# Easton Investments Limited FY21 Results Presentation

26 August 2021

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Strong year of growth, positioned for step change

24% growth in Net Revenue, driven by momentum in both segments

Elimination of all debt and material improvement in free cash flow

Backing of a new significant shareholder & appetite to invest

Strategic intent to triple Net Revenue in next three years



# **Financial Highlights**

### Materially strengthened operating business

| Net Revenue <sup>1</sup>       | A\$27.71 m | +24% PCP  |
|--------------------------------|------------|-----------|
| Underlying Profit <sup>2</sup> | A\$6.81 m  | +20% PCP  |
| Net cashflow from operations   | A\$6.26 m  | +142% PCP |
| NPAT                           | A\$2.98 m  | +70% PCP  |
| Basic EPS                      | 7.02 cents | +63% PCP  |

#### Strengthened balance sheet with surplus funds of \$2.26m, (2020: Net Debt \$8.15m)

1 Net revenue = operating revenue from continuing operations less Adviser revenue share and cost recoveries (ASIC levy and adviser systems)

2 Underlying Profit = Normalised EBITA, which is Normalised Earnings before Interest, Tax and Amortisation. Underlying Profit is an unaudited, non-IFRS measure and is used by the Company to assess performance as it excludes non-cash amortisation, acquisition/divestment and recapitalisation costs, restructure costs, impairment and fair value adjustments, gains/losses on divestments and lease accounting under AASB 16 Leases.

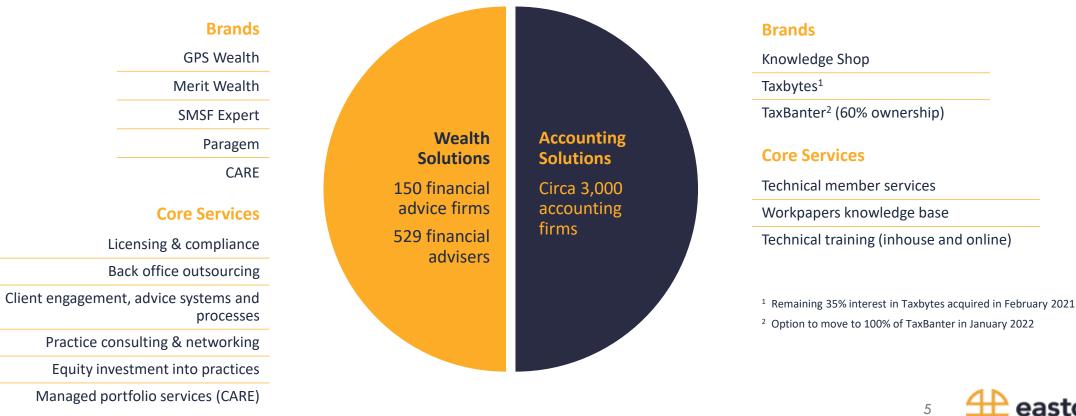




At Easton we share an ambition with financial advisers and accountants to create positive industry change

### Easton Investments today - leading service provider to accountants and financial advisers

The Company provides services to circa 3,000 accounting practices, 150 financial planning firms and 529 licensed advisers





### **Business Highlights**

#### Accounting Solutions Record Growth

40% growth in Net Revenue

51% growth in Underlying Profit through:

- continued strong growth in membership
- shift to higher margin online training
- full year contribution of TaxBanter

Growing market leadership position in training & member services to accounting firms

#### Wealth Solutions Growing Leadership

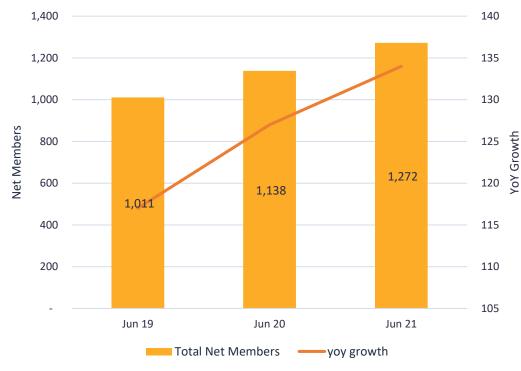
9% growth in Net Revenue

13% growth in Underlying Profit

Awarded Licensee of the Year 2020 (GPS) and acquired Paragem, a leading boutique licensee

Record FUM in CARE managed portfolios, finalist in the IMAP managed accounts awards

