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6 March 2025

By Electronic Lodgement

Market Announcements Office ASX Limited 20 Bridge Street Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Sir/Madam

#### Shareholder webinar reminder and presentation on half-year results

The Board invites shareholders to the upcoming shareholder webinar today at 11.00am (AEDT). The webinar will discuss the Company's results for the half-year ended 31 December 2024 and a portfolio update with Company Director and Spheria Asset Management Portfolio Manager, Matt Booker.

Shareholders are invited to register at the following link: <u>SEC 1HFY25 Results Webinar</u>

The presentation slides are available below.

Authorised by:

Calvin Kwok Company Secretary

# Spheria Emerging Companies Limited (ASX:SEC)

1HFY25 Results & Portfolio Update



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Note: Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance.

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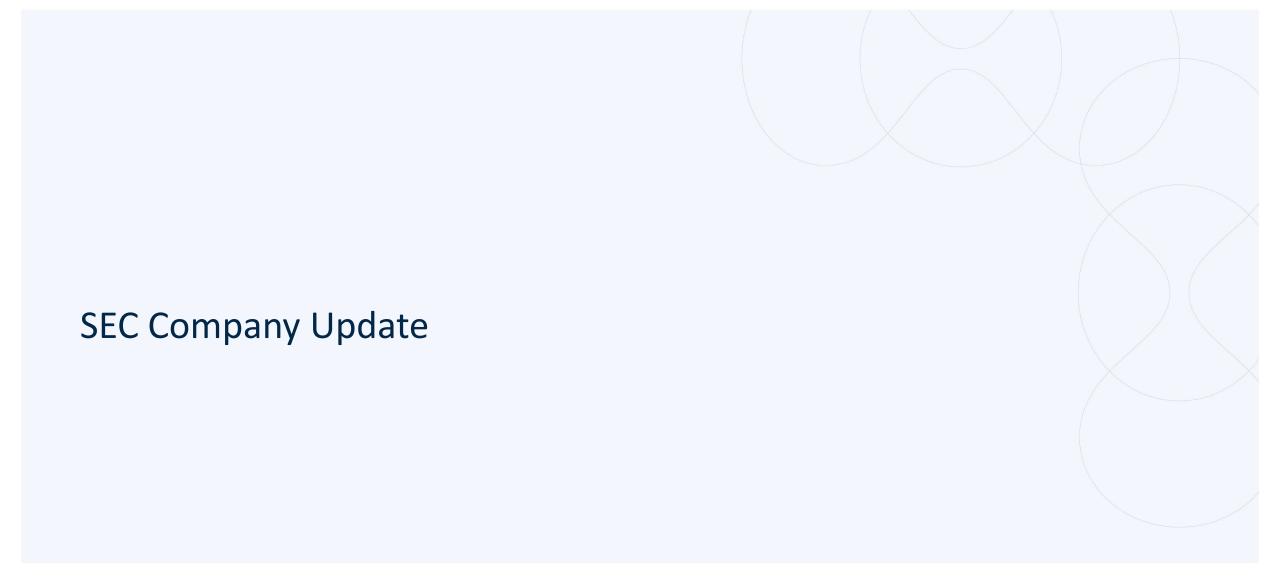
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## Agenda

- SEC Company update
- 2. Portfolio update
- 3. Questions







## 1HFY25 Highlights

| 1HFY25 Profit | Company Performance <sup>1</sup> | Dividends <sup>2</sup> | Yield | Yield (including<br>franking) |
|---------------|----------------------------------|------------------------|-------|-------------------------------|
| \$10.8m       | 11.3%                            | 7.0c                   | 5.8%3 | 8.3%4                         |

- 1HFY25 net profit after tax of \$10.8m
- Company Performance of 11.3%, +5.8% above benchmark<sup>5</sup> of 5.5% (also +2.5% p.a. above benchmark since inception)
- Total quarterly dividends declared for the half-year of 7.0 cents per share (fully franked)<sup>2</sup>
- Trailing dividend yield equal to 5.8%3 (8.3%4 including franking)
- SEC Board resolves to reinstate a modified conditional proposal after the 2024 conditional proposal successfully reduced the NTA discount

<sup>4.</sup> Trailing dividend yield including franking credits based on total quarterly dividends declared for calendar year 2024 of 13.4 cents, calculated on share price as at 31 December 2024 of \$2.30, using 30% tax rate.





