# Telstra Corporation Limited and controlled entities Results and operations review Half-year ended 31 December 2006 

## Results ahead of guidance, company transformation continues

## Results

- Sales revenue grew by $\mathbf{2 . 0 \%}$ or $\mathbf{\$ 2 2 5}$ million to $\mathbf{\$ 1 1 , 6 3 0}$ million
- Sales revenue grew by 3.6\% adjusting for the change in revenue recognition of the Melbourne Yellow ${ }^{\text {TM }}$ Book
- Operating expenses (before depreciation and amortisation) grew by 9.9\% or \$621 million to $\$ 6,880$ million
- EBIT declined by $\mathbf{1 5 . 7 \%}$ or $\$ 546$ million to $\mathbf{\$ 2 , 9 3 8}$ million
- Profit after tax and minority interest declined by 20.5\% or \$439 million to \$1,704 million
- Cash operating capital expenditure (excluding investments) of \$2,509 million, up 22.8\%
- Basic earnings per share of 13.8 cents, down 3.5 cents
- Interim dividend declared of 14 cents per share, fully franked
- Mobiles revenue grew by $\mathbf{1 1 . 8 \%}$ or $\mathbf{\$ 2 9 6}$ million to $\mathbf{\$ 2 , 7 9 8}$ million
- Broadband revenue grew by 43.7\% or \$236 million to $\$ 776$ million
- PSTN revenue declined by 5.6\% or $\mathbf{\$ 2 1 6}$ million to $\mathbf{\$ 3 , 6 1 5}$ million


## Half-year results and operations review - December 2006

## Financial Highlights Half-year ended 31 December 2006

## Results ahead of guidance, company transformation continues

Telstra Corporation Limited and its controlled entities (Telstra) reported profit after tax and minority interest of \$1,704 million for the half-year ended 31 December 2006, a decrease of $20.5 \%$ on the prior half-year. Basic earnings per share (EPS) declined from 17.3 cents to 13.8 cents. Earnings before interest and tax (EBIT) decreased by $15.7 \%$ to $\$ 2,938$ million, slightly better than guidance.

Margins declined with a decrease in EBIT margin of 5.2 basis points to $25.3 \%$ and an EBITDA margin decrease of 4.0 basis points to $42.3 \%$ as expected while undergoing the largest spend year on our transformation.

## Income

Total income grew by $2.2 \%$ or $\$ 253$ million in the current half-year to $\$ 11,797$ million. Revenue growth was achieved through increases in mobiles, broadband, CSL New World and IP access. However, revenue growth was partially offset by a decline in fixed telephony of $4.9 \%$, which included a $5.6 \%$ decrease in PSTN revenue, as well as declines in specialised data, narrowband, and advertising and directories due to the deferral of Melbourne Yellow ${ }^{\text {™ }}$ print directory production to January 2007. When removing $\$ 174$ million from the prior year performance relating to this print directory, total income grew by 3.8\%.

In assessing the performance of the mobiles and broadband products throughout these financial highlights we have changed the presentation from the prior year. As wireless data cards operate on the mobile network and provide a broadband service we have grossed up the mobile and broadband revenues and physicals to include the results from EVDO and Next $G^{\text {TM }}$ data cards, this is consistent with industry practice. The elimination of the grossed up component is shown separately in the operating revenue summary.

## Expenses

Operating expenses increased by 9.9\% due to higher goods and services purchased, particularly subscriber acquisition costs supporting revenue growth, and increases in other expenses mainly due to transformation activity, increased promotions and advertising expenses and added expenses from entities acquired. This was offset by reduced labour costs as a result of lower staff numbers and use of the redundancy provision raised in fiscal 2006. Total expenses (before interest and tax) increased by 9.9\%, which includes depreciation and amortisation growth of $9.9 \%$ driven by transformation activity.

Net finance costs grew by $18.2 \%$ to $\$ 520$ million due to higher average net debt levels and increasing interest rates.
Income tax expense decreased by $21.7 \%$ to $\$ 706$ million.

## Business transformation

The business transformation is progressing well and some of the highlights achieved during the half-year include the launch of the Next $G^{\text {TM }}$ network, the ADSL $2+$ launch, workplace productivity improvements, customer service improvements and benefits from market based management initiatives (i.e. subscription pricing). We have already begun reducing the complexity in our business and have exited approximately 140 IT platforms and applications, and are starting to see the benefits from our revenue acceleration program, including broadband and mobiles growth, a reduction in PSTN decline and growth in online revenue. However, we are 13 months into our 5 year transformation plan and there is still a lot of work to be done.

## Half-year results and operations review - December 2006

The key financial impacts that you will see throughout this document include the following:

- Labour costs - we have achieved a significant reduction in our total workforce numbers, with reductions in the number of contractors, agency staff and employed staff. This has had a positive impact on our salary and wage expense. Redundancy expenses have also declined for the half-year as costs associated with transformation were charged against the provision for redundancy raised at the end of fiscal 2006;
- Provision for restructuring and redundancy costs - under Australian accounting standards we made provision in fiscal 2006 for the expected costs of restructuring the business as part of our transformation. The total provision raised in June 2006 was $\$ 427$ million. As at 31 December 2006, the remaining balance of the total provision is $\$ 288$ million;
- Depreciation - we have accelerated the rate of depreciation of certain network and IT assets due to our intended retirement of the CDMA network and rationalisation of many of our IT platforms and software applications. This component has contributed $\$ 148$ million to the increase in depreciation and amortisation expenditure; and
- other various operational costs have been impacted by the implementation of business transformation for the halfyear as highlighted throughout the document. In total transformation costs resulted in an increase in overall expenses of $\$ 137$ million from the prior half-year primarily within our service contracts and agreements expense.


## Changes to accounting treatments

We have applied UIG 4: "Determining Whether an Arrangement Contains a Lease" (UIG 4) to the results reported for the first time in the half-year ended 31 December 2006. This UIG has impacted both the recognition and classification of some items in our income statement, balance sheet and cash flow statement. Prior period comparative numbers have been restated where appropriate to reflect the impact of adoption of UIG 4. For detailed information regarding the impact of UIG 4 on our financial information, refer to the December 2006 half-year financial statements. These are available on our investor relations website at www.telstra.com.au/abouttelstra/investor/index.cfm. These impacts have an immaterial impact on earnings.

## Cash flow

Operating cash flow less investing cash flow (free cash flow) decreased by $55.9 \%$ for the half-year ended 31 December 2006 to $\$ 862$ million. This decline was due to a reduction in net cash provided by operating activities driven by higher levels of external expenditure, and increased cash used in investing activities as we launched our Next $G^{\text {TM }}$ network and continued working on the IP enablement of our network and IT transformation.

## Capital expenditure

Cash capital expenditure for the half-year ended 31 December 2006 increased by $38.0 \%$ to $\$ 2,846$ million. Core operating expenditure increased by $22.8 \%$ to $\$ 2,509$ million. Higher capital expenditure was driven primarily by the IP enablement of our network, IT transformation, as well as the roll out of the Next $G^{T M}$ network. There was also an increase in our acquisitive investment expenditure by $\$ 318$ million largely related to our acquisition of SouFun.

## Half-year results and operations review - December 2006

## Treasury operations

Telstra's financial position remains strong with current long-term credit ratings as of January 2007 of A, A2 and A+ from S\&P, Moody's and Fitch respectively. All three rating agencies have Telstra on a "negative outlook" with major factors being uncertainty surrounding the regulatory environment, intensifying competition, technological advances and PSTN revenue declines.

The net debt position was $\$ 14,473$ million, a $\$ 1,697$ million increase on the equivalent balance at 31 December 2005, largely driven by lower net cash produced from the ongoing operations of the business offset by higher capital cash demands from our transformation investment. The balance sheet continues to have strong capital settings.

## Dividend

A fully franked interim ordinary dividend of 14 cents per share has been declared and is payable on 30 March 2007. It is the current intention of the Board to declare fully franked ordinary dividends of 28 cents per share for fiscal 2007. This assumes that we continue to be successful in implementing our transformation strategy and there are no further material adverse regulatory outcomes during the course of fiscal 2007. The final amount of dividends declared for any year is a decision for the Board to make twice a year in its normal cycle having regard to our earnings and cash flows as well as future regulatory impacts and all other factors that affect our operations.

## Outlook

We will continue to execute our strategy that was announced in November 2005. We have started the investment in our transformation and we have seen margin pressure continue as our revenue mix changes. Earnings have declined at both the EBITDA and EBIT lines, impacted by transformational spend and costs of goods and services purchased as we invest in the future revenue growth of the company particularly in 3GSM mobile services and broadband.

With our next generation networks, we continue to put in place the infrastructure to reduce our reliance on our traditional fixed line revenue streams and to grow our mobiles, internet and other next generation revenues while reducing the costs of operations.

As a result of our success in both the broadband and mobiles markets and lower than expected impacts, at this stage, of ULL take-up, we expect full year revenue growth to be between $2.5 \%$ to $3.0 \%$ and a significant turnaround in EBIT performance in the second half for a full year expectation of $3.0 \%$ to $5.0 \%$ EBIT growth. Our second half revenues will include revenue from the distribution of the Melbourne Yellow ${ }^{\text {TM }}$ book, deferred from the first half results of the prior corresponding period. The second half of fiscal 2006 also included a full half of transformation spend and the raising of a redundancy and restructuring provision. We do not expect to raise another redundancy and restructuring provision during fiscal 2007.

We expect depreciation and amortisation expense to remain high over the next few years as we invest heavily in transforming the network and IT base, together with accelerating depreciation and write-offs of certain assets that continue to be phased out in the 2007 fiscal year.

Cash flow will be impacted by our investment in capital expenditure over the next two to three years and free cash flow is expected to reflect this with gradual improvement from 07/08 assuming no investment in fibre to the node. Cash operating capital expenditure is expected to be in the range of $\$ 5.4$ billion to $\$ 5.7$ billion in fiscal 2007.

## Half-year results and operations review - December 2006

Our priority continues to be achieving our strategy to give customers a seamless user experience across all devices and platforms - fixed, wireless and internet - providing a 1-click, 1-touch, 1-button, 1-screen, 1-step solution, whether that customer is an individual, small business, large business, government agency or non-profit organisation.

For enquiries on these results contact:
John Stanhope
Chief Financial Officer
Telstra Corporation Limited
Anthony O'Brien
Acting Director, Investor Relations
Telstra Corporation Limited
Phone: +61 (3) 9634 8014,
Email: Investor.relations@team.telstra.com

## Half-year results and operations review - December 2006

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## Half-year results and operations review - December 2006

## Summary financial information

## Results of operations

|  | Half-year ended 31 December |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\begin{array}{r} 2006 \\ \$ \mathrm{~m} \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 2005 \\ \$ \mathrm{~m} \\ \hline \end{array}$ | Change \$m | 2006/2005 <br> (\% change) |
| Sales revenue. | 11,630 | 11,405 | 225 | 2.0\% |
| Other revenue (excl. finance income) | 15 | 10 | 5 | 50.0\% |
| Total revenue (excl. finance income) | 11,645 | 11,415 | 230 | 2.0\% |
| Other income. | 152 | 129 | 23 | 17.8\% |
| Total income (excl. finance income) | 11,797 | 11,544 | 253 | 2.2\% |
| Labour expense | 1,996 | 2,053 | (57) | (2.8\%) |
| Goods and services purchased | 2,566 | 2,195 | 371 | 16.9\% |
| Other expenses. | 2,318 | 2,011 | 307 | 15.3\% |
| Operating expenses | 6,880 | 6,259 | 621 | 9.9\% |
| Share of net loss from jointly controlled and associated entities | 1 | 1 | - | 0.0\% |
| Earnings before interest, income tax expense, depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA) | 4,916 | 5,284 | (368) | (7.0\%) |
| Depreciation \& amortisation | 1,978 | 1,800 | 178 | 9.9\% |
| Earnings before interest \& income tax expense (EBIT). | 2,938 | 3,484 | (546) | (15.7\%) |
| Net finance costs | 520 | 440 | 80 | 18.2\% |
| Profit before income tax expense. | 2,418 | 3,044 | (626) | (20.6\%) |
| Income tax expense. | 706 | 902 | (196) | (21.7\%) |
| Profit for the period | 1,712 | 2,142 | (430) | (20.1\%) |
| Minority interests in net (profits)/loss . | (8) | 1 | (9) | n/m |
| Profit for the period available to Telstra Entity shareholders | 1,704 | 2,143 | (439) | (20.5\%) |
| Effective tax rate. | 29.2\% | 29.6\% |  | (0.4) |
| EBITDA margin on sales revenue | 42.3\% | 46.3\% |  | (4.0) |
| EBIT margin on sales revenue. | 25.3\% | 30.5\% |  | (5.2) |
|  | cents | cents | Change cents | \% change |
| Basic earnings per share (i) | 13.8 | 17.3 | (3.5) | (20.2\%) |
| Diluted earnings per share (i) | 13.7 | 17.3 | (3.6) | (20.8\%) |
| Dividends paid or declared: |  |  |  |  |
| Interim dividend paid. . | 14.0 | 14.0 |  |  |
| Special dividend paid with interim dividend . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . | - | 6.0 |  |  |

(i) Basic and diluted earnings per share are impacted by the effect of shares held in trust for employee share plans and instruments held under executive remuneration plans.
$n / m$ - not meaningful

## Half-year results and operations review - December 2006

## Cash flow summary

|  | Half-year ended 31 December |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\begin{array}{r} 2006 \\ \$ m \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 2005 \\ \$ \mathrm{~m} \end{array}$ | Change <br> \$m | 2006/2005 <br> (\% change) |
| Receipts from customers (inclusive of GST) | 12,736 | 12,417 | 319 | 2.6\% |
| Payments to suppliers/employees (inclusive of GST) | $(8,339)$ | $(7,466)$ | (873) | 11.7\% |
| Net cash generated from operations | 4,397 | 4,951 | (554) | (11.2\%) |
| Income taxes paid | (966) | $(1,003)$ | 37 | (3.7\%) |
| Net cash provided by operating activities (i) | 3,431 | 3,948 | (517) | (13.1\%) |
| Payments for property, plant and equipment. | $(2,114)$ | $(1,761)$ | (353) | 20.0\% |
| Payments for intangibles | (395) | (282) | (113) | 40.1\% |
| Capital expenditure before investments | $(2,509)$ | $(2,043)$ | (466) | 22.8\% |
| Investment expenditure | (337) | (19) | (318) | 1673.7\% |
| Capital expenditure. | $(2,846)$ | $(2,062)$ | (784) | 38.0\% |
| Receipts from asset sales/other proceeds/dividends | 247 | 36 | 211 | 586.1\% |
| Interest received | 30 | 34 | (4) | (11.8\%) |
| Net cash used in investing activities | $(2,569)$ | $(1,992)$ | (577) | 29.0\% |
| Operating cash flows less investing cash flows | 862 | 1,956 | $(1,094)$ | (55.9\%) |
| Movements in borrowings/finance leases | 1,179 | 229 | 950 | 414.8\% |
| Staff repayments of share loans | 11 | 11 | - | 0.0\% |
| Dividends paid | $(1,739)$ | $(2,485)$ | 746 | (30.0\%) |
| Finance costs paid. | (540) | (470) | (70) | 14.9\% |
| Purchase of shares for employee share plans | - | (6) | 6 | - |
| Net cash used in financing activities. | $(1,089)$ | $(2,721)$ | 1,632 | (60.0\%) |
| Net decrease in cash | (227) | (765) | 538 | (70.3\%) |

(i) Please note: Due to the implementation of A-IFRS, we have revised the presentation of the cash flow summary and our statutory reported statement of cash flows. This has resulted in some reclassifications between our key cash flow totals (net cash provided by operating activities, net cash used in investing activities and net cash used in financing activities). Consequently, the 2005 comparative totals disclosed for these lines have changed from the amounts disclosed as at 31 December 2005. The most significant change is the reclassification of our finance costs paid from operating into financing, and the reclassification of interest received from operating into investing.

