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# **ASX RELEASE**

#### 2015 GENERAL MEETINGS - CHAIRMAN AND CEO SPEECHES

DUET is pleased to advise that its 2015 general meetings will be held today.

Meeting details:

**Venue:** The Mint, 10 Macquarie Street, Sydney

**Time:** 11.00am

If you are unable to attend the meetings in person, the following options are available:

Webcast: www.duet.net.au

**Teleconference:** 1800 801 825 (within Australia)

+61 2 8524 5042 (outside Australia)

**Passcode:** 2387120

Attached is the Chairman's and Chief Executive Officer's address for the meeting.

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## Chairman's Speech - Doug Halley

Today's meetings will constitute the Annual General Meetings of DIHL, DUECo, DUET Finance Limited (or DFL) and a General Meeting of DUET Finance Trust (or DFT). The units of DFT and the shares of DIHL, DUECo and DFL are stapled together and trade as the stapled entity DUE on the ASX. To facilitate proceedings, the meetings of all four DUET entities will be conducted contemporaneously.

Resolutions that are common to each entity, for example the director elections, will be presented at the same time and have a combined question time. However, voting for each resolution will be conducted separately for each entity.

Along with Eric Goodwin, the Chairman of DFL, our fellow directors of the respective DUET Group Boards and the management of DUET, I would like to extend a warm welcome to you all.

DUET's Corporate Arm comprises DIHL and DUECo. The directors of these two entities, in addition to myself, are Ron Finlay, Shirley In't Veld, Emma Stein, Jack Hamilton and Simon Perrott. The Funding Arm comprises DFL and DFT. The DFL directors, in addition to Eric Goodwin, are Jane Harvey and Terri Benson.

I welcome our newest director, Simon Perrott, who is seeking securityholder approval of his appointment to the DUECo and DIHL boards.

After 11 years of service, John Roberts resigned from the DIHL and DUECo boards at the end of June this year. Simon was appointed to those boards, effective 1 July. Simon's appointment ensures that DUET retains strong specialist investment banking, M&A and capital market capabilities at the board level.

This is the third round of board renewal that DUET has completed since the internalisation of our management arrangements at the end of 2012. Since then we have appointed 5 new directors across the DUET Boards.

The renewal process has resulted in greater director representation from the jurisdictions where our businesses are located. It has increased the operational, project delivery and regulatory capabilities on the boards and has also significantly enhanced gender diversity. DUET will continue its board renewal process over the coming years.

From the start of the 2015 financial year until the middle of November this year, DUET has delivered a 10% Total Shareholder Return. This comprised a 3.4% TSR for the 2015 financial year and a 6.1% TSR since the start of the 2016 financial year.

DUET trailed the S&P ASX 200 Industrials Accumulation Index for most of the second half of FY15 and the period immediately after our recent capital raising. It is pleasing to see DUET's recent strong security price performance following completion of our recent acquisition of Energy Developments Limited.

Importantly, DUET securities are now trading 16.3% above the \$2.02 issue price of the recent capital raising and 4.4% above the theoretical ex-rights price associated with the raising of \$2.25.

In FY15, the Group delivered on our distribution guidance of 17.5 cents per stapled security.

Following the announcement of our proposed acquisition of EDL, we upgraded our FY16 distribution guidance to 18 cents. With the EDL acquisition having reached financial close in late October, we today re-affirm our FY16 guidance.

Our acquisition of EDL is expected to enhance the growth profile of the Group. EDL has a strong list of prospective growth opportunities – mostly to expand capacity at existing sites and to install new capacity at other sites owned by its existing customers. As a result, DUET is targeting a further

increase in distributions to 19 cents in FY18.

Based on the FY16 distribution guidance and our \$2.35 security price as at close of business yesterday, DUET is currently trading on an attractive 7.7% yield.