<sup>1.</sup> Calculated as the Company's investment portfolio performance after fees excluding tax on realised and unrealised gains/losses and other earnings, after Company expenses.

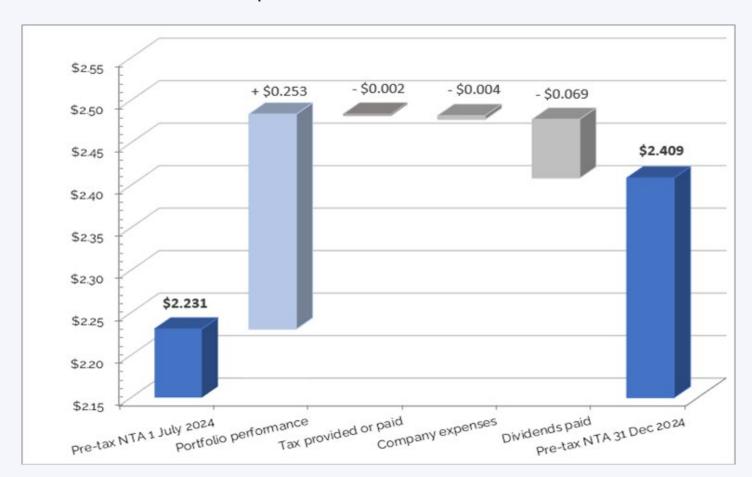
<sup>2.</sup> Comprising September 24 quarter dividend of 3.5 cents (paid 12 November 2024) and December 24 quarter dividend of 3.5 cents (paid 12 February 2025).

<sup>3.</sup> Trailing dividend yield based on total quarterly dividends declared for calendar year 2024 of 13.4 cents, calculated on share price as at 31 December 2024 of \$2.30.

#### NTA breakdown for 1HFY25

#### Portfolio performance less dividends paid leads to an increase in NTA per share

- Pre-tax NTA increased
  by \$0.178 from \$2.231 at 30
  June 2024 to \$2.409 at 31
  December 2024
- Portfolio performance and dividends paid drive NTA changes.





## **Performance History**

Since inception Company outperformance of 2.5% p.a.

#### **SEC Company performance**

| SEC Limited Net Performance as at 31st January 2025 |         |        |             |             |                      |                |  |  |
|---|---------|--------|-------------|-------------|----------------------|----------------|--|--|
| Period  | 3 month | 1 year | 3 year (pa) | 5 year (pa) | Since Inception (pa) | Inception Date |  |  |
| SEC Ltd.  | 5.2%    | 13.7%  | 5.4%        | 8.2%        | 7.9%                 | 30/11/2017     |  |  |
| S&P/ASX Small Ordinaries Accumulation Index         | 2.7%    | 12.3%  | 3.1%        | 4.3%        | 5.4%                 |                |  |  |
| Outperformance                                      | 2.5%    | 1.4%   | 2.3%        | 3.9%        | 2.5%                 |                |  |  |

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Company's performance is calculated as the Company's investment portfolio performance after fees excluding tax on realised and unrealised gains/losses and other earnings, and after company expenses

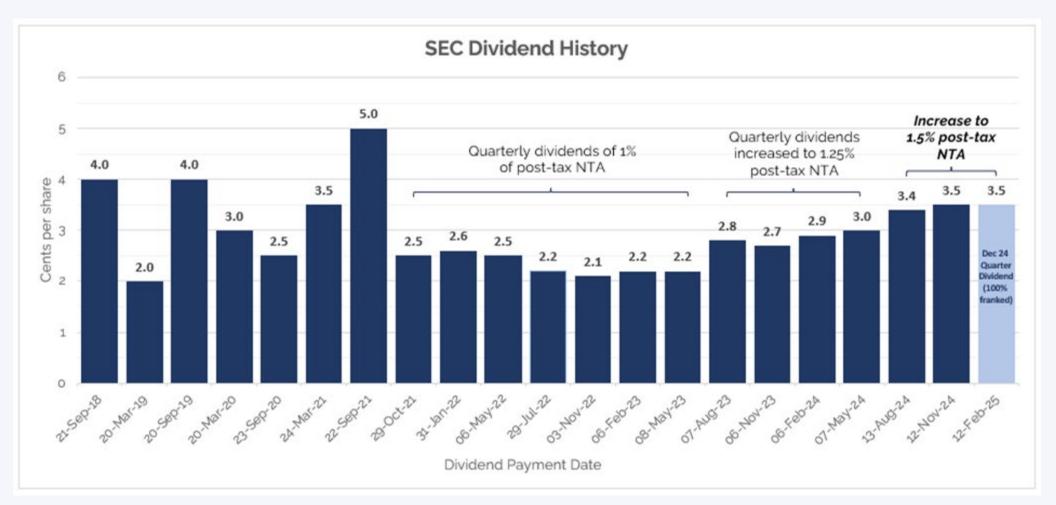
Benchmark is the S&P/ASX Small Ordinaries Accumulation Index.

