

NEW ZEALAND EQUITY RESEARCH INSURANCE GENERAL INSURANCE 5 APRIL 2023

# **Tower Limited** Edition 3 – NZ General Insurance Digest

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The New Zealand General Insurance Digest provides a snapshot of relevant information for the general insurance industry. We detail information pertinent to Tower (TWR), local financial comparables and Australasian listed insurance peers.

#### Insurance industry news and weather event update

- Provisional ICNZ data for Cyclone Gabrielle saw 44,650 claims worth ~NZ\$1.2 billion, and for the Auckland Anniversary Weekend floods there have been 51,936 claims provisionally valued at ~NZ\$1.3 billion. Around fifteen percent of claims have already settled.
- Insurers back the New Zealand Claims Resolution Service (<u>NZCRS</u>) for free, independent insurance advice during natural disasters. It aims to simplify claims, prevent misunderstandings, and speed up settlements in disputes on the value of the loss.
- The Reserve Bank of NZ (RBNZ) issued its final <u>Interim Solvency Standard</u>, effective 1 January 2023, setting specific requirements for insurers reporting under NZ IFRS 17 and standardising insurance items for better economic reflection.
- TWR has appointed Sharyn Reichstein, formerly of the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority, as its new chief risk officer, effective from July 2023, while also appointing former product manager Will Hay as sustainability/ESG manager.
- A new <u>report</u> from Global Risk Consultants Corp. warns that many companies face insurance coverage gaps due to inflation, with under-reported valuations of property and equipment leading to insufficient claim payouts for rebuilding or replacement costs.
- TWR, in its <u>1Q23 update and ASM</u>, reported a strong performance with a +12.5% increase in gross written premium (GWP) to NZ\$123m, driven by market share gains and inflation/cost pass-through while displaying an improved management expense ratio at 35%. It maintained its FY23 underlying NPAT guidance of NZ\$18m-NZ\$23m (lowered in February 2023 from the prior guidance of NZ\$27m and NZ\$32m, made before the two severe weather events impacted) and a dividend estimate of NZ\$cps.
- IAG's 1H23 result saw NZ GWP grow +9.1% in NZD terms, with the NZ insurance margin rising to 15.2% in 1H23 due to lower natural perils cost in the half (versus 11.4% in 1H22) on overall flat volumes, but higher claims dampened margins. IAG updated FY23 group guidance for GWP growth of +10% from "*mid to high single digits*" and reported insurance margin forecast to come in at 10% (from 14%-16% previously). The natural perils allowance for FY23 increased to AU\$1.2b in the wake of the Auckland floods.
- SUN's 1H23 saw a +12% jump in GWP for its NZ segment. This flowed into profit after tax of NZ\$75m for the NZ general insurance unit. Natural hazard costs were lower than 1H22 but still +NZ\$21m above allowance, with higher claims costs driven by unit growth, large property fire losses in Q1 and inflationary pressures. Group guidance for FY23 was reiterated, with GWP growth still expected to be "mid to high single digits" and underlying insurance margin somewhere in the 10–12% range.

#### Stock performances

The listed Australasian insurance sector and TWR's financial peers have recently produced a range of stock price performances. Over the last three months, QBE is up +10% while IAG and SUN have made modest gains and Heartland Bank (HNZ) has fallen -11%. TWR has fallen -12% in the same period. Over twelve months: QBE (+25%), SUN (+17%), TWR (+2%), IAG (-1%), and HGH (-4%).