## Half-year results and operations review - December 2006

## Balance sheet summary

|  | as at |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 31-Dec-06 | 30-Jun-06 | Change | 2006/2005 |
|  | \$m | \$m | \$m | (\% change) |
| Current assets | 5,027 | 4,930 | 97 | 2.0\% |
| Intangibles | 6,265 | 6,122 | 143 | 2.3\% |
| Property, plant and equipment. | 23,413 | 23,503 | (90) | (0.4\%) |
| Total non-current assets | 31,525 | 31,261 | 264 | 0.8\% |
| Total liabilities | $(23,436)$ | $(23,368)$ | (68) | 0.3\% |
| Net assets/shareholders' equity | 13,116 | 12,823 | 293 | 2.3\% |
| Gross debt. | $(14,930)$ | $(13,783)$ | $(1,147)$ | 8.3\% |
| Net debt | $(14,473)$ | $(13,094)$ | $(1,379)$ | 10.5\% |
| Ratios |  |  |  |  |
| EBITDA interest cover (times) | 9.4 | 10.3 | (0.9) | (8.7\%) |
| Net debt to EBITDA | 1.5 | 1.4 | 0.1 | 7.1\% |
| Return on average assets | 16.4\% | 15.7\% |  | 0.7\% |
| Return on average equity | 26.8\% | 24.1\% |  | 2.7\% |
| Return on average investment | 22.0\% | 21.4\% |  | 0.6\% |
| Net debt to capitalisation | 52.5\% | 50.5\% |  | 2.0\% |

## Half-year results and operations review - December 2006

## Segment information

Segment information

|  | Segment revenue Half-year ended 31 December |  |  | Segment EBITHalf-year ended 31 December |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 2006 | 2005 | Change | 2006 | 2005 | Change |
|  | \$m | \$m | \% | \$m | \$m | \% |
| Telstra Consumer, Marketing and Channels | 4,679 | 4,481 | 4.4\% | 2,763 | 3,041 | (9.1\%) |
| Telstra Business | 1,608 | 1,597 | 0.7\% | 1,299 | 1,302 | (0.2\%) |
| Telstra Enterprise and Government | 2,214 | 2,248 | (1.5\%) | 1,291 | 1,302 | (0.8\%) |
| Telstra Wholesale | 1,487 | 1,427 | 4.2\% | 1,451 | 1,318 | 10.1\% |
| Sensis | 885 | 1,012 | (12.5\%) | 365 | 509 | (28.3\%) |
| Telstra International | 820 | 709 | 15.7\% | 26 | 32 | (18.8\%) |
| Telstra Operations . | 115 | 123 | (6.5\%) | $(1,912)$ | $(1,785)$ | 7.1\% |
| Other (i) | 52 | 50 | 4.0\% | $(2,343)$ | $(2,266)$ | 3.4\% |
| Eliminations | (215) | (232) | (7.3\%) | (2) | 31 | (106.5\%) |
| Total Telstra (ii) | 11,645 | 11,415 | 2.0\% | 2,938 | 3,484 | (15.7\%) |

(i) Results for the Other segment consists primarily of business unit results that do not qualify as segments in their own right. The Asset Accounting Group is the main contributor to the segment EBIT for this segment, which is primarily depreciation and amortisation charges.
(ii) For segment reporting purposes, certain items are disclosed or may be reallocated between business units as required by the applicable accounting standard, and as a result may differ from our internal reporting framework. Where no reasonable basis for reallocation exists the following should be noted:

- As no reasonable basis for allocation exists, sales revenue associated with mobile handsets for the Consumer, Business and Enterprise and Government segments are allocated totally to the Consumer segment, with the exception of some products sold in relation to small to medium enterprises which are allocated to the Business segment. Ongoing prepaid and postpaid mobile revenues derived from our mobile usage is recorded in all three of these segments depending on the type of customer serviced. In addition, the majority of goods and services purchased associated with our mobile revenues are allocated to the Consumer segment.
- Revenue derived from our BigPond Internet products are recorded in the customer facing business segments of Consumer, Business and Enterprise and Government. Certain distribution costs in relation to these products are recognised in these three business segments. Telstra Operations recognises certain expenses in relation to the installation and running of the broadband cable network. In accordance with our application of the business segment definition in relation to customer type, we have not reallocated these items to the Telstra BigPond business segment. These allocations reflect management's accounting framework and internal reporting system and accordingly no reasonable basis for reallocation exists.


## Half-year results and operations review - December 2006

## Statistical data summary

|  | Half-year ended 31 December |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 2006 | 2005 | Change | \% change |
| Billable traffic data (in millions) |  |  |  |  |
| Local calls (number of calls). | 3,390 | 3,882 | (492) | (12.7\%) |
| National long distance minutes (i). | 3,594 | 3,666 | (72) | (2.0\%) |
| Fixed to mobile minutes | 2,339 | 2,234 | 105 | 4.7\% |
| International direct minutes | 264 | 273 | (9) | (3.3\%) |
| Mobile voice telephone minutes (ii) | 4,147 | 3,611 | 536 | 14.8\% |
| Inbound calling products - B party minutes | 1,339 | 1,482 | (143) | (9.6\%) |
| Inbound calling products - A party calls | 510 | 502 | 8 | 1.6\% |
| Number of short messaging service (SMS) sent | 2,227 | 1,318 | 909 | 69.0\% |
| Network and operations data (in millions) |  |  |  |  |
| Basic access lines in service (iii) |  |  |  |  |
| Residential | 5.47 | 5.52 | (0.05) | (0.9\%) |
| Business | 2.27 | 2.37 | (0.10) | (4.2\%) |
| Total retail customers. | 7.74 | 7.89 | (0.15) | (1.9\%) |
| Domestic wholesale. | 2.12 | 2.14 | (0.02) | (0.9\%) |
| Total basic access lines in services | 9.86 | 10.03 | (0.17) | (1.7\%) |
| ISDN access (basic lines equivalents) (in thousands) (iv) | 1,226 | 1,205 | 21 | 1.7\% |
| Mobile services in operation (SIO) (in thousands) (v) (vi) |  |  |  |  |
| 3GSM. | 1,024 | 20 | 1,004 | n/m |
| 2GSM. | 6,210 | 6,955 | (745) | (10.7\%) |
| CDMA. | 1,658 | 1,607 | 51 | 3.2\% |
| Mobile services in operation | 8,892 | 8,582 | 310 | 3.6\% |
| Total wholesale mobile SIOs (in thousands) | 129 | 101 | 28 | 27.7\% |
| Online subscribers (in thousands) (vi) |  |  |  |  |
| Broadband subscribers - retail | 1,839 | 1,188 | 651 | 54.8\% |
| Broadband subscribers - wholesale (vii) | 1,621 | 1,164 | 457 | 39.3\% |
| Total broadband subscribers | 3,460 | 2,352 | 1,108 | 47.1\% |
| Narrowband subscribers | 819 | 1,143 | (324) | (28.3\%) |
| Total online subscribers | 4,279 | 3,495 | 784 | 22.4\% |
| Total FOXTEL subscribers (in thousands) | 1,182 | 1,074 | 108 | 10.1\% |
| Employee data |  |  |  |  |
| Domestic full time staff (viii) | 36,184 | 39,115 | $(2,931)$ | (7.5\%) |
| Full time staff and equivalents (ix). | 43,989 | 45,456 | $(1,467)$ | (3.2\%) |
| Total workforce (x) | 48,991 | 51,057 | $(2,066)$ | (4.0\%) |

(i) Includes national long distance minutes from our public switched telephone network (PSTN) and independently operated payphones. Excludes minutes related to calls from non-PSTN networks, such as ISDN and virtual private networks.
(ii) Includes all calls made from mobile telephones including long distance and international calls, excludes data, messagebank, international roaming and CSL New World.
(iii) Excludes Incontact services (a free service with restrictive calling access) and advanced access services, such as ISDN services.
(iv) Expressed in equivalent number of clear voice channels. Comparatives have been restated to reflect updated assessment of channels per SIO on ISDN 10/20/30. The previous assessment was based on a calculation of channel configurations across sample services. The revised assessment is based on the entire customer base.
(v) Excludes CSL New World SIOs.
(vi) Includes wireless broadband SIOs (EVDO \& HSDPA)
(vii) Within Broadband, retail products include cable, satellite, BigPond Wireless, ADSL and mobile data CDMA, while wholesale products include DSL Layer 1, DSL Layer 2, DSL layer 3, Spectrum Sharing and vISP Broadband. Total Broadband subscribers exclude Broadband component of ULL.
(viii) Excludes offshore, casual and part time employees. December 2005 has been restated, refer to Labour section for further information.
(ix) Includes all domestic and offshore employees, including controlled entities. December 2005 has been restated, refer to Labour expense section for further information.
( $x$ ) Includes all domestic and offshore employees, including controlled entities, as well as contractors and agency staff. December 2005 has been restated, refer to Labour expense section for further information.

## Half-year results and operations review - December 2006

## Operating revenues

Operating revenues

|  | Half-year ended 31 December |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\begin{array}{r} 2006 \\ \$ m \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 2005 \\ \$ \mathrm{~m} \end{array}$ | Change \$m | 2006/2005 <br> (\% change) |
| Fixed telephony |  |  |  |  |
| Basic access. | 1,663 | 1,657 | 6 | 0.4\% |
| Local calls | 432 | 553 | (121) | (21.9\%) |
| PSTN value added services. | 125 | 123 | 2 | 1.6\% |
| National long distance calls. | 408 | 471 | (63) | (13.4\%) |
| Fixed to mobile. | 749 | 761 | (12) | (1.6\%) |
| International direct | 94 | 106 | (12) | (11.3\%) |
| Fixed interconnection | 144 | 160 | (16) | (10.0\%) |
| Total PSTN products. | 3,615 | 3,831 | (216) | (5.6\%) |
| ISDN products | 383 | 420 | (37) | (8.8\%) |
| Inbound calling products | 203 | 208 | (5) | (2.4\%) |
| Payphones | 48 | 54 | (6) | (11.1\%) |
| Customer premises equipment | 151 | 135 | 16 | 11.9\% |
| Intercarrier access services. | 87 | 69 | 18 | 26.1\% |
| Other fixed telephony | 156 | 163 | (7) | (4.3\%) |
| Total fixed telephony. | 4,643 | 4,880 | (237) | (4.9\%) |
| Mobiles |  |  |  |  |
| Mobile services - retail | 1,925 | 1,794 | 131 | 7.3\% |
| Mobile services - wholesale | 26 | 16 | 10 | 62.5\% |
| Mobile services - interconnection | 296 | 318 | (22) | (6.9\%) |
| Mobile services - international roaming | 157 | 131 | 26 | 19.8\% |
| Mobile services - other | 37 | 32 | 5 | 15.6\% |
| Total mobile services | 2,441 | 2,291 | 150 | 6.5\% |
| Mobile handsets | 357 | 211 | 146 | 69.2\% |
| Total mobiles | 2,798 | 2,502 | 296 | 11.8\% |
| Internet |  |  |  |  |
| Narrowband | 79 | 117 | (38) | (32.5\%) |
| Retail broadband | 497 | 331 | 166 | 50.2\% |
| Wholesale broadband | 279 | 209 | 70 | 33.5\% |
| Other. | 10 | 9 | 1 | 11.1\% |
| Total internet | 865 | 666 | 199 | 29.9\% |
| IP \& data access . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . |  |  |  |  |
| Internet direct | 81 | 70 | 11 | 15.7\% |
| Specialised data | 404 | 451 | (47) | (10.4\%) |
| IP access. | 193 | 152 | 41 | 27.0\% |
| Wholesale internet \& data . | 111 | 100 | 11 | 11.0\% |
| Total IP \& data access . | 789 | 773 | 16 | 2.1\% |
| Business services and applications | 501 | 507 | (6) | (1.2\%) |
| Advertising and directories | 824 | 944 | (120) | (12.7\%) |
| CSL New World . | 519 | 373 | 146 | 39.1\% |
| TelstraClear | 286 | 321 | (35) | (10.9\%) |
| Offshore services revenue | 173 | 139 | 34 | 24.5\% |
| Pay TV bundling | 164 | 156 | 8 | 5.1\% |
| Other minor items. | 136 | 175 | (39) | (22.3\%) |
| Elimination for wireless broadband | (68) | (31) | (37) | 119.4\% |
| Sales revenue | 11,630 | 11,405 | 225 | 2.0\% |
| Other revenue | 15 | 10 | 5 | 50.0\% |
| Total revenue | 11,645 | 11,415 | 230 | 2.0\% |
| Other income. | 152 | 129 | 23 | 17.8\% |
| Total income . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . | 11,797 | 11,544 | 253 | 2.2\% |

## Half-year results and operations review - December 2006

In the following discussion, we analyse revenue for each of our major products and services. The principal areas of operating revenue growth for the half-year ended 31 December 2006 were:

- mobiles reflecting the continued growth in the number of subscribers, increased demand for 3GSM services and higher minutes of use offset by continued pricing pressures;
- broadband due to a significant increase in our subscriber base partially due to migration from narrowband products but also due to overall growth in the online market;
- CSL New World due to additional revenue received as a result of the merger between Hong Kong CSL and New World PCS in fiscal 2006; and
- IP access driven primarily by the increased use of IP services by business customers (small to medium enterprises), the introduction of new products to meet customer needs and the increased use of the internet by businesses at greater bandwidth;
offset by a decline in:
- PSTN products revenue as customers continue to move towards new products and services to satisfy their requirements and competition intensifies in the market, although the decline in retail lines in service has slowed considerably as has the revenue rate of decline;
- advertising and directories due to the deferral of the Melbourne Yellow ${ }^{\top M}$ print directory revenue to January 2007 due to changes in printing contracts to reduce costs;
- specialised data as a result of products entering the mature phase of the product lifecycle with customers moving to better business solutions in IP access products;
- narrowband mainly due to migration to broadband; and
- ISDN due to a reduction in voice calls revenue as a result of pricing pressures and lower minutes of use, and decreased data calls revenue due to migration to alternative products such as ADSL and symmetrical HDSL.

We continue to see a shift in revenue from our traditional higher margin retail operations (such as our PSTN products) to our lower margin retail products (such as mobiles and broadband). In the latter area we have had two significant launches in this half-year with the release to the market of our Next $G^{T M}$ and ADSL $2+$ product offerings. In the second half of fiscal 2006, we also introduced our first subscription price based offers into the consumer market to help address the decline of our traditional product revenues and to make pricing simple for our customers. We have also rolled out market based management throughout our business to enable us to better serve our customers' as we better understand their needs. These initiatives are showing positive signs in our revenue results.

## Half-year results and operations review - December 2006

## Fixed telephony

Fixed telephony

|  | Half-year ended 31 December |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\begin{array}{r} 2006 \\ \$ \mathrm{~m} \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 2005 \\ \$ \mathrm{~m} \\ \hline \end{array}$ | Change \$m | 2006/2005 <br> (\% change) |
| PSTN products | 3,615 | 3,831 | (216) | (5.6\%) |
| ISDN products | 383 | 420 | (37) | (8.8\%) |
| Inbound calling products | 203 | 208 | (5) | (2.4\%) |
| Payphones | 48 | 54 | (6) | (11.1\%) |
| Customer premises equipment . | 151 | 135 | 16 | 11.9\% |
| Intercarrier access services. | 87 | 69 | 18 | 26.1\% |
| Other fixed telephony | 156 | 163 | (7) | (4.3\%) |
| Total fixed telephony revenue. | 4,643 | 4,880 | (237) | (4.9\%) |

## PSTN products

PSTN products

|  | Half-year ended 31 December |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\begin{array}{r} 2006 \\ \$ \mathrm{~m} \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 2005 \\ \$ \mathrm{~m} \\ \hline \end{array}$ | Change $\$ \mathrm{~m}$ | 2006/2005 <br> (\% change) |
| Basic access revenue: |  |  |  |  |
| - Retail | 1,278 | 1,308 | (30) | (2.3\%) |
| - Domestic wholesale . | 385 | 349 | 36 | 10.3\% |
| Total basic access revenue. | 1,663 | 1,657 | 6 | 0.4\% |
| Local call revenue | 432 | 553 | (121) | (21.9\%) |
| PSTN value added services revenue | 125 | 123 | 2 | 1.6\% |
| National long distance call revenue. | 408 | 471 | (63) | (13.4\%) |
| Fixed to mobile revenue | 749 | 761 | (12) | (1.6\%) |
| International direct revenue | 94 | 106 | (12) | (11.3\%) |
| Fixed interconnection | 144 | 160 | (16) | (10.0\%) |
| Total PSTN products revenue. | 3,615 | 3,831 | (216) | (5.6\%) |
| Basic access lines in service (in millions) |  |  |  |  |
| Residential | 5.47 | 5.52 | (0.05) | (0.9\%) |
| Business | 2.27 | 2.37 | (0.10) | (4.2\%) |
| Total retail | 7.74 | 7.89 | (0.15) | (1.9\%) |
| Domestic wholesale. | 2.12 | 2.14 | (0.02) | (0.9\%) |
| Total access lines in service | 9.86 | 10.03 | (0.17) | (1.7\%) |
| Number of local calls (in millions) | 3,390 | 3,882 | (492) | (12.7\%) |
| National long distance minutes (in millions) (i). | 3,594 | 3,666 | (72) | (2.0\%) |
| Fixed to mobile minutes (in millions) | 2,339 | 2,234 | 105 | 4.7\% |
| International direct minutes (in millions) | 264 | 273 | (9) | (3.3\%) |

Note: statistical data represents management's best estimates.
(i) Includes national long distance minutes from our public switched telephone network (PSTN) and independently operated payphones. Excludes minutes related to calls from non-PSTN networks, such as ISDN and virtual private networks.