All p.a. returns are annualised



#### Dividends

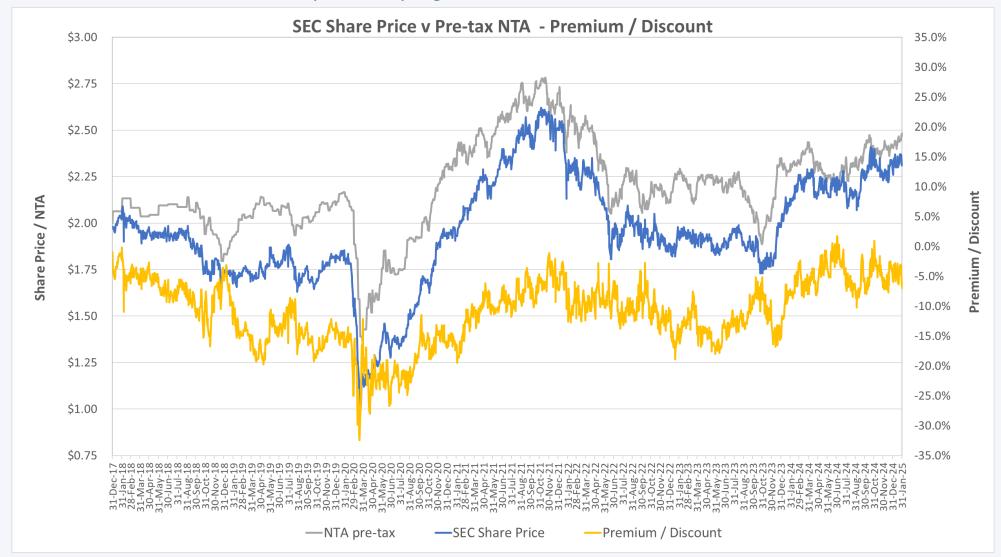
Since Q2 2024, dividend target raised to 6.0% p.a. (excl. franking) paid at a quarterly rate of 1.5% of post-tax NTA





## Significant improvement in the NTA Discount

Higher dividends and Conditional Proposal help tighten the NTA discount





### Reinstatement of condition proposal

- On 7<sup>th</sup> January 2025 announced the results of the conditional proposal.
  - NTA discount over measurement period (Q4 2024) was 4.75%
  - This being <5% meant condition to undertake the proposal to convert to an open-end fund was not met
- On 26<sup>th</sup> February 2025, as part of the Company's interim results announcement, the Board announced the reinstatement of the conditional proposal with slight modifications:
  - Condition remains that NTA discount must be >5% over the measurement period
  - Measured as the daily average NTA discount over the measurement period for the 12 months from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026 (measurement period)
  - If the condition is met (average daily NTA discount >5%), SEC will convene a shareholder meeting and put to a **shareholder vote** whether shareholders want SEC to remain as an LIC or undertake steps to convert into an open-end managed fund



# **SEC Portfolio Update**



## Spheria Asset Management Investment Process

How our investment process is different

#### 1. Focus on quality businesses with risk control overlay

Sustainable free cash flow generation through the cycle

#### 2. Fundamental investment focus

- Free cash flow valuation model
- Lowly geared balance sheets (ideally)
- Discount to valuation