#### Tower Limited (TWR)

Priced as at 04 Apr 2023					0.64
52 week high / low				0	.75/0.59
Market capitalisation (NZ\$m)					242.9
Key WACC assumptions					
Risk free rate					4.50%
Equity beta					1.10
WACC Terminal growth					10.1% 1.8%
					1.070
Profit and Loss Account (NZ\$m)	2021A	2022A	2023E	2024E	2025E
Sales revenue (GEP) Normalised EBITDA	386.6	418.3	479.0	549.0	605.8
	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Depreciation and amortisation	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Normalised EBIT Net interest	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Associate income	0 (9.2)	0 (7.5)	0	0 (16.1)	(17.2)
Tax Minority interests	(9.2) 0.6	(7.5)	(9.4) 0	(16.1) 0	(17.2) 0
Minority interests Normalised NPAT	0.6 17.8	0.1 17.7	20.2	35.0	37.4
Abnormals/other	17.8	17.7	3.2	35.0 0	37.4
Reported NPAT	17.8	<b>17.7</b>	3.2 23.4	35.0	37.4
Normalised EPS (cps)	4.2	4.4	23.4 6.2	33.0 9.2	37.4 9.9
DPS (cps)	4.2	6.5	5.0	7.5	8.0
Growth Rates	2021A 3.8	2022A 8.2	2023E 14.5	2024E 14.6	2025E
Revenue (%) EBITDA (%)	3.0 n/a				
EBIT (%)	n/a n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Normalised NPAT (%)	n/a 49.4	n/a -0.5	n/a 32.3	n/a 49.9	n/a 6.8
Normalised NPAT (%)	49.4	-0.5 5.4	32.3 38.7	49.9	6.8
Ordinary DPS (%)	47.8 n/a	30.0	-23.1	50.0	6.7
Cash Flow (NZ\$m)	2021A	2022A	2023E	2024E	2025E
EBITDA	2021A n/a	2022A	2023L	2024L	2023L
Working capital change	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Interest & tax paid	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0
Operating cash flow	99.7	13.1	31.9	45.1	47.7
Capital expenditure	(12.0)	(17.3)	(14.0)	(16.0)	(17.1)
(Acquisitions)/divestments	(14.4)	(6.1)	4.1	0	0
Other	(24.5)	(13.3)	(7.0)	(7.9)	(8.5)
Funding available/(required)	48.7	(23.6)	15.1	21.2	22.1
Dividends paid	(10.5)	(20.0)	(19.0)	(28.5)	(30.4)
Equity raised/(returned)	0	(30.6)	0	0	0
(Increase)/decrease in net debt	38.2	(74.3)	(3.9)	(7.3)	(8.3)
Balance Sheet (NZ\$m)	2021A	2022A	2023E	2024E	2025E
Working capital	146.9	183.2	180.0	205.7	219.9
Fixed assets	9.4	5.4	7.0	8.5	10.0
Intangibles	120.6	132.5	133.2	140.6	146.0
Right of use asset	25.6	23.3	20.6	17.9	15.2
Other assets	313.0	295.6	295.6	295.6	295.6
Total funds employed	615.5	640.0	636.4	668.4	686.7
Net debt/(cash)	(116.1)	(84.5)	(80.6)	(73.3)	(65.0)
Lease liability	39.4	35.1	28.1	20.2	11.7
Other liabilities	342.5	383.5	438.7	498.3	531.2
Shareholder's funds	347.0	306.0	250.2	223.2	208.8
Minority interests	2.7	0	0	0	0
Total funding sources	615.5	640.0	636.4	668.4	686.7

