



# Diverger Limited

**First-Half 2023**  
Results Presentation



# Divergers create positive change

We step outside our comfort zone to create more possibilities for our clients.

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This presentation has not been subject to auditor review.

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Building a market leading service platform for Advice and Accounting firms

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# FY23 1H Results & Full Year Outlook

# Diverger today - sustainable business model pursuing a defined growth strategy



## **Clear Strategy.** To become the leading service provider to advice and accounting firms

- 3 growth pillars: build scale, expand services and transform through technology
- Solid progress on execution and ahead of plan on M&A targets
- Board & management remain committed to delivering to the FY25 growth targets



## **Consistent Growth.** Sustainable business model continuing to deliver in a more challenged economic environment

- Net Revenue \$15.68m, up 6% on pcp
- Substantial inflows into CARE portfolios of \$474m, now managing \$2.47bn of investor assets
- Substantial customer base of over 3,500 advice & accounting firms



## **Disciplined Execution.** Focus on improving shareholders returns over the medium term

- Increased fully franked interim dividend to 2.0c in line with capital management policy
- Underlying EBITA \$2.93m (down 13%), following investments to support growth and higher operating costs reflecting inflationary environment
- 2H skew to earnings, expected to be relatively flat for the full year recognising the uncertain economic conditions
- Continue to explore transformational opportunities where returns to shareholders are justified

# Material progress against FY25 growth strategy

| Areas to Win                                       | Opportunity                                                                     | Key achievements – FY23 1H                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Leadership position in scale and capability</b> | Improve operating leverage and capacity to invest                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• CARE inflows \$474m</li><li>• TaxBanter brand returning to revenue growth post COVID-19</li><li>• Established a solid footprint in the fast growing self licensed advisor market, now with 160+ firms</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Service expansion</b>                           | Buy, build or partner to expand services beyond existing services               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Acquired new cyber and managed technology service Priority Networking (PNET), adding a new offer for existing firms</li><li>• Improving contribution from equity investment in advice practice</li><li>• Steady growth in back-office services through offshoring partnership</li><li>• First advice firm onboarded to Knowledge Shop education platform</li></ul> |
| <b>Customer experience</b>                         | Invest in technology and services infrastructure to enhance customer experience | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• HUBConnect analytics platform in production and providing automated reporting to compliance committees</li><li>• Launched new version of GPS client engagement software to pilot firms</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                   |

# M&A delivers towards FY25 growth targets

Transactions accretive to underlying EBITA in year 1

## KEY BENEFITS



- 35% shareholding in financial advice practice, to support growth
- Growing EBITA contribution and return on invested capital from a committed 3yr growth strategy



**PRIORITY NETWORKING**  
We get IT right the first time



- Introduces a new service for existing Diverger clients - cyber & technology support
- Material acceleration in Diverger's capability towards technology services
- Augments existing HUBConnect and technology partnerships

**AFSL Compliance**



- Establishes a strong footprint in the self-licensed advice market – fastest growing market segment
- Diverger market share of that segment materially increased from 5 to 166 firms
- Dedicated capability to grow that market segment and cross-sell other Diverger services



# Group Profit Analysis

| Segment Result                            | 1H23<br>(\$m) | 1H22<br>(\$m) | Increase/<br>(decrease)<br>% |
|-------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|------------------------------|
| Wealth Solutions                          | 8.16          | 7.52          | 8                            |
| Accounting Solutions                      | 7.50          | 7.26          | 3                            |
| Other                                     | 0.02          | -             |                              |
| <b>Net Revenue</b>                        | <b>15.68</b>  | <b>14.78</b>  | <b>6</b>                     |
| Wealth Solutions                          | 1.81          | 1.86          | (3)                          |
| Accounting Solutions                      | 2.68          | 2.85          | (6)                          |
| <b>Divisional -<br/>Underlying Profit</b> | <b>4.49</b>   | <b>4.71</b>   | <b>(5)</b>                   |
| Corporate Overheads                       | (1.56)        | (1.37)        | (15)                         |
| <b>Underlying Profit</b>                  | <b>2.93</b>   | <b>3.34</b>   | <b>(13)</b>                  |
| Normalisations                            | (0.43)        | (0.14)        |                              |
| <b>Statutory EBITA</b>                    | <b>2.50</b>   | <b>3.20</b>   | <b>(22)</b>                  |

**Net Revenue growth offset by investment in operations and higher operating costs**

## REVENUE

Continued growth in Net Revenue, at a slower rate driven by:

