BELL POTTER

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Recommendation Buy (unchanged) Price

\$4.02 Target (12 months) \$5.50 (unchanged)

GICS Sector

Food Beverage and Tobacco

Expected Return	
Capital growth	36.8%
Dividend yield	2.7%
Total expected return	39.5%
Company Data & Ratios	
Enterprise value	\$1,147m
Market cap	\$859m
Issued capital	213.7m
Free float	100%
Avg. daily val. (52wk)	\$4.7m
12 month price range	\$3.79-8.03

Price Performance							
	(1m)	(3m)	(12m)				
Price (A\$)	4.50	5.26	7.74				
Absolute (%)	-10.78	-23.67	-48.13				
Rel market (%)	-6.23	-23.95	-52.35				

Absolute Price



SOURCE: IRESS

BELL POTTER SECURITIES LIMITED ACN 25 006 390 7721 AFSL 243480

Bega Cheese Ltd (BGA)

Supply at the trough, is leverage at the top

FY19 result at a glance

BGA reported FY19 underlying NPAT in line with expectations at \$38.3m. Key operating statistics of the result included:

Operating results: Revenue of \$1,420m was up +21%% YOY (vs. BPe \$1,732m). Underlying EBITDA of \$115.4m was up 5%% YOY (vs. BPe of \$114.7m and guidance of \$113-117m). Underlying NPAT of \$38.3m was down 12% YOY (vs. BPe of \$38.0m).

Cashflow and balance sheet: Operating cashflow of \$100.3m compared to \$6.0m in FY18. Net debt of \$287.3m compares to net debt of \$245.4m at FY18 and guidance of ~\$300m. BGA commenced utilising a recently opened receivable securitisation in 2H19 and this contributed \$188m to operating cashflows.

2020 Guidance: There is no formal FY20e earnings guidance. However, management did note that margin pressure was likely to remain in place through FY20e due to ongoing drought induced competition for milk.

Milk collections: Milk collections rose +41% YOY to 1.06BnL. Koroit contributed 308mL in FY19, with the organic milk pool held static at 750mL in a market that contracted 8-9% across BGA's key catchments. In our view, winning milk supply at the bottom is critical to gaining operating leverage when seasonal conditions improve.

Following the result we have downgraded our NPAT forecasts by 7% in FY20e and 5% in FY21e. The changes principally reflect movements in commodity prices relative to our previous forecasts and updated milk flows by plant. Our target price which is predicated on what we believe BGA is capable of generating in a normalised operating environment remains unchanged at \$5.50ps.

Investment view: Buy retained

We don't believe current operating earnings of BGA are reflective of what the business is capable of generating under more normal seasonal conditions (BPe Normalised EBITDA \$155-165m, inclusive of expanded lactoferrin capacity) upon which we base our target price of \$5.50ps. We retain our Buy rating and see BGA as a key play on a normalisation of rainfall activity in eastern Australia and in particular the MDB.

Earnings Forecast				
Year end June	2019	2020e	2021e	2022e
Sales (A\$m)	1420.0	1539.0	1639.5	1662.1
EBITDA (A\$m)	115.4	119.6	142.1	156.3
NPAT (reported) (A\$m)	11.8	43.3	59.5	70.6
NPAT (adjusted) (A\$m)	38.3	43.3	59.5	70.6
EPS (adjusted) (cps)	18.5	20.3	27.8	33.0
EPS growth (%)	-21.1	9.3	37.3	18.7
PER (x)	21.7	19.8	14.4	12.2
FCF Yield (%)	2.2	-0.3	2.4	4.0
EV/EBITDA (x)	9.9	9.6	8.1	7.3
Dividend (¢ps)	11.0	11.0	14.0	16.0
Franking (%)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Yield (%)	2.7	2.7	3.5	4.0
ROE (%)	5.3	5.2	6.9	7.9
SOURCE: BELL POTTER SECURITIES ESTIMATES				

DISCLAIMER: THIS REPORT MUST BE READ WITH THE DISCLAIMER ON PAGE 7 THAT FORMS PART OF IT. DISCLOSURE: BELL POTTER SECURITIES ACTED AS LEAD MANAGER IN BGA'S \$200M INSTITUTIONAL PLACEMENT AND \$50M NON-UNDERWRITTEN SPP IN SEP'18 AND RECEIVED FEES FOR THAT SERVICE.