Spot valuation (NZ\$) 0.78 PF relative 075 P/Book relative 0.85 DCF 0.74 DCF valuation summary (NZ\$m) Total firm value 384 (Net debt)/cash (32) Less: Capitalised operating leases (52) Value of equity 300 Valuation Ratios 2021A 2022A 2023E 2024E 2025E EV/EBITDA (x) n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a EV/EBIT (x) n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a PE (x) 15.2 14.4 10.4 6.9 6.5 Price/NTA (x) 1.2 1.4 2.1 2.9 3.9 5.4 19.6 Free cash flow vield (%) 41.0 13.1 18.6 Net dividend vield (%) 10.2 78 78 117 125 Gross dividend yield (%) 7.8 10.2 7.8 11.7 14.9 Key Ratios 2021A 2022A 2023E 2024E 2025E Return on assets (%) n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a Return on equity (%) 5.1 5.8 9.3 15.7 17.9 Return on funds employed (%) 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 0.0 EBITDA margin (%) n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a EBIT margin (%) n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a Capex to sales (%) 31 41 29 29 28 Capex to depreciation (%) n/a n/a n/a n/a n/a Imputation (%) 0 0 0 0 50 119 81 81 Pav-out ratio (%) 146 81 **Capital Structure** 2021A 2022A 2023F 2024F 2025F Solvency capital 155.9 150.5 179.4 136.4 164.9 Minimum solvency capital (MSC) 75.6 56.6 52.3 66.3 66.5 Total regulatory capital 106.6 102.3 83.3 91.3 91.3 Solvency ratio (%) 275 287 271 205 218 **Operating Performance** 2021A 2022A 2023E 2024E 2025E Gross written premium 396.0 445.6 512.4 585.6 626.0 Gross earned premium 386.6 418.3 479.0 549.0 605.8 Reinsurance premium (58.8) (66.3) (81.8) (92.1) (101.0) Net earned premium 327.9 352.1 397.2 456.9 504.7 Net claims expense (202.3) (224.9)(275.1)(3055)(344.8)\* includes Large event claims of (13.9) (19.0) (40.0) (40.0) (42.0) Management & sales expenses (123.3) (129.9) (139.0) (150.0) (155.9) Underwriting profit 27.2 23.6 16.1 36.8 40.6 Investment and other revenue 0.2 1.2 14.4 15.3 15.0 Financing and other costs (0.4)(0.9)(0.9)(0.9)(1.0)Profit before tax (from continuing operations) 27.6 25.2 30.7 51.2 54.6 Tax expense (9.2) (7.5) (9.4) (16.1)(17.2) Profit after taxation 18.4 17.7 21.3 35.0 37.4 NPAT (from discontinued operation) (0.2) 5.1 2.1 0 0 NPAT (Reported) 18.2 22.8 23.4 35.0 37.4 Key ratios Tower Direct GWP growth % 26.4% 15.0% 7.0% 17 2% 15.0% Partnership GWP growth % -30.0% 13.0% 15.0% 15.0% 7.0% Total GWP growth % 5.0% 12.5% 15.0% 14.3% 6.9% Total claims ratio % 54.3% 54.1% 61.0% 59.1% 61.1% MER % 37.1% 36.0% 35.0% 32.8% 30.9% Combined ratio % 91.4% 90.1% 95.9% 91 9% 92.0%

\* Forsyth Barr target prices reflect valuation rolled forward at cost of equity less the next 12months dividend\*\* Information on Forsyth Barr's Carbon and ESG (CESG) ratings can be found at www.forsythbarr.co.nz/corporate-news-events/cesg-report





### Sector performance (of relevant peers)



Figure 1. Sector performance of relevant comparables







Source: Refinitiv, Forsyth Barr analysis



#### Figure 4. Peer group returns over six months





Source: Refinitiv, Forsyth Barr analysis



#### Figure 5. Peer group returns over 12 months

Source: Refinitiv, Forsyth Barr analysis

Source: Refinitiv, Forsyth Barr analysis

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### Sector ratios (of relevant peers)

#### Figure 6. Table of relevant peers

			Share	Market Cap	PE (x)		Div Yield (%) P/B (x)		ROE (%)		
Ticker	Next Bal Date	Company	Price	(NZ\$m)	1-yr fwd	2-yr fwd	1-yr fwd gross	1-yr fwd	2-yr fwd	1-yr fwd	2-yr fwd
TWR.NZ	30/09/2023	Tower	0.64	239	9.1	7.5	10.2	0.8	0.8	9.9	12.3
IAG.AX	30/06/2023	Insurance Australia	4.80	12,330	14.2	12.6	2.8	1.7	1.6	13.2	13.9
SUN.AX	30/06/2023	Suncorp Group	12.13	16,388	11.9	11.5	5.9	1.1	1.1	9.6	9.6
QBE.AX	31/12/2023	QBE Insurance	14.70	23,322	9.6	8.9	2.8	1.5	1.3	16.5	16.1
HGH.NZ	30/06/2023	Heartland Group	1.62	1,128	9.7	8.9	9.5	1.0	1.0	11.1	11.5
	Peer Median			11.9	10.2	4.3	1.3	1.2	12.2	12.7	