### Record growth in Accounting Solutions



#### **Continued growth in Net Members**

### **Record year for acquisition of new members**

Technical services to accounting firms

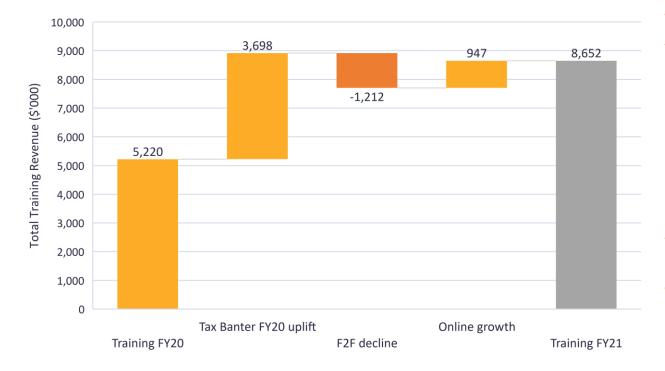
12% increase in net members

Continued track record of scalable growth

### Finalist in Australian Accounting Awards for Thought Leader of the Year



### Paradigm shift as high margin online training becomes "new normal"



### Training Revenue

### Training revenue increased 66%

Full year contribution from TaxBanter

Cancellation of face to face (F2F) events due COVID-19

Conversion to online format with +55% increase in online attendees

#### Improved training margin and efficiency

FY21 higher margin online training more than offsets decline in faceto-face (F2F) training (due to COVID-19)

Continuing trend shifting to high margin online previously delivered by F2F

Scalable simultaneous delivery to multiple national locations without the cost of travel and venue hire.



### Wealth Solutions operates Australia's top-rated licensee business



GPS licensee - highest adviser satisfaction rating in the market & awarded licensee of the year, 2020 by CoreData Research<sup>1</sup>

Acquisition of Paragem, a leading boutique licensee

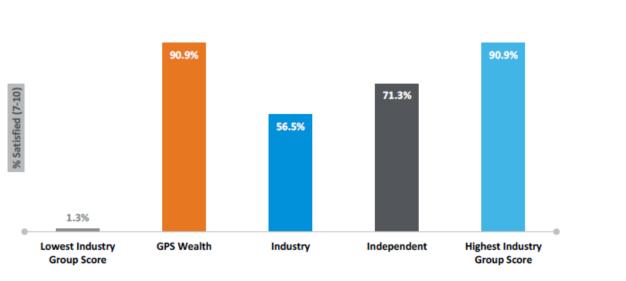
#### Key drivers of result

Communication

**Education & training** 

Technical services including investments

#### Overall, how satisfied are you with your licensee?



n = 44 (GPS Wealth), 662 (Industry), 296 (Independent)

n = 2018: 24 (GPS Wealth), 1,118 (Industry) 2019: 10 (GPS Wealth), 647 (Industry) 2020: 44 (GPS Wealth), 662 (Industry)

O GPS Wealth

87.5%

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68.69

2018

Satisfied (7-10)

90.9%

56.5%

2020

**5** 60.0%

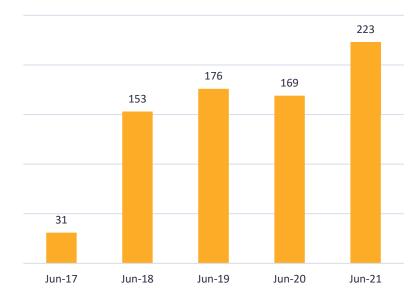
49.6%

2019

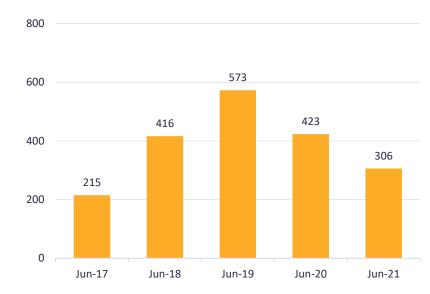


### Changing adviser mix improving average revenue

The business achieved significant growth in Full Authorised Representatives (AR), as a result of the Paragem acquisition Continued reduction in Limited AR (accountants), who are departing the advice industry due to rising costs and FASEA education requirements Average Net Revenue per Limited AR is materially lower than Full ARs, so this decline has a modest impact on performance



#### Full Authorised Representatives (No.)



#### Limited Authorised Representatives (No.) Net Revenue per Adviser

| FY21           | Full AR | Limited AR |
|----------------|---------|------------|
| Net revenue    | \$6.3m  | \$1.4m     |
| Average per AR | \$28k   | \$4k       |