FY19 results at a glance

Result: BGA reported FY19 Underlying NPAT in line with recently downgraded expectations at \$38.3m (BPe \$38.0m) with a stronger result within the Bega business (driven by higher Koroit milk volumes) the main driver of the beat. Operating cashflow of \$100.3m, was materially higher than FY18 at \$6.0m and reflected the benefit of new the new receivables securitisation program which contributed \$188m in cash inflows in 2H19. Stronger than expected operating cashflows saw net debt exit the year at \$287.3m, up +17% YOY but below our \$306.6m forecast. Net Debt/EBITDA exited the year at 2.49x, well below the covenant level of 3.5x.

	2014	2015	2016	2017	1H18	2H18	2018	1H19	2H19	2019e	2019e	YOY chg	Act v Es
Bega Foods	685.8	725.0	759.2	808.5	497.3	363.6	860.9	473.6	572.2	1045.8	1330.8	21%	-21%
Tatura	405.5	432.1	479.0	467.4	233.3	214.8	448.1	209.1	235.0	444.2	462.2	-1%	-4%
Eliminations	-21.9	-44.5	-42.2	-49.2	-25.4	-31.6	-57.0	-33.5	-20.4	-70.0	-60.9	23%	15%
Group revenue (\$m)	1069.4	1112.6	1196.0	1226.7	705.2	546.8	1252.0	649.2	786.8	1420.0	1732.1	13%	-18%
growth (%)	5.8%	4.0%	7.5%	2.6%	13.5%	-9.7%	2.1%	-47.1%	11.6%	13.4%	20.4%		
Bega Foods	38.8	35.7	31.2	22.3	31.8	13.3	45.1	31.5	37.9	54.6	49.0	21%	11%
Tatura	31.3	20.0	34.2	48.3	38.3	26.4	64.7	27.3	22.4	49.6	50.7	-23%	-2%
Eliminations	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	(0.1)	(0.9)	(2.8)	(3.6)	(2.0)	3214%	82%
EBITDA (\$m)	70.1	55.7	65.4	70.6	70.1	39.7	109.6	57.9	57.5	115.4	114.7	5%	1%
EBITDA Margin (%)	6.6%	5.0%	5.5%	5.8%	9.9%	7.3%	8.8%	8.9%	7.3%	8.1%	6.6%		
Depreciation & Amortisation	(22.9)	(22.2)	(21.9)	(24.7)	(13.6)	(17.7)	(31.3)	(19.4)	(21.0)	(40.4)	(39.8)	29%	1%
BIT	47.2	33.5	43.5	45.9	56.5	22.0	78.3	38.5	36.6	75.0	76.0	-4%	-1%
EBIT Margin (%)	4.4%	3.0%	3.6%	3.7%	8.0%	4.0%	6.3%	5.9%	4.6%	5.3%	4.4%		
let Interest Income	(5.1)	(3.3)	(3.6)	(2.8)	(3.9)	(5.9)	(9.8)	(11.3)	(8.2)	(19.6)	(21.7)	100%	-10%
Pre-tax profit	42.1	30.2	39.9	43.2	52.6	16.1	68.5	27.1	28.3	55.4	54.3	-19%	2%
Гах	(12.4)	(8.1)	(11.1)	(12.8)	(16.0)	(9.1)	(25.0)	(8.2)	(8.9)	(17.1)	(16.3)	-32%	5%
Vinorities	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Jnderlying NPAT (\$m)	29.8	22.0	28.8	30.3	36.6	7.0	43.5	18.9	19.4	38.3	38.0	-12%	1%
IRI's post-tax	36.3	(9.6)	0.1	108.4	(16.0)	0.8	(15.2)	(14.0)	(12.5)	(26.5)	(17.5)	74%	52%
Reported NPAT (\$m)	66.1	12.4	28.9	138.7	20.6	7.8	28.2	5.0	6.8	11.8	20.6	-58%	-43%
DPS (¢ps)	8.5	8.5	9.5	10.0	5.5	5.5	11.0	5.5	5.5	11.0	11.0		
Balance sheet and cashflow													
Vorking Capital (\$m)	126.7	175.3	180.0	167.1	258.1	206.7	206.7	379.3	188.2	188.2	194.6		
Norking capital / Sales (%)	12%	16%	15%	14%	11%	15%	17%	35%	8%	13%	11%		
Operating cashflow (\$m)	40.8	(17.0)	60.2	57.5	(58.9)	64.8	6.0	(128.3)	228.5	100.3	75.1		
Operating cash realisation (%)	46%	-49%	119%	35%	-36%	190%	10%	-504%	384%	192%	124%		
Free cashflow (\$m)	0.8	(48.7)	12.5	3.0	(88.6)	28.6	(60.0)	(163.3)	182.1	18.8	6.1		
ree cash realisation (%)	1%	-393%	43%	2%	-64%	139%	-213%	-2097%	645%	159%	30%		
let Debt (Cash) (\$m)	(8.6)	58.7	53.1	(260.2)	273.4	245.4	245.4	468.1	287.3	287.3	306.6	17%	
let debt/EBITDA (x)	(0.12)	1.05	0.81	(3.68)	1.94	1.75	2.24	5.90	1.31	2.49	2.67		
let Debt /Equity (%)	-3%	19%	16%	-45%	43%	39%	39%	57%	35%	35%	38%		
Net Debt / WKC (%)	-7%	33%	29%	-156%	106%	119%	119%	123%	153%	153%	158%		

