The Board of Directors
QBE Blue Ocean Re Limited
19 Par-la-Ville Road,
4th Floor,
Hamilton, HM 11

Attention: Victoria Smith

26 April 2023

Reference: MB/WS/0.1854640001 Transmittal Letter

Subject: QBE Blue Ocean Re Limited – AIFRS financial statements

Dear Recipient,

We enclose a signed copy of the consolidated financial statements of QBE Blue Ocean Re Limited, for the year ended 31 December 2022.

Very truly yours,

PricewaterhouseCoopers Ltd.

Chartered Professional Accountants

PricewaterhouseCoopers Ltd., Chartered Professional Accountants, P.O. Box HM 1171, Hamilton HM EX, Bermuda
T: +1 (441) 295 2000, F:+1 (441) 295 1242, www.pwc.com/bermuda

"PwC" refers to PricewaterhouseCoopers Ltd. (a Bermuda limited company), which is a member firm of PricewaterhouseCoopers International Limited, each member firm of which is a separate legal entity. "Partner" is a title referring to a shareholder, managing director or employee of equivalent standing of PricewaterhouseCoopers Ltd.

2022

Annual Report

QBE BLUE OCEAN RE LIMITED

Directors' report

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

The directors of QBE Blue Ocean Re Limited (the "Company") and the entities it controlled for the year present their report on the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022.

Directors

The following directors held office during the whole of the financial year and up to the date of this report:

M. Angelina
B. Carlino
D. Duclos
N. Jones
A. Sodergren
I. Singh

R. Stone was a director until 13 December 2022.
V. Smith was appointed to the Board on 1 September 2022.

David (Dave) Duclos

Chairman, Independent non-executive director

Dave was appointed non-executive director and Board Chairman of the Company as of April 19, 2018 and is a member of the Audit and Risk and Capital Committees. Dave has 44 years of insurance and reinsurance experience in a number of technical and executive level roles with INA/CIGNA, XL and QBE. Since retiring from management in 2016, he now serves on the Board of RLI, AAIS and Brightway Insurance. Dave retired from the Chair of Lloyd's Global Network on 31 December 2022.

Bruce Carlino

Chief Claims Officer

Bruce was appointed to the Board in September 2018. He has been involved in reinsurance and insurance claims for 40 years. He has served as the Chief Claims Officer for Equator Reinsurances Limited and the Company since 2015, responsible for the claims management process. Bruce was previously the Head of Claims for HCC Insurance responsible for their Specialty portfolios. Bruce also was Head of Claims for QBE Re and QBE Specialty from 2002 to 2012. Bruce is a qualified US attorney and holds the Associate in Reinsurance, the Chartered Property Casualty Underwriters (CPCU) and Chartered Insurance Operational Professional designations.

Victoria Smith

Managing Director

Victoria was appointed as Managing Director (Interim) of QBE Blue Ocean Re Limited and Equator Reinsurances Limited on 1 September 2022. Victoria joined QBE in 2019, her previous roles at QBE comprised senior Finance roles in Australia, New Zealand and Pacific Operations and QBE Group Operations. Victoria has more than 25 years' experience working in general insurance globally. She started her career at Pricewaterhouse Coopers before working for a number of London market and Bermudian insurers. Prior to joining QBE, she was an Executive Manager at Suncorp Insurance in Australia where she led a number of transactions and business growth opportunities. Victoria is a qualified Chartered Accountant and a graduate of the Institute of Company Directors in Australia.

Michael (Mike) Angelina

Independent non-executive director

Mike was appointed as an independent non-executive director of the Company in May 2018 and is Chair of the Risk and Capital Committee and a member of the Audit Committee. He is an insurance professional, with over 35 years practicing experience. Mike is a qualified actuary, former Chief Risk Officer, and insurance professional with consulting, executive, and directorship roles throughout his career. He currently serves as an Executive in Residence of the Maguire Academy of Insurance and Risk Management of Saint Joseph's University in Pennsylvania, U.S., after serving as the Executive Director for nine years where he led the Risk Management and Insurance undergraduate program.

Inder Singh

Non-independent non-executive director
Group Chief Financial Officer, QBE Insurance Group

Inder was appointed as a non-independent non-executive director of the Company in April 2021. Inder joined QBE in 2015 and was appointed Group Chief Financial Officer in 2018. His previous roles at QBE include Chief Financial Officer for Australia & New Zealand Operations and Group Head of Corporate Development and Financial Planning & Analysis. Inder has more than 20 years' experience in financial services spanning property and casualty insurance, life insurance and banking. He started his career at Arthur Andersen before working in investment banking in Sydney and London with Deutsche Bank and UBS. Prior to joining QBE, he was Group M&A Director at Aviva plc in London where he led a number or transformational transactions.

Neil Jones

Non-independent non-executive director
QBE Group Head of Ceded Reinsurance

Neil was appointed as a non-independent non-executive director of the Company in February 2018 and is a member of the Company's Sanctions Committee. He is also Chair of the QBE Group Technical Underwriting Committee and Deputy Chair of the Group Security Committee. Neil has over 30 years' experience in the reinsurance industry, 28 of them with the QBE Group, initially within the International Division and moving into a Group Reinsurance purchasing role in 2011. Neil was appointed QBE Group Head of Ceded Reinsurance in October 2021 and has responsibility for all external treaty reinsurance contracts purchased by QBE.

Amanda Sodergren **Independent non-executive director**

Amanda was appointed as an independent non-executive director of the Company in May 2018 and is Chair of the Audit and Sanctions Committees and a member of the Risk & Capital Committee. Amanda also serves on the Boards of Hellenic Mutual War Risks Association (Bermuda) Limited, The UK P&I Club and a number of the Validus AlphaCat funds. In 2020, Amanda also became an independent non-executive director of both OmegaCat Reinsurance Ltd (a carrier associated with the AlphaCat funds) and Pacific Life Re Global Ltd (a Bermuda Life reinsurer which is a subsidiary of the US Pacific Life Group). Amanda was Chief Legal Counsel and Chief Ethics Officer of PartnerRe Ltd until December 2012 and has over 30 years' experience in the insurance, reinsurance and banking industries.

Consolidated financial results highlights

	2022 US$M	2021 US$M
Gross written premium	**3,173**	2,972
Gross earned premium revenue	**3,096**	2,853
Net earned premium	**1,723**	1,923
Net claims expense	**(934)**	(1,537)
Net commission	**(405)**	(345)
Underwriting and other expenses	**(15)**	(16)
Underwriting result	**369**	25
Net investment (loss) income on policyholders' funds	**(209)**	136
Insurance profit	**160**	161
Net investment (loss) income on shareholders' funds	**(37)**	13
Financing and other costs	**(19)**	(25)
Profit before income tax	**104**	149
Income tax expense	**(38)**	(38)
Net profit after income tax	**66**	111

About the Company

The Company is a company limited by shares, incorporated on 8 February 2018 and domiciled in Bermuda. The parent entity is QBE Investments (North America), Inc. and the ultimate parent is QBE Insurance Group Limited. The parent entity is incorporated and domiciled in the United States of America with its registered office at 55 Water Street, New York, New York, U.S.A. The ultimate parent is incorporated and domiciled in Australia with its registered office at Level 18, 388 George Street, Sydney 2000, NSW Australia.

The Company has two wholly owned subsidiaries, being Equator Reinsurances Limited (Equator Re) and QBE Reinsurance Services (Bermuda) Limited (QRSB). QRSB was incorporated on 15 February 2018 and acquired by the Company on that date. Equator Re was acquired by the Company on 31 March 2018 from QBE Insurance Holdings Pty Limited.

The Company is a wholly owned internal reinsurer for the QBE Group. Based in Bermuda, the Company provides reinsurance protections to the QBE Group's operations in North America and through its subsidiary Equator Re provides reinsurance protections to the QBE Group's operations in other jurisdictions around the world. The Company aims to assist in management of QBE Group's capital and net exposure to large individual risk and catastrophe claims.

Directors' report

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

Result

Net profit after tax for the year ended 31 December 2022 was $66 million.

Whilst the impact of natural catastrophe events during the year was up when compared to the prior year, these losses were offset by related reinstatement premiums received and earned premium on the international catastrophe aggregate program.

The external loss portfolio transfer ('Lightning LPT', effective 29 June) of the North American Excess and Surplus business resulted in an underwriting loss, though this was largely offset by the underwriting gain recognised on the internal loss portfolio transfer ('Atom LPT', effective 31 December) with QBE North American, for the legacy US Financial Lines, discontinued programs and other legacy business.

Investment markets were volatile in 2022, whilst unlisted property and infrastructure assets proved resilient, investment returns were driven by mark to market losses particularly on core fixed income. As a result, net investment income decreased by $395m during the year, compared to the prior year, which is the main driver for the decrease in net profit after tax, when compared to the prior year.

The Company, being a wholly owned insurance subsidiary of a US tax resident, has elected to be treated as if it were a US tax resident. The income tax expense for the Company also includes withholding taxes imposed on outwards reinsurance contracts in certain jurisdictions, which by nature must be accounted for as income taxes.

Dividends

Dividends of $nil were paid during 2022 (2021 $nil).

Shareholders' funds

Shareholders' funds were $1,491 million at 31 December 2022 (2021 $1,425 million). Shareholders' funds increased with net profit after tax for the year of $66 million ($111 million).

Presentation currency

The presentation currency of these financial statements is US dollar.

The functional currency of the Company and its wholly owned subsidiaries are US dollar.

Outstanding claims liability

The net central estimate of outstanding claims is determined by the Chief Actuary, after consultation with internal and external actuaries. The assessment takes into account, amongst other things, a statistical analysis of past claims, allowance for claims incurred but not reported, reinsurance and other recoveries and future interest and inflation factors. The Chief Actuary provides an annual opinion on the adequacy of the outstanding claims liability as approved by the Board.

The directors consider that a risk margin is required, above the actuarial central estimate, to mitigate the inherent uncertainty in the central estimate. The probability of adequacy of the outstanding claims liability at 31 December 2022 and 31 December 2021 was within the Board's approved risk appetite.

Indemnification and insurance

During the year, a related company paid a premium in respect of a contract insuring directors and officers of the Company. In accordance with normal commercial practice, disclosure of the total amount of premium payable under, and the nature of liabilities covered by, the insurance contract is prohibited by a confidentiality clause in the contract.

No such insurance cover has been provided for the benefit of the auditor of the Company.

Significant changes

There were no significant changes in the Company's state of affairs during the financial year other.

Likely developments and expected results

Information on likely developments in the Company's operations in future financial years and the expected results of those operations have not been included in this report because disclosure of the information would be likely to result in unreasonable prejudice to the Company.

Events after balance sheet date

On 17 February 2023, the Company entered into a transaction to assume and reinsure externally certain prior accident year claims liabilities from the North America and International divisions. The transaction remains subject to regulatory approval.

Other than the above, no matter or circumstance has arisen since 31 December 2022 that, in the opinion of the directors, has significantly affected or may significantly affect the Company's operations, the results of those operations or the Company's state of affairs in future financial periods.

Material business risks

As a global reinsurance business, the Company is subject to a variety of business risks. The Board believes that effective management of these risks is critical to delivering value for its stakeholders. It is the Company's policy to adopt a rigorous approach to managing risk; risk management is a continuous process and an integral part of the Company's governance structure, its broader business processes and, most importantly, its culture.

Some of the material business risks that the Company faces include strategic, insurance, credit, market, liquidity, operational and compliance risks. Explanations of these risks and their mitigations are set out in more detail in note 4 to the financial statements.

The directors are committed to high standards of Corporate Governance. The Company adopts a proactive governance framework consistent with the requirements of the Insurance Code of Conduct issued by the Bermuda Monetary Authority and the governance and risk management requirements and best practice standards of the QBE Group.

The Company makes judgements and estimates in respect of the reported amounts of certain assets and liabilities, the most significant of which are in relation to the determination of the outstanding claims liability and the application of the liability adequacy test. More detail of each of these is included in notes 2.3 and 2.5.1 respectively.

Board selection criteria and terms of reference

Directors are selected to achieve a broad range of skills, experience and expertise complementary to the Company's activities. The Board currently comprises seven directors including two executive and five non-executive directors.

In accordance with its charter, the Board's functions include:

- establishing financial and strategic objectives;
- evaluating, approving and monitoring strategic, business and financial plans;
- establishing and monitoring an appropriate governance and operational structure of the Company for the purpose of ensuring the sound and prudent management of the Company;
- approving and monitoring the Company's risk management and internal control framework to enable key business risks to be appropriately identified and managed;
- approving and monitoring adherence to policies, including code of conduct, fitness and probity and outsourcing;
- monitoring the Company's operations against legal, regulatory and financial responsibilities;
- reviewing and ensuring the adequacy of human resources, information technology and other resources; and
- appointment and, where appropriate, removal of the external auditor.

The Board ensures it has the information it requires to be effective including, where necessary, professional advice.

Company Secretary

The Company's appointed Company Secretary is Compass Administration Services Ltd, a firm registered in Bermuda.

Directors' interests and benefits

Director fees

The Company paid directors fees of $300,000 (2021 $300,000) during the financial year to independent non-executive directors external to the QBE Group, being David Duclos, Michael Angelina and Amanda Sodergren. Executive directors of the Company and non-independent non-executive directors are remunerated for their contribution to the Board as part of their overall remuneration package, paid either by the Company or another entity within the QBE Group.

Ordinary share capital

At no time during the year did any director have a beneficial interest in the shares of the Company.

Loans to directors and executives

The Company does not provide loans to directors or executives.

Other governance matters

The Company has adopted a code of conduct which outlines a set of general business ethics that apply to all Directors and employees when conducting any activity on behalf of the Company. The code of conduct requires employees to carry out business in an open and honest manner with customers, shareholders, employees, regulatory bodies, outside suppliers, intermediaries and the community. The code provides guidelines in respect of other requirements including whistle-blowing, confidentiality, disclosure of information, conflicts of interest and fraud.

Environmental regulation

The Company is not currently required to report upon any significant environmental regulations under Bermuda legislation.

Auditor

PricewaterhouseCoopers Ltd; Chartered Professional Accountants, Bermuda, continue in office in accordance with section 327B of the Corporations Act 2001 of the Commonwealth of Australia, and Bermuda's Insurance Act 1978, amendments thereto and related Regulations.

Non-audit services

During the year, PricewaterhouseCoopers Ltd performed certain other services in addition to its statutory duties.

The Board has considered the position and is satisfied that the provision of non-audit services is compatible with the general standard of independence for auditors imposed by the *Corporations Act 2001*. The directors are also satisfied that the provision of non-audit services by the auditor, as set out in note 7.5 to the financial statements, did not compromise the auditor independence requirements of the *Corporations Act 2001*.

Details of amounts paid or payable to PricewaterhouseCoopers Ltd is provided in note 7.5 to the financial statements.

Rounding of amounts

Amounts have been rounded off in the Directors' Report to the nearest million dollars or, in certain cases, to the nearest thousand dollars.

Directors' report

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

Registered office and principal place of business

The Company's registered office and principal place of business is at the 4th Floor, 19 Par-La-Ville Road, Hamilton HM11, Bermuda.

Signed in HAMILTON, Bermuda 26th day of April 2023 in accordance with a resolution of the directors.

D. Duclos
Director

V. Smith
Director

Consolidated Financial Report contents

Consolidated Financial statements

Notes to the consolidated financial statements

This Financial Report includes the consolidated financial statements for QBE Blue Ocean Re Limited (the Company) and its controlled entities (the Group).