Source: Refinitiv, Bloomberg, Forsyth Barr analysis

### Figure 7. TWR relevant Australasian financials – P/E versus **ROE** one-year forward



Figure 8. TWR relevant Australasian financials - Price to Book versus ROE one-year forward



Source: Refinitiv, Bloomberg, Forsyth Barr analysis

#### Figure 9. TWR relevant Australasian financials - 12-month forward P/E multiple (x)



Source: Refinitiv, Forsyth Barr analysis



### Key TWR related charts

Figure 10. TWR – GWP by division (interim periods)



Source: Company data, Forsyth Barr analysis



Source: Company data, Forsyth Barr analysis



Source: Company data, Forsyth Barr analysis





Figure 14. TWR - Website traffic of combative brands



Source: Various online sources, Forsyth Barr analysis

#### Figure 12. TWR - solvency position



#### Figure 15. Ultimate estimated cost of large events (NZ\$m) - excluding reinsurance premium costs



Source: Company data, Forsyth Barr analysis





Source: Refinitiv, Forsyth Barr analysis

Source: Refinitiv, Forsyth Barr analysis

Figure 17. TWR's discount to median peer PE

TWR has traded at an average PE of 10x since March 2017. This compares with the average NZ market median of 20x and the average peer median of 15x. TWR has traded at an average PE discount to peers of -37% since March 2017, however, more recently this gap has closed towards 30%.



### Key New Zealand insurance industry charts

Figure 18. NZ insurance sector — Net Written Premiums (NWP) by insurance class



30 September 2022 estimate) Other 10% 10% IAG/ Lumley 51%

Figure 19. NZ Personal lines insurance market shares (30 September 2022 estimate)

Source: Company reports, Forsyth Barr analysis

Suncorp

28%

#### Figure 20. Cost of all natural disasters excluding earthquakes in NZ (CPI inflated, NZ\$m)



Source: ICNZ, Forsyth Barr analysis

Figure 20, above, displays a trend of the increasing cost of natural disasters (excluding earthquakes) in New Zealand across all insurers and the significance of the two storm events in early 2023, driven in part by climate change. Over the past 40 years the average cost in New Zealand of all-natural disasters, excluding earthquakes, has been NZ\$152m. More recently, the ten-year average industry cost is NZ\$450m per annum and the five-year average is NZ\$721m per annum. In Figure 21 below, the increasing frequency of events is displayed.





Source: ICNZ, Forsyth Barr analysis



## Figure 22. GWP growth across NZ's leading personal insurers (NZ operations only)

Figure 23. Management expense ratios (MER) across NZ's leading general insurers (NZ operations only)





Source: Company reports, Forsyth Barr analysis

Source: Company reports, Forsyth Barr analysis





Source: Stats NZ, Forsyth Barr analysis

#### Figure 25. Sector – Home & contents customer ratings

Rated brands	Overall Satisfaction*	Customer Service	Value for Money	Communication	Comprehensiveness of Cover	Cost
FMG	****	****	****	****	****	****
44 Insurance	****	****	*****	****	****	****
N-4	****	****	****	****	****	*****
STATE	****	****	****	****	****	*****
	****	****	*****	****	****	*****
bnz	****	****	*****	****	****	*****
ami	****	****	*****	****	****	*****
estpac	****	****	*****	****	****	*****
ONE STEP AHEAD	****	****	*****	****	****	*****
vero∜	*****	****	*****	*****	****	****
AMP	*****	*****	*****	*****	****	*****
	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	****

Source: Canstar

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### Key environmental factor charts



Figure 26. NZ's average annual air temperatures relative to baseline

The absolute rise in temperature between the average of the first five years in the series above (1909 to 1914) and the last five years (2018 to 2022) is **+1.57°C.** Two-thirds of this increase occurred over the last 50 years.



Figure 27. Mean Sea Level (MSL) in Auckland

Source: Paul Denys of Otago University "Sea Level Rise in New Zealand: The Effect of Vertical Land Motion on Century-Long Tide Gauge Records in a Tectonically Active Region", Ports of Auckland, University of Hawaii Sea Level Center and The Permanent Service for Mean Sea Level (PSMSL). Forsyth Barr analysis

The mean Relative Sea Level rise for Auckland between 1909 and 2021 is approximately +2.3 mm/year.





