	2023E	Imputation (%)	50	50	50	50	50
EBITDA	48.9	55.3	65.6	70.1	73.3	Pay-out ratio (%)	87	87	81	79	82
Working capital change	(8.5)	4.8	(1.5)	(3.3)	(3.3)						
Interest & tax paid	(11.5)	(12.1)	(15.9)	(17.0)	(18.5)	Operating Performance	2019A	2020A	2021E	2022E	2023E
Other	0	0	0	0	0						
Operating cash flow	28.9	48.0	48.3	49.8	51.5	Revenue by segment					
Capital expenditure	(4.6)	(4.4)	(5.0)	(5.1)	(5.2)	Agri	88.8	93.6	103.0	108.1	112.4
(Acquisitions)/divestments	(8.2)	(5.8)	0	0	0	Industrial	157.2	157.9	167.4	174.9	182.8
Other	0	(4.7)	(4.7)	(4.8)	(4.9)	Total revenue (incl. eliminations)	245.8	251.4	270.2	282.9	295.1
Funding available/(required)	16.2	33.2	38.6	39.9	41.5	·					
Dividends paid	(24.3)	(25.3)	(27.3)	(32.1)	(32.1)	EBIT by segment					
Equity raised/(returned)	2.4	0	0	0	0	Agri	22.8	25.4	29.9	32.4	33.7
(Increase)/decrease in net debt	(5.7)	7.9	11.4	7.8	9.3	Industrial	22.9	20.9	28.5	29.7	32.0
						Total EBIT (incl. overheads)	41.8	42.5	53.3	57.9	61.3
Balance Sheet (NZ\$m)	2019A	2020A	2021E	2022E	2023E						
Working capital	76.1	73.7	75.2	78.5	81.8	EBIT margin by segment					
Fixed assets	91.3	87.8	86.0	84.3	82.9	Agri (%)	25.7	27.1	29.0	30.0	30.0
Intangibles	49.5	54.9	54.9	54.9	54.9	Industrial (%)	14.6	13.2	17.0	17.0	17.5
Right of use asset	0	21.8	21.8	21.8	21.8	Total (%)	17.0	16.9	19.7	20.5	20.8
Other assets	7.6	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0						
Total funds employed	224.4	245.2	244.8	246.5	248.4						
Net debt/(cash)	36.6	28.5	17.1	9.4	0.1						
Lease liability	0	17.8	20.2	20.8	21.3						
Other liabilities	9.5	14.4	12.8	12.8	12.8						
Shareholder's funds	178.4	184.6	194.8	203.5	214.2						
Minority interests	0	0	0	0	0						
Total funding sources	224.4	245.2	244.8	246.5	248.4						
. C. Carrianny Sources	-4-7-7	Z-TJ.Z	2-17.0	2-10.5	2-10.7						

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### 1H21 result summary

Skellerup (SKL) delivered a stellar 1H21 result, reporting NPAT of NZ\$19.5m vs. our expectations of NZ\$14.7m. The beat was broad based, driven primarily by margin expansion with group revenue in line (1H21 NZ\$137m vs. FB NZ\$136m). Continued operational gains are called out as a primary driver of margin expansion in both divisions, which in our view provides a basis for lifting margin assumptions in forecast years.

SKL announced an interim dividend of 6.5cps (50% imputed), up +1.0cps on the prior year and -0.5cps behind our expectations. We suspect the 1H21 dividend reflects the caution captured in FY21 guidance, which we view as conservative. We expect a +1.5cps year on year lift to the final dividend.

Strong cash generation enabled further debt reduction, with 1H21 net debt/12 month rolling EBITDA only 0.2x. We expect SKL to pursue acquisitive growth, an area of recent success, though border restrictions are likely to create delays.

Figure 1. 1H21 result breakdown (NZ\$m)

	1H20	1H21	Change	Comments
Agri	44.2	50.9	15.2%	International market growth, particularly Europe
Industrial	78.9	85.7	8.7%	Marine foam and Australian roofing products key standouts
Revenue	123.0	136.6	11.1%	
Agri	10.1	15.3	51.7%	Operational gains and higher contribution from Silclear
Industrial	9.9	15.5	56.7%	Operational gains and improved pricing, also included lift from govt. grants
EBIT	18.0	27.6	53.1%	Broad based earnings growth contribution
margin	15%	20%	550bp	Material margin expansion across both divisions
Finance cost	(1.3)	(1.2)	-8.8%	Continued reduction in net debt
Profit before tax	16.7	26.4	57.9%	
Tax	(4.6)	(6.9)	49.3%	26% effective tax rate
NPAT	12.1	19.5	61.2%	FY21 guidance NZ\$33m to NZ\$37m
EPS (cps)	6.2	10.0	61.2%	
Interim DPS (cps)	5.5	6.5	18.2%	50% imputed, 65% interim payout conservative
Net debt (cash)	34.7	13.0	-62.6%	0.2x Net debt/rolling EBITDA
Operating cash flow	24.1	35.1	45.9%	Strong cash generation
Capex	7.5	2.5	-66.2%	Prior period includes NZ\$5m acquisition of Silclear