## Half-year results and operations review - December 2006

Total PSTN products revenue was $\$ 3,615$ million, which declined by $5.6 \%$ or $\$ 216$ million during the half-year. This decline has slowed when compared with the $7.6 \%$ decline in the December 2005 half.

There has been a general reduction in PSTN volumes, with a decline in retail and wholesale basic access lines for the half-year, although the decline in retail lines has slowed considerably. Volumes have reduced across local calls, national long distance calls, international direct calls and fixed interconnection. Yields have also declined in local calls, national long distance, fixed to mobile, international direct and fixed interconnection due to competitive pricing pressure and higher demand for alternative products.

During the second half of fiscal 2006, we introduced subscription pricing plans for our PSTN customers, which offer greater choice and value from the home phone, including untimed national long distance calls and low or no charge local calls. These plans have begun to impact positively on our PSTN performance for the current half-year.

## Basic access

Our basic access revenue includes monthly rental fees, installation charges and connection charges, from telephone service connections between a customer's premises and our PSTN network.

Basic access revenues are affected by:

- housing growth;
- competition;
- demand for telephone services and additional lines;
- regulatory constraints in relation to wholesale basic access;
- migration to other products such as broadband and mobiles; and
- price changes.

Under our basic access pricing structure, we have a range of access and call pricing packages to give our residential and business customers choice in the plan they select, along with a range of reward options. These pricing packages are reviewed regularly to reflect the changing needs of customers. For the most part, wholesale customers receive the pricing plan which only incorporates the basic telephone service with local call rates, excluding long distance and fixed to mobile calls (with a "residential" and "business" differentiation still applying).

Our operating revenue from basic access services continues to be affected by competition. However the decline in retail lines in service has slowed considerably from $4.1 \%$ in the December 2005 half and $3.4 \%$ for fiscal 2006. For the half-year the number of retail residential and business basic access lines decreased due to strong competition and migration to alternative products such as broadband and mobiles. In the retail segment, we saw a 1.7\% decline in lines in service, mainly driven by the migration to other technologies which is underpinning the retail trend across PSTN revenues. Retail churn results in recent months have shown positive trends. Wholesale access lines in service have declined by $0.9 \%$ which is the first decline in a number of years.

Overall our operating revenue from basic access services increased. In the prior year, we introduced various basic access packages, which reduced the decline in yield in this area, despite an overall decrease in basic access lines in service.

The rental revenue decline has slowed due to a rise in line rental price charges from December 2005, which included a rise in basic access prices for wholesale and non preselected retail residential customers. In addition, penetration of higher value HomeLine plans including HomeLine Ultimate, a new subscription based plan introduced in April 2006, has contributed positively. Partly offsetting this was an increase in the discounts to Whole of Business customers and pensioners. Price increases for new service connections have also contributed to increased revenue.

## Half-year results and operations review - December 2006

## Local calls

Our local call revenue from local call charges, consists of revenue from local calls on our PSTN network and includes revenue from our MegaPop product which allows ISPs to offer untimed local call PSTN dial-up access for their customers via a single national dial-up 019 number. For the most part we charge for local calls without a time limit.

Our local call revenue is affected by:

- the number of basic access lines in service and customers moving from our basic access service to our other access services, such as mobiles and broadband;
- competition;
- increasing use of email;
- customers migrating to mobile and fixed to mobile calling; and
- pricing changes.

Local call revenue decreased by $21.9 \%$ or $\$ 121$ million, with both our retail and wholesale revenues being negatively impacted by ongoing product substitution from fixed calling to mobile voice calls and SMS, which is accelerated by the take up of capped mobile plans that have been heavily promoted by competitors. Substitution of data local calls continues to occur due to the migration of dial-up internet customers to broadband.

Generally, call volumes have continued to fall with a reduction in call volumes by $12.7 \%$, reflecting the impact of customers migrating to other products, such as mobiles, fixed to mobile, and broadband products. Call volumes again declined at a faster rate than the decline in the number of lines in service. Prices have fallen due to ongoing discounting and the impact of subscription based pricing plans.

## PSTN value added services

PSTN value added services revenue consists of a range of residential and business call completion products such as MessageBank ${ }^{\circledR}$, silent lines, calling number display and call return.

Our revenue from PSTN value added services increased by $1.6 \%$ or $\$ 2$ million during the half-year.
Messaging and call completion products increased by $5.6 \%$ or $\$ 5$ million. Calling number display continued to grow due to attractive packaging discounts resulting in subscriber numbers increasing by 7\%. Easycall revenue grew reflecting higher revenue per call impacted by subscription pricing plans.

Complex products declined by $\$ 3$ million driven by a reduction in revenue for a number of mature products, such as Indial, Siteline, Enhanced faxstream and other access products nearing the end of their lifecycle. Customers are also migrating to product offerings such as internet products and premium voice communication applications.

## Half-year results and operations review - December 2006

## National long distance calls

Our operating revenue from national long distance consists of revenue from national long distance calls made from our PSTN network to the fixed network.

We generally charge for national long distance calls based on the time of day, day of week, destination and duration of the call, but packages are also offered on a capped price basis and under subscription pricing arrangements. A variety of promotions and pricing options are offered to encourage our customers to use our service and to inform them about the price and value of our service.

General economic conditions and customer perceptions about the cost and value of our service relative to competitor alternatives largely drive our national long distance call revenue. Competitive activity continues to negatively affect this revenue category directly through override and preselection and indirectly through competition for access lines. In addition, national long distance calls are impacted by customers migrating to mobile, broadband and fixed to mobile calling.

Our operating revenue from national long distance calls declined by $13.4 \%$ or $\$ 63$ million in the half-year. Competitor activity in the fixed line market continues to be high and most carriers have a fixed or mobile cap, or a combination of both in the market. This is having a direct impact on our national long distance revenues particularly where competitors are bundling these calls with broadband offerings. Volumes declined as a result of lower basic access services in operation and the impact of fixed to mobile substitution and other calling options available to customers.

Revenue per minute has declined and is the main contributor to the reduction in revenues year on year. There have been significant pricing and package changes in the last half-year which have impacted results. Despite a flagfall increase for all Homeline plans, national long distance has been impacted by the take up of subscription plans, one of which, Homeline Ultimate, has proven to be popular as it offers free STD calls. Changes to rates between distance bands have also contributed.

We continue to respond to competition offering a range of packages assisted by our market based management approach. However, with the strong growth in mobile and internet services in the Australian market, we expect national long distance call revenue to continue to be negatively impacted by ongoing migration of customers to mobile and internet products, and by the continued growth of subscription pricing plans.

## Fixed to mobile calls

Our fixed to mobile revenue is generated by calls originating on our fixed networks and terminating on any mobile network. We generally charge for fixed to mobile calls based on time of day and mobile carrier, however packages are also offered on a capped price basis and subscription pricing plans. Our operating revenue for fixed to mobile calls is approximately split evenly between business and residential customers. The growth of the Australian mobile telecommunications market has driven revenue expansion in this product category in recent times. However, the introduction of capped plans in the mobile market has now impacted the volume of fixed to mobile activity as customers continue to slowly move their usage from our PSTN products to mobiles. The fixed to mobile environment is influenced by fixed to mobile preselection, whereby the carriage service provider (CSP) selected by a customer for national long distance calls automatically becomes the customer's provider for fixed to mobile calls.

## Half-year results and operations review - December 2006

During the half-year, fixed to mobile revenue declined by $1.6 \%$ or $\$ 12$ million. The decline was driven by lower revenue per minute resulting from higher discounts associated with ongoing competitive pressure, including incorporating fixed to mobile calls in reward offerings. This increase in the level of discounting is representative of our increased campaign activity aimed at reducing customer churn to other providers and win customers in the market place.

This decline in revenue was partially offset by growth in call volumes mainly due to the continued expansion of mobile services in the Australian market. The positive volume growth was due to both a higher number of calls and minutes of use. This growth is consistent with the growth in the total market mobile SIOs, i.e. a higher number of mobiles on which fixed calls can terminate, and the higher number of calls.

## International direct calls

Our operating revenue from international direct relates to revenue we generate from international calls made from Australia to a destination outside Australia (outbound). This revenue is largely driven by general economic conditions, international events, customer perceptions about the cost and value of our service, competition, migration to broadband alternatives and promotion and advertising.

Our international direct revenue declined by $11.3 \%$ or $\$ 12$ million primarily as a result of lower volumes and continued competitive pressure on price. Factors which have influenced this trend include the competitive pressures from calling cards, fixed to mobile substitution and the growth of Voice over IP in the market place. International direct minutes declined 3.3\% for the half-year.

## Fixed interconnection

Fixed interconnection is made up of local and non local PSTN/ISDN access interconnection services provided to other carriers. This category is a highly regulated area of the Australian telecommunications market.

Our operating revenue from fixed interconnection decreased by $10.0 \%$ or $\$ 16$ million driven mainly by a reduction in volumes. Volume declines are in line with cross company trends in PSTN traffic and have been particularly impacted by migration to mobiles and, to a small degree, ULL (unconditioned local loop) build.

## Half-year results and operations review - December 2006

## ISDN products

ISDN is a flexible, switched network based on digital technology. It can support many applications at one time (such as voice, data and video) while using a single access point to the network. ISDN services are offered to residential and business customers across Australia. Our ISDN products revenue is impacted by offerings and packages in the broadband market, growth in the number of DSL enabled exchanges and migration to advanced data products such as IP solutions.

ISDN products


Note: statistical data represents management's best estimates.
(i) Statistical data - consistent with 30 June 2006 we have adjusted comparative data to show a more accurate reflection of the market. Conversion factors have been adjusted in calculating ISDN access lines.

ISDN access revenue has increased marginally by $\$ 1$ million to $\$ 212$ million. ISDN 2 has improved by $\$ 5$ million on December 2005 due to reduced discounting offset by a decline in SIOs due to promotion and growth in Broadband and the number of DSL enabled exchanges. ISDN 10/20/30 declined by $\$ 4$ million as a result of a yield reduction associated with the acquisition of new services and whole of business deals.

ISDN data calls revenue declined by $27.7 \%$ or $\$ 18$ million as Local and National Calls decreased by $\$ 11$ million and $\$ 7$ million respectively. This result is due to customer migration to alternative products such as ADSL and symmetrical HDSL, which offer higher bandwidths at reduced prices, together with lower minutes of use.

ISDN voice calls comprising local voice, national voice and international voice calls made on the Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN), declined by $13.9 \%$ or $\$ 20$ million, mainly due to the decline in Local and National Calls by $\$ 13$ million and $\$ 7$ million respectively. Revenue from ISDN Local voice is impacted by a revenue re-classification of Priority ${ }^{\circledR}$ One3 and 1300 A Party products from ISDN to Inbound calling and lower minutes of use. Both Local and National Voice Calls have experienced a fall in price due to pricing pressure.

## Half-year results and operations review - December 2006

## Inbound calling products

Our operating revenue from inbound calling products consists principally of the fees we charge our business customers for the provision of inbound calling numbers:

- for Freecall ${ }^{\text {TM }} 1800$, the cost of the call, charged to the party called, with no cost incurred by the caller;
- for Priority ${ }^{\circledR} 1300$ and Priority ${ }^{\circledR}$ One3:
- the calling party from a PSTN service incurs a cost of 25 cents (including GST) from anywhere in Australia.

Different charges apply for calls made from ISDN, mobiles and payphones; and

- the service owner incurs the other components of the call charges as applicable.

Our inbound calling products revenue therefore is driven by two different streams, the caller (A party) and the lessee of the inbound service (B party). The A party revenues are affected by substitution to other voice products such as mobiles and the Internet. B party revenues are affected by increased customer competition impacting prices.

Inbound calling products

|  | Half-year ended 31 December |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\begin{array}{r} 2006 \\ \$ m \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 2005 \\ \$ \mathrm{~m} \\ \hline \end{array}$ | Change \$m | 2006/2005 <br> (\% change) |
| Inbound calling products revenue . | 203 | 208 | (5) | (2.4\%) |
| B party minutes (in millions) | 1,339 | 1,482 | (143) | (9.6\%) |
| A party calls (in millions). | 510 | 502 | 8 | 1.6\% |

Note: statistical data represents management's best estimates.
Revenue from inbound calling products declined $2.4 \%$ to $\$ 203$ million for the half-year ended 31 December 2006 mainly due to a decline in revenue from Freecall ${ }^{\text {TM }} 1800$ as a result of ongoing price competition and substitution to 1300 services.

Our revenue from Priority ${ }^{\circledR}$ One3 and 1300 B Party products declined in the half-year due to very competitive market pressures resulting in lower prices. Minutes of use and services in operation have declined by $11.1 \%$ in this category of calls after the loss of some large volume customers. This is offset by higher call volumes by $5 \%$ on our Priority ${ }^{\circledR}$ One3 and 1300 A Party products after calls from our ISDN and Siteline products to these numbers were reclassified in September 2005 to inbound calling. The volume increase is representative of a full 6 months of ISDN and Siteline revenue being classified in Priority ${ }^{\circledR}$ One3 and 1300 A Party products for the half-year ending December 2006.

In addition, there was revenue growth due to call charges for ISDN and Siteline calls made to One3 services increasing from a cost of a local call to 27.5 cents. Offsetting these increases is the continuing trend of calls to these numbers being made from mobile phones resulting in mobiles revenue being recorded.

## Half-year results and operations review - December 2006

## Payphones

|  | Half-year ended 31 December |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\begin{array}{r} 2006 \\ \$ \mathrm{~m} \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 2005 \\ \$ \mathrm{~m} \end{array}$ | Change \$m | 2006/2005 <br> (\% change) |
| Payphone revenue | 48 | 54 | (6) | (11.1\%) |
| Telstra owned and operated payphones (thousands) | 27 | 31 | (4) | (12.9\%) |
| Privately owned and operated payphones (thousands) | 26 | 28 | (2) | (7.1\%) |
| Total number of payphones (in thousands) | 53 | 59 | (6) | (10.2\%) |

Note: statistical data represents management's best estimates.
Payphone revenue declined by $11.1 \%$ to $\$ 48$ million in the half-year ended 31 December 2006. This is a result of substitution to other products, particularly prepaid mobile phones and competitors' prepaid calling cards. We removed a number of low usage phones resulting in a reduction in the number of Telstra owned and operated payphones due to this migration. There has also been a decline in privately owned and operated payphones of $7.1 \%$ as private operators removed their support for unprofitable payphones, again due to increased mobile phone usage.

## Customer premises equipment

Customer premises equipment

\left.|  | Half-year ended 31 December |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | :---: | :---: |
| Changer |  |  |  |
| 2006/2005 |  |  |  |
| 2005 |  |  |  |
| (\% change) |  |  |  |$\right)$

Customer premises equipment (CPE) revenue increased by $11.9 \%$ to $\$ 151$ million. This increase was mainly driven by growth in Enhanced CPE products and PBX Products, offset by a decline in first and extension phones.

Enhanced CPE Products grew after Telstra Business Systems (TBS) packages increased in volume by 58\% as a result of strong marketing activity and process improvements to support tools and processes.

PBX Products have increased mainly due to the half-year ended 31 December 2006 including revenue from acquired entities Converged Networks Pty Ltd (\$3 million) which was acquired in April 2006, and Touchbase Avaya (\$2 million) acquired in July 2006.

These increases were offset by a decline in revenues from first and extension phones due to ongoing substitution to mobiles.

## Half-year results and operations review - December 2006

## Intercarrier access services

Our operating revenue from intercarrier fixed access products consists of revenue from facilities access, unconditioned local loop, switch ports and interconnect network services, wholesale operator services, local number portability and other wholesale access.

Intercarrier access services

|  | Half-year ended 31 December |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\begin{array}{r} 2006 \\ \$ \mathrm{~m} \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 2005 \\ \$ \mathrm{~m} \\ \hline \end{array}$ | Change \$m | 2006/2005 <br> (\% change) |
| Intercarrier access services. | 87 | 69 | 18 | 26.1\% |

Intercarrier fixed access revenue increased by $26.1 \%$ or $\$ 18$ million during the half-year ended 31 December 2006. The main driver in the growth has been facilities access which has grown by $35.0 \%$ or $\$ 13$ million due to other carrier/ service providers expanding their infrastructure by using TEBA (Telstra Equipment and Building Access). TEBA sites have increased year on year as service providers seek to extend DSL capability and prepare to build their own infrastructure.