- Market volatility on CARE FUM
- Lower membership growth, reflecting accounting firm higher cost focus and some business development team changes
- Some adviser attrition following final FASEA education deadlines

## UNDERLYING PROFIT

Result down on pcp. Factors impacting earnings relative to prior period

- Planned investment in capability to support achievement of FY25 targets, including additional BDM staff & corporate support including investor relations, HR and project management
- Re-instatement of pre COVID-19 spend on adviser conferences, events & travel
- Higher employment costs reflecting the low unemployment environment
- Non-continuation of other one-off benefits in prior period

# Wealth Solutions

|                                          | 1H23<br>(\$m) | 1H22<br>(\$m) | Increase /<br>(decrease)<br>% |
|------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------------------|
| Net AR revenue (full advisers)           | 4.03          | 4.04          | -                             |
| Self-Licensed (SL) subscription fees     | 0.12          | 0.01          | >100                          |
| Limited Advisers (LAR) subscription fees | 0.37          | 0.54          | (32)                          |
| CARE                                     | 3.19          | 2.81          | 13                            |
| Share of profit from Associates          | 0.07          | -             | 100                           |
| Other                                    | 0.38          | 0.12          | >100                          |
| <b>Net Revenue</b>                       | <b>8.16</b>   | <b>7.52</b>   | <b>8</b>                      |
| <b>Underlying Profit</b>                 | <b>1.81</b>   | <b>1.86</b>   | <b>(3)</b>                    |

**Broadening revenue mix reflecting FY25 strategy, offset by more difficult market conditions**

## LICENSING

- Net AR revenue flat following attrition post the final FASEA education deadlines, down 6% to 145 firms, offset by improving average revenue per firm, up 5% to \$55k
- Self-licensed fees reflect acquisition of AFSL Compliance 1 Dec 22 with 160+ firms
- Limited Adviser fees down reflecting ongoing departure of accountants caused by FASEA education deadlines

## CARE

- Continued growth despite volatile markets, with Inflows of \$474m and FUM up 8% to \$2.47bn on pcp

## EQUITY INVESTMENT

- Completed 35% investment into McGregor Wealth Management (MWM) 1 July 22. Some initial delays, now with improving contribution from that investment

## Underlying Profit

- Re-instatement of pre COVID-19 spend on face-to-face conferences, events, travel & higher staff costs

# Accounting Solutions

|                          | <b>1H23<br/>(\$m)</b> | <b>1H22<br/>(\$m)</b> | <b>Increase /<br/>(decrease)<br/>%</b> |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Membership               | 3.22                  | 3.06                  | 5                                      |
| Training                 | 4.25                  | 4.15                  | 3                                      |
| Other                    | 0.03                  | 0.05                  |                                        |
| <b>Net Revenue</b>       | <b>7.50</b>           | <b>7.26</b>           | <b>3</b>                               |
| <b>Underlying Profit</b> | <b>2.68</b>           | <b>2.85</b>           | <b>(6)</b>                             |

## MEMBERSHIP

- Continued growth with 1,352 subscribing member firms, up 4% on pcp
- Slower rate of growth than pcp following transition to new BDM team and some impact from accountants responding to a rising cost environment

