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Transurban

Information current as at 1 August 2023

What are the main business activities?

Transurban Group is an owner/operator of toll roads in Australia, USA and Canada with interests 21 toll roads globally. Transurban currently has five projects in development or delivery phase with expansion either through development, strategic acquisitions and partnering with governments on new toll roads.

The weighted average concession life across the portfolio is close to 30 years with Australian assets contributing to the majority of revenue.

Why is this firm attractive to its customers?

Transurban's greatest value proposition for clients is travel time savings by using Transurban roads compared to alternative routes. Transurban has calculated the savings as 323,000 hours each workday in FY22 and daily the Green House Gas (GHG) savings of 2,285 tCO2e (tonnes of carbon dioxide).

Transurban also aims to provide sustainable transport solutions that offer choice, reliability, safety, transparency and value. Services to customers include:

- Pay-as-you-go, GPS-enabled apps making it easier for motorists to drive on toll roads, tag-free
- Express Lanes in the United States for faster commutes
- Toll calculators available online for trip comparisons
- Roadside assistance with state-of-the-art monitoring technology
- Installation of safety technology that includes automatic incident detection, electronic speed signage that
 can be adjusted according to weather or road conditions; electronic lane-control signage; specialist tunnel
 safety systems including sprinklers, emergency signage and ventilation systems.

ESG observations

(E) – During FY21 Transurban launched a detailed plan to achieve net zero GHG emissions by 2050. Renewable energy supply has just commenced through Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with Sapphire Windfarm in NSW. From early 2022, additional PPAs will come online in NSW and Queensland, with renewable energy providing the majority of power for Transurban roads in these states.

(S) – Transurban is working with government to introduce total payment caps on new and existing toll roads to address affordability.

Why does the portfolio hold this stock?

We believe Transurban has strong underlying revenue growth from:

- Ongoing population growth driving long-term traffic growth
- A rebound in traffic after COVID-19, especially as more people are driving instead of using public transport
- Legislated fare growth, which is in many cases linked to inflation
- CPI linked contracts and they have long duration debt so are less exposed to interest rate increases
- Our research expects traffic outcomes well in excess of the original stated business case.

The EBITDA¹ growth for Transurban is leading to deleveraging of its operations and increased opportunities for raising dividend payments.

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¹ Earnings Before Interest, Tax, Depreciation and Amortisation.