Unconditioned local loop has increased by $25.2 \%$ or $\$ 4$ million due to competitors building their own networks. SIOs have increased by $100 \%$ but revenue is not reflective of this as regulatory pressure has led to a downward pricing adjustment. Local number portability has increased by $79.5 \%$ as our wholesale area of the business has increased their customers. This product allows customers to offer their end users the option of keeping their existing number when taking up either a wholesale local call or mobile service. Offsetting this growth is a decline in other wholesale access products revenue by $\$ 2$ million due to a reduction in commercial and pre-selection churn charges and wholesale billing service charges.

## Other fixed telephony

Other fixed telephony

| ( |
| :--- |

In the half-year ended 31 December 2006 operating revenue from other fixed telephony decreased by $4.3 \%$ or $\$ 7$ million mainly due to a decline in card services, virtual private networks and customnet and spectrum offset by an increase in Telstra information and connection services.

Card services includes postpaid card services, such as Homelink, Telecard and OneNumber, and prepaid card services, such as Prepaid Home, Phoneaway, and say G'day. The decline in card services revenue reflects an overall decline in the number of services due to substitution to cheaper and more convenient calling products such as mobiles and because products such as Telecard and Homelink 1800 have entered the mature phase of the product lifecycle.

## Half-year results and operations review - December 2006

Virtual private network enables multi location customers to link premises in Australia and overseas to an integrated system without the use of leased lines. Virtual private network revenue has decreased due to the discounting of call rates arising from competitive pressures.

Customnet and spectrum is a fully managed telephone system that provides a premium voice communication application. The decrease in revenue is mainly due to declining local call revenue caused by substitution to products such as fixed to mobile and lower prices offered to customers.

Telstra information and connection services includes operator assisted calls, directory assistance, Sensis 1234 call connect and emergency reporting services. Sensis 1234 call connect is a premium directory service for residential and business information including most telephone numbers, addresses, business operating hours and URLs (where available). The increase in Telstra information and connection services revenue is due to increased Sensis 1234 call connect revenues arising from longer average handling times of calls as a result of additional content on offer, including updates on the weather, sporting events and film schedules. This is offset by a decline in usage of directory assistance as customers move to the Sensis 1234 product and a decline in international operator assisted calls.

## Mobiles

Our operating revenue from mobiles consists of revenue from access fees and call charges, as well as other services comprising international roaming, mobile MessageBank ${ }^{\circledR}$, Short message service (SMS) and other mobile data. Mobile data includes mobile wireless broadband products such as EVDO and HSDPA which work off our CDMA and 3GSM 850 networks respectively. Operating mobiles revenue includes revenue from the sale of mobile handsets and interconnection charges where calls from other carriers' customers terminate on our network.

In October 2006 we launched the Next $G^{T M}$ network, a new 3GSM network operating on the 850 megahertz spectrum. We provided services over four primary mobile technologies, CDMA, 2GSM, 3GSM 850 and 3GSM 2100. We have had large amounts of our current subscribers migrating from our old networks onto our 3GSM networks and these account for $61.0 \%$ of current 3GSM SIOs. The new 3GSM 850 network is intended to reduce our level of network costs and complexity once our CDMA network is closed, and has enabled us to provide our customers with faster speeds, better coverage and enable them to access a far greater range of services and content than our older network. We continue to offer 3GSM services to our customers over our existing 3GSM 2100 network through our joint venture with Hutchison Telecommunication (Australia) Limited (Hutchison).

## Half-year results and operations review - December 2006

Mobiles

|  | Half-year ended 31 December |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\begin{array}{r} 2006 \\ \$ \mathrm{~m} \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 2005 \\ \$ \mathrm{~m} \\ \hline \end{array}$ | Change \$m | 2006/2005 <br> (\% change) |
| Access fees and call charges. | 1,375 | 1,387 | (12) | (0.9\%) |
| International roaming | 157 | 131 | 26 | 19.8\% |
| Mobile messagebank | 106 | 94 | 12 | 12.8\% |
| Mobile data. |  |  |  |  |
| - Short message service (SMS) (i) | 304 | 240 | 64 | 26.7\% |
| - Non SMS data (ii). | 176 | 105 | 71 | 67.6\% |
| Total mobile data | 480 | 345 | 135 | 39.1\% |
| Total mobile services revenue - retail | 2,119 | 1,957 | 162 | 8.3\% |
| Mobile services revenue - wholesale | 26 | 16 | 10 | 62.5\% |
| Mobile services revenue - mobiles interconnection | 296 | 318 | (22) | (6.9\%) |
| Total mobile services revenue. | 2,441 | 2,291 | 150 | 6.5\% |
| Mobile handset sales | 357 | 211 | 146 | 69.2\% |
| Total mobile revenue (iii) | 2,798 | 2,502 | 296 | 11.8\% |
| 3GSM mobile SIO (thousands) (iv) | 1,024 | 20 | 1,004 | n/m |
| 2GSM mobile SIO (thousands) | 6,210 | 6,955 | (745) | (10.7\%) |
| CDMA mobile SIO (thousands) | 1,658 | 1,607 | 51 | 3.2\% |
| Total mobile SIO (thousands) | 8,892 | 8,582 | 310 | 3.6\% |
| Wireless broadband - SIO (thousands) (included in CDMA SIO \& 3GSM above) | 204 | 47 | 157 | 334.0\% |
| Prepaid mobile SIO (thousands) | 3,626 | 3,839 | (213) | (5.5\%) |
| Postpaid mobile SIO (thousands). | 5,266 | 4,743 | 523 | 11.0\% |
| Total mobile SIO (thousands) | 8,892 | 8,582 | 310 | 3.6\% |
| CDMA wholesale mobile SIO (thousands) | 71 | 68 | 3 | 4.4\% |
| GSM wholesale mobile SIO (thousands) | 58 | 33 | 25 | 75.8\% |
| Total wholesale mobile SIO (thousands) | 129 | 101 | 28 | 27.7\% |
| Number of SMS sent (in millions) (i) | 2,227 | 1,318 | 909 | 69.0\% |
| Deactivation rate | 10.4\% | 8.7\% |  | 1.7\% |
| Mobile voice telephone minutes (in millions) (v) | 4,147 | 3,611 | 536 | 14.8\% |
| Average revenue per user per month \$'s (vi) | 40.55 | 38.79 | 1.76 | 4.5\% |
| Average revenue per user per month excluding wireless broadband \$'s (vi). | 39.94 | 38.28 | 1.66 | 4.3\% |
| Average prepaid revenue per user per month \$'s (vi). | 11.71 | 10.81 | 0.90 | 8.3\% |
| Average postpaid revenue per user per month \$'s (vi) | 60.98 | 60.84 | 0.14 | 0.2\% |
| Average mobile data revenue per user per month \$'s (vii). | 9.19 | 6.76 | 2.43 | 35.9\% |

Note: statistical data represents management's best estimates.
(i) Includes short messaging service (SMS) and multimedia messaging services (MMS)
(ii) Includes $\$ 68$ million of revenue (December 2005: $\$ 31$ million) relating to wireless broadband services (EVDO \& HSDPA)
(iii) Excludes revenue from:

- calls from our fixed network which we categorise as fixed to mobile; and
- CSL New World which is recognised separately as controlled entity revenue.
(iv) Total third generation (" $3 G$ ") SIOs include 3 GSM SIOs and our EVDO wireless broadband SIOs included in CDMA. The number of $3 G$ SIOs are $1,182 k$ (3GSM: 1,024k plus EVDO: 158k).
(v) Includes all calls made from mobile telephones including long distance and international calls, excludes data, messagebank, international roaming and CSL New World.
(vi) Average retail revenue per user per month is calculated using average retail SIOs and includes mobile data, messagebank and roaming revenues. It excludes interconnection and wholesale revenue.
(vii) Includes mobile \& broadband wireless revenues (EVDO \& HSDPA).


## Half-year results and operations review - December 2006

As at the half-year ended 31 December 2006, mobile services revenue increased due to the continued growth in the number of mobile telephone subscribers. The demand was particularly for 3GSM services as SIOs, which reached over the 1 million mark along with expanding minutes of use, offset by continued pressure on prices. In addition, we experienced strong growth in data products including SMS, Blackberry, EVDO and HSDPA.

Mobile revenues have continued to grow during the half-year driven by the increase in capped price plans, heightened campaign activity particularly around Next $G^{T M}$ services, and the increasing use of mobile data services such as Blackberry, EVDO and HSDPA. The large growth in EVDO and HSDPA has been highlighted by an increase in SIOs of 157 k for the half-year. The EVDO increase in SIOs of 109 k is also the key reason for CDMA SIOs growing year on year. While voice continues to be the largest contributor to mobiles revenue, mobile data, international roaming and messagebank are the fastest growing, now representing $30.4 \%$ of mobile services revenue for the half-year.

Access fees and call charges revenue declined by $0.9 \%$ to $\$ 1,375$ million in the half-year reflecting a decrease in CDMA and 2GSM. Results have been impacted during the year by the growth in capped price plans which has directly impacted revenue per minute. CDMA prepaid revenue per minute was impacted by a promotion which gave CDMA subscribers half price calls for a year and was included in prior half results. We moved from $4.8 \%$ of our mobile customers on capped plans in December 2005 to $10.3 \%$ in December 2006. Call minutes generally increased for each technology, but these benefits did not outweigh the negative impact on price for the period.

SIOs increased overall, but it was 3GSM 850 (net of 2GSM and 3GSM 2100) that drove the growth with a 259 k or a $3.7 \%$ increase in SIOs. In addition, CDMA increased by 51 k or $3.2 \%$ in SIOs due to higher EVDO SIOs. The GSM revenues benefited from an increased emphasis on 3GSM after the launch of Next $G^{T M}$ in October and the availability of new 3GSM handsets.

Revenue from international roaming grew by $19.8 \%$ to $\$ 157$ million in the half-year ended 31 December 2006. The rise was due to an increase in both outbound and inbound. Outbound roaming minutes and revenue per call have increased revenue. The increase in inbound roaming revenue is in line with world wide mobile growth trends and the increase of travellers to Australia using their own mobile phones.

Revenue from MessageBank ${ }^{\circledR}$ increased by $12.8 \%$ to $\$ 106$ million in half-year primarily due to growth in minutes resulting from higher mobile usage.

SMS and Multimedia Messaging Services (MMS) revenues increased by $26.7 \%$ to $\$ 304$ million after a significant increase in the number of messages sent. There is a component of migration from voice communication to message communication which is evident in the reported growth rates. This has been stimulated by a 1 cent text offer and other rewards and bonus options offered during the half-year. Non SMS data growth was also experienced mainly in the corporate segment through the Blackberry and Telstra Mobile Broadband ${ }^{\text {TM }}$ products on the EVDO and 3GSM networks. Arriving with the launch of Next $G^{T M}$ was also the education of the market of new data services and that a higher speed network makes data use better which has led to a previously non-active data population now using data. This is reflected in the average overall mobile data revenue per user per month increasing by $\$ 2.43$ or $35.9 \%$. Mobile data (excluding messaging) is now $8.3 \%$ of mobile ARPU.

Wholesale mobile service revenue increased for the half-year ended 31 December 2006 by $62.5 \%$ or $\$ 10$ million due to growth in the Wholesale GSM resale product.

Average revenue per user (ARPU) increased by $\$ 1.76$ to $\$ 40.55$ for the half-year ended 31 December on a blended basis. This has been driven by higher ARPUs experienced on our 3GSM base compared with those experienced on the other 2GSM technologies with an approximate $\$ 20$ per month ARPU premium being maintained. Data usage has been a key product driver of this increase. Volumes have increased by $76.0 \%$.

## Half-year results and operations review - December 2006

Mobiles interconnection revenue has declined $6.9 \%$ to $\$ 296$ million. The main product driving this is mobiles terminating revenue which has been impacted by a retrospective regulatory pricing adjustment made on the mobiles terminating access (MTA) rate. The rate has dropped from 18 cents per call minute in 2005 to 15 cents per call minute in 2006. This was despite a $12.3 \%$ increase in termination volumes resulting from growth across the entire market. GSM wholesale domestic roaming grew in the half by $\$ 22$ million which corresponds directly to a $\$ 7$ million drop in CDMA roaming due to migration towards Hutchison's 3GSM products as an alternative to CDMA. SMS interconnect has grown by $\$ 14$ million due to an increase in traffic resulting from growth in mobile SIOs as well as a continued increase in the popularity of text messaging as a cheaper alternative to mobile voice calling.

Revenue from handset sales increased by $69.2 \%$ to $\$ 357$ million in the half-year ending 31 December 2006 primarily due to growth in the number of 3GSM mobile handsets sold. This growth is attributed to an increase in marketing campaign activity focusing on the launch of Next G ${ }^{T M}$ network and the sale of 3GSM handsets. The move away from CDMA and 2GSM to higher priced 3GSM handsets has had the effect of increasing the average revenue of handsets sold.

The deactivation rate has increased in the half-year by $1.7 \%$ due to a decline in prepaid mobile SIOs of 213k as a result of pricing pressures of the market and introduction in May 2006 of a shorter access period for recharge.

## Half-year results and operations review - December 2006

## Internet

Revenue from internet services is driven primarily by:

- the increased use of the Internet by businesses and consumers;
- the movement of our customers from basic access and associated calling products to other access services such as ADSL;
- demand for greater bandwidth services such as broadband; and
- the increased need to access broadband services on a mobile basis.

While internet markets have been experiencing growth, competition has put pressure on our prices. We expect that these trends will continue.

Internet

|  | Half-year ended 31 December |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\begin{array}{r} 2006 \\ \$ \mathrm{~m} \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 2005 \\ \$ \mathrm{~m} \\ \hline \end{array}$ | Change \$m | 2006/2005 <br> (\% change) |
| Narrowband | 79 | 117 | (38) | (32.5\%) |
| Retail broadband | 497 | 331 | 166 | 50.2\% |
| Wholesale broadband | 279 | 209 | 70 | 33.5\% |
| Other | 10 | 9 | 1 | 11.1\% |
| Total internet revenue. | 865 | 666 | 199 | 29.9\% |
| Broadband subscribers - retail (in thousands) (i)(ii) | 1,839 | 1,188 | 651 | 54.8\% |
| Broadband subscribers - wholesale (in thousands). | 1,621 | 1,164 | 457 | 39.3\% |
| Total broadband subscribers (in thousands). | 3,460 | 2,352 | 1,108 | 47.1\% |
| Narrowband subscribers - retail (in thousands). | 819 | 1,143 | (324) | (28.3\%) |
| Total online subscribers . | 4,279 | 3,495 | 784 | 22.4\% |
| Average revenue per retail broadband subscriber per month (\$'s) | 49.49 | 54.32 | (4.83) | (8.9\%) |
| Average revenue per retail broadband subscriber per month before wireless broadband (\$'s) | 46.96 | 50.42 | (3.46) | (6.9\%) |

Note: statistical data represents management's best estimates.
(i) Telstra internet direct (Retail ADSL) are not included in retail broadband revenue and subscriber numbers.
(ii) Our broadband subscribers include 204k subscribers relating to our wireless broadband products for December 2006 and 47k for December 2005.

Our narrowband products allow customers to connect to the internet from any telephone line in Australia. Our broadband products allow customers to experience an "always on" connection to the Internet, although this is not available to all lines due to technology limitations. During the half-year there was continued demand for capacity combined with competitive pricing which resulted in customers migrating their narrowband services to broadband. This trend placed additional price pressure on our narrowband products and resulted in a significant decline in our narrowband revenues.

There are a range of internet products and packages offered under our BigPond brand. Telstra BigPond home and business packages offer dial-up modem services to residential and business customers across Australia. Telstra BigPond broadband provides broadband internet services to consumer and business customers via HFC (Hybrid Fibre Coaxial) cable, ADSL (including ADSL 2+), satellite and wireless on the Next $G^{T M}$ and CDMA networks.

For the half-year ended 31 December 2006, our internet revenue grew by $29.9 \%$ or $\$ 199$ million to $\$ 865$ million. The subscriber base for our broadband products grew significantly, partially due to migration from narrowband products

## Half-year results and operations review - December 2006

but also due to growth in the overall online market. As at 31 December 2006, we had approximately 3.5 million broadband customers with over 1.8 million of these being retail customers. There has been a significant rise in demand resulting from competitive pricing strategies.