All amounts in this Financial Report are presented in US dollars unless otherwise stated.

QBE Blue Ocean Re Limited is a company limited by shares, incorporated and domiciled in Bermuda. Its registered office is located at:
4th Floor, 19 Par-La-Ville Road,
Hamilton HM11, Bermuda.

The parent entity is QBE Investments (North America), Inc. and the ultimate parent is QBE Insurance Group Limited (the QBE Group). The parent entity is incorporated and domiciled in the United States of America with its registered office at 55 Water Street, New York, New York, U.S.A. The ultimate parent is incorporated and domiciled in Australia with its registered office at Level 18, George Street, Sydney 2000, NSW Australia.

The Company is a wholly owned internal reinsurer for the QBE Group.

The Financial Report was authorised for issue by the directors on 26 April 2023. The directors have the power to amend and reissue the financial statements.

Consolidated statement of comprehensive income

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

	NOTE	2022 US$M	2021 US$M
Gross written premium		**3,173**	2,972
Unearned premium movement		**(77)**	(119)
Gross earned premium revenue	2.1	**3,096**	2,853
Outward reinsurance premium		**(1,366)**	(972)
Deferred reinsurance premium movement		**(7)**	42
Outward reinsurance premium expense		**(1,373)**	(930)
Net earned premium (a)		**1,723**	1,923
Gross claims expense	2.2	**(1,926)**	(2,186)
Reinsurance and other recoveries revenue	2.2	**992**	649
Net claims expense (b)	2.2	**(934)**	(1,537)
Gross commission expense		**(471)**	(409)
Reinsurance commission revenue	2.1	**66**	64
Net commission (c)		**(405)**	(345)
Underwriting and other expenses (d)		**(15)**	(16)
Underwriting result (a)+(b)+(c)+(d)		**369**	25
Investment (loss) income – policyholders' funds	3.1	**(207)**	137
Investment expenses – policyholders' funds	3.1	**(2)**	(1)
Insurance profit		**160**	161
Investment (loss) income – shareholders' funds	3.1	**(36)**	14
Investment expenses – shareholders' funds	3.1	**(1)**	(1)
Financing and other costs		**(19)**	(25)
Profit before income tax		**104**	149
Income tax expense	6.1	**(38)**	(38)
Profit after income tax		**66**	111
Other comprehensive income			
Items that may be reclassified to profit or loss			
Net movement in foreign currency translation reserve	5.2.2	**–**	–
Total comprehensive profit after income tax		**66**	111
Profit after income tax attributable to:			
Ordinary equity holders of the company		**66**	111
Total comprehensive income after income tax attributable to:			
Ordinary equity holders of the company		**66**	111

EARNINGS PER SHARE FOR PROFIT AFTER INCOME TAX ATTRIBUTABLE TO ORDINARY EQUITY HOLDERS OF THE COMPANY	NOTE	2022 US CENTS	2021 US CENTS
Basic earnings per share	5.4	**5**	9

The consolidated statement of comprehensive income should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Consolidated balance sheet

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

	NOTE	2022 US$M	2021 US$M
Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	5.1	**287**	303
Investments	3.2	**3,349**	3,318
Derivative financial instruments	5.5	**52**	16
Trade and other receivables	2.6	**2,013**	1,763
Current tax assets		**23**	–
Net deferred insurance costs	2.5	**414**	397
Reinsurance and other recoveries on outstanding claims	2.3	**2,838**	3,084
Right-of-use assets		**–**	1
Property, plant and equipment		**–**	1
Deferred tax assets	6.2	**44**	65
Total assets		**9,020**	8,948
Liabilities			
Derivative financial instruments	5.5	**42**	22
Trade and other payables	2.7	**768**	925
Current tax liabilities		**–**	4
Unearned premium	2.5	**939**	862
Outstanding claims	2.3	**5,779**	5,709
Lease liabilities		**1**	1
Total liabilities		**7,529**	7,523
Net assets		**1,491**	1,425
Equity			
Contributed equity	5.2.1	**1,344**	1,344
Reserves	5.2.2	**(190)**	(190)
Retained profits		**337**	271
Total equity		**1,491**	1,425

The consolidated balance sheet should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Consolidated statement of changes in equity

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

2022	**CONTRIBUTED EQUITY US$M**	**RESERVES US$M**	**RETAINED PROFITS US$M**	**SHARE-HOLDERS' FUNDS US$M**	**TOTAL EQUITY US$M**
As at 1 January	**1,344**	**(190)**	**271**	**1,425**	**1,425**
Profit after income tax	**–**	**–**	**66**	**66**	**66**
Other comprehensive income	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**
Total comprehensive income	**–**	**–**	**66**	**66**	**66**
Transactions with owners in their capacity as owners					
Shares issued during the period	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**
As at 31 December	**1,344**	**(190)**	**337**	**1,491**	**1,491**

2021	**CONTRIBUTED EQUITY US$M**	**RESERVES US$M**	**RETAINED PROFITS US$M**	**SHARE-HOLDERS' FUNDS US$M**	**TOTAL EQUITY US$M**
As at 1 January	1,169	(190)	160	1,139	1,139
Profit after income tax	–	–	111	111	111
Other comprehensive income	–	–	–	–	–
Total comprehensive income	–	–	111	111	111
Transactions with owners in their capacity as owners					
Shares issued during the period	175	–	–	175	175
As at 31 December	1,344	(190)	271	1,425	1,425

The consolidated statement of changes in equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Consolidated statement of cash flows

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

	NOTE	2022 US$M	2021 US$M
Operating activities			
Premium received		**2,955**	3,217
Reinsurance and other recoveries received		**1,051**	527
Outward reinsurance paid		**(1,399)**	(280)
Claims paid		**(1,717)**	(2,645)
Acquisition and other underwriting costs paid		**(470)**	(583)
Interest received		**50**	60
Dividends received		**27**	26
Income taxes paid		**(44)**	(48)
Finance costs paid		**(18)**	(25)
Net cash flows from operating activities	7.3	**435**	249
Investing activities			
Proceeds on sale of growth assets		**40**	120
Payments for foreign transactions		**59**	65
Payment for purchase of growth assets		**(37)**	–
Proceeds on sale of interest-bearing financial assets		**(495)**	(365)
Net cash flows from investing activities		**(433)**	(180)
Financing activities			
Proceeds from issue of shares		**–**	175
Payments to related entity		**5**	(175)
Net cash flows from financing activities		**5**	**–**
Net movement in cash and cash equivalents		**7**	69
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		**303**	310
Effect of exchange rate changes		**(23)**	(76)
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	5.1	**287**	303

The consolidated statement of cash flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Effective 29 June 2022, QBE North America ceded certain discontinued books of business, to the Company, through an internal loss portfolio transfer. The Company then ceded the risk out to a third party reinsurer, through an external loss portfolio transfer. Both the Company and the third party reinsurer are required to hold funds as collateral for the related reinsurance recoverables, of $388m. Of which, the Company settled $124 million through an in-specie transfer of investments to a trust fund. Since the transfer of investments is a non-cash investing activity, it has been excluded from the statement of cash flows. The remaining settlements are recorded within cash flows from operating activities.

Notes to the consolidated financial statements

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

1. OVERVIEW

1.1 About the Company

About our ultimate parent, the QBE Group

QBE Group is one of the world's largest insurance and reinsurance companies, with operations in all the major insurance markets. Formed in Australia in 1886, QBE employs more than 12,000 people and carries on insurance activities in 27 countries, with operations in Australia, Europe, North America, Asia and the Pacific.

The QBE Group is listed on the Australian Securities Exchange and is a for-profit entity.

About our history and activities

The Company is a company limited by shares, incorporated on 8 February 2018, and domiciled in Bermuda. The parent entity is QBE Investments (North America), Inc. and the ultimate parent is QBE Insurance Group Limited.

The Company has two wholly owned subsidiaries, being Equator Reinsurances Limited (Equator Re) and QBE Reinsurance Services (Bermuda) Limited. QBE Reinsurance Services (Bermuda) Limited was incorporated on 15 February 2018 and acquired by the Company on that date. Equator Reinsurances Limited was acquired by the Company on 31 March 2018 from QBE Insurance Holdings Pty Limited.

The Company is a wholly owned internal reinsurer for the QBE Group. Based in Bermuda, the Company provides reinsurance protections to the QBE Group's operations around the world. Business written and retained by the Company is within the risk appetite of the QBE Group and is designed to support the management of aggregate exposures to any one large individual risk or catastrophe claim and to optimise the levels of capital held within the QBE Group.

About insurance

In simple terms, reinsurance companies help their policyholders (insurance companies) to manage risk. More broadly put, a reinsurance company creates value by pooling and redistributing risk. This is done by collecting premium from those that it insures, and then paying the claims of the few that call upon their insurance protection. The Company may also choose to reduce some of its own accumulated risk through the use of outward reinsurance. As not all policyholders will actually experience a claims event, the effective pooling and redistribution of risk lowers the total cost of risk management, thereby making insurance protection more cost effective for all.

The operating model of reinsurance companies relies on profits being generated:

- by appropriately pricing risk and charging adequate premium to cover the expected payouts that will be incurred over the life of the policy (both claims and operating expenses); and
- by earning a return on the collected premium and funds withheld to pay future claims through the adoption of an appropriate investment strategy.

Reinsurance therefore serves a critical function of providing customers with the confidence to achieve their business goals through cost-effective risk management. This is achieved within a highly regulated environment, designed to ensure that reinsurance companies maintain adequate capital to protect the interests of policyholders. The Company is regulated by the Bermuda Monetary Authority, who also liaises with other global regulators including the QBE Group regulator, Australian Prudential Regulatory Authority.

1.2 About this report

This Financial Report includes the consolidated financial statements of QBE Blue Ocean Re Limited (the Company) and its controlled entities (the Group).

The Financial Report includes the four primary statements, namely the consolidated statement of comprehensive income (which comprises profit or loss and other comprehensive income), consolidated balance sheet, consolidated statement of changes in equity and consolidated statement of cash flows as well as associated notes as required by Australian Accounting Standards, subject to materiality and commercial confidentiality. Disclosures have been grouped into the following categories in order to assist users in their understanding of our financial statements:

1. **Overview** contains information that impacts the Financial Report as a whole.
2. **Underwriting activities** brings together results and balance sheet disclosures relevant to the Company's reinsurance activities.
3. **Investment activities** include the results and balance sheet disclosures relevant to the Company's investment activities.
4. **Risk management** provides commentary on the Company's exposure to various financial and capital risks, explaining the potential impact on the results and balance sheet and how the Company manages these risks.
5. **Capital structure** provides information about the Company's capital.
6. **Tax** includes required disclosures in relation to the Company's tax balances.
7. **Other** includes additional disclosures required in order to comply with Australian Accounting Standards.

Where applicable within each note, disclosures are further analysed as follows:

- **Overview** provides some context to assist users in understanding the disclosures.
- **Disclosures** (both numbers and commentary) provides analysis of balances as required by Australian Accounting Standards.
- **How we account for the numbers** summarises the accounting policies relevant to an understanding of the numbers.
- **Critical accounting judgements and estimates** explains the key estimates and judgements applied by management in determining the numbers.

The notes include information which the directors believe is required to understand the financial statements and is material and relevant to the operations, balance sheet and results of the Company. Information is considered material and relevant if:

- the amount in question is significant because of its size or nature; and
- it is important to assist an understanding the results of the Company.

1.2.1 Basis of preparation

This Financial Report is a general purpose financial report which:

- has been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations as issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB), and complies with the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board and Interpretations as issued by the IFRS Interpretations Committee (IFRIC);
- has been prepared on a historical cost basis as modified by certain exceptions, the most significant of which are the measurement of investments and derivatives at fair value and the measurement of the net outstanding claims liability at present value;
- is presented in US dollars; and
- is presented with values rounded to the nearest million dollars or, in certain cases, to the nearest thousand dollars.

New and amended Accounting Standards and Interpretations issued by the AASB that are now effective are detailed in note 7.1.

The Company has not adopted any Accounting Standards and Interpretations that have been issued or amended but are not yet effective.

1.2.2 Critical accounting judgements and estimates

The preparation of the Company's financial statements requires management to make judgements and estimates that affect amounts reported in the profit or loss and balance sheet. The key areas in which critical estimates and judgements are applied are as follows:

- net outstanding claims liability (note 2.3);
- recoveries on the group reinsurance covers (note 3.2); and
- liability adequacy test (note 2.5.1).

The Company continues to monitor the potential impacts of COVID-19 on key areas of judgement. While the areas of critical accounting judgements and estimates did not change, the impact of COVID-19 resulted in the application of judgement in the determination of the net discounted central estimate and risk margin is discussed in the relevant notes where appropriate. Given the continued uncertainty in relation to potential legislative outcomes, the impact of any changes will be accounted for in future reporting periods as they arise.

1.2.3 Foreign currency

Translation of foreign currency transactions and balances

Foreign currency transactions are translated into functional currencies at the spot rates of exchange applicable at the dates of the transactions. At the balance sheet date, monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are remeasured at the rates of exchange prevailing at that date. Resulting exchange gains and losses are included in profit or loss.

Derivatives and hedging transactions

The Company uses derivatives in mitigating risk associated with foreign currency transactions and balances.

Exchange rates

The principal exchange rates used in the preparation of the financial statements were:

	2022		2021	
	PROFIT OR LOSS	BALANCE SHEET	PROFIT OR LOSS	BALANCE SHEET
A$/US$	**0.693**	**0.678**	0.751	0.727
£/US$	**1.232**	**1.203**	1.375	1.353

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2. UNDERWRITING ACTIVITIES

Overview

This section provides analysis and commentary on the Company's underwriting activities. Underwriting, in simple terms, is the agreement by the reinsurer to assume reinsurance risk in return for a premium paid by the reinsured. The underwriter assesses the quality of the risk and prices it accordingly.

2.1 Revenue

Overview

Revenue comprises premiums charged for providing reinsurance coverage. Inwards reinsurance business assumed is largely from related entities on either a quota share or excess of loss basis. Materially all outwards reinsurance business is placed with third parties. Other sources of revenue include amounts recovered from reinsurers under the terms of reinsurance contracts and commission income from reinsurers.

	NOTE	2022 US$M	2021 US$M
Gross earned premium revenue			
Inward reinsurance business earned		**3,096**	2,853
Other revenue			
Reinsurance and other recoveries revenue	2.2	**992**	649
Reinsurance commission revenue		**66**	64
		4,154	3,566

How we account for the numbers

Premium revenue

Premium written comprises inwards reinsurance amounts charged to the reinsured, excluding taxes collected on behalf of third parties. Premium is recognised as revenue in profit or loss based on the incidence of the pattern of risk associated with the reinsurance policy. The earned portion of premium on unclosed business, being business that is written at the balance sheet date but for which detailed policy information is not yet booked, is also included in premium revenue.

Reinsurance and other recoveries

Reinsurance and other recoveries on paid claims, reported claims not yet paid, claims incurred but not reported (IBNR), and claims incurred but not enough reported (IBNER) are recognised as revenue. Recoveries are measured as the present value of the expected future receipts.

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2.2 Net claims expense

Overview

The largest expense for the Company and its subsidiaries is net claims expense, which is the difference between the net outstanding claims liability (as described in note 2.3 below) at the beginning and the end of the financial year plus any claims payments made net of reinsurance and other recoveries received during the financial year.