 ${\tt Source: Company \, reports, For syth \, Barr \, analysis}$ 

### Key result takeouts

- Agri +18% revenue growth and +56% EBIT growth against the prior year period SKL increased its rubberware sales in all markets, and appears to have taken market share following the DeLaval acquisition of competitor Avon. The division experienced a small uplift as a result of COVID-19 and Brexit disruption with sales pulled into the period (c. +NZ\$0.5m NPAT). Footwear growth was strong in New Zealand, with mixed results internationally albeit due to production constraints.
  - 1H21 Agri EBIT margin expanded to 30% (+730bp on 1H20). Continued operational improvements at its Wigram plant was a key driver, in addition to a higher Silclear contribution (only two months in the prior year period).
- Industrial +7% revenue growth and +52% EBIT growth against the prior year period The Industrial division was cycling a weak prior period, although +33% EBIT growth on 1H19 is also impressive. Growth was supported by a recovery in the COVID-19 impacted potable water business, although key drivers include construction revenue in Australia and global marine foam.
  - 1H21 Industrial margin expanded to 18.2% (+560bp on 1H20).
- Plenty of balance sheet headroom Net debt fell -NZ\$15.5m to NZ\$13m (0.4x Net debt/EBITDA). The balance sheet is conservatively geared with room to increase capital returns to shareholders and pursue acquisitions.
  - Acquisitive growth is a key lever for SKL and an area it has had recent success in. SKL typically targets bolt-on acquisitions that provide one or a combination of 1) a new customer base, 2) an area of technical expertise, and 3) geographic advantage. We suspect border closures have been and will likely continue to be (in the short-term) an impediment.

### **Outlook commentary**

• FY21 guidance appears conservative — FY21 NPAT guidance implies a significant slowdown in 2H earnings vs. 1H, which if it were to occur would be only the second time in the last 10 years that 2H earnings are lower than 1H (Figure 3). We view guidance as likely conservative, although management noted a number of potential 2H21 headwinds, being supply chain congestion, elevated

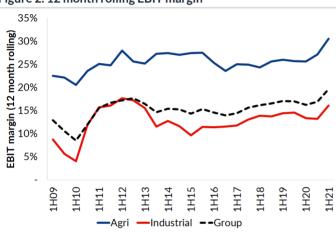
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freight costs, and FX. These headwinds appear largely transitional in nature (COVID-19 related) or relate to timing (delay in revenue recognition pushing earnings into 1H22).

- Margin expansion represents a new base EBIT margin expansion was largely driven by improvements to SKL's operational processes, and is likely to be more enduring in our view. Management commented on margin gains being sustainable, with internal targets above these levels.
- Project pipeline contains a healthy mix of near and medium-term opportunities Organic growth opportunities appear plenty, with commentary suggesting the pipeline of both near and medium-term growth opportunities is healthy. These include market share gains in Agri products and further expansion into international markets, new OEM (original equipment manufacturer) contracts, and infrastructure spend tailwinds.

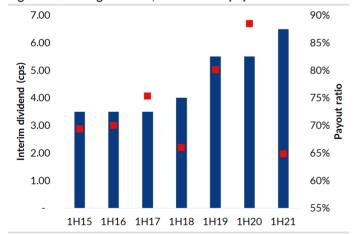
### Charts of interest

Figure 2. 12 month rolling EBIT margin



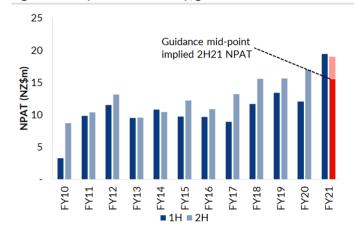
Source: Company reports, Forsyth Barr analysis

Figure 4. Growing dividend; conservative payout



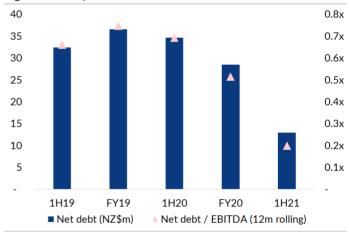
Source: Company reports, Forsyth Barr analysis

Figure 3. Group NPAT seasonality; guidance conservative



Source: Company reports, Forsyth Barr analysis

Figure 5. Plenty of balance sheet headroom



Source: Forsyth Barr analysis

### Earnings changes and valuation

We make material changes to our earnings assumptions. We lift FY21 NPAT +11% to NZ\$38m, above the top end of the guidance range (NZ\$33m to NZ\$37m). 1H21 margin expansion was predominantly driven by operational improvements, as opposed to one off mix changes, which gives us confidence in the medium-term outlook. We lift our base EBIT margin assumptions significantly (+200bp–300bp), with some margin contraction (from 1H21) as a result of raw material and freight cost headwinds.