Narrowband revenue decreased by $32.5 \%$ to $\$ 79$ million for the half-year. Home subscribers have declined by $30 \%$ to approximately 684 k and business subscribers by $21 \%$ to approximately 135 k . The decline in narrowband revenue highlights the growing impact of dial-up to broadband migration. We expect this trend to continue with further price adjustments likely to occur as broadband prices fall and customers require higher speeds.

Retail broadband revenue increased by $50.2 \%$ to $\$ 497$ million for the half-year, mainly due to strong increases in SIOs, although overall ARPU declined half on half. Broadband ARPUs have however been maintained compared with the second half of fiscal 2006. ADSL, cable and wireless have been key drivers of the SIO growth, with ADSL increasing by $51.4 \%$ to $1,303 \mathrm{k}$ subscribers and cable increasing by $19.8 \%$ to 308 k subscribers. Wireless contributed to overall subscriber growth with BigPond EVDO launched in August 2005 and HSDPA on the Next G ${ }^{\text {TM }}$ network launched in October 2006. These products contributed 157 k to the increase in our subscribers over the last 12 months. BigPond marked its $10^{\text {th }}$ anniversary in November with the launch of national high speed broadband network. The network delivers significantly increased speeds from exchanges offering ADSL $2+$ services. The introduction of a number of key price and value campaigns has also stimulated broadband take up including, high-speed cable plans, price/value offers which included a combination of discounting access and installation offers, various sales channel and marketing initiatives and competitive differentiation such as appealing and popular content offers.

As our customers migrate from narrowband to broadband our overall blended ARPU has increased from December 2005 to December 2006. This result is due to broadband subscribers increasing at a greater rate than narrowband migration. Broadband subscribers have a substantially higher APRU than narrowband and the proportional mix of customers has changed.

Wholesale broadband revenue increased by $33.5 \%$ to $\$ 279$ million for the half-year ended 31 December 2006, driven by a continuing strong market demand for high bandwidth services stimulated by retail competition. Wholesale DSL internet grade has grown by $33.7 \%$ to $\$ 251$ million driven by SIO growth of $29.6 \%$ to $1,391 \mathrm{k}$, combined with delayed ULL build activity and a stable average revenue per user. Spectrum sharing services has also contributed to revenue growth, after strong SIO growth from 90k to 230k.

Other revenue, which is made up of media content and BigPond webhosting services, increased by $11.1 \%$ or $\$ 1$ million over the half-year. BigPond webhosting services primarily relates to the hosting of fully functional personal or business websites for customers, however the majority of the revenue growth can be attributed to media content with movie, music, games and sport content all growing over the period.

## Half-year results and operations review - December 2006

## IP \& data access

|  | Half-year ended 31 December |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\begin{array}{r} 2006 \\ \$ m \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 2005 \\ \$ \mathrm{~m} \end{array}$ | Change \$m | 2006/2005 <br> (\% change) |
| Internet direct | 81 | 70 | 11 | 15.7\% |
| Specialised data:. |  |  |  |  |
| - Frame relay | 136 | 157 | (21) | (13.4\%) |
| - ATM | 40 | 46 | (6) | (13.0\%) |
| - Digital data services . | 82 | 104 | (22) | (21.2\%) |
| - Leased lines | 114 | 112 | 2 | 1.8\% |
| - International private lines | 14 | 14 | - | 0.0\% |
| - Other specialised data | 18 | 18 | - | 0.0\% |
| Total specialised data. | 404 | 451 | (47) | (10.4\%) |
| IP access | 193 | 152 | 41 | 27.0\% |
| Wholesale internet \& data. | 111 | 100 | 11 | 11.0\% |
| Total IP \& data access revenue . | 789 | 773 | 16 | 2.1\% |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Domestic Frame access ports (in thousands) | 29 | 33 | (4) | (12.1\%) |

Note: statistical data represents management's best estimates.
Our operating revenue from IP and data access products consists of revenue from Internet direct, specialised data, IP Access and Wholesale internet and data. This product suite is used primarily by small to large enterprise customers. IP and data access has increased by $2.1 \%$ or $\$ 16$ million driven mainly by IP access, internet direct and wholesale internet and data. IP access has grown due to newer technology attracting a migration of small business and enterprise customers from mature products in specialised data.

Internet direct has increased by $15.7 \%$ to $\$ 81$ million due mainly to Telstra Virtual ISP where a commercial deal signed has helped increase SIOs by 38 k or $100 \%$. The Telstra Virtual ISP product brings together our MegaPoP national dial-IP platform with our wholesale internet solution to provide dedicated dial-up ports that customers can on-sell to end users.

Specialised data has declined by $10.4 \%$ to $\$ 404$ million in revenue due to the maturing nature of the products in this category with most customers moving to IP Access products which provide better business solutions. Digital Data Services (DDS), is a maturing product with majority of customers now opting for symmetrical HDSL solutions. Digital data access has declined as wholesale customers are leaving this product and building their own networks. The maturity in DDS products has lead to a decline in revenue of $21.2 \%$ or $\$ 22$ million.

Frame revenue has declined by $13.4 \%$ to $\$ 136$ million due to frame products maturing and customers migrating to newer technologies particularly Symmetrical HDSL. ATM has declined $13.0 \%$ to $\$ 40$ million due to customers moving to other leased lines, IP MAN and IP WAN. The migration of ATM customers to other leased lines has resulted in a revenue increase in this category, offset by voice graded dedicated lines due to customers migrating to DSL based or wireless technologies like IP MAN and IP WAN.

Our operating revenue from IP access is driven primarily by the increased use of IP services by business customers (small to medium enterprises), the introduction of new products to meet customer needs and the increased use of the internet by businesses at greater bandwidth. IP access has grown by $27.0 \%$ to $\$ 193$ million due to new subscribers in

## Half-year results and operations review - December 2006

Symmetrical HDSL, IPWAN and IPMAN/Ethernet. Symmetrical HDSL has increased SIOs by $52.0 \%$ with increased revenue of $\$ 18$ million underlining the growth phase of this product due to the demand for broadband/VPN networks.

IPMAN/Ethernet and IP WAN have increased revenue in the IP access category by $\$ 25$ million. IP MAN/Ethernet products have increased volume by $49.0 \%$ due to the capability to provide 'next generation' data access services with high-speed IP and Ethernet access solutions respectively for large to medium corporate enterprises. This is particularly underlined by the government sector's demand for wideband internet protocol. IP WAN growth can be attributed to increased discounting and the beneficial impact of being part of bundled solutions such as Connect IP.

Wholesale internet and data has increased by $11.0 \%$ or $\$ 11$ million mainly due to wholesale leased transmission increasing revenue by $\$ 11$ million driven by transmission growth. Main reasons behind the growth include an increase in end user bandwidth demand driven by corporate networks, internet usage, ISPs growing DSL network coverage and requiring backhaul and mobile providers requiring additional backhaul to support bandwidth requirements for their 3GSM networks. The SIOs for transmission have increased by 3k or 26.0\%. Wholesale VPN (virtual private networks) also grew by $\$ 4$ million as wholesale customers found an attractive alternative to deliver better internet solutions, offset by our wholesale internet products which have declined by $\$ 6$ million due to pricing pressures in the market place.

## Business services and applications

Our operating revenue from business services and applications is derived from managing all or part of a customer's communications and IT solutions and services covering:

- managed network services which is network based voice and data products, including CPE management, radio networks and new wireless based technologies;
- IT services which is managed customer infrastructure (e.g. desktop and end user devices), hosting and application development. In addition, IT services also includes professional consulting and deployment services;
- business applications including IP telephony, end to end conferencing solutions and products that support transaction services; and
- our eBusiness and global data centre.

Business services and applications


For the half-year ended 31 December 2006, business services and applications revenue declined $1.2 \%$ to $\$ 501$ million mainly due to lower managed network services and IT services revenue.

The decrease in managed network services revenue of $11.7 \%$ or $\$ 18$ million was driven by reductions in managed voice and data products, together with managed WAN and radio. Managed voice and managed data declined due to reduced project activity, lower CPE leasing and product substitution to IP telephony. Managed WAN and managed radio was lower across a number of customers and also experienced lower construction activity.

## Half-year results and operations review - December 2006

IT services revenue declined by $\$ 19$ million to $\$ 279$ million for the half-year mainly due to the sale of Australian Administration Services (AAS) in August 2006. The half-year to December 2005 included a full 6 months of revenue compared to only 2 months in the current half-year. This decline was partially offset by revenue earned from a number of new government contracts signed, along with the Department of Defence's Central Office IT Infrastructure Support Services contract signed in December 2005 which is a five-year contract for an estimated $\$ 200$ million.

Business applications has primarily grown due to IP telephony as customers transition from traditional systems to converged voice and data platforms, together with improved contact solutions revenues, particularly network computer telephony integration (CTI).

Other revenues have increased due to the recognition of managed industrial network services being reported separately from the external construction product this half-year. Overall the revenue from this product has remained flat after an increase in sales offset by a change in the recognition policy for project losses. Previously losses were recognised over the life of the project whereas this now occurs up front.

## Advertising and directories

Our advertising and directories revenue is predominantly derived from our wholly owned company, Sensis, and its controlled entities. The Sensis group provides innovative advertising and search solutions through a print, online, voice, wireless and satellite navigation network.

The majority of Advertising and Directories revenue is derived from our print and online directories - Yellow ${ }^{\text {TM }}$ and White Pages ${ }^{\circledR}$ - which have grown steadily overall due to the introduction of new print and directory advertising initiatives.

Advertising and directories

\left.|  | Half-year ended 31 December |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: |
| 2005 |  |  |  |
| Changer |  |  |  |
| 2006/2005 |  |  |  |
| (\% change) |  |  |  |$\right)$

The half-year revenue result was impacted by the deferral of the Melbourne Yellow ${ }^{\top M}$ print directory production from December 2006 to January 2007. Excluding the impact of the revenue deferral of $\$ 174$ million from our prior year results, our Advertising and Directories revenue grew by 7.0\%. The acquisition of SouFun has also contributed $\$ 24$ million to the Advertising and Directories revenue during the half-year.

For a detailed description of the performance in this area, please refer to the Sensis financial summary on page 44.

## Half-year results and operations review - December 2006

## Offshore controlled entities

The offshore controlled entities category relates to our offshore subsidiaries, which provide a variety of products and services within their various regions of operation. Included in this category are the following significant offshore controlled entities:

- CSL New World Mobility Group (CSLNW), which generates its revenues from the Hong Kong mobiles market. CSLNW was formerly known as Hong Kong CSL Limited, until March 2006 when this entity merged with Hong Kong based mobile company New World PCS. As a result of this transaction, we own $76.4 \%$ of the merged entity;
- TelstraClear, which generates its revenues from providing full integrated services to the New Zealand market; and
- other offshore controlled entities predominantly in the Telstra Enterprise and Government segment, which mainly generate revenues from the provision of global communication solutions to multinational corporations through our interests in the United Kingdom, Asia and North America.

Offshore controlled entities - revenue


Consolidated revenue from offshore controlled entities increased for the half-year ended 31 December 2006 by 17.4\% to $\$ 978$ million. This growth was primarily due to the following factors:

- CSLNW revenue growth of $39.1 \%$ to $\$ 519$ million was driven by strong growth in mobile services revenue and mobile handset revenue. This growth was mainly due to additional revenue of $\$ 121$ million being generated as a result of the merger between Hong Kong CSL and New World PCS in March 2006. Mobile services revenue was driven by rising data, international voice and prepaid revenue. However this was offset by declining local voice revenue due to the impact of sustained pricing pressure. Mobile handset revenue growth was mainly due to the merger and handset promotions being well received by the market. Revenue growth was also effected by a $\$ 9$ million unfavourable foreign exchange rate impact.
- TelstraClear experienced a net decline in revenue of $10.9 \%$ to $\$ 286$ million. There were significant declines in calling revenues largely due to lower usage and falls in the customer base along with a decline due to fewer one-off implementation charges. Internet revenue declined due to market led price erosion and a smaller customer base mainly in the business segment. Revenue was also negatively impacted by the NZ\$ exchange rate, with a $\$ 20$ million foreign exchange impact. Access revenue growth partially offset the other categories of decline, mainly due to increased gateway revenue in the business segment.


## Half-year results and operations review - December 2006

- The $24.5 \%$ growth to $\$ 173$ million growth in other offshore controlled entities revenue was mainly due to growth in Asia, US and Europe. The Asian market business grew by $\$ 14$ million mainly due to continued strong sales growth in the established Telstra Singapore and Telstra Hong Kong businesses. The KAZ business also exhibited strong growth in the same region. The US business grew by $\$ 10$ million mainly as a result of a major contract to provide telecommunications solutions over an integrated global IP-based network. Predominantly the growth resulted from the Service Provider Channel in the USA, particularly Global Crossing and to a lesser degree Broadwing. Revenue growth in Europe of $\$ 9$ million was mainly due to increases in data and hosting revenue growth through PSINet. This growth was partly offset by the continued erosion of the Powergen and Cable Telecom customer bases.

For further detail regarding the performance of our major offshore subsidiaries CSLNW and TelstraClear, refer to the business summaries on pages 46 and 47 .

## Pay TV bundling

| Pay TV bundling |  |
| :--- | :--- |
|  |  |

Note: statistical data represents management's best estimates.
Total pay TV bundling revenue grew by $5.1 \%$ to $\$ 164$ million for the half-year ended 31 December 2006, with FOXTEL revenue growing $\$ 11$ million, offset by a decline in AUSTAR revenue of $\$ 3$ million.

FOXTEL bundled services revenue grew by $8.6 \%$ to $\$ 145$ million after an increase in subscribers by $7.7 \%$, largely due to the FOXTEL conversion campaign during the half-year targeting both new customers and existing analogue customers. Higher revenue per user and a reduction in discounts also contributed to the revenue growth. FOXTEL on the Next $G^{\text {TM }}$ handsets was made available in October 2006 and as a result it is yet to have any significant impact on revenue growth.

At 31 December 2006, analogue services in operation represented approximately $1 \%$ of FOXTEL subscribers compared with $21.4 \%$ at the same time last year. We are in the process of closing the analogue network and as a result analogue services remaining will be minimal.

The AUSTAR bundled services revenue decline for the half-year of $14.1 \%$ to $\$ 19$ million was mainly due to a declining subscriber base, as a result of limited marketing activity undertaken throughout the period.

## Half-year results and operations review - December 2006

## Other minor items

| Other minor items |
| :--- | :--- |

Operating revenue from other minor items decreased by $22.3 \%$ to $\$ 136$ million for the half-year ended 31 December 2006. The revenue decline was mainly due to lower external construction and commercial and recoverable works.

External construction revenue decreased by $69.5 \%$ to $\$ 18$ million. External construction revenue, which is generated by the delivery of communications network infrastructure solutions, declined mainly due to a $\$ 24$ million reclassification of revenue into managed industrial networks, part of business services and applications, and a decrease in revenue from carrier customers. All carrier customer projects are progressively being wound down as we move out of this business. These decreases were marginally offset by an increase in activity relating to the construction of the 3GSM 2100 network in conjunction with our joint venture partner, Hutchison.

Commercial and recoverable works revenue declined $44.0 \%$ to $\$ 14$ million mainly due to the conclusion of certain contracts, the discontinuing of network build projects for our competitors and the shift from using full-time staff to contractors for recoverable work, thereby reducing expenditure, but also reducing revenue on this activity.

HFC cable usage is made up of revenue received from FOXTEL for cable installations and service calls. Revenue decreased marginally as a result of a decline in cable field works as FOXTEL are taking up their own installation activity. This decrease was partially offset by an increase in revenue share due to higher subscriber numbers and continuing migration from analogue to digital.

Other revenue increased by $28.0 \%$ to $\$ 64$ million mainly due to increases in overdue account payments revenue as a result of a $\$ 4$ increase for overdue bills $\$ 200$ and higher, and pricing plan adjustments revenue increasing due to incorrect pricing based on some of our plans.

## Half-year results and operations review - December 2006

## Other revenue

Other revenue

|  | Half-year ended 31 December |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\begin{array}{r} 2006 \\ \$ m \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 2005 \\ \$ \mathrm{~m} \end{array}$ | Change \$m | 2006/2005 <br> (\% change) |
| Rental Income | 15 | 10 | 5 | 50.0\% |

Rental income growth was mainly due to changes to some of our data centre leases, along with a sublease agreement relating to the office space Australian Administrative Services (AAS) continues to occupy.