	NOTE	2022 US$M	2021 US$M
Gross claims expense		**1,926**	2,186
Reinsurance and other recoveries revenue		**992**	649
Net claims expense		**934**	1,537
Analysed as follows:			
Movement in net discounted central estimate	2.4.2	**947**	1,518
Movement in risk margin	2.3.3	**(13)**	19
Net claims expense		**934**	1,537

2.3 Net outstanding claims liability

Overview

The net outstanding claims liability comprises the elements described below.

- The gross discounted central estimate (note 2.3.1). This is the present value of the expected future claims payments and includes claims reported but not yet paid, claims incurred but which have not yet been reported (IBNR), claims incurred but not enough reported (IBNER) and estimated claims handling costs; less
- reinsurance and other recoveries (note 2.3.2). The Company purchases reinsurance to manage its exposure to any one claim or series of claims. When it incurs a claim as a result of an insured loss, it may be able to recover some of that claim from reinsurance. It includes an allowance for IBNR on these reinsurances to the extent that IBNR on gross claims would trigger a recovery; less
- an amount to reflect the discount to present value using risk-free rates of return. The net central estimate (gross central estimate less reinsurance and other recoveries) is discounted to present value recognising that the claim and/or recovery may not be settled for some time. The weighted average risk-free rate for each operating segment are summarised in note 2.3.4; plus
- a risk margin (note 2.3.3). A risk margin is added to reflect the inherent uncertainty in the net discounted central estimate of outstanding claims.

	NOTE	2022 US$M	2021 US$M
Gross discounted central estimate	2.3.1	**5,463**	5,373
Risk margin	2.3.3	**316**	336
Gross outstanding claims liability		**5,779**	5,709
Reinsurance and other recoveries on outstanding claims	2.3.2	**(2,838)**	(3,084)
Net outstanding claims liability		**2,941**	2,625

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The table below analyses the movement in the net outstanding claims liability, showing separately the movement in gross claims liability and the impact of reinsurance.

		2022			2021		
	NOTE	GROSS US$M	REINSURANCE US$M	NET US$M	GROSS US$M	REINSURANCE US$M	NET US$M
At 1 January		**5,709**	**(3,084)**	**2,625**	6,240	(3,507)	2,733
Claims expense – current accident year	2.4.2	**1,774**	**(736)**	**1,038**	1,407	(421)	986
Claims expense – prior accident year	2.4.2	**165**	**(256)**	**(91)**	760	(228)	532
Movement in risk margin		**(13)**	**–**	**(13)**	19	–	19
Incurred claims recognised in profit or loss	2.2	**1,926**	**(992)**	**934**	2,186	(649)	1,537
Claims payments		**(1,717)**	**1,153**	**(564)**	(2,645)	1,036	(1,609)
Foreign exchange		**(139)**	**85**	**(54)**	(72)	36	(36)
At 31 December		**5,779**	**(2,838)**	**2,941**	5,709	(3,084)	2,625

2.3.1 Gross discounted central estimate

	NOTE	2022 US$M	2021 US$M
Gross undiscounted central estimate excluding claims settlement costs [1]		**6,069**	5,551
Claims settlement costs		**1**	1
Gross undiscounted central estimate		**6,070**	5,552
Discount to present value		**(607)**	(179)
Gross discounted central estimate	2.3	**5,463**	5,373
Payable within 12 months		**2,081**	1,929
Payable in greater than 12 months		**3,382**	3,444
Gross discounted central estimate	2.3	**5,463**	5,373

1 At 31 December 2022 the Company had issued, in its own name and through QBE Group, letters of credit totalling $1,873 million (2021 $1,599 million) for the benefit of various ceding entities.

Critical accounting judgements and estimates

The gross discounted central estimate is the present value of the expected future payments for claims incurred and includes reported but unpaid claims, IBNR, IBNER and claims handling costs. The central estimate is determined by the Chief Actuary, supported by a team of actuaries and with input from peers in other QBE divisions and QBE Group head office. The valuation process is performed quarterly and includes extensive consultation with claims and underwriting staff as well as senior management. The central estimate of outstanding claims is subject to a comprehensive independent review at least annually. The risk management procedures related to the actuarial function are explained further in note 4.2.

The determination of the amounts that the Company will ultimately pay for claims arising under inward reinsurance contracts involves a number of critical assumptions. Some of the uncertainties impacting these assumptions are as follows:

- changes in patterns of claims incidence, reporting and payment;
- volatility in the estimation of future costs for long tail insurance classes due to the longer period of time that can elapse before a claim is paid in full;
- the existence of complex underlying exposures;
- the incidence of catastrophic events close to the balance sheet date;
- changes in the legal environment, including the interpretation of liability laws and the quantum of damages;
- changing social, environmental, political and economic trends, for example price and wage inflation; and
- impact of COVID-19.

The estimation of IBNR and IBNER is generally subject to a greater degree of uncertainty than the estimation of the cost of settling claims already reported to the Company but not yet paid, for which more information about the claims is generally available. The notification and settlement of claims relating to liability and other long tail classes of business may not happen for many years after the event giving rise to the claim. As a consequence, liability and other long tail classes typically display greater variability between initial estimates and final settlement due to delays in reporting claims and uncertainty in respect of court awards and future claims inflation. Claims in respect of property and other short tail classes are typically reported and settled soon after the claim event, giving rise to more certainty.

Central estimates for each class of business are determined using a variety of estimation techniques, generally based on an analysis of historical experience and with reference to external benchmarks where relevant. The gross central estimate is discounted to present value using the appropriate risk-free rate.

Central estimates are calculated gross of any reinsurance and other recoveries. A separate estimate is made of the amounts recoverable from reinsurers based on the gross central estimate (note 2.3.2).

COVID-19

The projected net ultimate cost of COVID-19 related claims is based on detailed reviews of the Company's emerging claims experience and exposure, and allows for the Company's reinsurance projections. Litigation outcomes relating to the Company's property business interruption exposure, has been considered in the determination of the net discounted central estimate and risk margin. Key recent legislative outcomes include the Australian High Court decision to decline applications for special leave to appeal aspects of the second industry test case judgement, and the UK High Court judgements in respect of the Corbin & King, Stonegate, Greggs and Various Eateries cases.

2.3.2 Reinsurance and other recoveries on outstanding claims

	NOTE	2022 US$M	2021 US$M
Reinsurance and other recoveries on outstanding claims – undiscounted [1]		**3,103**	3,164
Discount to present value		**(265)**	(80)
Reinsurance and other recoveries on outstanding claims	2.3	**2,838**	3,084
Receivable within 12 months		**1,186**	1,133
Receivable in greater than 12 months		**1,652**	1,951
Reinsurance and other recoveries on outstanding claims	2.3	**2,838**	3,084

1 Net of a provision for impairment of $6.5 million (2021 $16.6 million)

How we account for the numbers

The recoverability of amounts due from reinsurers is assessed at each balance sheet date to ensure that the balances properly reflect the amounts that are ultimately expected to be received, taking into account counterparty credit risk and the contractual terms of the reinsurance contract. Counterparty credit risk in relation to reinsurance assets is considered in note 4.3. Recoveries are discounted to present value using the appropriate risk-free rate.

2.3.3 Risk margin

Overview

A risk margin is determined by the Company's Board to account for the inherent uncertainty in the net discounted central estimate.

The risk margin and the net discounted central estimate are key inputs in the determination of the probability of adequacy, which is a statistical measure of the relative adequacy of the outstanding claims liability to ultimately be able to pay claims. For example, a 90% probability of adequacy indicates that the outstanding claims liability is expected to be adequate nine years in ten.

		2022	2021
Risk margin	US$M	**316**	336
Risk margin as a percentage of the net discounted central estimate	%	**12.0**	14.7
Probability of adequacy [1]	%	**90.4**	90.3

1 The approach to determine the probability of adequacy of the outstanding claims liabilities is consistent with previous years.

How we account for the numbers

AASB 1023 *General Insurance Contracts* requires an entity to adopt an appropriate risk margin. The resulting probability of adequacy is not of itself an accounting policy as defined by AASB 108 *Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors*. The appropriate level of risk margin is not determined by reference to a fixed probability of adequacy.

The Company reviews a number of factors when determining the appropriate risk margin, including any changes in the level of uncertainty in the net discounted central estimate, the resulting probability of adequacy and the risk margin as a percentage of the net discounted central estimate.

Critical accounting judgements and estimates

The risk margin is determined by the Board and is held to mitigate the potential for uncertainty in the net discounted central estimate. The determination of the appropriate level of risk margin takes into account similar factors to those used to determine the central estimate, such as:

- mix of business, in particular the mix of short tail and long tail business and the overall weighted average term to settlement; and
- the level of uncertainty in the central estimate due to estimation error, data quality, variability of key inflation assumptions and possible economic and legislative changes.

The variability by class of business is measured using techniques that determine a range of possible outcomes of ultimate payments and assign a likelihood to outcomes at different levels. These techniques generally use standard statistical distributions, and the measure of variability is referred to as the coefficient of variation.

At a fixed probability of adequacy, the appropriate risk margin for two or more classes of business or for two or more geographic locations combined is likely to be less than the sum of the risk margins for the individual classes. This reflects the benefit of diversification in reinsurance. The statistical measure used to determine diversification is called the correlation. The higher the correlation between two classes of business, the more likely it is that a negative outcome in one class will correspond to a negative outcome in the other class. For example, high correlation exists between classes of business affected by court cases involving bodily injury claims such as motor third party liability, workers' compensation and public liability, particularly in the same jurisdiction.

The probability of adequacy for the Company is determined by analysing the variability of each class of business and the correlation between classes of business and geographic locations. Correlations are determined for aggregations of classes of business, where appropriate. The correlations adopted by the Company are generally derived from industry analysis, the Company's (and QBE Group trends as appropriate) historical experience and the judgement of experienced and qualified actuaries.

2.3.4 Discount rate used to determine the outstanding claims liability

Overview

Claims in relation to long tail classes of business (e.g. professional indemnity and workers' compensation) typically may not settle for many years. As such, the liability is discounted to reflect the time value of money. The table below summarises the weighted average discount rates utilised for each operating segment.

	2022 %	2021 %
North America	**0.00 – 4.86**	0.00 – 1.34
International	**2.45 – 4.38**	0.00 – 1.57
Australia Pacific	**2.63 – 4.50**	0.08 – 2.63
External	**3.80 – 3.80**	1.19 – 1.19
All Segments	**2.45 – 4.70**	0.00 – 1.60

How we account for the numbers

AASB 1023 *General Insurance Contracts* requires that the net central estimate is discounted to reflect the time value of money using risk-free rates that are based on current observable, objective rates that relate to the nature, structure and terms of the future obligations.

2.3.5 Weighted average term to settlement

Overview

The weighted average term to settlement refers to the period from the balance sheet date to the expected date of claims settlement. All other factors being equal, a longer weighted average term to settlement generally results in a larger benefit from discount and a resulting lower net discounted central estimate. The material increase in risk-free rates used to discount the outstanding claims liability has driven the reductions in weighted average term to settlement in the current period. The table below summarises the weighted average term to settlement for each operating segment.

	2022 YEARS						2021 YEARS					
	US$	£	A$	€	OTHER	TOTAL	US$	£	A$	€	OTHER	TOTAL
North America	**3.4**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**3.4**	4.0	–	–	–	–	4.0
International	**2.5**	**2.4**	**3.7**	**1.8**	**1.4**	**2.4**	2.6	2.5	3.9	1.7	1.8	2.4
Australia Pacific	**2.2**	**–**	**2.2**	**–**	**2.1**	**1.9**	2.8	–	2.0	–	2.0	2.3
External	**1.5**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**1.5**	1.7	–	–	–	–	1.7
All Segments	**2.7**	**2.4**	**2.4**	**1.8**	**1.8**	**3.4**	2.9	2.5	2.3	1.7	1.9	3.8

2.3.6 Net discounted central estimate maturity profile

Overview

The maturity profile is the Company's expectation of the period over which the net central estimate will be settled. The Company uses this information to ensure that it has adequate liquidity to pay claims as they are due to be settled and to inform the Company's investment strategy. The expected maturity profile of the Company's net discounted central estimate is analysed below.

2022	LESS THAN ONE YEAR US$M	13 TO 24 MONTHS US$M	25 TO 36 MONTHS US$M	37 TO 48 MONTHS US$M	49 TO 60 MONTHS US$M	OVER 5 YEARS US$M	TOTAL US$M
North America	**355**	**245**	**181**	**121**	**83**	**176**	**1,161**
International	**397**	**209**	**150**	**99**	**92**	**204**	**1,151**
Australia Pacific	**140**	**66**	**33**	**23**	**22**	**24**	**308**
External	**3**	**4**	**2**	**(1)**	**(1)**	**(2)**	**5**
All Segments	**895**	**524**	**366**	**242**	**196**	**402**	**2,625**

2021	LESS THAN ONE YEAR US$M	13 TO 24 MONTHS US$M	25 TO 36 MONTHS US$M	37 TO 48 MONTHS US$M	49 TO 60 MONTHS US$M	OVER 5 YEARS US$M	TOTAL US$M
North America	565	336	237	164	119	330	1,751
International	68	84	50	28	22	87	339
Australia Pacific	160	45	13	(3)	(3)	(15)	197
External	–	–	1	1	–	–	2
All Segments	793	465	301	190	138	402	2,289

2.3.7 Impact of changes in key variables on the net outstanding claims liability

Overview

The impact of changes in key variables used in the calculation of the outstanding claims liability is summarised in the table below. Each change has been calculated in isolation from the other changes and shows the after-tax impact on profit or loss assuming that there is no change to any of the other variables. In practice, this is considered unlikely to occur as, for example, an increase in interest rates is normally associated with an increase in the rate of inflation. Over the medium to longer term, the impact of a change in discount rates is expected to be largely offset by the impact of a change in the rate of inflation.

The sensitivities below assume that all changes directly impact profit after tax. If the central estimate was to increase, it is possible that part of the increase may result in an offsetting change in the level of risk margin required rather than in a change to profit after tax, depending on the nature of the change in the central estimate and risk outlook. Likewise, if the coefficient of variation were to increase, it is possible that the probability of adequacy would reduce from its current level rather than result in a change to net profit after income tax.

	SENSITIVITY %	PROFIT (LOSS) [1] 2022 US$M	2021 US$M
Net discounted central estimate	+5	**(104)**	(90)
	-5	**104**	90
Risk margin	+5	**(12)**	(13)
	-5	**12**	13
Inflation rate	+1	**(46)**	(47)
	-1	**37**	42
Discount rate	+1	**37**	42
	-1	**(46)**	(47)
Coefficient of variation	+1	**(23)**	(18)
	-1	**23**	18
Probability of adequacy	+1	**(12)**	(13)
	-1	**11**	13
Weighted average term to settlement	+10	**20**	6
	-10	**(21)**	(6)

1 The impact of a change in interest rates on net profit after income tax due to market value movements on fixed interest securities is shown in note 4.4.

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2.4 Claims development – net undiscounted central estimate

Overview

The claims development table demonstrates the extent to which the original estimate of net ultimate claims payments in any one accident year (item (a) in the table below) has subsequently developed favourably (i.e. claims cost estimates have reduced) or unfavourably (i.e. further claims expense has been recognised in subsequent years). This table therefore illustrates the variability and inherent uncertainty in estimating the central estimate each year. The ultimate claims cost for any particular accident year is not known until all claims payments have been made which, for some long tail classes of business, could be many years into the future. The estimated ultimate claims payments at the end of each subsequent accident year demonstrates how the original estimate has been revised over time (b).