Limited authorised representatives are accountants authorised for SMSF advice only Full authorised representatives are holistic financial advisers authorised to provide comprehensive financial advice



### Sustained growth to \$2b in managed portfolios

2500 1,974 2000 1,664 1500 1420 1201 938 1001...... 815 630..... 1000 500 0 Jun-17 Dec-17 Jun-18 Dec-18 Jun-19 Dec-19 Jun-20 Dec-20 Jun-21

#### CARE Funds under Management (\$m)



IMAP MANAGED ACCOUNT AWARD FINALIST LICENSEE MANAGED ACCOUNT

CARE is a managed portfolio service available to advisers, providing scale, price & efficiency benefits to clients where appropriate to their needs

Strong growth: +41% in FUM, +21% in revenue

2<sup>nd</sup> quartile performance over 5 years and finalist in IMAP managed account awards



## **Financial Results**

### Group Profit Analysis

| Segment Result                               | 2021<br>Full Year (\$m) | 2020<br>Full Year (\$m) | Increase/<br>(decrease) (%) |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Wealth Solutions                             | 12.98                   | 11.90                   | 9                           |
| Accounting Solutions                         | 14.73                   | 10.53                   | 40                          |
| Net Revenue - Continuing Operations          | 27.71                   | 22.43                   | 24                          |
| Wealth Solutions                             | 2.78                    | 2.45                    | 13                          |
| Accounting Solutions                         | 5.86                    | 3.89                    | 51                          |
| Underlying Profit – Continuing Operations    | 8.64                    | 6.34                    | 36                          |
| Corporate Overheads                          | (2.26)                  | (1.94)                  | (16)                        |
| Add – Discontinued Operations                | 0.43                    | 1.27                    |                             |
| Group Underlying Profit                      | 6.81                    | 5.67                    | 20                          |
| Normalisations                               | (1.25)                  | (1.79)                  |                             |
| Statutory EBITA inc. Discontinued Operations | 5.56                    | 3.88                    | 43                          |

# Strong business performance

Strong growth in Net Revenue and Underlying Profit in both segments, offset by completion of asset divestment program

Growth in corporate costs driven by MD and Board investment

Reduced normalisations, primarily M&A costs & intangible asset impairment



### Accounting Solutions

### **Underlying performance**

| A\$m  | 2021  | 2020  | Increase<br>(%) |
|---|-------|-------|-----------------|
| Net Revenue - Continuing Operations <sup>1</sup>            | 14.73 | 10.53 | 40              |
| Underlying Profit:  |       |       |                 |
| – Organic Result  | 4.27  | 3.14  | 36              |
| <ul> <li>– plus: Acquired Operations<sup>1</sup></li> </ul> | 1.59  | 0.75  | 112             |
| Underlying Profit - Continuing Operations                   | 5.86  | 3.89  | 51              |
| – plus: Discontinued Operations <sup>2</sup>                | 0.43  | 0.79  | -               |
| Reported Result   | 6.29  | 4.68  | 34              |

Key influencing factors

Record demand for online training delivering enhanced profit margin

Continued growth in Membership

Some loss of earnings from discontinued operations and adverse impact of COVID-19 on face-to-face and in-house training

1. TaxBanter (60% interest) was acquired 23 January 2020.

2.Law Central divested 14 December 2020 and Panthercorp divested 1 February 2021. HKNSW was divested effective 30 June 2020.

Services include technical help desk support, standards knowledge base, technical updates, training and professional development spanning face to face, in-house, online, and on-demand (LMS) delivery



### Wealth Solutions

### **Underlying performance**

| A\$m  | 2021  | 2020  | Increase<br>(%) |
|---|-------|-------|-----------------|
| Net Revenue – Continuing Operations                         | 12.98 | 11.90 | 9               |
| Underlying Profit:  |       |       |                 |
| – Organic Result  | 2.78  | 2.45  | 13              |
| <ul> <li>– plus: Acquired Operations<sup>1</sup></li> </ul> | -     | -     | -               |
| Underlying Profit - Continuing Operations                   | 2.78  | 2.45  | 13              |
| – plus: Discontinued Operations <sup>2</sup>                | -     | 0.48  | -               |
| Reported Result   | 2.78  | 2.93  | (5)             |

Key influencing factors

Introduction of a new pricing model for advisers

Continued growth in CARE managed accounts

Loss of earnings from discontinued operations

Adverse impact of a continuing decline in the number of limited authorised representatives

1. Paragem was acquired 1 February 2021 and broke even for the 5 months to 30 June2021

2. The Group's 25% equity interest in First Financial was divested effective 3 June 2020 and Easton Wealth Finance sold down 30 April 2020.