## Other income

|  | Half-year ended 31 December |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\begin{array}{r} 2006 \\ \$ \mathrm{~m} \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 2005 \\ \$ \mathrm{~m} \\ \hline \end{array}$ | Change \$m | $2006 / 2005$ <br> (\% change) |
| Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment. | 15 | 17 | (2) | (11.8\%) |
| Proceeds from sale of investments. | 242 | - | 242 | - |
| Asset/investment sales | 257 | 17 | 240 | n/m |
| Cost of property, plant \& equipment | (11) | (8) | (3) | 37.5\% |
| Cost of investment | (194) | - | (194) | - |
| Cost of asset / investment sale | (205) | (8) | (197) | n/m |
| Net gain/loss on assets/investment sale | 52 | 9 | 43 | 477.8\% |
| USO levy receipts | 25 | 28 | (3) | (10.7\%) |
| Government subsidies | 51 | 63 | (12) | (19.0\%) |
| Miscellaneous income | 24 | 29 | (5) | (17.2\%) |
| Other income | 100 | 120 | (20) | (16.7\%) |
| Total other income | 152 | 129 | 23 | 17.8\% |

Total other income increased by $17.8 \%$ to $\$ 152$ million for the half-year ended 31 December 2006.
Income growth in this area was driven by proceeds from sale of investments of $\$ 242$ million. This mainly related to the sale of Australian Administration Services (AAS) in August 2006, the superannuation administration business of our KAZ Group, for $\$ 231$ million, recognising a net gain on sale of approximately $\$ 44$ million. We also sold Platefood Limited, which provided search marketing software and search results to directories and media companies, in November 2006. Proceeds from this sale were $\$ 10$ million, with a net gain on sale of $\$ 4$ million.

The decline in revenue for the half-year ending 31 December 2006 was mainly due to less revenue being received in relation to the Broadband Connect Australia scheme compared with the prior year. Also contributing to the decline was the timing of the final Esten scheme payment, which is not due until the second half of 2007. The Esten scheme provides funding for mobile coverage in designated rural areas.

## Half-year results and operations review - December 2006

## Operating expenses

|  | Half-year ended 31 December |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\begin{array}{r} 2006 \\ \$ \mathrm{~m} \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 2005 \\ \$ \mathrm{~m} \\ \hline \end{array}$ | Change \$m | 2006/2005 <br> (\% change) |
| Labour expense | 1,996 | 2,053 | (57) | (2.8\%) |
| Goods and services purchased | 2,566 | 2,195 | 371 | 16.9\% |
| Other expenses. | 2,318 | 2,011 | 307 | 15.3\% |
|  | 6,880 | 6,259 | 621 | 9.9\% |
| Share of net loss from jointly controlled and associated entities | 1 | 1 | - | 0.0\% |
|  | 6,881 | 6,260 | 621 | 9.9\% |
| Depreciation and amortisation. | 1,978 | 1,800 | 178 | 9.9\% |
| Total operating expenses . | 8,859 | 8,060 | 799 | 9.9\% |

In the half-year ended 31 December 2006, our total operating expenses (including share of net loss from jointly controlled and associated entities) was $\$ 8,859$ million, compared with $\$ 8,060$ million in the prior corresponding period. Our operating expenses have been impacted by the following factors:

- higher goods and services purchased mainly relating to cost of mobile sales as a result of increased market campaign activity, especially following the launch of the Next $G^{\top M}$ network;
- costs associated with transformational initiatives, mainly related to service contracts and other agreements, amounting to $\$ 137$ million;
- growth in depreciation on our communications plant asset base along with the impact of a service life review of our asset base as part of transformation activities. The impact of this service life review increased depreciation expense by $\$ 148$ million in the current half-year;
- additional operating expenses of $\$ 152$ million in the half year ended 31 December 2006 from our acquisition activity including the SouFun acquisition, as well as the inclusion of a full six months of expenses relating to entities we acquired in the second half of fiscal 2006. This included expenses relating to Adstream and New World PCS. Offsetting this increase is a reduction to our expenses of $\$ 33$ million, attributable to our divestment of Australian Administrative Services (AAS) in August 2006;
- Lower labour expenses as a result of reduced staff numbers and the utilisation of the restructuring and redundancy provision raised at the end of fiscal 2006, which has the effect of lowering our redundancy expense compared with the prior half-year; and
- lower network payment costs as a result of reduced mobile terminating access rates and lower net costs flowing through from REACH, resulting in lower offshore outpayments.


## Half-year results and operations review - December 2006

## Labour expense

Labour expense includes:

- salary, wages and related on-costs, including superannuation costs, share based payments, workers' compensation, leave entitlements and payroll tax;
- costs of engaging contractor labour and agency costs; and
- restructuring costs, including redundancy expenses.

In the table below, our domestic full time employees include domestic full time staff, domestic fixed term contracted staff and expatriate staff in overseas subsidiary entities. Domestic full time employees do not include casual and part time employees or employees in our offshore subsidiary entities. Our full time employees and equivalents include the total of our domestic and offshore full time employees, and casual and part time employees measured on an equivalent basis. Our total workforce includes domestic and offshore full time, casual and part time employees as well as contractors and staff employed through agency arrangements measured on an equivalent basis.

During fiscal 2006, we undertook a comprehensive review of the sources of our workforce numbers and this resulted in a restatement of our workforce figure for the half-year ended 31 December 2005. For 31 December 2005, we previously reported domestic full time employees of 39,406 , full time employees and employed equivalents of 45,876 and total workforce of 52,705 . We have revised these numbers for the half-year reporting purposes after standardising our subsidiary entities' methodology for reporting workforce numbers and reviewing some of our data capture systems. We have also revised the way we count staff on long term leave to exclude them from our reported staff balances to enable us to better manage the business.

|  | Half-year ended 31 December |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\begin{array}{r} 2006 \\ \$ \mathrm{~m} \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 2005 \\ \$ \mathrm{~m} \\ \hline \end{array}$ | Change \$m | 2006/2005 <br> (\% change) |
| Labour expense | 1,996 | 2,053 | (57) | (2.8\%) |
| Domestic full time employees (whole numbers) (i). | 36,184 | 39,115 | $(2,931)$ | (7.5\%) |
| Full-time employees and employed equivalents (whole numbers) (ii). | 43,989 | 45,456 | $(1,467)$ | (3.2\%) |
| Total workforce, including contractors and agency staff (whole numbers) (iii) | 48,991 | 51,057 | $(2,066)$ | (4.0\%) |
| Reduction in total workforce in fiscal 2006 excluding impact of the New World merger | $(3,859)$ |  |  |  |
| Reduction in total workforce since June 2006 excluding acquisition/divestment activity (iv) | (737) |  |  |  |
| Total reduction in workforce | $(4,596)$ |  |  |  |

Note: statistical data represents management's best estimates.
(i) Excludes offshore, casual and part time employees. 31 December 2005 balance has been restated, refer to details above.
(ii) Includes all domestic and offshore employees, including those of our subsidiary entities. 31 December 2005 balance has been restated, refer to details above.
(iii) Includes all domestic and offshore employees, including subsidiary entities as well as contractors and agency staff. 31 December 2005 balance has been restated, refer to details above.
(iv) The reduction in total workforce since June 2006 excludes the impact of our divestment in Australian Administration Services Pty Ltd and our acquisition of SouFun Holdings Ltd, both of which occurred in August 2006.

## Half-year results and operations review - December 2006

During the half-year ended 31 December 2006, our total workforce decreased by $0.9 \%$ or 453 full time equivalent staff, contractors and agency staff. This decrease is predominantly due to specific efforts across the business to rationalise the number of people working for the Telstra group as transformation initiatives take effect. During the half-year, we also acquired SouFun Holdings Limited which contributed 1,194 full time equivalent staff and we sold Australian Administration Services, which reduced staff numbers by 910. As highlighted in the above table, excluding the impact of these investment changes, total workforce numbers have declined 737 from 30 June 2006.

Our labour expense decreased by $2.8 \%$ to $\$ 1,996$ million mainly due to:

- increased levels of redundancy resulting in lower staff levels and therefore a reduction in salary costs;
- a reduction in redundancy costs;
- lower overtime payments partially offset by higher contractor and agency payments; and
- a reduction of worker's compensation costs based on a decrease due to a lower number of claims and claim payments and an increase in the bond rate.

We incurred redundancy expenses of $\$ 51$ million for the half-year ended 31 December 2006 compared with $\$ 96$ million for the comparable period last year. As part of the business restructure, we raised a provision for restructuring and redundancy at the end of fiscal 2006 which has been utilised in line with the level of transformational redundancy activity that has taken place in the current half-year.

The above decreases in labour expense were partially offset by an increase due to pay rises resulting from Enterprise Agreement increases for award staff and contract staff rate increases, together with higher pension costs (due to an adjustment for additional curtailment costs) and the impact of lower labour costs capitalised.

## Half-year results and operations review - December 2006

## Goods and services purchased

Goods and services purchased includes core costs of our business that vary according to business activity. The largest component of this expense category is network payments, which are payments made to other carriers to terminate international and domestic outgoing calls and international transit traffic. Other significant items include the costs of mobile handsets and internet modems, costs of mobile sales (including subsidy costs, usage commissions and dealer incentives), managed services costs (including service contracts, sub-contractors and leases), service fees (predominantly in relation to our pay television services) and paper purchases and printing costs.

| Goods and services purchased |
| :--- |
|  |
|  |

Our goods and services purchased increased in the half-year mainly due to higher mobile handset subsidies and cost of goods sold, offset by lower network payments. This expense category increased by $16.9 \%$ to $\$ 2,566$ million due to the following factors:

- an increase of $\$ 49$ million due to the inclusion of a full six months of expenses relating to New World PCS, which was merged with CSL in the second half of the prior fiscal year. The increase is mainly seen in cost of goods sold handset subsidies and network payments. Offsetting this increase is our divestment of Australian Administrative Services in August 2006, contributing to a decline of $\$ 6$ million;
- a rise in cost of goods sold - mobile handset subsidies of $\$ 206$ million, attributable to an increase in the take up of handsets on subsidised plans as well as higher average subsidies offered. This is mainly due to the launch of the Next $G^{T M}$ network in October 2006 and a significant campaign extending into the first quarter of the fiscal year. As a result, we have seen a larger range of handsets being subsidised. Our average subscriber acquisition and retention cost is $\$ 183$ for the current half-year, up from $\$ 121$ in the prior corresponding period, as we invest in our subscriber base to drive growth. In addition, the CSL New World Mobility Group has implemented a more aggressive handset subsidy policy in order to increase handset sales;
- a rise in other cost of goods sold is mainly due to higher sales volumes for mobile handsets and a higher average cost per handset. This is primarily driven by increased market campaign activity, especially following the launch of the Next $G^{T M}$ network. Strong BigPond broadband demand and sales growth in other product categories such as CPE for small business customers have also driven the increase. Additionally, payments made to Brightstar, which started in the second half of fiscal 2006, also contributed. These payments were made in accordance with our procurement agreement with them to centrally source wireless devices from global suppliers with a view to achieving cost savings. Significant costs have been avoided as a result of the Brightstar arrangement, inclusive of the above payments;


## Half-year results and operations review - December 2006

- usage commissions increased by $22.3 \%$ to $\$ 159$ million, largely driven by higher commissionable mobile revenue in the half-year, as well as increased uptake of non-mobile related products such as BigPond products;
- growth in dealer performance commissions, mainly attributable to a higher number of new mobile activations and re-contracts through external dealer channels as a result of increased market campaign activity and the launch of the Next $G^{T M}$ network. These commission payments are contract payments based on specific performance targets;
- service fees increased by $11.0 \%$ to $\$ 171$ million in the half-year led by a rise in bundling of pay television services due to growth in bundled FOXTEL subscribers, price increases and payments to vendors for content supplied on 3GSM mobile phones. Other drivers for the increase are variable costs related to Blackberry and Mobile Content; and
- our managed services costs grew by $16.5 \%$ to $\$ 106$ million in the half-year ended 31 December 2006, mainly attributed to increased project management professional service costs by third party suppliers for the support of the major customer contracts growth.

The increases were partially offset by a decrease in other goods and services expenses such as network payments and paper purchases and printing costs.

Our network payments declined by $\$ 118$ million to $\$ 887$ million largely due to:

- a reduction in the mobile terminating access rate to 15 cents per minute, which was backdated to January 2006 based on an ACCC determination. Hence, $\$ 61$ million of the reduction in our domestic network outpayments relates to the second half of fiscal 2006; and
- lower payments made to REACH for international capacity and termination costs due to lower net costs flowing through from REACH, which in turn reduces our share of expenses.

The decrease in network payments has been partly offset by volume increases of domestic mobile and SMS traffic terminating on other carriers' networks. Our offshore outpayments have also grown due to higher outbound roaming revenue, as well as growth in our UK, USA and Asian operations and the consolidation of expenses from New World PCS.

Paper purchase and printing costs decreased by $25.6 \%$ to $\$ 64$ million in the half-year ended 31 December 2006 largely due to the shift of production of the Melbourne Yellow ${ }^{T M}$ print directory from December 2006 to January 2007 this fiscal year, due to the renegotiation of a printing contract. Our divestment of Australian Administrative Services in August 2006 has also contributed to the cost reduction.

Other goods and services purchased has increased by $\$ 16$ million mainly as a result of an increase in commercial project payments, which increased by $\$ 10$ million in the half-year ended 31 December. This is mainly due to an accounting adjustment related to previously deferred expenses in relation to several customer contracts.

## Half-year results and operations review - December 2006

## Other expenses

|  | Half-year ended 31 December |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\begin{array}{r} 2006 \\ \$ \mathrm{~m} \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 2005 \\ \$ \mathrm{~m} \end{array}$ | Change \$m | 2006/2005 <br> (\% change) |
| Property, motor vehicle and IT rental expense | 307 | 292 | 15 | 5.1\% |
| Net foreign currency conversion losses/(gains) | (3) | (3) | - | 0.0\% |
| Audit fees | 4 | 4 | - | 0.0\% |
| Service contracts and other agreements | 1,047 | 892 | 155 | 17.4\% |
| Promotion and advertising | 212 | 154 | 58 | 37.7\% |
| General and administration. | 452 | 398 | 54 | 13.6\% |
| Other operating expenses | 197 | 188 | 9 | 4.8\% |
| Impairment and diminution expenses | 102 | 86 | 16 | 18.6\% |
| Total other expenses. | 2,318 | 2,011 | 307 | 15.3\% |

Our other expenses were $\$ 2,318$ million in the half-year ended 31 December 2006, a $15.3 \%$ increase. Our other expenses in the current half-year include $\$ 48$ million relating to a full six months of expenses, attributable to the merger of CSL with New World PCS, the consolidation of expenses from SouFun, and Adstream which was acquired in the second half of the prior fiscal year. This increase is partially offset by the divestment of Australian Administrative Services in August 2006 of $\$ 4$ million.

The movement in the significant categories of other expenses is discussed below.
The largest component within this expense category is service contracts and other agreements. The expense increased by $17.4 \%$ to $\$ 1,047$ million in the half-year ended 31 December 2006, mainly driven by the following factors:

- costs associated with transformational initiatives largely associated with the IP enablement of our network and IT transformation of $\$ 80$ million;
- payments to Brightstar for management of our Channel Logistics Operations centre, which did not exist in the prior corresponding period. A payment is made to Brightstar based on the volumes of handsets shipped out from the centre to the various sales channels;
- volume based increases including increased activations, billing enquiries and content related payments for BigPond products due to product growth; and
- a rise in consultancy costs associated with the company transformation activity.

Our promotion and advertising costs increased by $37.7 \%$ to $\$ 212$ million during the half-year mainly due to increased spend related to the launch of the Next $G^{T M}$ network, as well as more marketing activity to stimulate growth of Broadband and wireless products.

General and administration expenses increased by $13.6 \%$ to $\$ 452$ million in the half-year ended 31 December 2006. This is mainly driven by changes in booking practices following improved invoicing procedures, which has seen costs previously booked to Service Contracts and Agreements now reclassified as accommodation and information technology costs. Also contributing to the increase is higher building maintenance costs, as well as electricity costs associated with running the new Next $G^{T M}$ network. Our training costs have also increased due to our focus on training and equipping our field staff in order to better service and satisfy customer needs, which is an important part of the transformation. Legal costs have risen during the half-year due to increased litigation and other legal work, including

## Half-year results and operations review - December 2006

the Crazy John's Mobile World litigation, Optus Home Access litigation, Shareholder class action and the IT transformation. The increases have been partially offset by lower IT costs arising out of the re-negotiation of an IT vendor contract as part of the transformation strategy.