Cumulative net claims payments (d) are deducted from the estimate of net ultimate claims payments in each accident year (c) at the current balance sheet date, resulting in the undiscounted central estimate at a fixed rate of exchange (e). This is revalued to the balance sheet date rate of exchange (f) to report the net undiscounted central estimate (g), which is reconciled to the discounted net outstanding claims liability (h). The treatment of foreign exchange in the claims development table is explained on the following page.

The net increase (decrease) in estimated net ultimate claims payments (i) reflects the estimated ultimate net claims payments at the end of the current financial year (c) less the equivalent at the end of the previous financial year (b). This is further summarised in note 2.4.1. The claims development table is presented net of reinsurance.

		2012 & PRIOR US$M	2013 US$M	2014 US$M	2015 US$M	2016 US$M	2017 US$M	2018 US$M	2019 US$M	2020 US$M	2021 US$M	2022 US$M	TOTAL US$M
Net ultimate claims payments [1]													
(a)	Original estimate of net ultimate claims payments		–	–	–	–	–	–	980	1,309	1,010	1,139	4,438
(b)	One year later		–	–	–	–	–	1,211	1,142	1,540	1,079		4,972
	Two years later		–	–	–	–	2,294	1,172	1,303	1,504			6,273
	Three years later		–	–	–	1,433	2,340	1,194	1,294				6,261
	Four years later		–	–	874	1,470	2,410	1,193					5,947
	Five years later		–	1,740	846	1,510	2,403						6,499
	Six years later		1,834	1,742	852	1,516							5,944
	Seven years later		1,842	1,734	854								4,430
	Eight years later		1,847	1,724									3,571
	Nine years later		1,848										1,848
(c)	Current estimate of net ultimate claims payments		1,848	1,724	854	1,516	2,403	1,193	1,294	1,504	1,079	1,139	14,554
(d)	Cumulative net payments to date		(1,807)	(1,717)	(943)	(1,433)	(2,190)	(1,161)	(993)	(704)	(553)	(260)	(11,761)
(e)	Net undiscounted central estimate at fixed rate of exchange	162	41	7	(89)	83	213	32	301	800	526	879	2,955
(f)	Foreign exchange impact												5
	Provision for impairment												6
(g)	Net undiscounted central estimate at 31 Dec 2022												2,966
	Discount to present value												(342)
	Claims settlement costs												1
	Risk margin												316
(h)	Net outstanding claims liability at 31 Dec 2022 (note 2.3)												2,941
(i)	Movement in estimated net ultimate claims payments (note 2.4.1)	25	1	(11)	2	6	(7)	(1)	(10)	(36)	69	1,139	1,177

1 Excludes claims settlement costs. On 31 December 2022, the Company entered into a retrospective reinsurance arrangement assuming $440m (2021 $280m) of net outstanding claims liabilities in return for a premium received, these claims liabilities have been attributed to their respective accident year.

How we account for the numbers

The estimate of net ultimate claims payments attributable to business acquired is generally included in the claims development table in the accident year in which the acquisition was made. This includes the acquisition of net outstanding claims liabilities via loss portfolio transfers.

The Company writes business in currencies other than the US dollar. The translation of ultimate claims estimates denominated in foreign currencies gives rise to foreign exchange movements which have no direct bearing on the development of the underlying claims. To eliminate this distortion, amounts have been translated to the functional currencies of our segment ledgers at constant rates of exchange. All estimates of ultimate claims payments for the 10 most recent accident years reported in ledger currencies other than US dollars have been translated to US dollars using the 2022 average rate of exchange.

2.4.1 Reconciliation of claims development table to profit or loss

Overview

The table below reconciles the net increase or decrease in estimated net ultimate claims payments in the current financial year from the claims development table (item (i) in note 2.4) to the analysis of current and prior accident year central estimate development recognised in profit or loss (note 2.4.2).

	2022			2021		
	CURRENT ACCIDENT YEAR US$M	PRIOR ACCIDENT YEARS US$M	TOTAL US$M	CURRENT ACCIDENT YEAR US$M	PRIOR ACCIDENT YEARS US$M	TOTAL US$M
Movement in estimated net ultimate claims payments [1]	**1,139**	**38**	**1,177**	1,010	532	1,542
Movement in discount	**(110)**	**(137)**	**(247)**	(27)	(14)	(41)
Foreign exchange	**7**	**20**	**27**	2	6	8
Other movements	**2**	**(12)**	**(10)**	1	8	9
Movement in net discounted central estimate (note 2.4.2)	**1,038**	**(91)**	**947**	986	532	1,518

1 Excluding claims settlement costs.

2.4.2 Net central estimate development

Overview

The table further analyses the current and prior accident year movement in the net discounted central estimate, separately identifying the gross and reinsurance components. Prior accident year claims are those claims that occurred in a previous year but for which a reassessment of the claims cost has impacted the result in the current period.

	2022			2021		
	CURRENT ACCIDENT YEAR US$M	PRIOR ACCIDENT YEARS US$M	TOTAL US$M	CURRENT ACCIDENT YEAR US$M	PRIOR ACCIDENT YEARS US$M	TOTAL US$M
Gross central estimate development						
Undiscounted	**1,925**	**446**	**2,371**	1,443	811	2,254
Discount	**(151)**	**(281)**	**(432)**	(36)	(51)	(87)
	1,774	**165**	**1,939**	1,407	760	2,167
Reinsurance and other recoveries						
Undiscounted	**(777)**	**(400)**	**(1,177)**	(430)	(265)	(695)
Discount	**41**	**144**	**185**	9	37	46
	(736)	**(256)**	**(992)**	(421)	(228)	(649)
Net central estimate development						
Undiscounted	**1,148**	**46**	**1,194**	1,013	546	1,559
Discount	**(110)**	**(137)**	**(247)**	(27)	(14)	(41)
Net discounted central estimate development (note 2.4.1)	**1,038**	**(91)**	**947**	986	532	1,518

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2.5 Unearned premium and deferred insurance costs

Overview

Unearned premium

Gross written premium is earned in profit or loss in accordance with the pattern of incidence of risk of the business written. The unearned premium liability is that portion of gross written premium that the Company has not yet recognised in profit or loss as it represents insurance coverage to be provided by the Company after the balance sheet date.

Deferred insurance costs

Premium ceded to reinsurers by the Company in exchange for reinsurance protection is expensed in profit or loss in accordance with the reinsurance contract's expected pattern of incidence of risk. The deferred reinsurance premium asset is that portion of the reinsurance premium that the Company has not yet recognised in profit or loss as it represents reinsurance coverage to be received after the balance sheet date.

Acquisition costs are the costs associated with obtaining and recording insurance business. Acquisition costs are similarly capitalised and amortised, consistent with the earning of the related premium for that business. Commissions are a type of acquisition cost.

Summary of unearned premium and deferred insurance costs balances

	2022 US$M	2021 US$M
Unearned premium (a)	**939**	862
To be earned within 12 months	**855**	819
To be earned in greater than 12 months	**84**	43
Unearned premium	**939**	862
Deferred reinsurance premium	**226**	234
Deferred net commission	**188**	163
Deferred insurance costs (b)	**414**	397
To be expensed within 12 months	**369**	338
To be expensed in greater than 12 months	**45**	59
Deferred insurance costs	**414**	397
Net premium liabilities (a) – (b)	**525**	465

Unearned premium movements

	2022 US$M	2021 US$M
At 1 January	**862**	741
Deferral of unearned premium on contracts written in the financial year	**896**	775
Earning of premium written in previous financial years	**(819)**	(656)
Foreign exchange	**–**	2
At 31 December	**939**	862

Deferred insurance costs movements

	DEFERRED REINSURANCE PREMIUM		DEFERRED NET COMMISSION	
	2022 US$M	2021 US$M	2022 US$M	2021 US$M
At 1 January	**234**	191	**163**	141
Costs deferred in financial year	**225**	245	**189**	132
Amortisation of costs deferred in previous financial years	**(232)**	(202)	**(164)**	(111)
Foreign exchange	**(1)**	–	**–**	1
At 31 December	**226**	234	**188**	163

How we account for the numbers

Unearned premium

Unearned premium is calculated based on the coverage period of the reinsurance contract and in accordance with the expected pattern of the incidence of risk, using either the daily pro-rata method or the 24ths method, adjusted where appropriate to reflect different risk patterns.

Deferred insurance costs

Deferred reinsurance premium is calculated based on the period of indemnity provided to the Company by the reinsurance contract and in accordance with the related pattern of the incidence of risk.

Acquisition costs are capitalised when they relate to new business or the renewal of existing business and are amortised on the same basis as the earning pattern for that business. At the balance sheet date, deferred acquisition costs represent the capitalised acquisition costs that relate to unearned premium and are carried forward to a subsequent accounting period in recognition of their future benefit. The carrying value of deferred acquisition costs is subject to impairment testing in the form of the liability adequacy test (note 2.5.1).

Due to the captive nature of the Company, there are generally no external costs incurred in the acquisition of business. The only costs relating to acquired business are those of the small underwriting function. As these costs are expensed through-out the year, in a manner that largely matches premium recognition, and are relatively consistent year on year, management consider it appropriate to expense these costs as incurred rather than deferring any portion.

2.5.1 Liability adequacy test

Overview

At each balance sheet date, the Company is required to assess net premium liabilities (being unearned premium less deferred insurance costs) to determine whether the amount provided is sufficient to pay future claims net of reinsurance recoveries.

If the present value of expected future net claims including a risk margin exceeds the net premium liabilities, adjusted for deferred reinsurance premium relating to future business not yet written, the net premium liability is deemed deficient. This deficiency is immediately recognised in profit or loss. In recognising the deficiency, an insurer must first write down any related intangible assets and then deferred acquisition costs before recognising an unexpired risk liability.

Expected present value of future cash flows for future claims including risk margin

	2022 US$M	2021 US$M
Undiscounted net central estimate	**511**	474
Discount to present value	**(56)**	(17)
	455	457
Risk margin at the 75th percentile of insurance liabilities	**35**	34
Expected present value of future cash flows for future claims including risk margin	**490**	491

The application of the liability adequacy test did not identify a deficiency at 31 December 2022 (2021 nil).

How we account for the numbers

At each balance sheet date, the adequacy of the unearned premium liability is assessed on a net of reinsurance basis against the present value of the expected future claims cash flows in respect of the relevant insurance contracts, plus an additional risk margin to reflect the inherent uncertainty of the central estimate. The assessment is carried out at an overall company level.

Critical accounting judgements and estimates

In assessing the adequacy of net premium liabilities, AASB 1023 *General Insurance Contracts* requires the inclusion of a risk margin but does not prescribe a minimum level of margin. Whilst there is established practice in the calculation of the probability of adequacy of the outstanding claims liability, no such guidance exists in respect of the level of risk margin to be used in determining the adequacy of net premium liabilities.

The Company has adopted a risk margin of 7.7% (2021 7.5%) for the purpose of the liability adequacy test to produce a 75% probability of adequacy in respect of total insurance liabilities. The 75% basis is a recognised industry benchmark in Australia, being the minimum probability of adequacy required for Australian licensed insurers by APRA. The Company's ultimate parent undertaking is domiciled in Australia.

2.6 Trade and other receivables

Overview

Trade and other receivables are principally amounts owed to the Company by policyholders or reinsurance counterparties. Unclosed premium receivables are estimated amounts due to the Company in relation to business for which the Company is on risk but where the policy is not billed to the counterparty at the balance sheet date.

	2022 US$M	2021 US$M
Trade debtors		
Premium receivable	**789**	583
Reinsurance and other recoveries	**531**	430
Unclosed premium	**94**	75
	1,414	1,088
Amounts due from related entities [1]	**572**	601
Other receivables	**27**	74
Trade and other receivables	**2.013**	1,763
Receivable within 12 months	**2,013**	1,757
Receivable in greater than 12 months	**–**	6
Trade and other receivables	**2,013**	1,763

1 Included in amounts due from related entities are three loans totalling $570 million (2021 $600 million) to QBE Strategic Capital (Europe) Limited, on commercial terms. All three loans with QBE Strategic Capital (Europe) Limited have been rolled until 23 November 2023 with an all in interest rate of 4.51% (2 loans totalling $470 million) and 2.81% ($100 million loan).

Due to the predominantly short-term nature of these receivables, the carrying value is assumed to approximate the fair value.

The maximum exposure to credit risk at the reporting date is the fair value of each class of receivables. As at 31 December 2022, no receivables are pledged by the Company as collateral for liabilities. Information on the ageing and credit rating of these balances is included in note 4.3.

How we account for the numbers

Receivables are recognised initially at fair value and are subsequently measured at amortised cost less any impairment.

Receivables arising from general insurance contracts, which include premium receivable, reinsurance and other recoveries and unclosed premium, are impaired when there is objective evidence that the Company will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the receivable.

The remainder of the Company's receivables are assessed for impairment based on both incurred and expected credit losses, the impacts of which are not material. Any increase or decrease in the provision for impairment is recognised in profit or loss within underwriting expenses.

2.7 Trade and other payables

Overview

Trade payables primarily comprise amounts owed to reinsurance counterparties and cedants. Treasury and investment payables are amounts due to counterparties in settlement of treasury and investment transactions.

	2022 US$M	2021 US$M
Trade payables	**756**	913
Other payables and accrued expenses	**9**	11
Investment payables	**2**	–
Amounts due to related entities	**1**	1
Trade and other payables	**768**	925
Payable within 12 months	**768**	918
Payable in greater than 12 months	**–**	7
Trade and other payables	**768**	925

How we account for the numbers

Trade payables are recognised initially at their fair value

3. INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES

Overview

Premiums collected from policyholders are invested to meet the Company's cash flow needs to pay claims and other expenses, as well as generating a return that contributes to the Company's profitability. A sound investment strategy is therefore integral to the success of the Company's operations.

The Company invests across a diversified range of instruments to achieve an appropriate balance between risk and return. Decisions on where to invest is dependent on expected returns, cash flow requirements of the Company, liquidity of the instrument, credit quality of the instrument and the Company's overall risk appetite. Further details on the management of risk associated with investment assets can be found in note 4.

The Company's investment assets are categorised as either backing policyholders' or shareholders' funds, with the former being investment assets which back insurance liabilities whilst the latter comprises all other investment assets.

3.1 Investment income

	2022 US$M	2021 US$M
Loss on fixed interest securities, short-term money and cash	**(86)**	(6)
Income on growth assets	**9**	39
(Loss) gain on other financial assets	**(163)**	118
Gross investment (loss) income	**(240)**	151
Investment expenses	**(3)**	(2)
Net investment (loss) income	**(243)**	149
Foreign exchange loss	**(3)**	–
Total investment (loss) income	**(246)**	149
Investment (loss) income – policyholders' funds	**(207)**	137
Investment expenses – policyholders' funds	**(2)**	(1)
Investment (loss) income – shareholders' funds	**(36)**	14
Investment expenses – shareholders' funds	**(1)**	(1)
Total investment (loss) income	**(246)**	149

How we account for the numbers

Interest income is recognised in the period in which it is earned. Dividends are recognised when the right to receive payment is established. Investment income includes realised and unrealised gains or losses on financial assets which are reported on a combined basis as fair value gains or losses on financial assets.