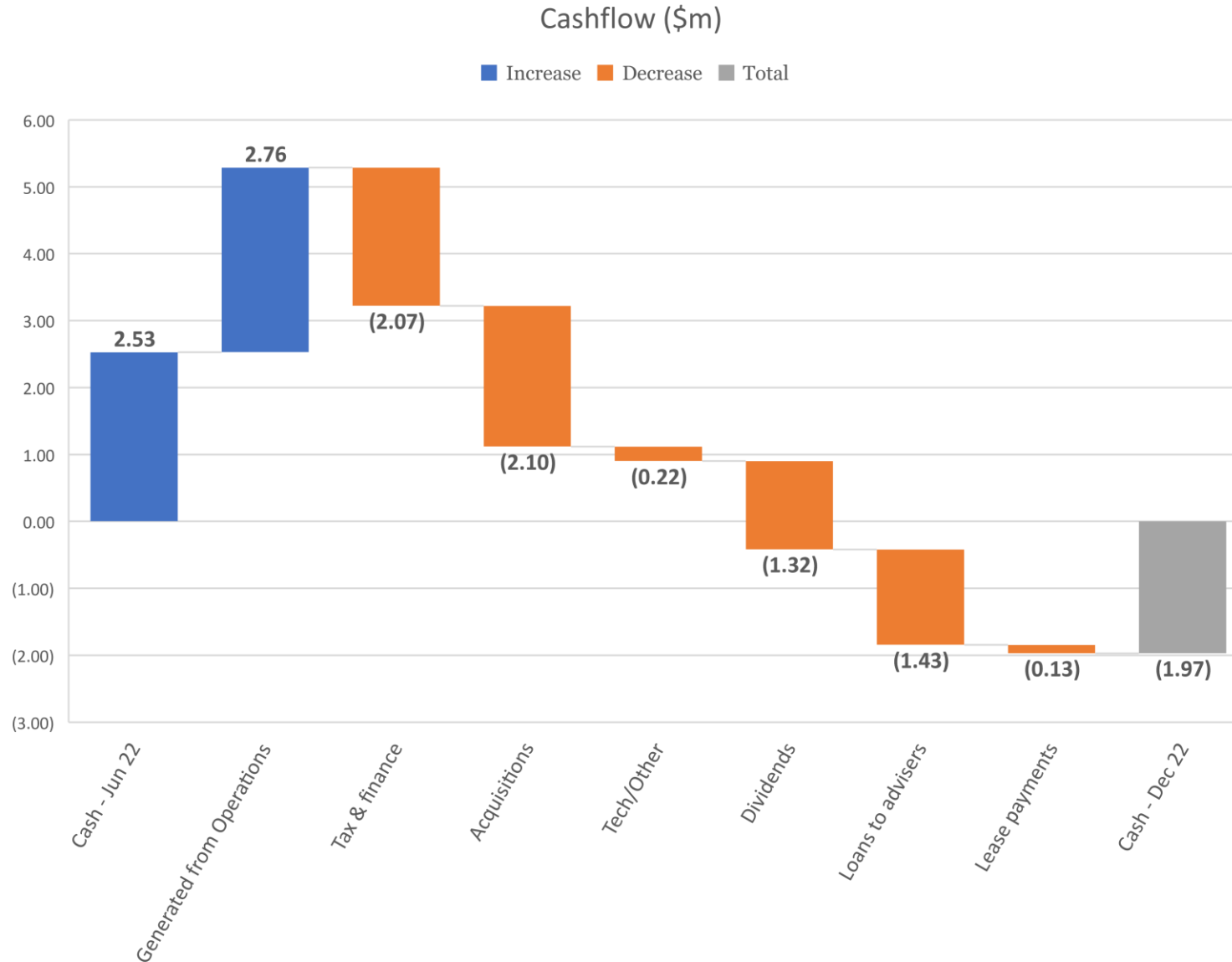
## TRAINING

- Improving momentum following period of COVID-19 disruption, with continued commitment from existing inhouse clients and new firms joining training calendar

## UNDERLYING PROFIT

- Underlying Profit down on pcp reflective of investments in the current period in both BDM's, technical staff and higher staff costs generally
- Expect EBITA margin to return to historical 38-40% run rate with anticipated revenue growth

# Cashflow



## KEY INFLUENCING FACTORS

- Strong cash alignment to earnings with most income streams received by cash in advance of delivery of services
- Statutory EBITA 1H23, \$2.50m vs Cash generated from operations \$2.76m
- Debt facility able to fund M&A in line with FY25 targets
- Short-term finance to advice firms on commercial terms

# Full Year Outlook

**Expect a 2nd half skew to earnings and relatively flat for the full year, recognising the uncertain economic conditions**

## **Continued revenue growth from core services**

- Increasing membership base improves consistent revenue growth
- Recovery in training revenue growth expected to continue
- Improving growth in CARE FUM with some market recovery and continued FUM inflows