SOURCE: COMPANY DATA AND BELL POTTER SECURITIES ESTIMATES

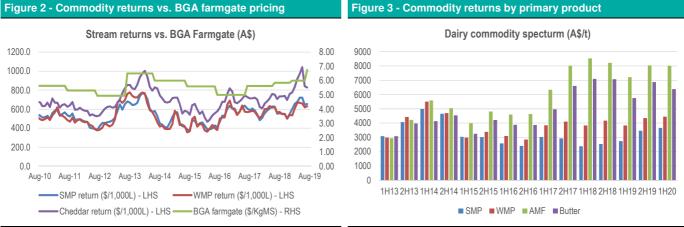
Outlook: There was no formal earnings guidance for FY20e. However, management did note that margin pressure was likely to remain in place through FY20e due to ongoing drought induced competition for milk volumes, higher than average water costs and the continued expensing of milk incentive payments in FY20-21e (cashflow impact in FY19). The development of 35t of lactoferrin capacity (lifting BGA to 55t total installed capacity) remains on track for completion in 2H20e and should be a source of growth in FY20-21e along with higher levels of demand of IMF from new and existing nutritionals customers.

Milk supply: Milk collections rose +41% YOY to 1.06BnL. Koroit contributed 308mL in FY19, with the organic milk pool held static at 750mL in a market that contracted by ~8-9% YOY in FY19 in BGA's main catchments.

Commodity returns vs. farmgate: BGA has opened the 2019/20 VIC farmgate at \$6.75/KgMS, well above the 2018/19 closing of \$6.15/KgMS and reflects the recent strength in AUD commodity prices (particularly SMP). In addition to headline farmgate prices, BGA continues to expense incentive payments made last year to secure three year

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supply agreements. These cash payments totalled ~\$49m and were made in FY19e, but are expensed through the P&L at ~\$13m a year through to FY21e.