3.2 Investment assets

	2022 US$M	2021 US$M
Fixed income		
Short-term money	**448**	413
Government bonds	**407**	621
Corporate bonds	**1,644**	1,528
Emerging market debt	**143**	
High yield debt	**78**	–
	2,720	2,562
Growth assets		
Developed market equity	**11**	–
Emerging market equity	**17**	–
Unlisted property trusts	**54**	52
Infrastructure assets	**163**	157
	245	209
Other financial assets	**384**	547
Total investments	**3,349**	3,318
Amounts maturing within 12 months	**1,531**	1,285
Amounts maturing in greater than 12 months	**1,818**	2,033
Total investments	**3,349**	3,318

How we account for the numbers

Investments are required to be measured at fair value through profit or loss. They are initially recognised at the cost of acquisition excluding transaction costs and are subsequently remeasured to fair value at each reporting date. The fair value hierarchy and the Company's approach to measuring the fair value of each investment instrument is disclosed in note 3.2.1.

All purchases and sales of investments that require delivery of the asset within the timeframe established by regulation or market convention are recognised at trade date, being the date on which the Company commits to buy or sell the asset. Investments are derecognised when the right to receive future cash flows from the asset has expired or has been transferred and the Company has transferred substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership.

Group Aggregate Risk Cover

In 2016, Equator Re entered into agreements with each QBE division, whereby the divisions reassigned their rights to recoveries under the external Group Aggregate Risk (GAR) reinsurance program, across accident years with effective dates 1 January 2011 through 2014, to Equator Re. In exchange for this reassignment of recoveries, Equator Re paid cash to each division, equivalent to the discounted central estimate of their share of the GAR recovery at the date of the rights reassignment.

The amount recognised as other financial assets represents the portion of the GAR asset that does not directly relate to the underwriting activities of Equator Re and henceforth any gain or loss on the asset (relating to divisional claims experience) is recognised in the statement of comprehensive income as investment and other income related to shareholder funds.

The asset is classified as a 'financial asset held at fair value through profit and loss' according to AASB 9.

2020 to 2022 QBE Group Reinsurance Covers

In 2020, 2021 and 2022, the Company assumed gross outstanding claims provisions from the divisions which contribute to recoveries on certain QBE Group reinsurance treaties. In addition, each of the divisions' has applicable retained losses that contribute to recoveries on these QBE Group reinsurance treaties. All the recoveries are recovered by the Company.

The recoveries have been split into the share that relates to the Company's claims and the portion that relates to the claims retained in the divisions. The Company's share of the recoveries are accounted for as a reinsurance asset. The divisional portions of the recoveries are reported as a financial asset rather than a reinsurance asset. This is because the asset value is based on divisional claims, which have no impact on the Company's underwriting profit and loss or balance sheet.

The asset is classified as a 'financial asset held at fair value through profit and loss' according to AASB 9.

3.2.1 Fair value hierarchy

Overview

The Company's Board Risk and Capital Committee is responsible for the governance and oversight of the investment valuation process. The fair value of investments is determined in accordance with the Company's investment valuation policy. This Board committee reviews the advice and recommendation of the Management Investment and Capital Committee.

The investments of the Company are disclosed in the table below using a fair value hierarchy which reflects the significance of inputs into the determination of fair value as follows:

Level 1: Valuation is based on quoted prices in active markets for the same instruments.

Level 2: Valuation is based on quoted prices for identical instruments in markets which are not active, quoted prices for similar instruments, or valuation techniques for which all significant inputs are based on observable market data, for example, consensus pricing using broker quotes or valuation models with observable inputs.

Level 3: Valuation techniques are applied in which one or more significant inputs are not based on observable market data.

There were no movements between Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3 assets other than purchases and sales in the normal course of business.

	2022				2021			
	LEVEL 1 US$M	LEVEL 2 US$M	LEVEL 3 US$M	TOTAL US$M	LEVEL 1 US$M	LEVEL 2 US$M	LEVEL 3 US$M	TOTAL US$M
Fixed income								
Short-term money	**16**	**432**	**–**	**448**	4	409	–	413
Government bonds	**213**	**194**	**–**	**407**	389	232	–	621
Corporate bonds	**–**	**1,644**	**–**	**1,644**	–	1,528	–	1,528
Emerging market debt	**–**	**143**	**–**	**143**	–	–	–	–
High yield debt	**–**	**78**	**–**	**78**	–	–	–	–
	229	**2,491**	**–**	**2,720**	393	2,169	–	2,562
Growth assets								
Developed market equity	**11**	**–**	**–**	**11**	–	–	–	–
Emerging market equity	**17**	**–**	**–**	**17**	–	–	–	–
Unlisted property trusts	**–**	**–**	**54**	**54**	–	–	52	52
Infrastructure assets	**–**	**–**	**163**	**163**	–	–	157	157
	28	**–**	**217**	**245**	–	–	209	209
Other financial assets	**–**	**–**	**384**	**384**	–	–	547	547
Total investments	**257**	**2,491**	**601**	**3,349**	393	2,169	756	3,318

The Company's approach to measuring the fair value of investments is described below:

Short-term money

Cash managed as part of the investment portfolio is categorised as a level 1 fair value measurement. Term deposits are valued at par; other short-term money (bank bills, certificates of deposit, treasury bills and other short-term instruments) is priced using interest rates and yield curves observable at commonly quoted intervals.

Government bonds, corporate bonds, emerging market debt and high yield debt

Government bonds, corporate bonds and high yield debt are valued based on quoted process sourced from external data providers. The fair value categorisation of these assets is based on the observability of the inputs as outlined in the Overview section above.

Developed market equity and emerging market equity

These assets mainly comprise listed equities traded in active markets valued by reference to quoted prices.

Unlisted property trusts and infrastructure assets

These assets are valued using current unit process as advised by the responsible entity, trustee or equivalent of the investment management scheme. As the valuation techniques require the use of significant unobservable inputs, these assets have been categorised as level 3.

Other financial assets

The financial asset is not actively traded and therefore no external price or benchmark exists. It is valued using commonly accepted actuarial valuation techniques taking into consideration the value of the underlying assets upon which the financial asset is based, and the expected timing of future cashflows relating to this asset.

Movements in level 3 investments

The following table provides an analysis of investments valued with reference to level 3 inputs.

LEVEL 3	2022 US$M	2021 US$M
At 1 January	**756**	823
Purchases	**–**	2
Disposals	**(1)**	(181)
Fair value movement recognised in profit or loss	**(154)**	113
Foreign exchange	**–**	(1)
At 31 December	**601**	756

3.2.2 Charges over investments and restrictions on use

Included in investments are amounts totalling $1,906 million (2021 $1,797 million) which are held in portfolio trust funds for the benefit of various QBE ceding affiliates. These funds can only be used to settle such recoverable amounts and amounts cannot be withdrawn from the funds without the permission of the respective QBE ceding affiliate.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

Overview

The Company is in the business of managing risk. The Company's ability to satisfy policyholder needs is central to what we do. The Company aims to generate wealth and maximise returns for its shareholder by pursuing opportunities that involve risk. Our people are responsible for ensuring that the Company's risks are identified, managed and controlled on a day-to-day basis. The Company aims to understand and manage its risk in order to provide increased certainty and improved outcomes for all stakeholders.

The Company employs QBE's consistent and integrated approach to Enterprise Risk Management (ERM). QBE's global risk management framework sets out the approach to managing key risks effectively and delivering strategic objectives whilst taking into account the creation of value for shareholders. QBE's risk management framework is articulated in QBE Group Risk Management Strategy (RMS) and Reinsurance Management Strategy (ReMS), both of which are approved annually by the QBE Group Board and lodged with APRA and shared with the BMA.

The ERM framework consists of complementary elements that are embedded throughout the business management cycle and culture of the organisation. Key aspects include: risk appetite, governance, reporting, risk identification and measurement, modelling and stress testing, risk systems, and risk culture.

Risk Management is a continuous process and an integral part of robust business management. The Company's approach is to integrate risk management into the broader management processes of the organisation. Specifically, the management of risk must occur at each point in the business management cycle.

The Company's strategy for managing risk is to:

- achieve competitive advantage by better understanding the risk environments in which we operate;
- operate within our stated risk appetites and effectively allocate capital and resources by assessing the balance of risk and reward;
- avoid unwelcome surprises to the achievement of business objectives by reducing uncertainty and volatility through the identification and management of risks.

The framework is supported by a suite of risk policies that detail the Company's approach to the following key risk categories used by the Company to classify risk:

- Strategic risk (note 4.1)
- Insurance risk (note 4.2)
- Credit risk (note 4.3)
- Market risk (note 4.4)
- Liquidity risk (note 4.5)
- Operational risk (note 4.6)
- Compliance risk (note 4.7)
- Group risk (note 4.8)

4.1 Strategic risk

Overview

Strategic risk is the current and prospective impact on earnings and/or capital as a result of strategic business decisions or responsiveness to external change. The Company classifies strategic risk into six subcategories, as follows:

- Performance risk: The Company is not able to achieve its performance objectives.
- Capital risk: The Company's structure and availability of capital does not meet regulatory requirements and/or support strategic initiatives.
- Reputational risk: The Company's stakeholders have a negative perception of the Company's brand which may damage the Company's reputation and threaten overall performance.
- Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) risk: Negative impact to the Company's strategic priorities or objectives by environmental (including climate change), social or governance issues.
- Emerging risk: New or future risks which are difficult to assess but may have a significant impact to the Company or the markets it operates in.

The Company's approach to managing strategic risk is summarised below.

Performance risk

Failure to deliver acceptable performance can result in stakeholders losing confidence in the Company, impacting our reputation and ultimately impacting our ability to deliver our strategic objectives.

The Company monitors performance risk by assessing changing levels of risk in the business plan and taking action accordingly prior to signing-off the plan. Performance risk is monitored throughout the year against committed business plans.

Capital risk

The Company's objective when managing capital is to maintain an optimal capital structure to generate an acceptable return on capital whilst meeting capital adequacy requirements, providing security for policyholders and continuing to provide returns to its shareholder.

Where appropriate, adjustments are made to capital levels in light of changes in economic conditions and risk characteristics of the Company. In order to maintain or adjust the capital structure, the Company has the option to adjust the amount of dividends paid to the shareholder, return capital or issue new shares.

The Company uses an economic capital model (ECM) to assess the level of capital required for the underwriting, claims estimation, credit, market, liquidity and operational risk to which it is exposed. Economic capital is determined as the level of capital that the Company needs to ensure that it can, with a pre-specified probability, satisfy its ultimate policyholder obligations in relation to all reinsurance contracts issued on or before the end of the business plan year. The ECM is used by management to inform decisions on capital strategy, risk appetites, business planning, reinsurance arrangements, and pricing.

QBE Blue Ocean Re Limited is an Affiliated Class 3A insurer. Equator Reinsurances Limited is a Class 3B insurer. BMA considers the company on a consolidated basis as a Class 3B insurer - subject to certain capital requirements. These requirements are designed to ensure sufficient capital is maintained in order to provide adequate protection for policyholders and maintain Solvency II equivalence. For the current period the Company met the minimum and surplus requirements as prescribed by the BMA. The Company also met minimum liquidity margins.

The Company believes that insurer financial strength ratings provided by the major rating agencies are an important factor in demonstrating the financial strength and claims paying ability. The Company is rated "A+/Stable" by Standard & Poor's (2021 "A+/Stable") and A+, Outlook Stable by Fitch Ratings (2021 A+, Outlook Stable) as at 31 December 2022.

Management monitors and actively manages the Company's capital levels on an ongoing basis. Management has a particular focus on the level of eligible regulatory capital that exceeds the Bermuda Monetary Authority requirements. Having determined that the current risk appetite of the Company remains appropriate, the Board has a target level of regulatory capital of the Bermuda Solvency Capital Requirement (BSCR). As at 31 December 2022, the capital coverage ratio was 155% (2021 150%).

The Company has dedicated staff responsible for understanding the regulatory capital requirements of the entity. These staff regularly interact with their global peers through-out QBE to assess the net capital impact of various transactions and reinsurances which the Company provides. The quality of the Company's assets (particularly investments and reinsurance recoveries) are continuously monitored to ensure any potential issues are identified and remedial action, where necessary, is taken to restore effective capital performance and levels.

Reputation risk

The Company assesses reputation risk through the quality of the relationships with key stakeholders, including senior stakeholders in QBE Group and the divisions, regulators, government, communities, employees, and third-party partners including suppliers. Each of these relationships is actively managed by the Company through functional teams, which include senior management.

ESG and emerging risk

QBE Group's ESG risk and emerging risk standards operationalise the Group's approach to managing ESG and emerging risks respectively, including climate change.

Horizon scans are performed to identify and assess the key ESG and emerging risk. QBE Group's approach to managing these risks includes development of underwriting and investment policies, monitoring frameworks and stress and scenario analysis.

Climate change is a material business risk for QBE Group, potentially impacting our business and customers in the medium to long term. The business has considered potential short-term scenarios that could affect our insurance business written to date and current investments and confirmed no material impact on the amounts recognised or disclosed in the financial statements.

4.2 Insurance risk

Overview

Insurance risk is the risk of fluctuations in the timing, frequency and severity of insured events and claims settlements, relative to expectations.

The Company classifies insurance risk into four subcategories, as follows:

- Underwriting/pricing risk;
- Insurance concentration risk; and
- Reserving risk.

The Company's approach to managing insurance risk is underpinned by the Company's insurance risk appetite statements as set by the Board and is summarised below.

Underwriting/pricing risk

The Company manages underwriting/pricing risk by appropriately setting and adjusting underwriting strategy, risk selection and pricing practices throughout the underwriting cycle.

The Company's underwriting strategy aims to diversify and limit the aggregation of a single type of reinsurance risk accepted. The underwriting strategy is implemented through QBE's annual business planning process, supported by underwriting standards and delegated authorities. These authorities reflect the level of risk that the Company is prepared to take with respect to each permitted reinsurance class.

Pricing of risks is controlled by the use of in-house pricing models relevant to specific portfolios and the markets in which the Company operates. Underwriters and actuaries maintain pricing and claims analysis for each portfolio, combined with a knowledge of current developments in the respective markets and classes of business.

One of the core objectives of the Company is to provide the QBE Group with stability in pricing and ease of access to external reinsurance at a more competitive cost, on an aggregate basis, than otherwise available in the local division markets. The Company's underwriting strategy is supportive and linked to the annual divisional business planning process. In addition, the Company responds to ad-hoc or bespoke reinsurance requirements of the various divisions of the QBE Group.

For catastrophe XoL programs, the Company makes use of both proprietary and in-house models to calculate a comprehensive view of loss costs. This exposure based approach is blended with an experience rated approach using an appropriate credibility weighting. For per risk XoL programs, a similar approach is used where industry loss curves are blended with an experience rated approach. For quota share programs, the historical results are analysed to determine whether the business plan loss ratio and commission rate, yield a sufficient profit margin to service the allocated capital.

Insurance concentration risk

The Company's exposure to concentrations of reinsurance risk is mitigated by maintaining a business portfolio that is diversified across countries and classes of business. Product diversification is pursued through a strategy of developing strong underwriting skills in a wide variety of classes of business and close partnership with the QBE operating divisions.

The table below demonstrates the diversity of the Company's operations.