## **Cost base stabilised**

- Wages and recruitment set for the year
- Corporate cost stable

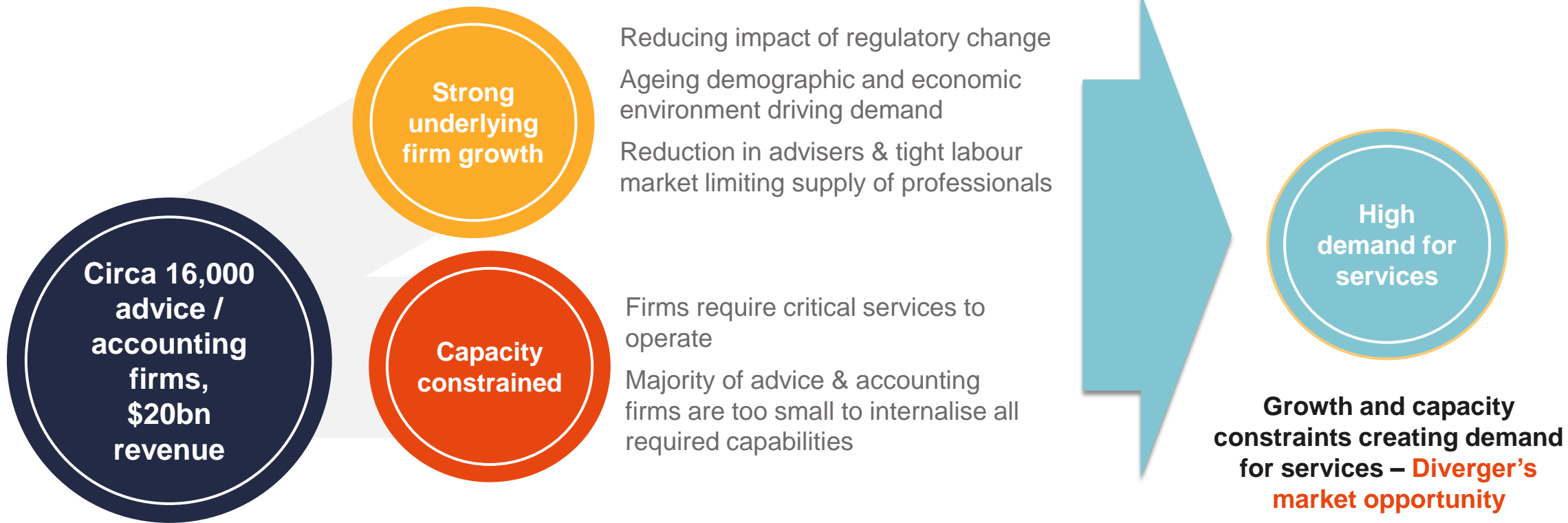
## **Growing contribution from acquisitions**

- AFSL Compliance acquired 1 Dec 22, to contribute full 6 months earnings in 2H - circa \$200k
- PNET acquired effective 1 Jan 23 to contribute full 6 months in 2H - circa \$200k+
- MWM equity investment with improving contribution in 2H relative to 1H



# Vision and Growth Strategy

# Attractive growth market for services to professional firms



# Our growth strategy is focused on leveraging this demand for services



## Increase scale and capability

- Maintain growth momentum in four core services (now five)
- Pursue accelerator acquisitions that extend scale / capabilities



## Expand services per customer

- Invest into advice practices
- Grow back-office services
- Extend membership & training to advice firms
- Extend managed portfolio services
- Grow cyber and technology services