Our impairment and diminution expense has increased by $18.6 \%$ to $\$ 102$ million in the half-year ended 31 December 2006. This is mainly attributable to increased bad and doubtful debt expenses and higher inventory write down expenses. Our doubtful debt expense has risen due to increased aged debt associated with broadband customers, as well as a large decrease in the prior corresponding period, which related to a provision for doubtful debts no longer required. Our inventory write down expense has increased in our construction business due to the transformation, as well as the impact of extra mobile handsets, causing slow moving stock to be written off more quickly. Partially offsetting these increases was lower non-inventory impairment costs largely due to the retirement of several IT assets in the prior fiscal year. The prior corresponding period has also included costs associated with the cancellation of partially completed capital projects, which were not required in the current half-year.

Property, Motor Vehicle and IT rental expense increased by $\$ 15$ million to $\$ 307$ million, mainly due to the consolidation of expenses from New World PCS, which was merged with CSL in the second half of the prior fiscal year. This is partly offset by lower IT rental expense as a result of the purchase, instead of the lease, of a number of new servers.

Other operating expenses increased by $\$ 9$ million during the half-year primarily due to lower capitalised costs resulting in higher labour costs being expensed. The increases have been offset by reductions in miscellaneous purchases and material usage due to a lower level of activity compared to the prior corresponding period.

## Share of net loss from jointly controlled and associated entities

Share of net loss from jointly controlled and associated entities

|  | Half-year ended 31 December |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 2006 | 2005 | Change | 2006/2005 |
|  | \$m | \$m | \$m | (\% change) |
| Share of net loss from jointly controlled and associated entities | 1 | 1 | - | 0.0\% |

Our share of net loss from jointly controlled and associated entities includes our share of both profits and losses from equity accounted investments.

Prior year results included the net position of payments made to REACH and FOXTEL, offset by equity profits in Xantic. We have since sold the Xantic business and no equivalent payments have been made to REACH or FOXTEL in the current year. Our net loss from jointly controlled and associated entities is minimal.

There were no significant unrecognised profits/losses in either FOXTEL or REACH. As the carrying value of our investment in both REACH and Foxtel has been written down to nil, any share of profits/losses from these entities will not be recognised. These entities will resume equity accounting once the accumulated losses have been fully offset by our share of profits derived from these entities.

## Half-year results and operations review - December 2006

## Depreciation and amortisation

Our depreciation and amortisation expense remains a major component of our cost structure, reflecting our expenditure on capital items.

Depreciation and amortisation


Our depreciation and amortisation expense has risen by $9.9 \%$ to $\$ 1,978$ million for the half-year ended 31 December 2006.

During the second half of last fiscal year, as part of the transformation strategy we undertook a strategic review of the service lives of our assets. The result of this was an acceleration of depreciation and amortisation of certain CDMA network, switching and software assets, which has contributed $\$ 148$ million to the year on year increase. We have not accelerated the depreciation and amortisation of CDMA assets where those assets are deemed to have alternative future uses (i.e. the CDMA spectrum will continue to be used with the Next $G^{\top M}$ network).

Excluding this impact, depreciation grew by $1.7 \%$ to $\$ 1,830$ million. Contributing to this increase were:

- further growth in our communications plant; and
- the acquisitions of Adstream (February 2006), the merging of New World PCS with Hong Kong CSL (March 2006) and SouFun (August 2006) (contributing a total of $\$ 33$ million).


## Net finance costs

Net finance costs

| ( |
| :--- | :--- |

Our finance costs are influenced by:

- our debt level;
- interest rates;
- our debt maturity profile;
- movements in our borrowing cost margins;
- our interest payment profile; and
- our level of cash assets (affects net debt).


## Half-year results and operations review - December 2006

Our net debt levels increased from $\$ 12,776$ million as at 31 December 2005 to $\$ 14,473$ million as at 31 December 2006. This increase was driven by lower net cash produced from the ongoing operations of the business and higher capital cash demands from our transformation investment.

Total finance costs have increased by $14.1 \%$ to $\$ 549$ million due to increased borrowing costs and a movement in gains/losses on fair value hedge instruments. The increase in borrowing costs of $6.2 \%$ is primarily as a result of increased net debt levels combined with the impact of increased interest rates in the half-year. The gain/loss on fair value of hedge instruments moved from a gain of $\$ 21$ million for the half-year ending 31 December 2005 to a loss of $\$ 12$ million in the current half due to a decrease in our borrowing credit margins.

## Income tax expense

Income tax expense

|  | Half-year ended 31 December |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\begin{array}{r} 2006 \\ \$ m \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 2005 \\ \$ \mathrm{~m} \end{array}$ | Change \$m | 2006/2005 <br> (\% change) |
| Income tax expense. | 706 | 902 | (196) | (21.7\%) |
| Effective tax rate. | 29.2\% | 29.6\% |  | (0.4\%) |

Income tax expense decreased by $\$ 196$ million in the half-year ended 31 December 2006, mainly as a result of the decrease in operating profit before income tax expense.

The effective tax rate in the current half-year is $29.2 \%$ compared with the prior half-year of $29.6 \%$. The effective tax rate is consistent with the commonwealth statutory income tax rate of $30.0 \%$. Our effective tax rate was affected by the non taxable profit on sale of the Australian Administration Services Group as it was offset by carried forward capital losses.

## Half-year results and operations review - December 2006

## Major subsidiaries - financial summaries

Below is a summary of the major reporting lines for our three largest subsidiaries: Sensis, TelstraClear and CSL New World Mobility. This information is in addition to the product analysis previously provided in the document and is intended to show these businesses as stand alone entities.

## Sensis financial summary

We are a leading provider of advertising and search services through our advertising business Sensis and its controlled entities. Sensis provides innovative advertising and search solutions through a print, online, voice, wireless and satellite navigation network.

Sensis financial summary

|  | Half-year ended 31 December |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\begin{array}{r} 2006 \\ \$ m \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 2005 \\ \$ \mathrm{~m} \end{array}$ | Change \$m | Change \% |
| Sales revenue. | 885 | 1,002 | (117) | (11.7\%) |
| Total income | 889 | 1,002 | (113) | (11.3\%) |
| Total expenses (including depreciation and amortisation). | 496 | 477 | 19 | 4.0\% |
| EBITDA. | 448 | 562 | (114) | (20.3\%) |
| EBIT. | 393 | 525 | (132) | (25.1\%) |
| CAPEX | 68 | 45 | 23 | 51.1\% |
| EBITDA margin . | 50.6\% | 56.1\% |  | (5.5\%) |

Amounts included for Sensis represent the contribution included in Telstra's consolidated result.

The half-year result was impacted by the deferral of the Melbourne Yellow ${ }^{\text {TM }}$ print directory production from December 2006 to January 2007. Excluding the impact of this result of $\$ 174$ million in revenue and $\$ 15$ million in expenses from the prior year, total income grew by $7.4 \%$ and EBITDA $11.2 \%$, whilst EBIT grew $7.4 \%$. On this basis, EBITDA margin was $48.7 \%$ in the prior year and has grown to $50.6 \%$ in the current year.

Sensis total income is split into the following categories:

Sensis total income

|  | Half-year ended 31 December |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 2006 | 2005 | Change | Change |
|  | \$m | \$m | \$m | \% |
| - Yellow ${ }^{\text {TM }}$ revenue. | 526 | 692 | (166) | (24.0\%) |
| - WhitePages revenue. | 146 | 135 | 11 | 8.1\% |
| - Classified revenue | 65 | 71 | (6) | (8.5\%) |
| - Emerging business . | 63 | 46 | 17 | 37.0\% |
| - SouFun revenue | 24 | - | 24 | n/m |
| Total advertising and directories . | 824 | 944 | (120) | (12.7\%) |
| Voice | 55 | 52 | 3 | 5.8\% |
| Other . | 6 | 6 | - | 0.0\% |
| Total Sensis sales revenue | 885 | 1,002 | (117) | (11.7\%) |
| Other income. | 4 | - | 4 | n/m |
| Total Sensis external income | 889 | 1,002 | (113) | (11.3\%) |

## Half-year results and operations review - December 2006

Excluding $\$ 174$ million of revenue earned relating to Melbourne Yellow ${ }^{T M}$ print in the prior fiscal year, Yellow ${ }^{\text {TM }}$ revenue grew by $1.5 \%$ to $\$ 526$ million, driven by strong online usage and new initiatives such as Home@Yellow ${ }^{\text {TM }}$. Home@Yellow ${ }^{\text {TM }}$ is a new website that offers people thinking of renovating their home all the information, advice and online tools they need to make an informed choice before contacting a supplier.

White Pages ${ }^{\circledR}$ revenue grew by $8.1 \%$ to $\$ 146$ million. This was driven by continued strong advertiser support and new advertiser products such as In-Column Screen Highlighter, a new option for advertisers seeking to stand out in the White Pages ${ }^{\circledR}$ print directories.

Classifieds revenue declined largely as a result of competitive factors in print, although online growth continues to be strong.

Emerging businesses delivered $37.0 \%$ growth to $\$ 63$ million. Location \& Navigation experienced strong double digit growth driven by accelerating satellite navigation demand, while demand for MediaSmart online solutions also grew strongly.

In August 2006, we acquired 55\% (on an undiluted basis) of the issued capital of SouFun, a leading real estate and home improvement website in China, for a total cash consideration of US $\$ 254$ million. SouFun provides an entry point into China, allowing Sensis to leverage core capabilities into a larger, faster growing and less mature market than Australia. SouFun has contributed $\$ 24$ million in revenue for the half-year ended 31 December 2006.

Total expenses increased by $4.0 \%$ due mainly to the following:

- labour expenses grew by $\$ 11$ million due to organic growth of the workforce and through the acquisition of Adstream in February 2006 and SouFun;
- excluding the $\$ 15$ million impact of the production shift of Melbourne Yellow ${ }^{T M}$ print from December 2006 to January 2007, cost of goods sold decreased by $\$ 1 \mathrm{~m}$ as a result of lower negotiated printing costs;
- other costs increased by $\$ 5$ million due to increased promotion and advertising spend and acquisitions; and
- depreciation and amortisation expense grew by $\$ 18 \mathrm{~m}$ due to a change in software amortisation policy and investment in emerging business.


## Half-year results and operations review - December 2006

## CSL New World Mobility Group financial summary

The CSL New World Mobility Group (CSLNW) is our Hong Kong based mobile group. It was formed in March 2006 when we merged the CSL entity with New World PCS to form CSLNW. This transaction involved us exchanging a $23.6 \%$ share in CSL and receiving a controlling interest in the merged group of $76.4 \%$.

CSLNW operates in the highly competitive Hong Kong mobile market, with the CSL part of entity being one of Hong Kong's premium providers of mobile voice and data services and New World PCS targeting value conscious customers with a low cost business model. The merged entity provides a broad customer base for growth.

CSL New World Mobility Group
financial summary

|  | Half-year ended 31 December |  |  | Half-year ended 31 December |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 2006 | 2005 | Change | 2006 | 2005 | Change |
|  | A\$m | A\$m | \% | HK\$m | HK\$m | \% |
| Total income | 519 | 375 | 38.4\% | 3,085 | 2,189 | 40.9\% |
| Total expense (including depreciation \& amortisation) | 484 | 338 | 43.2\% | 2,752 | 1,847 | 49.0\% |
| EBITDA. | 140 | 108 | 29.6\% | 835 | 628 | 33.0\% |
| EBIT. | 35 | 37 | (5.4\%) | 333 | 342 | (2.6\%) |
| CAPEX | 35 | 51 | (31.4\%) | 211 | 296 | (28.7\%) |
| EBITDA margin . | 27.0\% | 28.9\% | (1.9\%) | 27.1\% | 28.9\% | (1.8\%) |

Note: Amounts presented in HK\$ have been prepared in accordance with A-IFRS.
Amounts presented in A\$ represent amounts included in Telstra's consolidated result including additional depreciation and amortisation arising from consolidation fair value adjustments.
Operating expenses in the current year include depreciation and amortisation. The previously reported operating expense exclusive of depreciation and amortisation for the half-year ended 31 December 2005 was AUD $\$ 267$ million/ HK $\$ 1,561$ million.

Total income increased by $40.9 \%$ to HK\$3,085 million in the half-year to 31 December 2006, largely due to the additional revenue generated as a result of the inclusion of the New World PCS business from March 2006. New World PCS contributed $80 \%$ or $\mathrm{HK} \$ 719$ million to the revenue growth of $\mathrm{HK} \$ 896$ million. Revenue growth was also driven by rising data, international voice, mobile virtual network operator (MVNO) and prepaid revenues, offset by a decline in local voice revenues after sustained pressure on prices. Mobile handset revenue also increased after recent handset promotions.

Total expenses increased by $49.0 \%$ to HK\$2,752 million mainly due to the following:

- inclusion of operating expenses of HK\$722 million relating to New World PCS;
- increased subsidies mainly due to aggressive marketing offers; and
- depreciation and amortisation expense increased mainly due to the inclusion of the New World PCS business and carrying higher network assets due to the roll out of their 3GSM network.

EBITDA increased by $33.0 \%$ to $\mathrm{HK} \$ 835$ million whilst EBIT decreased by $2.6 \%$ to $\mathrm{HK} \$ 333$ million due to the impact of higher depreciation, which resulted mainly from the inclusion of the New World PCS business.

## Half-year results and operations review - December 2006

## TelstraClear financial summary

TelstraClear is the second largest full service carrier in New Zealand and has been operating in its current form since December 2001. TelstraClear is a voice and data company, providing innovative market leading products, services and customer focus to the business, government, wholesale and residential sectors.

TelstraClear financial summary

|  | Half-year ended 31 December |  |  | Half-year ended 31 December |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 2006 | 2005 | Change | 2006 | 2005 | Change |
|  | A\$m | A\$m | \% | NZ\$m | NZ\$m | \% |
| Total income | 286 | 321 | (10.9\%) | 335 | 349 | (4.0\%) |
| Total expense (including depreciation \& amortisation) | 306 | 339 | (9.7\%) | 354 | 365 | (3.0\%) |
| EBITDA. | 43 | 51 | (15.7\%) | 50 | 56 | (10.7\%) |
| EBIT. | (20) | (18) | 11.1\% | (19) | (16) | 18.8\% |
| CAPEX | 63 | 58 | 8.6\% | 74 | 63 | 17.5\% |
| EBITDA margin . . . . . . . . . | 15.0\% | 15.9\% | (0.9\%) | 14.9\% | 16.0\% | (1.1\%) |

Note: Amounts presented in NZ\$ represent the New Zealand business excluding intercompany transactions and have been prepared in accordance with A-IFRS.
Amounts presented in A\$ represent amounts included in Telstra's consolidated result and include the Australian dollar value of adjustments to consolidate TelstraClear into the Group result.
Operating expenses in the current year include depreciation and amortisation. The previously reported operating expense exclusive of depreciation and amortisation for the half-year ended 31 December 2005 was AUD $\$ 270$ million/ NZ $\$ 293$ million.

For the half year ended 31 December 2006, revenue declined by $4.0 \%$ to NZ\$335 million as a result of:

- a decline in calling revenues due to lower usage and competitor-led price erosion;
- internet product competition resulting in price erosion, specifically in the small business and consumer segments; and
- mobile revenues declining due to fewer customers in the business segment.

This reduction was offset by:

- an increase in access revenue due to increased gateway revenues; and
- an increase in data revenue in the wholesale segment.

Total operating expense including depreciation and amortisation decreased by $3.0 \%$ to NZ\$354 million as a result of:

- a decrease in labour expenses due to a restructure of the business as a result of a 'Strategy \& Structure' review; and
- a decrease in outpayments due to lower revenues and leased data tail savings.

This reduction in expenses was offset by an increase in promotion and advertising due to increased activity to improve brand awareness.

The NZ\$ exchange rate had an unfavourable impact on revenues by AUD $\$ 20$ million and expenses by AUD $\$ 22$ million.
Capex has increased by $17.5 \%$ to NZ\$74 million due to:

- core network expansion; and
- preparing to take advantage of local loop unbundling.


## Half-year results and operations review - December 2006

## Cash flow

| Cash flow data |
| :--- |
|  |
|  |

## Net cash provided by operating activities

Our primary source of liquidity is cash generated from our operations. Net cash provided by operating activities includes receipts from trade and other receivables, payments to suppliers and employees, income tax paid, and GST received, paid and remitted to the Australian Taxation Office.

During the half-year ended 31 December 2006, net cash provided by operating activities decreased by $13.1 \%$ to $\$ 3,431$ million. Higher revenue and lower working capital items were offset by higher expense payments. The key drivers of our increased revenue were our mobiles and broadband products, as well as increased revenue from our acquisition activities. Our higher expense payments were mainly due to higher cost of mobile sales as we continue to invest in our subscriber base to drive future growth, as well as an increase in expenditure relating to the transformation.