GROSS EARNED PREMIUM	2022 US$M	2021 US$M
Property	**1,659**	1,404
Motor & motor casualty	**91**	61
Agriculture	**75**	7
Public/product liability	**502**	522
Workers' compensation	**38**	88
Marine, energy & aviation	**162**	185
Professional indemnity	**398**	375
Financial & credit	**109**	154
Accident & health	**43**	36
Other	**19**	22
	3,096	2,853

Concentration risk includes the risks from natural or man-made events that have the potential to produce claims from multiple policyholders at the same time (e.g., natural catastrophes, industrial accidents, financial downturn, etc.). The Company currently uses a variety of methodologies to monitor aggregate exposures and manage concentration/accumulation risk. These include the use of catastrophe models from third party vendors such as RMS and AIR, the Society of Lloyd's realistic disaster scenarios (RDS) and QBE Group aggregate methodology. The Company sets its risk appetite in accordance with prevailing requirements of the Bermuda Monetary Authority and generally acceptable market practices, in addition to considering the relevance, where applicable, of catastrophe risk according to the QBE Group's risk appetite and APRA (the QBE Group's regulator) insurance concentration risk charge (ICRC).

Reserving risk

Reserving risk is managed through the quarterly actuarial valuation of insurance liabilities. The valuation of the net central estimate is performed by qualified and experienced actuaries, with reference to historical data and reasoned expectations of future events. The net central estimate of outstanding claims is subject to a comprehensive independent review at least annually.

4.3 Credit risk

Overview

Credit risk is the risk of financial loss where a customer, counterparty or issuer fails to meet their financial obligations to the Company in accordance with agreed terms and can include both the inability or unwillingness to pay, as well as loss due to credit deterioration from rating downgrades. The Company's exposure to credit risk arises from financial transactions with securities issuers, debtors, brokers, policyholders, reinsurers and guarantors.

The Company's approach to managing credit risk is underpinned by the Company's credit risk appetite statements as set by the Board and summarised below.

Reinsurance credit risk

The Company's objective is to maximise placement of reinsurance with highly rated counterparties. Concentration of risk with reinsurance counterparties is monitored strictly and regularly by the Company's Board and the QBE Group's Security Committee and is controlled by reference to the following protocols:

- treaty or facultative reinsurance is placed in accordance with the requirements of the QBE Group REMS and QBE Group Security Committee guidelines;
- reinsurance arrangements are regularly reassessed to determine their effectiveness based on current exposures, historical claims and potential future losses based on the Company's inwards reinsurance concentrations; and
- exposure to reinsurance counterparties and the credit quality of those counterparties is actively monitored.

Credit risk exposures are calculated regularly and compared with authorised credit limits. In certain cases, the Company requires letters of credit or other collateral arrangements to be provided to guarantee the recoverability of the amount involved. There is $627 million (2021 $627 million) held on behalf of the Company in the form of LOCs to support reinsurance recoveries on outstanding claims. The credit rating analysis below includes the impact of such security arrangements. In some cases, further security has been obtained in the form of trust arrangements, reinsurer default protection and other potential offsets. This additional security has not been included in the credit rating analysis set out below.

The following table provides information about the quality of the Company's credit risk exposure in respect of reinsurance recoveries at the balance sheet date. The analysis classifies the assets according to Standard & Poor's (S&P) counterparty credit ratings. AAA is the highest possible rating. Rated assets falling outside the range of AAA to BBB are classified as speculative grade.

	CREDIT RATING				
	AA US$M	A US$M	BBB US$M	NOT RATED [2] US$M	TOTAL US$M
As at 31 December 2022					
Reinsurance recoveries on outstanding claims [1]	**1,868**	**508**	**2**	**460**	**2,838**
Reinsurance recoveries on paid claims	**262**	**125**	**1**	**143**	**531**
As at 31 December 2021					
Reinsurance recoveries on outstanding claims [1]	2,182	518	–	384	3,084
Reinsurance recoveries on paid claims	377	42	–	11	430

1 Net of a provision for impairment of $6.5 million (2021 $16.6 million).
2 Not rated are fully collateralised by "A" grade investments.

The following table provides further information regarding the ageing of reinsurance recoveries on paid claims at the balance sheet date.

			PAST DUE BUT NOT IMPAIRED				
	YEAR	NEITHER PAST DUE NOR IMPAIRED US$M	0 TO 3 MONTHS US$M	4 TO 6 MONTHS US$M	7 MONTHS TO 1 YEAR US$M	GREATER THAN 1 YEAR US$M	TOTAL US$M
Reinsurance recoveries on paid claims	**2022**	**166**	**214**	**18**	**108**	**25**	**531**
	2021	171	250	3	4	2	430

Investment and treasury credit risk

The Company only transacts with investment counterparties within the limits outlined in the delegated authorities' policy. Investment counterparty exposure limits are applied to individual counterparty exposures outside the QBE Group and to multiple exposures within a group of related companies in relation to investments, cash deposits and forward foreign exchange exposures. Counterparty exposure limit compliance is monitored daily.

The following table provides information regarding the Company's aggregate credit risk exposure at the balance sheet date in respect of the major classes of financial assets. Trade and other receivables except balances due from related entities are excluded from this analysis on the basis that they comprise smaller credit risk items which generally cannot be rated and are not individually material. The analysis classifies the assets according to S&P counterparty credit ratings. AAA is the highest possible rating. Rated assets falling outside the range of AAA to BBB are classified as speculative grade.

	CREDIT RATING						
	AAA US$M	AA US$M	A US$M	BBB US$M	SPECULATIVE GRADE US$M	NOT RATED US$M	TOTAL US$M
As at 31 December 2022							
Cash and cash equivalents	**–**	**–**	**283**	**4**	**–**	**–**	**287**
Interest-bearing investments	**294**	**1,077**	**801**	**443**	**102**	**3**	**2,720**
Derivative financial instruments	**–**	**–**	**52**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**52**
Other financial assets	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**384**	**384**
Amounts due from related entities	**–**	**–**	**572**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**572**
As at 31 December 2021							
Cash and cash equivalents	–	–	300	3	–	–	303
Interest-bearing investments	328	1,074	873	287	–	–	2,562
Derivative financial instruments	–	–	16	–	–	–	16
Other financial assets	–	–	–	–	–	547	547
Amounts due from related entities	–	–	601	–	–	–	601

The carrying amount of the relevant asset classes on the balance sheet represents the maximum amount of credit exposure at the balance sheet date. The fair value of derivatives shown on the balance sheet represents the current risk exposure but not the maximum risk exposure that could arise in the future as a result of changing values.

Insurance and other credit risk

As the internal captive reinsurer of the QBE Group, the Company almost always transacts with related entities. The Company regularly reviews the collectability of receivables and the adequacy of associated provisions for impairment. Balances are monitored on the basis of uncollected debt and debt outstanding in excess of six months. Concentration risk is also monitored.

The following table provides information regarding the ageing of the Company's financial assets that are past due but not impaired.

	NEITHER PAST DUE NOR IMPAIRED US$M	PAST DUE BUT NOT IMPAIRED 0 TO 3 MONTHS US$M	4 TO 6 MONTHS US$M	7 MONTHS TO 1 YEAR US$M	GREATER THAN 1 YEAR US$M	TOTAL US$M
As at 31 December 2022						
Premium receivable	**707**	**42**	**18**	**–**	**22**	**789**
Other trade debtors	**94**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**94**
Amounts due from related entities	**572**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**572**
Investment receivables	**26**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**–**	**26**
As at 31 December 2021						
Premium receivable	551	23	–	7	2	583
Other trade debtors	75	–	–	–	–	75
Amounts due from related entities	601	–	–	–	–	601
Investment receivables	74	–	–	–	–	74

4.4 Market risk

Overview

Market risk is the risk of adverse impacts on earnings resulting from changes in market factors. Market factors include, but are not limited to, interest rates, credit spreads, foreign exchange rates and equity prices.

The Company's approach to managing market risk is underpinned by its market risk appetite statements, as informed by the QBE Group and set by the Company's Board which is summarised below.

The Company's approach to managing investment market movements is underpinned by its investment strategy which outlines the Company's view of the markets and its corresponding investment approach.

Investment market risk is managed through the application of exposure and asset limits. These limits are based on the market risk appetite as determined by the Board and apply to:

- losses generated on the investment portfolio under market stress scenarios. The scenarios assume adverse movements in market factors and are designed to reflect a significant market stress event; and
- sensitivities to changes in interest rate and credit spread risk, measured in terms of modified duration and spread duration.

Interest rate risk

The Company is exposed to interest rate risk through its holdings in interest-bearing assets. Financial instruments with a floating interest rate expose the Company to cash flow interest rate risk, whereas fixed interest rate instruments expose the Company to fair value interest rate risk.

The Company's risk management approach is to minimise interest rate risk by actively managing investment portfolios to achieve a balance between cash flow interest rate risk and fair value interest rate risk. The Company predominantly invests in high quality, liquid interest-bearing securities and cash, and may use derivative financial instruments to manage the interest rate risk of the fixed interest portfolio. The risk management processes over these derivative financial instruments include close senior management scrutiny, including appropriate board and other management reporting. Derivatives are used only for approved purposes and are subject to delegated authority levels provided to management. The level of derivative exposure is reviewed on an ongoing basis. Appropriate segregation of duties exists with respect to derivative use and compliance with policy, limits and other requirements is closely monitored.

The net central estimate of outstanding claims is discounted to present value by reference to risk-free interest rates. The Company is therefore exposed to potential underwriting result volatility as a result of interest rate movements. In practice, over the longer term, an increase or decrease in interest rates is normally offset by a corresponding increase or decrease in inflation. Details are provided in note 2.3.7. As at the balance sheet date, the weighted average modified duration of cash and fixed interest securities was 1.42 years (2021 2.33 years).

All investments are financial assets measured at fair value through profit or loss. Movements in interest rates impact the fair value of interest-bearing financial assets and therefore impact reported profit after tax. The impact of a 1% increase or decrease in interest rates on interest-bearing financial assets owned by the Company at the balance sheet date is shown in the table below.

	SENSITIVITY %	PROFIT (LOSS) 2022 US$M	PROFIT (LOSS) 2021 US$M
Interest rate movement – interest-bearing financial assets	+1	**(43)**	(67)
	-1	**47**	72

Equity price risk

Equity price risk is the risk that the fair value of future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market prices (other than those arising from interest rate or currency risk), whether those changes are caused by factors specific to the individual financial instrument or its issuer, or factors affecting all similar financial instruments traded on the market.

The Company is exposed to equity price risk on its investment in equities and may use derivative financial instruments to manage this exposure. The risk management processes over these derivative financial instruments are the same as those explained above in respect of interest rate derivative financial instruments. Exposure is also managed by diversification across international markets and currencies where possible.

All equities are measured at fair value through profit or loss. The impact of a 20% increase or decrease in the value of equity investments (including derivatives – refer to note 3.2.1) owned by the Company at the balance sheet date on profit after tax is shown in the table below.

	SENSITIVITY %	PROFIT (LOSS) 2022 US$M	PROFIT (LOSS) 2021 US$M
S&P 500	+20	**2**	–
	-20	**(2)**	–
CIS – Emerging Markets	+20	**3**	–
	-20	**(3)**	–
Infrastructure assets	+20	**33**	31
	-20	**(33)**	(31)

The Company is also exposed to price risk on its fixed interest securities as discussed above in relation to interest rate risk, and below in relation to credit spread risk. All securities are measured at fair value through profit or loss.

Credit spread risk

Movements in credit spreads impact the value of corporate interest-bearing securities, and emerging market and high yield debt and therefore impact reported profit after tax. This risk is managed by investing in high quality, liquid interest-bearing securities and by managing the credit spread duration of the interest-bearing securities portfolio.

The impact of either a 0.5% increase or decrease in credit spreads on interest-bearing financial assets held by the Company at the balance sheet date on profit after tax is shown in the table below.

	SENSITIVITY %	PROFIT (LOSS) 2022 US$M	PROFIT (LOSS) 2021 US$M
Credit spread movement – corporate interest-bearing financial assets	+0.5	**(20)**	(17)
	-0.5	**18**	12

The Company is also exposed to price risk on its investment in unlisted property trusts. All unlisted property trust investments are measured at fair value through profit or loss. The Company manages this risk by investing in high quality, diversified unlisted property funds. Movements in unit prices impact the value of unlisted property trusts and therefore impact reported profit after tax. The impact of a 20% increase or decrease in unit prices on unlisted property trust securities owned by the Company at the balance sheet date was $10.8 million (2021 $10.4 million).

Foreign exchange

The Company's approach to foreign exchange management is underpinned by the Company's foreign currency strategy. The Company's foreign exchange exposure generally arises as a result of the translation of foreign currency amounts to the functional currency of the Company (operational currency risk).

Operational currency risk

Operational currency risk is managed as follows:

- the Company manages the volatility arising from changes in foreign exchange rates by matching liabilities with assets of the same currency, thus ensuring that any exposures to foreign currencies are minimised; and
- forward foreign exchange contracts are used to protect residual currency positions. These forward foreign exchange contracts are accounted for in accordance with the derivatives accounting policy set out in note 5.5.

Foreign exchange gains or losses arising from operational foreign currency exposures are reported in profit or loss consistent with the gains or losses from the related forward foreign exchange contracts. The risk management process covering the use of forward foreign exchange contracts involves close senior management scrutiny. All forward foreign exchange contracts are subject to delegated authority levels provided to management and the levels of exposure are reviewed on an ongoing basis.

The analysis below demonstrates the impact on profit after income tax of a 10% strengthening or weakening of the major currencies against the functional currency of the Company, being USD. The sensitivity is measured with reference to the Company's residual (or unmatched) operational foreign currency exposures at the balance sheet date. Operational foreign exchange gains or losses are recognised in profit or loss in accordance with the procedure outlined in note 1.2.4.The sensitivities provided demonstrate the impact of a change in one key variable in isolation whilst other assumptions remain unchanged.

The sensitivities shown in the table below are relevant only at the balance sheet date, as any unmatched exposures are actively monitored by management and the exposure subsequently matched. The table below include derivatives entered into on 31 December 2022 to mitigate exposures not currently reflected in the Company's balance sheet relating to unearned premium and deferred insurance costs balances as their equivalents will be monetary items under AASB 17 Insurance Contracts (refer to note 7.2.1).

	2022			2021		
	RESIDUAL EXPOSURE	SENSITIVITY	PROFIT (LOSS)	RESIDUAL EXPOSURE	SENSITIVITY	PROFIT (LOSS)
EXPOSURE CURRENCY	US$M	%	US$M	US$M	%	US$M
Australian dollar	**(1)**	**+10**	**–**	84	+10	8
		-10	**–**		-10	(8)
Great British pound	**(4)**	**+10**	**–**	14	+10	1
		-10	**–**		-10	(1)
Euro	**(1)**	**+10**	**–**	(6)	+10	(1)
		-10	**–**		-10	1
New Zealand dollar	**3**	**+10**	**–**	–	+10	–
		-10	**–**		-10	–

4.5 Liquidity risk

Overview

Liquidity risk is the risk of insufficient liquid assets to meet liabilities as they fall due or only being able to access liquidity at excessive cost. The Company's liquidity risk arises due to the nature of insurance activities where the timing and amount of cash outflows are uncertain.

The Company's approach to managing liquidity risk is underpinned by the liquidity risk appetite statement as set by the Board and is summarised below.

The Company manages liquidity risk using a number of tools, as follows:

- cash flow targeting;
- maintaining a minimum level of liquid assets relative to the Company's liabilities;
- cash flow forecasting; and
- stress testing and contingency planning.

Liquidity is managed across the Company using a number of cash flow forecasting and targeting tools and techniques. Cash flow forecasting involves actively managing operational cash flow requirements.