Source: CDIAC, NIWA, Mauna Loa Observatory, Forsyth Barr analysis

Atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide (CO2) influence how much energy the Earth traps, providing a valuable indicator of climate change. It is the longest-running series of data scientists have, with measurements dating back 800,000 years based on ice core samples. As a comparison, the pre-industrial level of CO2 in the atmosphere was ~280ppm, with measurements ranging between 180–300ppm over the last 800,000 years. More recently, CO2 concentrations have been growing at +0.3% per annum since 1909 and at +0.5% per annum for the last 50 years. The Baring Head records, NIWA's clean air station near Wellington, are the longest-running recorded monthly data series in the Southern Hemisphere for CO2, with measurements starting in 1972. We have utilised yearly averages for Antarctica's ice core data and the monthly average measurements for the NZ data and at The Mauna Loa Observatory which is an atmospheric baseline station on Mauna Loa, on the island of Hawaii, U.S..



#### Figure 29. Southern Oscillation Index (SOI) with La Niña and El Niño bands



Source: National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI), Forsyth Barr analysis

Southern Oscillation is the movement of warm equatorial water across the Pacific Ocean and the atmospheric response. El Niño & La Niña Southern Oscillations affect our weather through air pressure, sea temperature, and wind direction changes.

- An El Niño phase in summer can be associated with increased westerly winds, more rain in the west and dryness in the east, with calmer southerly winds in winter
- A La Niña phase brings more north-easterly winds, wetter conditions in the north and east and higher sea levels.

The oscillation occurs every two to seven years, between the three phases, neutral, El Niño and La Niña, each lasting around a year. The Southern Oscillation Index (SOI) observes the changes in atmospheric pressures across the Pacific, measuring the difference between the standardised surface air pressures at Tahiti and Darwin. A neutral phase corresponds with the SOI between -0.5 and 0.5 for an extended period (defined as three months or more). An SOI reading higher than 1 for three months or more indicates a La Niña phase, and less than -1 for three months or more indicates an El Niño phase. The December reading for the SOI was 2.1. Since February 2022, July (+0.8) and November (+0.3) were the only months reading less than 1, indicating a 'possible La Niña phase' occurring. This would be the third La Niña event in a row, an occurrence that has rarely happened before.



#### Figure 30. Price performance



#### Figure 31. Substantial shareholders

Shareholder	Latest Holding
Bain Capital Credit LP	20.0%
ACC	9.6%
Salt Funds Management	8.0%
Investment Services Group	5.4%
NZ Funds Management	5.2%

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

Source: Forsyth Barr analysis

#### Figure 32. International valuation comparisons

Company	Code	Price	Mkt Cap	PE		EV/EBITDA		EV/EBIT		Cash Yld
(metrics re-weighted to reflect TWR's balance date - September)		(m)	2023E	2024E	2023E	2024E	2023E	2024E	2024E	
Tower Ltd	TWR NZ	NZ\$0.64	NZ\$243	10.4x	6.9x	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	11.7%
Heartland Group Holdings *	HGH NZ	NZ\$1.60	NZ\$1,135	10.4x	9.3x	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	7.6%
Insurance Australia Group	IAG AT	A\$4.74	A\$11,613	19.5x	12.7x	n/a	n/a	n/a	9.2x	5.9%
Suncorp Group	SUN AT	A\$12.21	A\$15,464	12.3x	11.9x	n/a	n/a	n/a	51.5x	6.5%
QBE INSURANCE GROUP	QBE AT	US\$9.87	US\$14,695	12.0x	9.1x	n/a	n/a	n/a	8.2x	5.6%
			Compco Average:	13.6x	10.8x	n/a	n/a	n/a	22.9x	6.4%
EV = Mkt cap+net debt+lease liabilit	ies+min interests-inv	estments	TWR Relative:	-23%	-36%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	83%

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



#### Figure 33. Consensus EPS momentum (NZ\$)

Figure 34. One year forward PE (x)



Source: Forsyth Barr analysis

Source: Forsyth Barr analysis



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