SOURCE: COMPANY DATA, GDT, NZX AND BELL POTTER SECURITIES ESTIMATES

SOURCE: GDT, NZX AND BELL POTTER SECURITIES ESTIMATES

Grocery business: For the first time BGA have identified the revenue contribution from the acquired MDLZ assets, highlighting revenues of \$223.5m in FY19, down ~12% YOY. Encouragingly management continue to believe the business can generate initial EBITDA targets of ~\$40-45m (by FY21-22e based on adjusted timelines) following a period of product rationalisation and brand development, though this is not reflected in our base case.

BGA company overview

COMPANY DESCRIPTION

Bega Cheese Limited (BGA) is engaged in the processing, manufacturing and distribution of dairy and associated products to both Australian and international markets. BGA operates five processing facilities across NSW & VIC with the capacity to process ~250kt of product across three operating divisions while also holding a strategic 25% investment in CCFA, a fresh milk processor in Canberra.

VALUATION

Our \$5.50ps target price for BGA is derived from a combination of: (1) Underlying ROIC based approach: which is based on 10.4-11.3% ROIC when earnings are reflective of normal seasonal conditions, scale at Koroit and delivery of Lactoferrin capacity. This derives an EV/EBITDA multiple of 8.0-8.4x; and (2) Value for surplus land assets and franking credits: We have incorporated a value for the Port Melbourne land acquired in the MLDZ acquisition and a value for expected surplus franking credit.

RISKS

Risks facing BGA include but are not limited to:

AUD commodity prices: With ~20-25% of revenues exposed to commodity markets and a further 15-20% exposed to export FMCG or Nutritionals based revenue streams, BGA is exposed to both movements in the AUD and global dairy commodity prices. While the impact is insulated via the groups domestic FMCG and cut & pack operations, sharp movements up or down can have a meaningful impact on profitability, particularly in the Tatura business;

Seasonal risk factors: BGA is exposed to the impact of weather conditions such as droughts and other factors that may reduce the level of milk produced in the catchment area;

Milk supply and costs: BGA purchases milk from dairy farmers on annual basis, seasonal factors or competitive response may limit supply or result in changes to farmgate milk pricing assumptions greater than we have allowed;

Change in long-term relationships: BGA distributes its branded and other cheese products through long term cost plus contracts with companies including Fonterra, Kraft, Woolworths and Aldi Any loss of a material cheese contract could hamper returns in the business; and

Execution risk on the MDLZ acquisition: a key reason for our favourable view on BGA is a belief in the success of the integration of the MDLZ assets and the potential to expand the companies branded portfolio over time. Failure to execute on this strategy may result in BGA failing to achieve our earnings estimates or target price.

Customer and supplier relationships: There is a risk that as a result of acquiring MDLZ grocery business and competing in the markets some of its products, contractual relationships with customers may result in decreased sales volumes and increased costs which could affect the financial performance of BGA.

Brand, product and reputation risk: Earnings could be impacted by failing to meet customer expectations of quality; contamination or recall; adverse media coverage or other factors outside of the control of BGA.

Industry risk: There are a number of industry factors outside the control of the company, including regulatory, compliance and variations in legislation and government policies.

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Failure to retain key customers: Given BGA's reliance on several key customers, a failure to maintain these relationships could adversely impact the financial performance of BGA.

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Bega Cheese Ltd as at 28 August 2019

Recommendation	Buy
Price	\$4.02
Target (12 months)	\$5.50

Buy 4.02

5.50

213.7

859.2 1146.5

Recommendation

Share price (\$ps) Target price (\$ps)

Market cap (\$m)

Diluted issued capital (m)

Enterprise value (\$m)

