

# ASX Announcement 24 August 2015

## APNO delivers strong H1 2015 result

Increases 2015 Prospectus forecast

APN Outdoor Group Limited (ASX: APO) today reported its financial results for the 6 months to June 2015.

#### Financial highlights included:

- Revenue up 25% on last year to \$136.3m
- Pro forma EBITDA up 110% on last year to \$26.6m
- Pro forma NPATA up 188% on last year to \$14.0m
- Statutory NPAT of \$12.9m
- Interim dividend of 4.5 cents per share (fully franked)

## Operational highlights include:

- Market share growth in Australia and New Zealand
- 12 Elite Screen approvals into 2015
- Sydney Airport and WA Buses contract renewals
- XtrackTV expanded into Brisbane
- NZ strategic acquisition completed Roadside Attractions

#### Financial Summary:

\$ millions	2015 H1	2014 H1	Variance \$	Variance %
Revenue	136.3	109.2	27.1	24.9%
Expenses	(109.7)	(96.5)	(13.2)	13.7%
EBITDA	26.6	12.7	13.9	110.2%
EBITDA Margin %	19.5%	11.6%		
EBIT	21.0	7.7	13.3	171.3%
NPATA	14.0	4.9	9.1	187.6%
EPS - diluted (cents)	8.4	2.9		
Based on NPATA				
Dividend (cents per share)	4.5			

Richard Herring, APN Outdoor's CEO said "The H1 performance is very encouraging and is the result of our team's successful execution of our growth strategy. We remain confident that our current initiatives, including large format digital screen development, will enable continued leadership in the Outdoor industry in Australia and New Zealand."

APN Outdoor Group Limited is a publicly listed company on the Australian Stock Exchange. As the most progressive leaders in Outdoor advertising across Australia and New Zealand, APN Outdoor boasts 36,000 high-impact sites in attention-grabbing locations. APN Outdoor is committed to driving the Outdoor industry forward and is constantly investing in research, innovation and cutting-edge digital developments to produce improved results for its advertisers.

APN Outdoor Group Limited reported first half NPATA of \$14.0m. This compares to \$4.9m in the previous corresponding half year. Revenue across Australia and New Zealand was up 25% and EBITDA grew 110% on the prior half-year.

Mr Herring also added that "the Outdoor industry's attractiveness to advertisers continues to strengthen with increasing audience potentials due to population growth and a rise in daily journeys. Against a backdrop of some other media's audience declines, Outdoor's relevance to advertisers is increasingly being recognised. It has been further boosted by recent investments in technologies and products that broaden the scope of the medium's use."

Elite Screen execution has focused on screen quality and site location to ensure best in class reputation in market is maintained. The business remains on track to deliver a target of 17 new Elite Screen in 2015 with 12 screens approved to date.

XtrackTV on the Eastern Seaboard was received with great enthusiasm by advertisers and will be further enhanced by the addition of the Adelaide market later in the year.

Also of note has been the extension of the WA bus advertising contract, whilst the acquisition of Roadside Attractions has resulted in APN Outdoor securing 113 key roadside billboard sites in New Zealand, which are complementary to the existing portfolio, as well as providing an opportunity for ongoing digitisation.

Overall the past 6 months has been a successful period for APN Outdoor, as the company continues to demonstrate superior financial management, leadership in asset development and proving the power of the medium to advertisers. We remain confident and focused on executing our growth agenda into the future.

#### Outlook

The Outdoor advertising market continues to benefit from share gains from other traditional media. These structural changes are being driven by the fragmentation of audiences of other media, together with the unique advertising opportunity created by digital outdoor screens.

In the second half of 2014, the Outdoor advertising market in Australia grew by 14%. These strong prior period results need to be considered in the context of expectations for H2 2015. Whilst forward bookings for H2 are ahead of the same time last year, there still remains around 50% of revenue to be written to achieve the revised forecast.

As a result of the strong performance from H1 and our current view of H2 market conditions, APO has revised its pro forma EBITDA forecast for the year ending 31 December 2015 to an increase of mid-teens percent above the Prospectus forecast of \$53.7m.

The board has confirmed its intention to pay a full year dividend for the year ending 31 December 2015 reflecting a payout ratio in the order of 60% of pro forma NPATA.

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## For more information

#### **Richard Herring**

Managing Director and CEO

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## Wayne Castle

CFO and Company Secretary

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## APN Outdoor 2015 Half Year Results Conference Call | Monday 24 August 2015

Chief Executive Officer Richard Herring and Chief Financial Officer Wayne Castle will host a webcast and teleconference at **9:30am AEST**.

1 800 558 698

A webcast will be available at <a href="http://webcasting.brrmedia.com/broadcast/139304">www.apnoutdoor.com.au</a> and <a href="http://webcasting.brrmedia.com/broadcast/139304">http://webcasting.brrmedia.com/broadcast/139304</a>

A teleconference will also be available and dial-in details are as follows:

Conference ID: 223946

Australia Toll Free

Alternate Australia Toll Free		1 800 809 971		
Australia Local Number	+612 9007 3187	New Zealand	0800 453 055	
China Wide	4001 200 659	Norway	800 69 950	
Belgium	0800 72 111	Philippines	1800 1110 1462	
Canada	1855 8811 339	Singapore	800 101 2785	
France	0800 913 848	South Korea	00 798 142 063 275	
Germany	0800 182 7617	Sweden	020 791 959	
Hong Kong	800 966 806	South Africa	800999976	
India	0008 0010 08443	Switzerland	800820030	
Indonesia	001 803 019 3275	Taiwan	008 0112 7397	
Ireland	1800 948 625	Thailand	001800 156 206 3275	
Italy	800 793 500	UAE	8000 3570 2705	
Japan	0053 116 1281	United Kingdom	0800 051 8245	
Malaysia	1800 816 294	United States	1855 8811 339	
Netherlands		0800 020 0715		

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