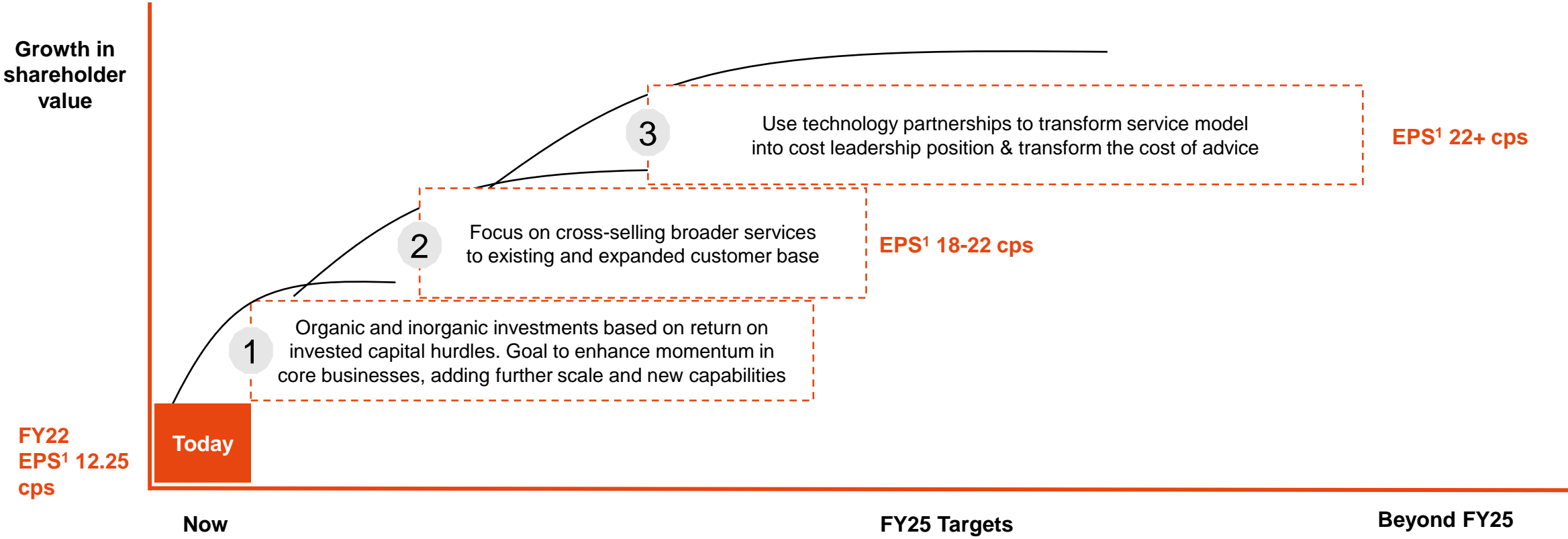


## Transform customer experience

- Continue to build out customer analytics
- Expand service automation platform
- Progress customer experience initiatives across all businesses



# Targeting growing value for shareholders through to FY25 and onward



1. Adjusted EPS (as per AGM presentation), based on NPATA, which is statutory Net Profit After Tax, adjusted for non-cash amortisation, impairment and fair value adjustments

# Committed to achieve FY25 targets

| \$m                                   | FY22      | FY25 Targets                          |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|---------------------------------------|
| Net Revenue (NR)                      | \$30.15m  | \$40m - \$45m<br>(10% - 13% CAGR)     |
| Underlying EBITA margin (%)           | 23%       | 24% - 28%                             |
| Underlying EBITA <sup>1</sup>         | \$7.06m   | \$10.5m - \$12.5m<br>(15% - 21% CAGR) |
| Adjusted EPS (NPATA/SOI) <sup>2</sup> | 12.25 cps | 18 -22 cps                            |

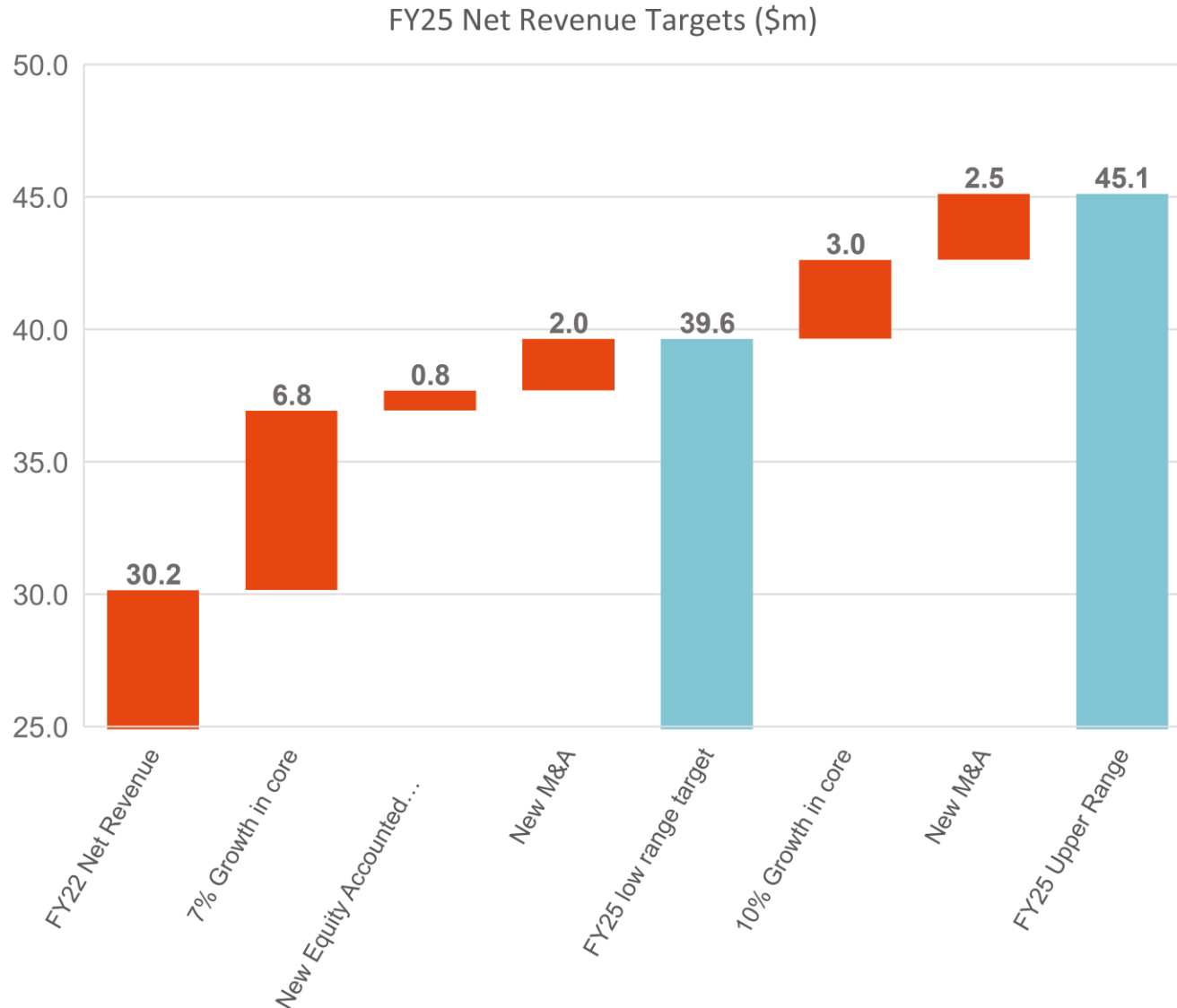
## Board approved Capital Management Policy