Table 1 -	Financia	l summary
	1 manora	Janniary

June year end	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020e	2021e	2022e
Profit & Loss (A\$m)							
Sales revenue	1196.0	1226.7	1252.0	1420.0	1539.0	1639.5	1662.1
Change	7.5%	2.6%	2.1%	13.4%	8.4%	6.5%	1.4%
EBITDA	65.4	70.6	109.6	115.4	119.6	142.1	156.3
Deprec. & amort.	(21.9)	(24.7)	(31.3)	(40.4)	(42.4)	(42.4)	(42.4)
EBIT	43.5	45.9	78.3	75.0	80.8	103.3	117.6
Interest expense	(3.6)	(2.8)	(9.8)	(19.6)	(18.9)	(18.4)	(16.7)
Pre-tax profit	39.9	43.2	68.5	55.4	61.9	85.0	100.9
Tax expense	(11.1)	(12.8)	(25.0)	(17.1)	(18.6)	(25.5)	(30.3)
tax rate	28%	30%	37%	31%	30%	30%	30%
Minorities	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net Profit	28.8	30.3	43.5	38.3	43.3	59.5	70.6
Abs. & extras.	0.1	108.4	(15.2)	(26.5)	-	-	-
Reported Profit	28.9	138.7	28.2	11.8	43.3	59.5	70.6

Cashflow (A\$m)							
EBITDA	65.4	70.6	109.6	115.4	119.6	142.1	156.3
Tax Paid	(3.3)	(10.7)	(79.2)	(13.3)	(18.2)	(23.8)	(29.1)
Net Interest Expense	(3.6)	(2.8)	(9.8)	(20.4)	(19.3)	(18.7)	(17.5)
Change in Wkg Capital	(4.7)	12.9	(39.6)	18.5	(15.8)	(13.3)	(3.0)
Other	6.5	(12.5)	25.0	(0.0)	-	-	-
Operating Cash Flow	60.2	57.5	6.0	100.3	66.3	86.3	106.7
Capex	(34.0)	(39.3)	(46.6)	(62.3)	(45.0)	(40.0)	(40.0)
Div Paid (gross of DRP)	(13.7)	(15.3)	(19.4)	(19.1)	(23.5)	(25.6)	(32.1)
Free Cash Flow	12.5	3.0	(60.0)	18.8	(2.2)	20.7	34.6
Acquisitions	(6.7)	-	(478.3)	(262.2)	-	-	-
Disposals	-	190.0	12.7	1.4	-	-	-
Share Issues (ind DRP)	-	119.5	50.0	199.9	-	-	
Other	(0.2)	0.8	(30.0)	0.3	-	-	-
(Inc.) /dec. in net debt	5.6	313.3	(505.6)	(41.9)	(2.2)	20.7	34.6