Services include a wide range of dealer services extending from basic licensing to client engagement tools, coaching and training and online investment and platform services



## Strategic Intent



# **Simplified Business**

### Positioned to pursue a step change

Strategic review initiated in October 2019, initial decision to simplify the Company back to its core businesses. Several non-core businesses and interests divested throughout FY20 and FY21

Balance sheet strengthened, with surplus net cash of \$2.26m compared with Net Debt of \$8.15m at 30 June 2020

### Strategic relationship formed with HUB24 and expected to provide significant benefits including:

- Backing of a supportive, well capitalized, material shareholder
- Provision of innovative technology and data solutions
- Acquisition from HUB24 of Paragem, a quality boutique licensee, on 1 February 2021

#### Strengthened board and management team on 1 February 2021:

- New Managing Director, Nathan Jacobsen, prior executive with HUB24 as Head of Paragem
- New non-executive director Tony McDonald



# Easton considers the current market an attractive investment opportunity

Attractive investment opportunities in Financial Advice & Accounting industries in the next five years

### Growing Supply & Demand Gap

3.1 million households will be seeking advice in 2025, but financial advisers will only be able to service 2 million of those households

COVID-19 impacting supply of accounting graduates into the industry

Rising costs driving practice consolidation

#### Rebounding Economy

Post COVID-19, Australian economy forecast to rebound strongly

### A Industry Disruption Creating Opportunity

Exit of large institutions with few remaining scale providers

Cost of regulatory change impacting many businesses, leading to consolidation

Strong shift of advice practices to self licensing, but continuing to buy services

### **Opportunity for Technology Disruption**

Fourth industrial revolution (e.g., artificial intelligence) yet to impact this industry and presents exciting opportunities such as digital advice.

Partnership with Hub24 provides Easton with a technology and capital advantage that many competitors lack



### Easton now pursuing 4 strategic priorities



Triple Net Revenue in the next 3 years



Grow client base in the high margin Accounting Solutions business by 40% in the next 3 years



Grow Net Contribution margin in Wealth Solutions to 40% in 2025 (on net revenue) by investing in advice systems and processes and leveraging our technology partnership with HUB24



Become the leading non institutional provider of services to both selflicensed and licensed advice practices



# Undervalued based on market benchmarks, with highly attractive investment fundamentals

| <b>Investor Returns</b>                                     | 2021                                       | 2020       | Change     |
|---|--|------------|------------|
| Underlying Profit   | A\$6.81m                                   | A\$5.67m   | Up 20%     |
| Underlying Profit per share                                 | 19.1 cents                                 | 16.4 cents | Up 16%     |
| <b>EV / Underlying Profit</b><br>(12 month trailing)        | 5.4 times                                  | 6 times    | -0.6 times |
| Total dividend per share                                    | <b>9.0 cents</b> (inc 5c special dividend) | 4.0 cents  | Up 125%    |
| Dividend Yield  | 8.7% fully<br>franked                      | 5.3%       | Up 64%     |
| Shareholders Funds  | A\$38.63m                                  | A\$35.69m  | Up 8%      |
| <b>Return on Equity</b><br>(12 month trailing) <sup>1</sup> | 17.6%                                      | 15.9%      | Up 11%     |
| Surplus Cash/(Net Debt)                                     | A\$2.26m                                   | (A\$8.15m) | +A\$10.41m |

| Market (as at 30 June 2021)           |           |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| Shares on Issue                       | 37.61m    |
| Share Price                           | A\$1.03   |
| Market Capitalisation                 | A\$38.74m |
| Substantial Shareholders <sup>2</sup> |           |
| HUB24                                 | 31.5%     |
| Greg Hayes and related entities       | 10.5%     |
| Pie Funds Management                  | 6.2%      |
| Kevin White and related entities      | 5.5%      |

Directors believe Easton is undervalued relative to multiples and valuations applied in recently announced transactions for comparable businesses

<sup>1</sup> Return on Equity is Underlying Profit divided by Shareholders' Funds

<sup>2</sup> Holding at last substantial holder notice lodged with ASX



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### Easton Investments

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