In addition to treasury cash held for working capital requirements, and in accordance with the Company's liquidity policy, a minimum percentage of investments and cash is held in liquid, short-term money market securities to ensure that there are sufficient liquid funds available to meet insurance and investment obligations. At 31 December 2022, the weighted average duration of cash and fixed interest securities was 1.42 years (2021 2.33 years).

At 31 December 2022 trade payables of $768 million (2021 $918 million) have a maturity of one year or less.

The Company has amounts due to related entities of $1 million (2021 $1 million) of which $1 million (2021 $1 million) is repayable in one year or less. The Company has no significant concentration of liquidity risk. The maturity profile of the Company's net discounted central estimate is analysed in note 2.3.6.

The maturity of the Company's directly held interest-bearing financial assets is shown in the table below.

		INTEREST-BEARING FINANCIAL ASSETS MATURING IN						
		LESS THAN ONE YEAR	13 TO 24 MONTHS	25 TO 36 MONTHS	37 TO 48 MONTHS	49 TO 60 MONTHS	OVER 5 YEARS	TOTAL
As at 31 December 2022								
Fixed rate	US$M	**1,417**	**277**	**349**	**115**	**108**	**331**	**2,597**
Weighted average interest rate	%	**4.13**	**5.26**	**4.83**	**5.28**	**5.26**	**4.96**	**4.54**
Floating rate	US$M	**193**	**129**	**55**	**8**	**12**	**12**	**409**
Weighted average interest rate	%	**3.47**	**4.48**	**5.01**	**4.97**	**5.67**	**6.33**	**4.17**
As at 31 December 2021								
Fixed rate	US$M	709	680	253	355	85	456	2,538
Weighted average interest rate	%	0.37	0.57	1.05	1.26	1.76	1.89	0.94
Floating rate	US$M	94	108	71	25	17	12	328
Weighted average interest rate	%	0.10	0.35	0.40	0.70	0.60	1.29	0.36

4.6 Operational risk

Overview

Operational risk is the risk of financial loss resulting from inadequate or failed internal processes, people and systems or from external events.

Operational risk can materialise in a number of forms including fraud perpetrated by employees or by external parties (e.g. claims fraud or cyber attacks), employment practices (e.g. losses arising from acts inconsistent with laws or agreements governing employment, employee health or safety, or from diversity or discrimination events involving internal employees), improper business practices (e.g. failure to meet professional obligations or issues with the nature or design of an insurance product), business disruption and system failures or business and transaction processing failures.

The Company and the Group manages operational risk through setting policy, minimum standards, and process and system controls, including effective segregation of duties, access controls, authorisations and reconciliation processes, business continuity management, fraud management, information security and physical security.

The Company's approach to managing operational risk is underpinned by the Company's operational risk appetite as set by the Board and is summarized below.

The Company identifies, assesses and manages operational risk through the:

- risk and control self-assessment process, which identifies and assesses top risks to achieving business objectives and is conducted at the functional unit level;
- top risks and emerging risks processes, which involves the identification and assessment of the key risks relating to the entity by its executive management board. The emerging risks process identifies and assesses new risks, which are characterised by incomplete but developing knowledge or existing risks that develop in new or surprising ways;
- operational risk appetite statement, which sets out the nature and level of risk that the Board is willing to take in pursuit of the Company's objectives. The operational risk appetite statement is measured through an assessment of the control environment, key risk indicators, issues and incidents;
- stress and scenario testing, which assesses the impact of severe but plausible scenarios against the Company's control environment; and
- total risk assessment, which process parameterizes the operational risk input to the capital model on an annual basis.

4.7 Compliance risk

Overview

Compliance risk is the risk of legal or regulatory penalties, financial loss or non financial loss or customer detriment resulting from non-compliance with laws, regulations or conduct standards.

The Company's approach to managing compliance risk is underpinned by QBE Group's Compliance Risk Policy which is aligned to QBE Group's Risk Management Strategy and risk appetite as set by the QBE Group and Company's Board and is summarised below.

The Company manages compliance risk through the following approach:

- Governance arrangements that establish accountability, responsibility and authority in relation to the management of compliance risk;
- A culture based on honesty, integrity and respect that is embedded as part of QBE DNA and the QBE Group's Code of Ethics and Conduct;
- Stakeholder management to maintain pro-active and co-operative relationships with lawmakers, regulators and other relevant external parties;
- Strategic priorities and objectives that are aligned to risk appetites set by the Board; and
- People, systems and processes to support effective compliance risk management.

Compliance management is subject to continuous review and improvement to recognise changes in the regulatory and legal environment and, industry, customer and community expectations.

4.8 Group risk

Overview

Group risk is the risk arising specifically from being part of the wider QBE Group, including financial impact and loss of support from the parent company.

The Company's approach to managing Group risk is underpinned by the Group risk appetite statements as set by the Company's Board and is summarised below.

Sources of Group risk may include:

- intercompany loans;
- contagion reputational risk;
- credit agency dependency;
- use of Group functions where there is a global operating model in place;
- use of QBE's internal asset management function;
- QBE Group initiatives or decisions with a material impact on the Company; and
- liquidity and central foreign exchange management.

The Company manages Group risk through various systems, controls and processes, use of intercompany transactions and balances accounting guidance, transfer pricing guidelines, investment management agreement, capital planning and assessments of the use of QBE Group functions, QBE Group initiatives and contagion reputational events.

5. CAPITAL STRUCTURE

Overview

The Company's objective in managing capital is to reduce the overall cost of capital whilst satisfying the capital adequacy requirements of its regulator, providing financial security for our policyholders and continuing to provide an adequate return to our shareholder.

Details of the Company's approach to capital risk management are disclosed in note 4.1.

5.1 Cash and cash equivalents

	NOTE	2022 US$M	2021 US$M
Cash at bank and on hand		**59**	60
Term deposits		**228**	243
		287	303

Restrictions on use

There are no restrictions on amounts included in cash and cash equivalents as at 31 December 2022.

How we account for the numbers

Cash and cash equivalents include cash at bank and on hand and deposits at call which are readily convertible to cash on hand and which are used for operational cash requirements. Amounts in cash and cash equivalents are the same as those included in the consolidated statement of cash flows.

The reconciliation of profit after income tax to cash flows from operating activities is included in note 7.3.

5.2 Equity and reserves

Overview

Ordinary shares in the Company rank after all creditors, have a par value of $1.00 and entitle the holder to participate in dividends and the proceeds on winding up of the Company, in proportion to the number of shares held.

Preference shares outstanding at the balance sheet date were issued in 2020, details of which are set out in note 5.2.1. The preference shares together with ordinary shares, are presented as contributed equity in the consolidated balance sheet.

5.2.1 Contributed equity

	2022 US$M	2021 US$M
Issued ordinary shares, fully paid	**1,274**	1,274
Issued preference shares, fully paid	**70**	70
Contributed equity	**1,344**	1,344

Ordinary share capital

	2022		2021	
	NUMBER OF SHARES MILLIONS	US$M	NUMBER OF SHARES MILLIONS	US$M
Authorised shares	**1,500**		1,500	
Issued ordinary shares, fully paid at 1 January	**1,427**	**1,274**	1,252	1,099
Shares issued during the year	**–**	**–**	175	175
Issued ordinary shares, fully paid at 31 December	**1,427**	**1,274**	1,427	1,274

On 27 October 2021, the Company issued 175,000,000 additional common shares to its parent, QBE Investments (North America), Inc., at $1 per share.

Preference share capital

	2022		2021	
	NUMBER OF SHARES MILLIONS	US$M	NUMBER OF SHARES MILLIONS	US$M
Issued preference shares, fully paid at 1 January	**70**	**70**	70	70
Shares issued during the year	**–**	**–**	–	–
Issued preference shares, fully paid at 31 December	**70**	**70**	70	70

5.2.2 Reserves

	2022 US$M	2021 US$M
Foreign currency translation reserve		
At 1 January	**(190)**	(190)
Movement in the year	**–**	–
At 31 December	**(190)**	(190)

5.3 Dividends

Overview

The Company's dividend policy is to transfer excess capital above its target capital level to the parent entity. Excess capital is determined with reference to the capital strategy which determines the capital target as the aggregate of the regulatory capital requirement and a buffer above regulatory minimum capital. The buffer is expressed as a percentage of the regulatory minimum and is determined with reference to a probability of breaching regulatory minimum. As per the Insurance Act s31B, Class 3A and Class 3B insurers cannot, without BMA prior approval, pay out more than 25% of total statutory capital and surplus as determined in the prior year's filing. The policy does not prescribe the split of dividend between interim and final, as this will be contingent on the capital available at each date.

	2022	2021
Dividend per share (US dollar)	**–**	–
Total dividend payout (US$M)	**–**	–

5.4 Earnings per share

Overview

Earnings per share (EPS) is the amount of profit or loss after tax attributable to each share.

	2022 US CENTS	2021 US CENTS
Basic earnings per share	**5**	9

5.4.1 Earnings used in calculating earnings per share

	2022 US$M	2021 US$M
Net profit after income tax attributable to ordinary equity holders of the company used in calculating basic earnings per share	**66**	111

5.4.2 Ordinary shares used in calculating earnings per share

	2022 NUMBER OF SHARES	2021 NUMBER OF SHARES
Weighted average number of ordinary shares used as the denominator in calculating basic earnings per share	**1,426,899,000**	1,283,063,384

How we account for the numbers

Basic earnings per share

Basic earnings per share is calculated by dividing net profit (loss) after income tax attributable to members of the company by the weighted average number of ordinary shares outstanding at the year end.

5.5 Derivatives

Overview

Derivatives may be used as a tool to hedge the Company's foreign exchange exposures. The Company manages operational foreign exchange volatility by matching liabilities with assets of the same currency, as far as practicable. Forward foreign exchange contracts are used to hedge residual currency exposures, with both the foreign exchange and derivatives impact reported through profit or loss.

Refer to note 4.4 for additional information relating to the Company's approach to managing currency risk.

The Company's exposure to foreign exchange derivatives at the balance sheet date is set out in the table below:

	2022			2021		
	EXPOSURE US$M	FAIR VALUE ASSET US$M	FAIR VALUE LIABILITY US$M	EXPOSURE US$M	FAIR VALUE ASSET US$M	FAIR VALUE LIABILITY US$M
Forward foreign exchange contracts	**761**	**52**	**(42)**	824	16	(22)

How we account for the numbers

Derivatives are initially recognised at fair value, being the transaction price on the date a derivative contract is entered into, and are subsequently remeasured to their fair value. The method of recognising the resulting gain or loss depends on whether the derivative is designated as a hedging instrument, and the nature of the item being hedged. Derivatives which are not part of a hedging relationship are valued at fair value through profit or loss.

For derivatives traded in an active market, the fair value of derivatives presented as assets is determined by reference to published closing bid price quotations, and the fair value of derivatives presented as liabilities is determined by reference to published closing ask price quotations. For derivatives that are not traded or which are traded in a market that is not sufficiently active, fair value is determined using generally accepted valuation techniques, including the use of forward exchange rates for the valuation of forward foreign exchange contracts.

6. TAX

Overview

Income tax expense is the accounting tax charge for the period and is calculated as the tax payable on the current period taxable income based on the applicable income tax rates for each jurisdiction, adjusted for changes in deferred tax assets and liabilities attributable to temporary differences and unused tax losses. The relationship between accounting profit and income tax expense is provided in the reconciliation of prima facie tax to income tax expense (note 6.1). Income tax expense does not equate to the amount of tax actually paid to tax authorities, as it is based upon the accrual accounting concept.

Accounting income and expenses do not always have the same recognition pattern as taxable income and expenses, creating a timing difference as to when a tax expense or benefit can be recognised. These differences usually reverse over time but until they do, a deferred tax asset or liability is recognised on the balance sheet. Note 6.2 details the composition and movements in deferred tax balances.

Bermuda

Under current Bermuda law, the Company is not required to pay any taxes in Bermuda on either income or capital gains. The Company has received an undertaking from the Bermuda government exempting it from all local income, withholding and capital gains taxes until 31 March 2035. At the present time no such taxes are levied in Bermuda.

United States

The Company made an irrevocable election under Section 953(d) of the United States Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, to be taxed as a U.S. domestic insurance company for U.S. federal income tax purposes with effect from 1 April 2018. This election was approved by the United States Internal Revenue Service on 7 February 2020. As a result of this “domestic election”, the Company is subject to U.S. federal taxation on its world-wide income as if it were a U.S. corporation.

The Company’s approach to managing tax risk is disclosed in note 4.1.

6.1 Reconciliation of prima facie tax to income tax expense (credit)

	NOTE	2022 US$M	2021 US$M
Profit before income tax		**104**	149
Prima facie tax expense at 21%		**22**	31
Tax effect of non-temporary differences:			
Other income		**–**	(2)
Creditable premium tax		**11**	11
Prima facie tax adjusted for non-temporary differences		**33**	40
Under provision in prior years		**5**	(2)
Income tax expense		**38**	38
Analysed as follows:			
Current tax		**17**	47
Deferred tax		**21**	(9)
		38	38

How we account for the numbers

The current income tax charge is calculated on the basis of the tax laws enacted or substantively enacted at the end of the reporting period. Management periodically evaluates positions taken in tax returns with respect to situations in which applicable tax regulation is subject to interpretation and establishes provisions where appropriate on the basis of amounts expected to be paid to tax authorities.

Current tax assets and tax liabilities are offset where the Company has a legally enforceable right to offset and intends to either settle on a net basis or to realise the assets and settle the liability simultaneously. Current and deferred tax is recognised in profit or loss.

Non creditable premium taxes deducted by foreign jurisdictions are expensed when notified and included within underwriting deductions.

Creditable income taxes withheld by ceding affiliates or investment counterparties on behalf of foreign jurisdictional tax authorities are recognised when so withheld and included in income tax expense.

6.2 Deferred income tax

	NOTE	2022 US$M	2021 US$M
Deferred tax assets	6.2.1	**131**	108
Deferred tax liabilities	6.2.2	**87**	43
Net deferred tax assets		**44**	65

6.2.1 Deferred tax assets

	NOTE	2022 US$M	2021 US$M
Amounts recognised in profit and loss			
Insurance provisions		**112**	104
Tax losses recognised		**4**	1
Other -financial assets-related		**15**	3
	6.2	**131**	108
Deferred tax assets before set-off		**131**	108
Set-off of deferred tax liabilities	6.2.2	**(87)**	(43)
		44	65

Movements:

	NOTE	2022 US$M	2021 US$M
At 1 January		**108**	88
Amounts recognised in profit or loss		**23**	20
At 31 December		**131**	108

6.2.2 Deferred tax liabilities

	NOTE	2022 US$M	2021 US$M
Amounts recognised in profit and loss			
Insurance provisions		**85**	43
Financial liabilities – fair value movements		**2**	–
	6.2	**87**	43
Deferred tax liabilities before set-off		**87**	43
Set-off of deferred tax assets	6.2.1	**(87)**	(43)
		–	–

Movements:

	NOTE	2022 US$M	2021 US$M
At 1 January		**43**	33
Amounts recognised in profit or loss		**44**	10
At 31 December		**87**	43

How we account for the numbers

Deferred income tax is provided in full using the liability method on temporary differences arising between the tax bases of assets and liabilities and their carrying amounts in the consolidated financial statements. Deferred income tax is determined using tax rates (and laws) that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the end of the reporting period and are expected to apply when the related deferred income tax asset is realised or the deferred income tax liability is settled.

Deferred tax assets are recognised for deductible temporary differences and unused tax losses only if it is probable that future taxable amounts will be available to utilise those temporary differences and losses.