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Figure 6. Earnings changes (NZ\$m)

		FY21E			FY22E			FY23E	
	old	new	% chg	old	new	% chg	old	new	% chg
Revenue	275.3	270.2	-1.8%	286.9	282.9	-1.4%	297.3	295.1	-0.7%
EBIT	49.4	54.4	9.9%	50.3	57.9	15.2%	52.4	61.3	17.0%
Normalised NPAT	33.6	37.5	11.4%	34.2	40.9	19.5%	35.8	42.8	19.8%
EPS (cps)	17.3	19.2	11.4%	17.6	21.0	19.5%	18.4	22.0	19.8%
DPS (cps)	15.0	15.5	3.3%	16.0	16.5	3.1%	17.0	18.0	5.9%

Source: Forsyth Barr analysis

### Target price increased +NZ\$1.00 to NZ\$4.50; OUTPERFORM

Our target price lifts +NZ\$1.00 to NZ\$4.50. This reflects meaningful upgrades to both near-term earnings growth forecasts and a lift in our terminal margin assumptions. It is also supported by a higher market relative multiple since our last report. We have updated our cost of capital inputs, increasing the risk free rate (from 1.3% to 2.3%) and lowering the market risk premium (from 6.0% to 5.5%), consistent with our strategy report, *Still a One Way Bet? — Updated WACC Assumptions*, published 12 February 2021. The impact on SKL's WACC was negligible.

Figure 7. PE vs yield stocks; broadly aligned to NZ market

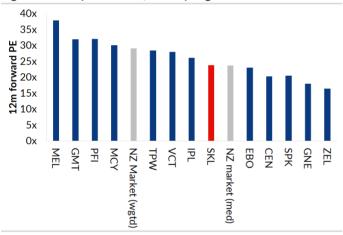
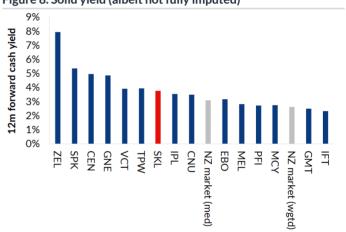


Figure 8. Solid yield (albeit not fully imputed)



Source: Forsyth Barr analysis

Source: Forsyth Barr analysis

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Figure 9. Price performance



Source: Forsyth Barr analysis

Figure 10. Substantial shareholders

Shareholder	Latest Holding
Sir Selwyn John Cushing	6.5%
Forsyth Barr Investment Management	5.0%

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

Figure 11. International valuation comparisons

Company	Code	Price	Mkt Cap	PE		EV/EBITDA		EV/EBIT		Cash Yld
(metrics re-weighted to reflect SKL's ba		(m)	2021E	2022E	2021E	2022E	2021E	2022E	2022E	
Skellerup Holdings	SKLNZ	NZ\$4.15	NZ\$808	21.6x	19.8x	12.7x	11.9x	15.7x	14.4x	4.0%
AVON RUBBER PLC	AVON LN	£30.80	£956	23.1x	23.4x	22.2x	13.1x	52.4x	17.1x	1.4%
TRELLEBORG AB-B SHS	TRELB SS	kr204.30	kr55,380	18.0x	14.7x	11.5x	9.7x	17.1x	12.8x	2.7%
PGG WRIGHTSON *	PGW NZ	NZ\$3.22	NZ\$243	14.4x	14.5x	4.8x	4.8x	9.6x	9.6x	6.2%
NUTRIEN	NTR CN	US\$72.06	US\$41,027	35.8x	28.0x	13.7x	12.2x	31.2x	23.0x	2.6%
METRO PERFORMANCE GLASS	MPG NZ	NZ\$0.44	NZ\$81	7.6x	9.1x	4.7x	5.4x	9.2x	10.9x	1.1%
STEEL & TUBE HOLDINGS *	STU NZ	NZ\$1.04	NZ\$173	25.3x	23.0x	5.3x	5.4x	11.6x	11.3x	3.8%
		C	Compco Average:	20.7x	18.8x	10.4x	8.4x	21.8x	14.1x	3.0%
EV = Current Market Cap + Actual Net Debt			SKL Relative:	4%	5%	23%	42%	-28%	2%	33%

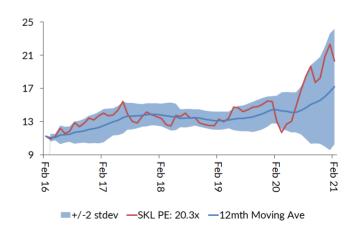
Source: \*Forsyth Barr analysis, Bloomberg Consensus, Compco metrics re-weighted to reflect headline (SKL) companies fiscal year end

Figure 12. Consensus EPS momentum (NZ\$)



Source: Forsyth Barr analysis

Figure 13. One year forward PE (x)



Source: Forsyth Barr analysis

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