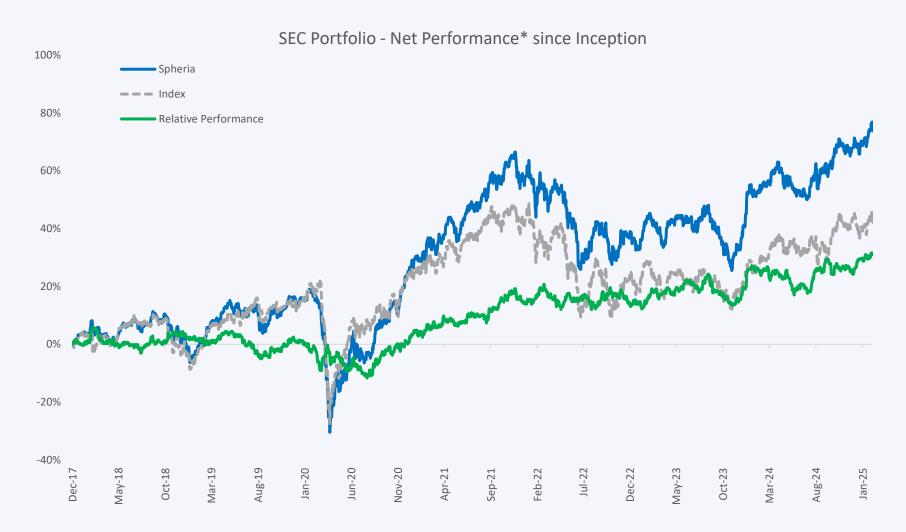
#### 3. Keep an open mind (facts change)

- Inflection points, changes in management/strategy, shifts in industry structure
- 4. Market under researched and inefficient outside of larger companies



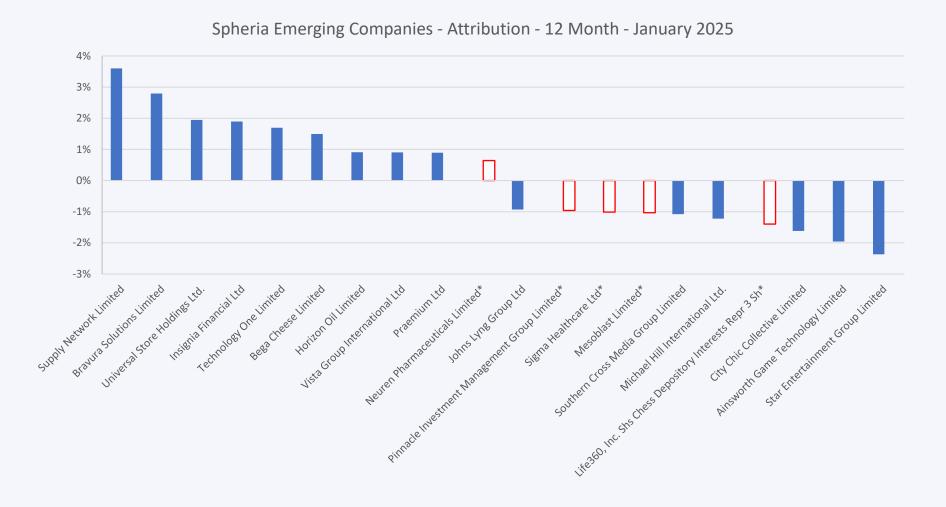
#### **SEC Portfolio Performance**

#### Strong relative performance over the last 4 years





## Stock Attribution – Top 10 and Bottom 10

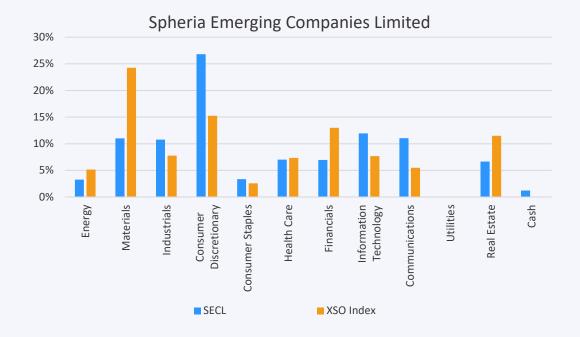


<sup>\*</sup> Red Outline – companies we did not hold during the period Source : Bloomberg Data as at 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025. Companies mentioned on this slide are illustrative only and not a recommendation to buy or sell any particular security