7. OTHER

Overview

This section includes other information that must be disclosed to comply with the Australian Accounting Standards or the *Corporations Act 2001* of the Commonwealth of Australia.

7.1 Other accounting policies

7.1.1 New and amended standards adopted by the Company

The Company adopted the following new or amending accounting standards from 1 January 2022:

TITLE	
AASB 2020-3	*Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Annual Improvements 2018-2020 and Other Amendments*
AASB 2021-3	*Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – COVID-19-Related Rent Concessions beyond 30 June 2021*

The adoption of these new or revised standards did not significantly impact the Company's accounting policies or financial statements.

7.1.2 New accounting standards and amendments issued but not yet effective

TITLE		OPERATIVE DATE
AASB 2020-1	*Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Classification of Liabilities as Current or Non-current*	1 January 2023
AASB 2021-2	*Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Disclosure of Accounting Policies and Definition of Accounting Estimates*	1 January 2023
AASB 2021-5	*Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Deferred Tax related Assets and Liabilities arising from a Single Transaction*	1 January 2023
AASB 2022-6	*Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Non-current Liabilities with Covenants*	1 January 2023
AASB 17	*Insurance Contracts*	1 January 2023
AASB 2014-10	*Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Sale or Contribution of Assets between an Investor and its Associate or Joint Venture*	1 January 2025

The Australian Accounting Standards and amendments detailed in the table above are not mandatory for the Company until the operative dates stated; however, early adoption is often permitted.

The Company plans to adopt the standards and amendments detailed above in the reporting periods beginning on their respective operative dates. An assessment of the financial impact of the standards and amendments has been undertaken and they are not expected to have a material impact on the Company's financial statements, except where noted below.

AASB 17 *Insurance Contracts*

AASB 17, a new accounting standard for insurance contracts, was adopted by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) in July 2017. In June 2020, the IASB issued *Amendments to IFRS 17* which deferred the effective date 1 January 2021 to 1 January 2023 and made significant amendments to the standard in response to feedback from, and implementation issues raised by, stakeholders. These amendments were adopted by the AASB in July 2020.

Measurement of insurance contracts

Measurement models

The standard introduces a new 'general model' for the recognition and measurement of insurance contracts. The liability for remaining coverage (which represents insurance coverage to be provided after the balance sheet date) under the general model is measured as the sum of:

- the present value of expected future cash flows and a risk adjustment (collectively referred to as the 'fulfilment cash flows'); and
- a contractual service margin (CSM), being the unearned profit, which is recognised as insurance revenue in profit or loss over the coverage period of the contracts. The CSM is earned based on a pattern of coverage units which may not be the same as the pattern of incidence of risk used to earn gross written premium under AASB 1023 *General Insurance Contracts* (AASB 1023).

AASB 17 permits the use of a simplified approach (which is similar to the current basis on which general insurance is brought to account under AASB 1023) if the liability for remaining coverage under the simplified approach is not expected to materially differ from that under the general model, or if the coverage period of the contracts is not greater than one year. QBE has developed a model and methodology for assessing eligibility of contracts with coverage periods of greater than one year to apply the simplified approach. Our assessment, which involves detailed modelling under a range of scenarios as well as a qualitative assessment of contract features, has determined that the premium allocation approach is expected to apply to a vast majority of the Group's business based on gross written premium.

For groups of contracts that apply the premium allocation approach and have a coverage period of one year or less, AASB 17 provides an option to recognise any insurance acquisition costs as expenses when incurred. QBE does not plan to apply this option and expects to amortise acquisition costs over the coverage period of the related insurance contracts, consistent with current accounting under AASB 1023.

Onerous contracts

AASB 17 requires the identification of 'groups' of onerous contracts which are expected to be determined at a more granular level of aggregation than the level at which the liability adequacy test is performed under AASB 1023. Contracts that are measured using the premium allocation approach are assumed not to be onerous unless facts and circumstances indicate otherwise. QBE has developed a framework for identifying relevant facts and circumstances that may be indicators of possible onerous contracts which includes consideration of management information for Group planning and performance management.

If facts and circumstances that may be indicators of possible onerous contracts exist, the onerous contract losses are measured based on an estimation of fulfilment cash flows and are recognised in profit or loss. Onerous contract losses must be measured on a gross basis (excluding the effect of reinsurance), with the impact on equity and profit or loss mitigated by the deduction of related income on reinsurance recoveries to the extent that the onerous contracts are covered by reinsurance. In isolation, the application of the onerous contracts requirements is not expected to impact the Company's opening equity on adoption of AASB 17.

Risk adjustment

The measurement of insurance contract liabilities will include a risk adjustment which replaces the risk margin under AASB 1023. The risk margin under AASB 1023 reflects the inherent uncertainty in the net discounted central estimate, whereas the risk adjustment under AASB 17 is defined as the compensation required for bearing the uncertainty that arises from non-financial risk. The Company intends to apply a cost of capital approach as a key input to determining the risk adjustment for both the liability for incurred claims and the liability for remaining coverage. When applying the premium allocation approach, no explicit risk adjustment is determined for the liability for remaining coverage, except when measuring onerous contracts.

The Company expects to adopt an AASB 17 risk adjustment from a target range (expressed as a percentage of expected future cash flows which are equivalent to AASB 1023 central estimate), a range that is expected to be slightly lower than the equivalent AASB 1023 risk margin range. Similar to the risk margin, the risk adjustment includes the benefit of diversification. AASB 17 requires the disclosure of the confidence level that corresponds to the risk adjustment used in the measurement of insurance contract liabilities.

Discount rates

AASB 1023 requires the net central estimate of outstanding claims to be discounted using risk-free rates as described in note 2.3.4. AASB 17 requires estimates of future cash flows to be discounted to reflect the time value of money and financial risks related to those cash flows but does not prescribe a methodology for determining the discount rates used. QBE will apply a 'bottom-up approach' which requires the use of risk-free rates adjusted to reflect the illiquidity characteristics of the insurance contracts, which will result in higher discount rates relative to current requirements and an increase in the opening equity on adoption of AASB 17. The illiquidity premium within discount rates will be derived based on the long-term weighted average credit spread of a reference portfolio of assets with a similar currency mix and weighted average duration as the related insurance liabilities over the longer term. The effect of credit risk and other factors that are not relevant to the illiquidity characteristics of insurance contracts will be eliminated to estimate the portion of the spread that reflects the illiquidity premium.

Foreign exchange

Insurance contract assets and liabilities that are denominated in foreign currency are treated as monetary items under AASB 17. This differs from current industry practice in respect of unearned premium and deferred insurance costs which are treated as non-monetary items. Based on the exchange rates at the transition date, the impact of this change on opening equity is not expected to be material. The resulting exposures from the change in treatment will be mitigated going forward as part of the Company's operational currency risk management strategy, with new forward foreign exchange contracts entered into at 31 December 2022 to mitigate these exposures for 2023.

Interim reporting

The Company expects to apply the option to measure accounting estimates based on assumptions relevant at each reporting date. This means that estimates made in interim financial statements will be updated in the subsequent annual financial statements where required.

Presentation and disclosure

The standard introduces significant changes to the presentation and disclosure of insurance line items in the financial statements, introducing new line items on the statement of comprehensive income and balance sheet and increased disclosure requirements compared with existing reporting requirements.

Existing insurance and reinsurance contract line items on the balance sheet (including unearned premium, deferred insurance costs, gross outstanding claims and reinsurance and other recoveries on outstanding claims) will be replaced with insurance contract assets and liabilities, and reinsurance contract assets and liabilities. Insurance contract liabilities under AASB 17 will include all cash flows that directly relate to the fulfillment of insurance contracts (direct business and inward reinsurance), including acquisition, claims settlement, policy administration and maintenance costs. It also includes other costs such as direct overheads which are currently recognised in 'Trade and other payables' on the balance sheet.

Transition

AASB 17 will be applied retrospectively to all of QBE's insurance contracts on transition except to the extent that it is impracticable to do so, in which case either a modified retrospective or fair value approach may be applied. QBE will apply a modified retrospective approach for the following:

- certain contracts acquired in the past (e.g. as part of a business combination) that, at the time of acquisition, were considered past expiry and were in their claims settlement period. For these contracts, the related liabilities are expected to be classified as liabilities for incurred claims, on the basis that it would be impracticable to treat these as liabilities as related to unexpired coverage; and
- determination of the CSM for contracts measured under the general model, for which sufficient data on historical assumptions is not available for the estimation of future cash flows and risk adjustment at initial recognition as well as the amount of CSM earned to profit of loss up to the transition date, which are key inputs. To the extent that this information is not available without the use or hindsight, permitted modification in AASB 17 will be applied to estimate these amounts based on transition date expectations about changes that occurred between initial recognition and the transition date; and
- identification of groups of onerous contracts relating to past underwriting years. These have been assessed based on information available at the transition date to the extent that reasonable and supportable information about past facts and circumstances is not available without the use of hindsight.

Financial impact

The requirements of AASB 17 are complex and the expectations noted above are subject to change as the implementation progresses and as QBE Group continues to analyse the impacts of the standard and recent amendments. Market developments also continue to be monitored in order to assess the impact of evolving interpretations and other changes. The financial impact of adopting AASB 17 cannot be reasonably estimated at the date of this report.

Implementation progress

The Company's implementation of AASB 17 is well progressed and work is ongoing to finalise the impacts and to restate comparative information for reporting on this basis in 2023.

7.2 Contingent liabilities

Overview

Contingent liabilities are disclosed when the possibility of a future settlement of economic benefits is considered to be less than probable but more likely than remote. If the expected settlement of the liability becomes probable, a provision is recognised.

In the normal course of business, the Company is exposed to contingent liabilities in relation to claims litigation and regulatory examination arising out of its insurance and reinsurance activities. The Company may also be exposed to the possibility of contingent liabilities in relation to non-insurance litigation and compliance matters, which may result in legal or regulatory penalties and financial or non-financial losses and other impacts.

Provisions are made for obligations that are probable and quantifiable. There are no amounts otherwise not provided for in the financial statements. The Company has no contingent liabilities to disclose. There are no individually significant amounts not provided for and such transactions are not considered likely to have a material impact on the net assets of the Company.

7.3 Reconciliation of profit after income tax to cash flows from operating activities

Overview

AASB 1054 *Australian Additional Disclosures* requires a reconciliation of profit after income tax to cash flows from operating activities.

	2022 US$M	2021 US$M
Profit after income tax	**66**	111
Adjustments for:		
Net foreign exchange profits	**2**	–
Other losses / (gains) on financial assets	**323**	(54)
Balance sheet movements:		
Decrease / (increase) in net outstanding claims	**370**	(70)
Increase in unearned premium	**77**	119
Increase in deferred insurance costs	**(18)**	(64)
Increase in trade debtors	**(320)**	(264)
Decrease / (increase) in other operating assets	**7**	(11)
Increase in net amounts receivable from related entities	**(10)**	–
(Decrease) / increase in trade payables	**(56)**	492
Decrease in other payables and provisions	**(6)**	(10)
Net cash flows from operating activities	**435**	249

7.4 Related parties

Overview

AASB 124 *Related Party Disclosures* requires disclosure of related party transactions. The majority of all inwards reinsurance business assumed is from related entities, with only an immaterial amount of third party business being written during the year. All outwards reinsurance business is placed with third parties. In addition, the Company has entered into a number of outsourced service agreements with related entities.

All material information required to be disclosed under AASB 124: Related Party Disclosures has been included in the financial statements, as follows:

	Reference
Interest received or receivable from related entities	Note 3.1
Amounts due from related entities	Note 2.6
Amounts due to related entities	Note 2.7

The Company has entered into a number of outsourced service agreements with related entities. Details of related entities, the services provided and the fees charged are as follows:

Related entity	Services provided	2022 $000	2021 $000
QBE Group Services Pty Ltd	Investment management services	**2,775**	2,312
QBE Group Services Pty Ltd	QBE Group head office services and license fee	**2,808**	2,000
QBE Americas Inc.	System and infrastructure support	**2,021**	2,370
QBE Group Shared Services Limited	Reinsurance technical services, financial reporting, claims administration support	**626**	1,306
		8,230	7,988

7.5 Remuneration of auditors

Overview

The Company may engage the external auditor for non-audit services other than excluded services, subject to the general principle that fees for non-audit services should not exceed 50% of all fees paid to the external auditor in any one financial year. The Board believes some non-audit services are appropriate given the external auditor's knowledge of the Company.

Consistent with prior periods, the external auditor cannot provide the excluded services of preparing accounting records or financial reports or acting in a management capacity.

	2022 $000	2021 $000
Audit and assurance services	**643**	487
Other services	**7**	7
	643	494

7.6 Presentation of comparative information

Certain comparative amounts have been reclassified to ensure presentation is consistent with current year presentation. The reclassification had no impact on overall profit or net asset position previously reported.

Directors' declaration

In the directors' opinion:

(a) the financial statements and notes set out on pages 9 to 56 are in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001* of the Commonwealth of Australia, including:

(i) complying with accounting standards, the *Corporations Regulations 2001* of the Commonwealth of Australia and other mandatory professional reporting requirements applicable under Australian Accounting Standards; and

(ii) giving a true and fair view of the Company's financial position as at 31 December 2022 and of its performance for the financial year ended on that date; and

(b) there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Company will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

Note 1.2.1 confirms that the financial statements comply with International Financial Reporting Standards as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board.

Signed in HAMILTON, Bermuda this 26th day of April 2023, in accordance with a resolution of the directors.

D. Dudles
Director

V. Smith
Director

Independent auditor's report

To the Board of Directors and Shareholder of QBE Blue Ocean Re Limited

Our opinion

In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the consolidated financial position of QBE Blue Ocean Re Limited (the Company) and its subsidiaries (together 'the Group') as at 31 December 2022, and their consolidated financial performance and their consolidated cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the Australian equivalent of International Financial Reporting Standards (otherwise known as Australian Accounting Standards).

What we have audited

The Group's consolidated financial statements comprise:

- the consolidated statement of comprehensive income for the year ended 31 December 2022;
- the consolidated balance sheet as at 31 December 2022;
- the consolidated statement of changes in equity for the year then ended;
- the consolidated statement of cash flows for the year then ended; and
- the notes to the consolidated financial statements, which include significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the consolidated financial statements* section of our report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Independence

We are independent of the Group in accordance with the International Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including International Independence Standards) issued by the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants (IESBA Code) and the ethical requirements of the Chartered Professional Accountants of Bermuda Rules of Professional Conduct (CPA Bermuda Rules) that are relevant to our audit of the consolidated financial statements in Bermuda. We have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the IESBA Code and the ethical requirements of the CPA Bermuda Rules.

Other information

Management is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the Annual Report (but does not include the consolidated financial statements and our auditor's report thereon).

Our opinion on the consolidated financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the consolidated financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information identified above and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the consolidated financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard**.**

Responsibilities of management and those charged with governance for the consolidated financial statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the consolidated financial statements in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of consolidated financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the consolidated financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Group's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Group or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Group's financial reporting process.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the consolidated financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the consolidated financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these consolidated financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the consolidated financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Group's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or

conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Group's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the consolidated financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Group to cease to continue as a going concern.

- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the consolidated financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the consolidated financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
- Obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the financial information of the entities or business activities within the Group to express an opinion on the consolidated financial statements. We are responsible for the direction, supervision and performance of the group audit. We remain solely responsible for our audit opinion.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

PricewaterhouseCoopers Ltd.

Chartered Professional Accountants

Hamilton, Bermuda

26 April 2023