The reporting period has seen DUET deliver a number of valuable organic growth projects as well. DDG successfully commissioned both the Wheatstone Ashburton West Pipeline and the Fortescue River Gas Pipeline. These greenfield projects not only showcase DDG's pipeline development capabilities but have allowed DUET to capture value from the development of large scale gas infrastructure projects and capitalise on the growing demand for natural gas in the Pilbara.

DDG has developed strong working relationships with its counterparties as their preferred gas infrastructure provider and is currently investigating additional opportunities. This includes the extension of the Fortescue River Gas Pipeline as well as the development or acquisition of gas infrastructure in W.A. and elsewhere in Australia.

As announced yesterday by the Northern Territory government, DDG was unsuccessful in its bid to be appointed as the preferred tenderer to build, own and operate the proposed North Eastern Gas Interconnector, or NEGI. This outcome does not impact DUET's forecasts.

United Energy has continued to invest in and grow its regulated asset base replacing ageing network assets to maintain network performance and customer service levels.

At Multinet Gas, the regulator has recently approved Multinet's application to continue its pipeworks replacement program during the current regulatory period. This will result in a further increase in Multinet's regulated asset base and further increases in tariffs in both calendar years 16 and 17.

The recently completed acquisition of Energy Developments Limited is a significant achievement.

The purchase price DUET paid equates to an attractive 8.8 times multiple of EDL's enterprise value to its FY2015 EBITDA.

There were a number of reasons that DUET was attracted to in acquiring EDL:

- EDL is Australia's leader in distributed generation and the business has a strong strategic fit with DUET.
- EDL generates predictable cash flows based on long dated contracts a business model that is consistent with DUET's investment mandate.
- EDL's remote power business and our gas pipeline development business, DDG, have a common strategic focus and are already working on opportunities to provide customers with a packaged energy solution combining gas transmission and remote generation.
- The acquisition enhances the diversity of DUET's cash flows and provides an attractive source of growth for the Group.

The pie chart on slide 10 shows that EDL will contribute around a quarter of the Group's pro forma proportionate EBITDA, with the offshore businesses only accounting for around 6% of pro forma Group EBITDA.

Importantly, our due diligence process highlighted the quality and depth of EDL's management team, who we now welcome into the DUET Group.

The acquisition is expected to deliver significant value and to be immediately accretive to our securityholders. Our confidence in the security of EDL's cash flows and the future growth in those cash flows underpinned the Boards' decision to upgrade DUET's FY16 distribution guidance and to re-establish a distribution growth target out to FY18.

EDL's operations include around 900MW of installed distributed generation capacity and comprise

three business units, each employing a common business model aimed at delivering predictable cash flows. A high proportion of revenues are subject to fixed price or take-or-pay arrangements and fuel is generally either a pass-through cost or is made available to EDL at no charge or for a nominal royalty payment.

EDL's Remote Energy business operates in WA, the Northern Territory and Queensland, supplying remote mines and townships with power.

The business is characterised by long dated take-or-pay contracts with fixed capacity charges, or fixed price power purchase agreements – providing a high level of revenue and cash flow predictability.

EDL occupies the number 1 market position in remote energy generation in the sub 100MW sector. The waste coal mine gas business utilises waste gas from host coking coal mines to fuel gas-fired generators owned and operated by EDL. EDL has long term contracts that grant it rights to use waste gas at each site.

EDL's host coking coal mines are low cost suppliers to sea-borne markets, operating in the bottom quartile of the cost curve, with demonstrated strong credit quality, making them more resilient to commodity price cycles.

EDL is the only outsourced provider of waste coal gas generation capacity in Australia.

Finally, the landfill gas business has operations in Australia, Europe and the U.S.

At each site, EDL again has rights to utilise waste gas extracted from the landfill sites for power generation. Most of the generation output is sold under bilateral contracts at fixed prices. In Australia, EDL has market share of more than 40%.

I would now like to play you a 10 minute video that will give you a greater insight into EDL's business operations.