In addition, our cash paid to the Australian Taxation Office was $\$ 37$ million lower in the current half-year mainly due to a higher final tax payment in the prior year arising from a low instalment rate in fiscal 2005. Offsetting this position were tax refunds in fiscal 2005 relating to amendments of previous tax returns, together with a higher fourth instalment payment in the current half-year arising from a higher instalment rate in fiscal 2006.

## Half-year results and operations review - December 2006

## Net cash used in investing activities

Net cash used in investing activities represents amounts paid for capital assets and investments, offset by cash receipts from the sale of capital assets and investments, and other cash receipts from our investing activities.

Net cash used in investing activities

|  | Half-year ended 31 December |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\begin{array}{r} 2006 \\ \$ \mathrm{~m} \\ \hline \end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 2005 \\ \$ \mathrm{~m} \\ \hline \end{array}$ | Change \$m | $\begin{array}{r} 2006 / 2005 \\ \text { (\% change) } \\ \hline \end{array}$ |
| Switching | 340 | 187 | 153 | 81.8\% |
| Transmission | 299 | 186 | 113 | 60.8\% |
| Customer access | 297 | 423 | (126) | (29.8\%) |
| Mobile telecommunications networks | 566 | 486 | 80 | 16.5\% |
| International assets. | 221 | 179 | 42 | 23.5\% |
| Capitalised software | 395 | 212 | 183 | 86.3\% |
| Specialised network functions | 88 | 86 | 2 | 2.3\% |
| Other. | 303 | 226 | 77 | 34.1\% |
| Operating capital expenditure | 2,509 | 1,985 | 524 | 26.4\% |
| Other intangibles | - | 58 | (58) | n/m |
| Capital expenditure before investments | 2,509 | 2,043 | 466 | 22.8\% |
| Add: investment expenditure | 337 | 19 | 318 | n/m |
| Capitalised expenditure and investments | 2,846 | 2,062 | 784 | 38.0\% |
| Sale of property, plant and equipment. | (25) | (20) | (5) | 25.0\% |
| Sale of shares in controlled entities (net of cash disposed). | (222) | (16) | (206) | n/m |
| Interest received | (30) | (34) | 4 | (11.8\%) |
| Net cash used in investing activities | 2,569 | 1,992 | 577 | 29.0\% |

During the half-year, our expenditure on operating capital, intangibles and investments amounted to $\$ 2,846$ million, an increase of $38.0 \%$ on the previous half-year, largely driven by our transformation program.

The increases in our operating capital expenditure were across most capital expenditure categories, with the exception of a decrease in customer access. The drivers of our operating capital expenditure for the half-year were as follows:

- higher domestic switching as a result of our wireline transformation program, which involves transforming our existing voice, data, IP and DSL networks into a single internet (IP) based network. Most of the expenditure relates to IP enablement of our network. Further expenditure was also incurred to cater for increased demand for broadband multi-media services and replacement of redundant technology;
- higher transmission expenditure due to increased transmission installation to cater for increased IP traffic, as well as additional capacity to support the roll out of the new Next $G^{T M}$ network. Another driver is the increased demand for broadband and other high speed products, which necessitates higher transmission capacity;
- lower expenditure on customer access due to the achievement of operational and technology efficiencies in the access network through the deployment of a new generation of Digital Subscriber Line (DSL) equipment, increased utilisation of available network capacity, and other alternative technology solutions. This is partly offset by increased expenditure to provide increased broadband capacity and higher speed internet services;


## Half-year results and operations review - December 2006

- higher expenditure on our mobile networks primarily due to the Next $G^{T M}$ network which was deployed ahead of schedule. At the half-year, the Next $G^{T M}$ network comprised over 5,100 base stations. Offsetting the increase is a reduction in spend related to our 2GSM and CDMA networks, as well as higher payments to Hutchison in the prior period related to the purchase of a 50\% share of their 3GSM 2100 MHZ network;
- higher expenditure on international assets, predominantly related to the purchase of additional international transmission capacity to facilitate increased internet traffic with the United States and Japan;
- significantly higher expenditure on capitalised software as we embark on a 5 year program to transform our IT environment through deployment of new capabilities and reduction in the number of systems. We have exited over 140 systems, and finalised all planned product and systems integrator contracts;
- consistent expenditure on specialised network functions. Expenditure increased to improve the reliability and robustness of the network and BigPond rebuild program. This was offset by the completion of significant work undertaken in fiscal 2006 in relation to the deployment of the ADSL core network infrastructure; and
- higher other expenditure predominantly driven by the Next $G^{T M}$ network related expenditure, including various programs such as land and buildings and other network related expenditure.

Our expenditure on investments amounted to $\$ 337$ million during the half-year, compared with $\$ 19$ million in the prior corresponding period. Investment expenditure is significantly higher in the half-year predominantly due to our acquisitions of SouFun, together with a cash price adjustment relating to the merger of CSL and New World Mobility. Our other intangibles expenditure has reduced by $\$ 58$ million to nil during the half-year, as the expenditure in the prior half-year related to the acquisition of customer bases from Keycorp relating to their payment transaction network carriage services business.

During the half year, our cash payments for investments and intangibles largely resulted from the following items:

- \$314 million for the acquisition of $55 \%$ (on an undiluted basis) of the issued capital of SouFun (net of cash acquired);
- $\$ 21$ million for a price adjustment to New World Mobility, representing an adjustment to the $\$ 44$ million cash received in fiscal 2006; and
- other minor investments totalling $\$ 2$ million.

Our cash proceeds from asset sales in the half-year ended 31 December 2006 included the following:

- the sale of our investment in the Australian Administrative Services group for consideration of $\$ 212$ million net of cash disposed;
- the sale of our investment in Platefood for a total consideration of $\$ 10$ million; and
- sale of property, plant and equipment for cash receipts of $\$ 25$ million.


## Half-year results and operations review - December 2006

## Net cash used in financing activities

Our net cash used in financing activities decreased by $60.0 \%$ to $\$ 1,089$ million for the half-year ended 31 December 2006.

During the half-year to December 2006 we received $\$ 3,183$ million in borrowed funds and repaid $\$ 2,004$ million. This resulted in net proceeds from repayments of borrowings and finance leases of $\$ 1,179$, and an increase of $\$ 950$ million compared with December 2005. This increase was driven by lower net cash produced from the ongoing operations of the business combined with higher capital cash demands from transformation investment, partly offset by a reduction in liquidity.

The final dividend for fiscal 2006 was paid in September 2006. Dividends paid in the half-year to December 2005 were higher than the current half-year due to shareholders receiving a special dividend of 6c each per share in September 2005.

The increase in finance costs paid was mainly the result of higher average debt levels in comparison to the previous half-year, in conjunction with marginally higher interest rates.

## Half-year results and operations review - December 2006

## Balance sheet

| Balance Sheet |
| :--- |

We continue to maintain a strong financial position with net assets of $\$ 13,116$ million as at 31 December 2006, compared with $\$ 12,823$ million at 30 June 2006. The increase in net assets of $\$ 293$ million comprised an increase in total assets of $\$ 361$ million offset by an increase in total liabilities of $\$ 68$ million.

The movement in total assets of $\$ 361$ million was primarily due to:

- Cash and cash equivalents decreasing by $\$ 232$ million to $\$ 457$ million, due mainly to a reduction in bank deposits and bills of exchange < 90 days to meet a long-term loan repayment in December 2006;
- Other current assets increased by $\$ 329$ million to $\$ 4,570$ million, driven by trade debtors increasing consistent with revenue activity, increases in accrued interest revenue on our interest rate swaps and increases in inventory primarily driven by increased stock on hand to support the Next $G^{T M}$ network launch. This was offset by a decline in receivables associated with the timing of collections in our Sensis business;
- Property, plant and equipment decreased $\$ 90$ million mainly due to depreciation exceeding any additions as we accelerated depreciation as part of the transformation program;
- Intangibles increased due to goodwill acquired on acquisition of $55 \%$ (on an undiluted basis) of the issued capital of SouFun Holdings Ltd in August 2006, partially offset by intangibles removed from the balance sheet on divestment of Australian Administration Services Pty Ltd, which also occurred in August 2006;


## Half-year results and operations review - December 2006

- Other non-current assets increased by $\$ 211$ million to $\$ 1,847$ million, due mainly to an increase in the actuarially determined value of our defined benefit pension asset and an increase in finance lease debtors arising from our solutions management business offset by a decrease in our cross currency swap receivables in line with currency movements and our hedging requirements;

The movement in total liabilities of $\$ 68$ million was primarily due to:

- Total current and non-current borrowings increasing by $\$ 897$ million to $\$ 14,313$ million, mainly as a result of an increase in unsecured promissory notes and increases in Telstra Bonds due to two new issues taking place in August and December 2006 arising from payment of the final dividend;
- Other current liabilities decreased $\$ 800$ million, mainly after lower accruals and payables due to lower levels of construction activity undertaken in the half-year, compared to the levels that occurred towards the end of the 2006 fiscal year. The decrease was also attributable to lower tax payable, offset by higher derivative liabilities; and
- Other non-current liabilities declined mainly due to a deferred tax liability decrease, partially offset by changes in our cross currency swap position.


## Half-year results and operations review - December 2006

## Glossary

1xRTT (One Time Radio Transmission Technology): a 3G development of CDMA technology for high speed packet switched data.

2G GSM: Second Generation Global System for mobile communications - refers to the initial group of wireless technology standards that were digital instead of analogue.

3GSM: Third Generation Global System for mobile communications - is the evolution of the current GSM and CDMA 2G and 2.5 G technology to support voice and high speed data and multimedia services.

3GSM 850: Third generation mobile technology operating on 850 Mhz spectrum.
3GSM 2100: Third generation mobile technology operating on 2100 Mhz spectrum.
ACCC: Australian Competition and Consumer Commission.
A-IFRS: Australian equivalents of International Financial Reporting Standards.
ADSL: Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line - is a high-speed broadband technology that provides access to the internet. It allows high speed data to be carried over copper network phone lines.

ADSL 2+: Our upgraded national high speed broadband network offering improved fixed line ADSL speeds.
ARPU: Average Revenue Per User
CDMA: Code Division Multiple Access - a mobile standard that provides voice, data, fax and short messaging services.
Churn: The net number of subscribers switching between telecommunication providers.
EBIT: Earnings Before Interest and Tax. This is a measure of company profitability.
EBITDA: Earnings Before Interest, Tax, Depreciation and Amortisation. This is a measure of company profitability.
EVDO: Evolution Data Only or Evolution Data Optimised - This is an addition to the existing CDMA network that supports high speed packet data transmission.

HDSL: High bit rate Digital Subscriber Line.
HSDPA: High speed downlink packet access.
HFC: A shared access architecture using optical fibre between exchanges and hubs in suburban streets, and coaxial cables between the hubs and customers to carry FOXTEL pay TV and BigPond Cable services.

HiBIS: Higher Bandwidth Incentive Scheme - a government subsidy scheme.
IP: Internet Protocol - a standard set of rules for the carriage of digital information such as voice, video, data and images, across a global network.

IP Core: The core element of a network that carries and logically splits voice, data and video using IP technology.

## Half-year results and operations review - December 2006

IPWAN: Telstra IP Solution product, providing Corporate Virtual Private Networks to customers. IP WAN uses Telstra's private network infrastructure to combine all of a company's communications between sites and mobiles.

ISDN: Integrated Services Digital Network - an international communications standard for sending voice, video and data over digital telephone lines or normal telephone wires. An early form of digital technology, its use has been largely surpassed by ADSL.

MMS: Multimedia Messaging Service.
PSTN: Public Switched Telephone Network - referred to as the 'fixed line' network, it is the standard home telephone service delivered over copper wires.

SIO: Services in operation
SMS: Short Messaging Service - the text based message service on mobile phones.
ULL: Unconditioned or Unbundled Local Loop - the local loop is the copper wire that connects the Telstra exchange in your area to your house. Telstra is required to provide access to this wire to other operators. Other telecommunications providers can provide customers with their own services, like broadband or a telephone service, by installing their own equipment in Telstra exchanges and connecting to the 'loop'.

WAN: Wide Area Network

## Half-year results and operations review - December 2006

## Restatement of previously reported results

The following tables show the impact on the Telstra Group of adopting UIG 4 and of amending the impact of adopting A-IFRS to our previously reported income statement and balance sheet.

| Income Statement | Previously reported 31 Dec 2005 | UIG 4 | Defined benefit tax | Restated 31 Dec 2005 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | \$m | \$m | \$m | \$m |
| Income |  |  |  |  |
| Revenue (excluding finance income) | 11,449 | (34) | - | 11,415 |
| Other income. | 129 | - | - | 129 |
|  | 11,578 | (34) | - | 11,544 |
| Expenses |  |  |  |  |
| Labour | 2,053 | - | - | 2,053 |
| Goods and services purchased | 2,214 | (19) | - | 2,195 |
| Other expenses. | 2,011 | - | - | 2,011 |
|  | 6,278 | (19) | - | 6,259 |
| Share of net loss from jointly controlled and associated entities. | 1 | - | - | 1 |
|  | 6,279 | (19) | - | 6,260 |
| Earnings before interest, income tax expense, depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA). <br> Depreciation and amortisation. | 5,299 | (15) | - | 5,284 |
|  | 1,810 | (10) | - | 1,800 |
| Earnings before interest and income tax expense (EBIT) | 3,489 | (5) | - | 3,484 |
| Finance income | 36 | 5 | - | 41 |
| Finance costs | 479 | 2 | - | 481 |
| Net finance costs | 443 | (3) | - | 440 |
| Profit before income tax expense . . | 3,046 | (2) | - | 3,044 |
| Income tax expense. . | 907 | (1) | (4) | 902 |
| Profit for the period | 2,139 | (1) | 4 | 2,142 |
| Minority interests in net loss | 1 | - | - | 1 |
| Profit for the period available to Telstra Entity shareholders | 2,140 | (1) | 4 | 2,143 |

## Half-year results and operations review - December 2006

| Balance Sheet | Previously reported 30 June 2006 | UIG 4 | Restated 30 June 2006 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | \$m | \$m | \$m |
| Current assets |  |  |  |
| Cash and cash equivalents | 689 | - | 689 |
| Trade and other receivables. | 3,701 | 51 | 3,752 |
| Inventories | 224 | - | 224 |
| Derivative financial assets. | 21 | - | 21 |
| Prepayments. | 244 | - | 244 |
| Total current assets | 4,879 | 51 | 4,930 |
| Non current assets |  |  |  |
| Trade and other receivables. | 87 | 85 | 172 |
| Inventories | 20 | - | 20 |
| Investments - accounted for using the equity method | 23 | - | 23 |
| Property, plant and equipment. . . | 23,622 | (119) | 23,503 |
| Intangibles | 6,123 | (1) | 6,122 |
| Deferred tax asset | 1 | - | 1 |
| Derivative financial assets. | 391 | - | 391 |
| Defined benefit assets | 1,029 | - | 1,029 |
| Total non current assets | 31,296 | (35) | 31,261 |
| Total assets. | 36,175 | 16 | 36,191 |
| Current liabilities |  |  |  |
| Trade and other payables | 3,570 | - | 3,570 |
| Borrowings | 1,969 | 13 | 1,982 |
| Current tax liabilities | 428 | - | 428 |
| Provisions | 737 | - | 737 |
| Derivative financial liabilities. | 12 | - | 12 |
| Revenue received in advance | 1,170 | (9) | 1,161 |
| Total current liabilities | 7,886 | 4 | 7,890 |
| Non current liabilities |  |  |  |
| Trade and other payables . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . | 197 | - | 197 |
| Borrowings | 11,409 | 25 | 11,434 |
| Deferred tax liabilities | 1,704 | (4) | 1,700 |
| Provisions | 974 | - | 974 |
| Derivative financial liabilities. | 768 | - | 768 |
| Revenue received in advance | 405 | - | 405 |
| Total non current liabilities | 15,457 | 21 | 15,478 |
| Total liabilities | 23,343 | 25 | 23,368 |
| Net assets. | 12,832 | (9) | 12,823 |
| Equity |  |  |  |
| Share capital | 5,569 | - | 5,569 |
| Reserves. | (160) | - | (160) |
| Retained profits | 7,177 | (9) | 7,168 |
| Equity available to Telstra Entity Shareholders. | 12,586 | (9) | 12,577 |
| Minority interest. . . | 246 | - | 246 |
| Total equity . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . | 12,832 | (9) | 12,823 |

Telstra Corporation Limited (ABN 033051775 556)


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