



## ASX ANNOUNCEMENT

1 June 2010

### ALERT ON POSSIBLE UNSOLICITED OFFERS FOR WBC SHARES

**Westpac Banking Corporation (Westpac) advises that Hassle Free Shares Pty Ltd (Hassle Free) has recently written to us requesting a copy of our share register. Under the Corporations Act, we are required to comply with this request.**

As a result, we believe that some Westpac shareholders may receive unsolicited off-market offers from Hassle Free to purchase their Westpac shares. In the past, Hassle Free has made this offer to Westpac Shareholders at a price substantially below the average price of our shares.

**Westpac does not support any unsolicited offers and is not associated with any such offers. Importantly, you do not have to accept any offer from Hassle Free and Westpac urges shareholders to seek professional advice on any offer received from Hassle Free.**

If you receive an offer from Hassle Free, we strongly recommend that you:

- read the documentation carefully;
- compare the offer price against the current market price of our shares; and
- seek independent advice from a qualified professional advisor or stockbroker before accepting the offer or refer to ASIC's website (details below).

Our share price is published in the financial pages of major newspapers and is available from the ASX website ([www.asx.com.au](http://www.asx.com.au), code: WBC). The ASX website also provides details on how to find a licensed broker if you wish to sell your shares.

The Australian Securities and Investments Commission (**ASIC**) has previously warned shareholders to be aware of the pitfalls of unsolicited offers to purchase shares, and have provided a 'safety checklist' to assist shareholders in assessing such offers (available from [www.fido.gov.au](http://www.fido.gov.au)). Further details on dealing with unsolicited share purchase offers can also be obtained from ASIC by contacting their Info line by email [infoline@asic.gov.au](mailto:infoline@asic.gov.au) or phone 1300 300 630 (international, call +613 5177 3777).

If you have any questions regarding unsolicited offers for your shares, please contact our share registry, Link Market Services Limited on 1800 804 255 (toll free in Australia) or (61 2) 8280 7070 (international).

We are pleased to note that the Government has recently proposed changes to the legislation relating to access to company share registers. If the changes are ultimately enacted, we are hopeful that shareholders will enjoy greater protection from improper use of their information, including the receipt of unsolicited off-market offers to purchase their shares (other than for a takeover).

Rebecca Farrell  
Company Secretary