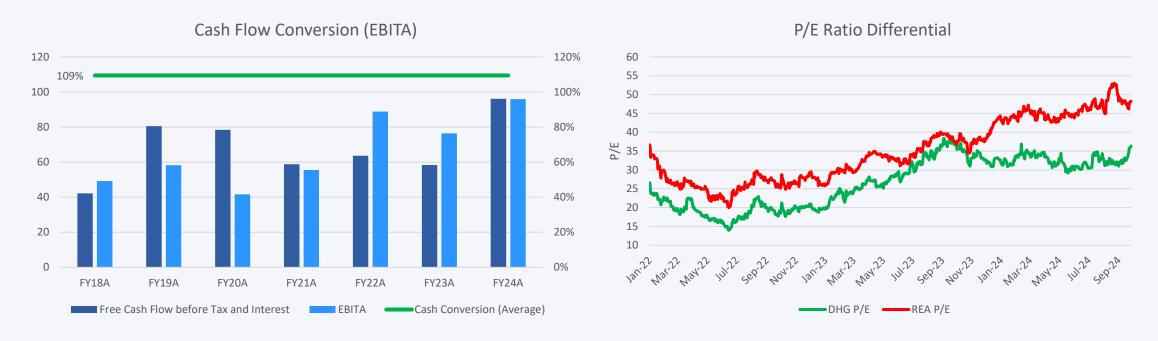
## Top 10 Holdings & Sector Exposure

| Spher  | ria Emerging Companies Li | mited       |
|--------|---------------------------|-------------|
| Ticker | Company Name              | % Portfolio |
| SNL    | Supply Network            | 6.1         |
| IFL    | Insignia Financial        | 5.0         |
| DRR    | Deterra                   | 4.7         |
| HLS    | Healius                   | 4.6         |
| FBU    | Fletcher Building         | 4.2         |
| SGM    | Sims Limited              | 3.9         |
| IRE    | IRESS Limited             | 3.8         |
| BGA    | Bega Cheese Ltd           | 3.4         |
| TNE    | Technology One            | 3.1         |
| UNI    | Universal Store           | 3.1         |
| Top 10 |                           | 41.7        |





#### Opportunity in a two-player market

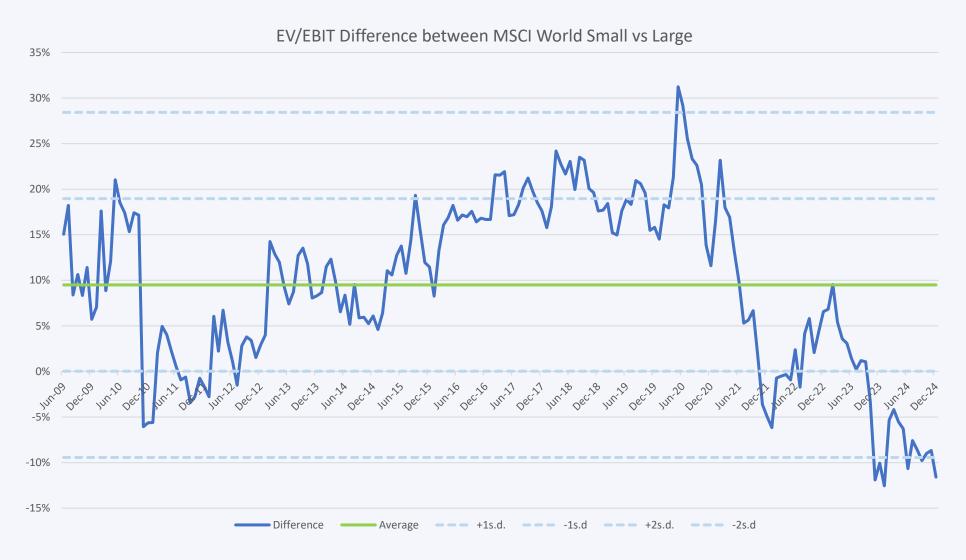


- Domain Holdings is the second leading property portal in the Australian market, operating in a near duopoly market
- It continues to remain under penetrated in several key markets outside of NSW and VIC
- Given duopoly market, business can push through mid-to-high single digit price increases annually
- Share price had fallen and the business had derated vs its closest peer, enabling us to enter the company
- The business recently received a takeover bid by CoStar Group at a ~35% premium, outcome is highly dependent on NEC



## Very attractive entry point

Global Smalls are very cheap in a historical context vs large caps





## **Key Themes**

- Moderating inflation and lower rates should be supportive for cyclically exposed companies, many of which have been out of favour over the last few years.
- Short term earnings risk remain; however, resumption of M&A activity seems likely.
- Conclusion One of the better LT entry points into smaller caps vs. large caps we have seen for some time.
- SEC is an attractive way to invest in Aus small caps: The consistent quarterly full franked dividend combined with the reinstated conditional proposal should help to maintain a narrow NTA discount on SEC shares



# Questions