As I'm sure you will agree, the acquisition of EDL is an exciting development for DUET and will be an important source of growth for the Group.

To fund the acquisition, DUET completed a \$1.67 billion equity raising at an issue price of \$2.02 per new stapled security. The issue price represented a 10.3% discount to the theoretical ex-rights price, or TERP.

The capital raising was structured in two parts: A \$550m institutional placement, including a cornerstone investment by UniSuper, and a \$1.1 billion accelerated non-renounceable entitlement offer.

The Boards were again committed to ensuring our retail investors were given an opportunity to participate in the capital raising. Retail investors were invited to apply for up to double their pro-rata entitlements.

Importantly, the cornerstone investment enabled DUET to:

- Secure the underwriting of the entire \$1.67 billion equity capital requirement in a short timeframe;
- Provide EDL's shareholders with a binding offer that was not conditional on funding, reducing risk of a competing bid; and
- Minimise the issue discount.

Minimising the issue discount in turn ensured DUET could:

- Maximise the accretion from the acquisition;
- Upgrade our FY16 distribution guidance; and
- Provide a distribution growth target to FY18

The Boards expect the acquisition to be accretive and therefore all DUET securityholders are expected to benefit from the transaction which will improve our distribution outlook.

For those investors who participated in the capital raising, DUET's stapled security price is currently trading 16.3% above the issue price.

## Chief Executive Officer Speech – David Bartholomew

This year's result demonstrates the strength of our businesses and the resilience of our cash flows. Page 15 sets out the highlights of the FY15 financial result.

Proportionate revenues were slightly up, as lower contracted revenues at DBP were offset by increased contributions from the other operating companies.

Proportionate Group operating expenditure increased 4.6%, mainly due to an increase in the pricing of DBP's fuel gas contract. However, at the time of recontracting, DBP reset its base interest rate hedges, significantly reducing its interest expense.

As a result, our key performance measure – Proportionate EBITDA less interest expense – increased by 10.8% on the previous year.

Our total FY15 distribution of 17.5 cents per stapled security was in line with our guidance.

Our businesses are performing well. United Energy's distribution revenue was up six and half percent reflecting increases in regulated tariffs. UE has continued to invest in its network, which saw its regulated asset base increase 3.9% over the year.

During the year, the business completed the roll-out of smart meters to its 660,000 customers. Those meters are now communicating with the network control centre and the business is benefitting from greater information about network load.

This will allow United Energy to target its future network capital expenditure on localised capacity constraints, thereby improving overall network performance.

Multinet Gas's distribution revenue was up 2.9% as the business benefitted from annual tariff increases and a 7.4% increase in throughput due to the colder Melbourne autumn.

Multinet has replaced 242km of cast iron pipe on its network since its 2013 regulatory decision. In September this year, the regulator approved Multinet's application to continue its pipework replacement program over the remaining two years of this regulatory period. This will see Multinet's tariffs increase by CPI plus 3.4% in each of calendar years 16 and 17.

As I have mentioned, DBP's transportation revenue and EBITDA were lower than the previous year due to tariff and capacity reductions as well as an increase in fuel gas costs.

However, as part of the recontracting plan, DBP re-set its base interest rate hedges and degeared the business by \$180 million, resulting in a more than 20% reduction in net external interest expense.

This resulted in Adjusted EBITDA less interest being up 5.8% on the prior period and above the guidance we published for DBP at the time of recontracting.

DDG commissioned the Wheatstone pipeline in December 2014 and the Fortescue River Gas Pipeline in March this year. Revenues from these projects are contracted over 30 and 20 years respectively, on a 100% fixed take-or-pay basis. Together they will contribute around \$28 million a year in cash earnings from FY16.

We will continue to look for opportunities to acquire or develop other gas infrastructure assets to leverage DBP's development and operating skills and to deploy capital on accretive terms.