0.7	175 F	21.7	20.0	20.0	20.0	28.8
•••						
						210.6
						320.9
						6.8
						567.0
219.9	196.8	323.6	443.3	446.0	443.6	441.2
7.9	22.7	411.5	535.1	535.1	535.1	535.1
12.55	18.34	11.74	20.53	20.53	20.53	20.53
240.4	237.8	746.8	999.0	1,001.6	999.3	996.9
586.7	1,056.3	1,215.8	1,488.6	1,529.3	1,559.0	1,563.9
156.0	169.3	225.9	265.9	288.2	307.0	311.2
15.2	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
38.0	97.2	52.2	49.2	45.6	47.6	46.5
209.3	266.6	278.2	315.1	333.7	354.6	357.7
47.5	215.3	267.0	316.1	318.3	297.6	262.9
2.1	1.7	38.7	31.5	31.5	31.5	31.5
49.6	217.0	305.6	347.6	349.8	329.1	294.5
258.8	483.6	583.8	662.6	683.5	683.7	652.2
327.8	572.7	632.0	825.9	845.8	875.3	911.7
103.9	224.7	274.9	477.5	477.5	477.5	477.5
21.1	21.7	21.5	22.9	22.9	22.9	22.9
202.8	326.3	335.7	325.6	345.4	374.9	411.4
-	-	-	-	-		-
327.8	572.7	632.0	825.9	845.8	875.3	911.7
				•		
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June year end	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020e	2021e	2022e
Valuation Ratios							
EPS (¢ps)	18.9	19.9	23.5	18.5	20.3	27.8	33.0
Change (%)	30.6%	5.4%	18.2%	-21.1%	9.3%	37.3%	18.7%
PE (x)	21.3	20.2	17.1	21.7	19.8	14.4	12.2
EV/EBITDA (x)	17.5	16.2	10.5	9.9	9.6	8.1	7.3
EV/EBIT (x)	26.4	25.0	14.6	15.3	14.2	11.1	9.8
NTA (\$ps)	2.10	3.60	1.19	1.41	1.45	1.59	1.76
P/NTA (x)	1.92	1.12	3.37	2.86	2.77	2.53	2.28
Book Value (\$ps)	2.15	3.26	3.42	3.86	3.96	4.10	4.27
Price/Book (x)	1.87	1.23	1.18	1.04	1.02	0.98	0.94
DPS (¢)	9.5	10.0	11.0	11.0	11.0	14.0	16.0
Payout(%)	50%	50%	47%	59%	54%	50%	48%
Yield (%)	2.4%	2.5%	2.7%	2.7%	2.7%	3.5%	4.0%
Franking (%)	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Performance Ratios							
EBITDA/sales (%)	5.5%	5.8%	8.8%	8.1%	7.8%	8.7%	9.4%
EBITA/sales (%)	3.6%	3.7%	6.3%	5.3%	5.3%	6.3%	7.1%
OCF Realisation (%)	119%	105%	8%	127%	77%	85%	94%
FCF Realisation (%)	91%	60%	-93%	99%	49%	78%	94%
ROE (%)	9.0%	6.7%	7.2%	5.3%	5.2%	6.9%	7.9%
ROIC (%)	11.6%	13.3%	13.2%	7.5%	7.2%	9.1%	10.3%
Aseet Turn (years)	2.99	2.86	3.50	2.86	2.82	3.35	3.69
Capex/Depn (x)	1.55	1.59	1.49	1.54	1.06	0.94	0.94
Interest cover (x)	12.10	16.47	7.97	3.83	4.27	5.62	7.03
Net Debt/EBITDA (x)	0.81	(3.68)	2.24	2.49	2.42	1.89	1.50
Net debt/equity (%)	16.2%	-45.4%	38.8%	34.8%	34.2%	30.7%	25.7%
Net debt/(Net debt + Ec	13.9%	-83.3%	28.0%	25.8%	25.5%	23.5%	20.4%

Segmentals							
Bega Cheese	759.2	808.5	860.9	1,045.8	1,147.3	1,209.4	1,231.5
Tatura	479.0	467.4	448.1	444.2	450.2	490.1	492.2
Eliminations	(42.2)	(49.2)	(57.0)	(70.0)	(58.5)	(60.0)	(61.6)
Group revenue (\$m)	1,196.0	1,226.7	1,252.0	1,420.0	1,539.0	1,639.5	1,662.1
Bega Cheese	31.2	22.3	45.1	69.4	70.1	81.5	89.8
Tatura	34.2	48.3	64.7	49.6	53.1	64.2	70.2
Eliminations	-	-	(0.1)	(3.6)	(3.6)	(3.6)	(3.6)
Group EBITDA (\$m)	65.4	70.6	109.6	115.4	119.6	142.1	156.3

SOURCE: BELL POTTER SECURITIES ESTIMATES

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Recommendation structure

Buy: Expect >15% total return on a 12 month view. For stocks regarded as 'Speculative' a return of >30% is expected.

Hold: Expect total return between -5% and 15% on a 12 month view

Sell: Expect <-5% total return on a 12 month view

Speculative Investments are either start-up enterprises with nil or only prospective operations or recently commenced operations with only forecast cash flows, or companies that have commenced operations or have been in operation for some time but have only forecast cash flows and/or a stressed balance sheet.

Such investments may carry an exceptionally high level of capital risk and volatility of returns.

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