- Strategy to balance growth and shareholder returns
- Investments into operations funded from free cashflow and debt at accretive ROIC (Return on Invested Capital)
- NPATA used to remove the distortion of amortisation of investments with strong alignment to FCF
- **Stable Dividend payout ratio:** 40% - 60% of NPATA<sup>2</sup>
- **Conservative capital structure:** target range of 1.0 - 1.5 times Net debt / EBITA
- Board to retain flexibility outside of these guidelines based on value accretive opportunities

1. Underlying EBITA is Earnings Before Interest, Tax and Amortisation adjusted for non-operation items such as M&A costs, AASB16 adjustments and non-cash fair value/impairment adjustments and a gross up of equity accounted investments to a EBITA equivalent to enable a comparison on a like for like basis with consolidated investments.

2. NPATA is statutory Net Profit After Tax, adjusted for non-cash amortisation, impairment and fair value adjustments. Adjusted EPS is NPATA/shares on issue.

# Material progress against FY25 M&A targets



## ORGANIC GROWTH IN THE CORE:

- Revenue growth +\$0.9m v FY25 upper target of +\$14.9m
- Marginally behind low range target run rate (5% v 7%)
- 2H expected to deliver improving momentum

## M&A DRIVEN GROWTH:

- 3 completed deals – MWM, PNET, AFSL Compliance
- Acquired Revenue \$4.1m v FY25 upper target of \$5.3m
- Materially ahead of run rate and low range M&A already exceeded
- Negotiations continue with an active M&A pipeline

Management remains committed to achieving FY25 growth targets. Continue to explore transformational opportunities where returns to shareholders are justified

# Corporate Information

| Investor Returns                            | 12 mths to<br>31 Dec 22 | FY22               | Change                                              |
|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| Net Revenue                                 | \$31.05m                | \$30.15m           | Up 3%                                               |
| Underlying Profit                           | \$6.65m                 | \$7.06m            | Down 6%                                             |
| Statutory EBITA                             | \$5.86m                 | \$6.56m            | Down 11%                                            |
| EPS (Basic)                                 | 8.50 cents              | 9.47 cents         | Down 11%                                            |
| EV / Statutory EBITA<br>(12 month trailing) | 6.6 times               | 4.3 times          | Up 55%                                              |
| Dividends                                   | 5.5 cents               | 5 cents            | Up 10% in line with<br>Capital Management<br>Policy |
| Dividend Yield                              | 5.6% fully franked      | 6.2% fully franked | Down 9%                                             |
| Net (Debt)/Cash                             | (\$1.97m)               | \$2.53m            | Down \$4.5m                                         |

## Market (as at 31 Dec 2022)

|                                    |          |
|------------------------------------|----------|
| Shares on Issue                    | \$37.67m |
| Share Price                        | \$0.98   |
| Market Capitalisation              | \$36.73m |
| <b>Substantial Shareholders</b>    |          |
| HUB24                              | 31.5%    |
| Greg Hayes and related entities    | 8.6%     |
| Peter Hollick and related entities | 5.3%     |
| Pie Funds Management               | 6.2%     |



# Diverger Limited

## Contact

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**Nathan Jacobsen**

Managing Director

+61 434 608 292

ASX: DVR