We successfully completed the EDL acquisition on 22 October and are now focused on integrating EDL as the fifth business within the DUET Group.

EDL will be managed as a stand alone business within the Group, with governance and reporting arrangements similar to our other existing businesses.

Having previously been listed, EDL has strong existing governance structures, which we have now integrated with DUET. We have established clear reporting arrangements and have reviewed all of EDL's existing policies and procedures to ensure consistency across the Group.

EDL's business model is based on long term contracted revenues and predictable cash flows. In financial year 2015, 86% of EDL's revenues were generated from either capacity based take-or-pay or fixed price contract arrangements.

DUET will look to further enhance that predictability by increasing and extending the level of hedging of EDL's financial exposures.

While EDL has benefitted from material increases in electricity pricing since we announced our proposed acquisition a few months ago, we are now working with the EDL management team to increase the level of hedge cover over EDL's residual exposure to market prices.

We are also looking to hedge the business' interest rate and foreign exchange exposures, bringing EDL in to line with our approach in our other businesses.

Through our due diligence process and our subsequent interactions with the business, we have been deeply impressed with the capabilities and professionalism of the EDL management team. We have put in place remuneration packages aimed to retain and incentivise key EDL executives and management.

United Energy and DBP are each subject to regulatory decisions that will re-set tariffs, effective 1 January 2016.

United Energy received a draft decision from the Australian Energy Regulator at the end of last month. The table on slide 18 provides a high level summary of the draft decision compared to UE's regulatory proposal and UE's current regulatory allowance for the 2011-2015 period.

The AER has awarded UE a post tax nominal return on equity of 7.3%, reflecting prevailing low risk free rates.

UE's nominal revenue allowance for the 5 year period in the draft decision is 6.8% higher than in the current regulatory period and the business will benefit from a significant reduction in interest costs when it rehedges its base interest rates.

Initial reductions in tariffs proposed by the regulator in January 16 and January 17 will be mitigated by the reduction in UE's interest expense.

The AER is scheduled to issue its final decision in April next year, with United Energy able to appeal the decision.

The Economic Regulation Authority of Western Australia is currently running behind schedule for

publication of its draft decision for DBP. DBP's draft decision is now expected at the end of this year or in the first quarter of 2016. Importantly, as a result of the successful recontracting achieved last year, only 15% of DBP's firm full haul volumes will be subject to the regulated tariff.

On the debt capital management front, we continued to manage our debt portfolio successfully, capturing the benefit of favourable market conditions in FY15 to raise and refinance over \$2.1 billion of debt facilities on competitive terms.

Immediately following completion of the EDL acquisition we successfully refinanced EDL's corporate debt facilities, achieving a material reduction in EDL's forecast interest costs. We also degeared the business by \$150m, thereby providing over \$200 million of debt capacity to fund EDL's future growth capital expenditure.

We announced as part of the acquisition of EDL, our pro-forma statutory Group gearing at 31 December 2014 was 61%, down from 71.5%. As a result of the successful refinancing initiatives at each of our asset companies, we do not have any term debt maturities until the end of next year.

Our focus has now turned to refinancing the 2017 and 2018 calendar year maturities in a range of global markets on favourable terms.

Before I hand back to Doug to open the floor to questions, let me summarise management's priorities for the 2016 financial year.

## Our priorities are to:

- Deliver DUET's upgraded FY16 distribution guidance of 18 cents per stapled security;
- Work with the EDL management team to integrate EDL's operations into DUET and to increase the medium term hedging coverage of that business;
- Continue to engage with the AER and ERA to achieve satisfactory outcomes for the regulatory resets for United Energy and DBP;
- Work with EDL to complete upcoming contract renewals and achieve capacity expansions at existing and new sites;
- Continue the capital investment into the networks of United Energy and Multinet Gas to improve network performance and grow their regulated asset bases:
- Proactively refinance future debt maturities; and
- Continue to explore new opportunities to invest in accretive energy infrastructure.