

30 August 2023

Scalability driving profitability

Material revenue and profit growth delivered in FY23.

- Cash NPAT growth to \$4.7m (up from \$0.2m pcpc).
- Revenue growth to \$107m (up from \$73m pcpc).
- Stellare 2.0 launched to accelerate operating leverage.

Sustainable top and bottom-line growth in FY23: Harmony's FY23 results delivered 28% loan book growth (to \$744m), a 47% growth in revenues (to \$107m) and a significant growth in Cash NPAT to \$4.7m (up from \$0.2m in FY22).

Stellare 2.0 to unlock new growth avenues: Harmony's August 2023 launch of its next-generation lending platform (Stellare 2.0) provides a basis for the execution of managements announced strategic growth priorities – a renewed focus on market share capture of the \$143B Australian personal loan market with a decreasing marginal cost of originations owing to an increasing proportion of return customers which have near zero acquisition expenses, and the development of new credit products to increase available users and customer lifetime value.

Diversified funding and headroom for scale ambitions: Harmony have expanded total facilities to over \$1.2B including unused capacity of \$330m, with its August 2023 announced fifth "Big-4 Bank" warehouse adding \$140m, including a new global mezzanine funder, and the settlement of its inaugural New Zealand securitisation adding NZ\$200m.

Investment Thesis

Targeting >20% Cash ROE run-rate by FY25: Harmony reported an 8.4% Cash ROE in its FY23 results, on the back of a record \$4.7m cash NPAT. Inside we analyse the key drivers of Harmony's FY23 result and outlook as Harmony progresses towards guidance of 20% Cash ROE in FY25.

Exceptional performance unfairly discounted: Harmony has defied sector sentiment in FY23 maintaining profitable growth on a cash basis, operating with a 9.6% NIM and demonstrating premium asset quality with impairments of just 3.6% in FY23 and 90+ day arrears of 0.58%, a fraction of the 1.4% Equifax Australian personal loan average.

Valuation

Undemanding valuation, even less when excluding cash. At the current share price, we estimate HMY is trading on a Cash PE of just 9.3x FY23A, and P/B of just 0.82x. Our general residual income model produces a valuation of \$2.50 using an 11.5% cost of equity, representing a 474% upside.

Risks

Being a finance company, Harmony has a range of risks applicable including macroeconomic conditions, liquidity and funding risks, credit risk, fraud, cybersecurity, asset-liability mismatch and compliance risks. With New Zealand having entered recession, and speculation that Australian might, the market appears to be predominantly concerned with a deterioration in credit quality.

Equities Research Australia

Financials

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Harmony

Harmony's purpose is to help people achieve their goals through financial products that are fair, friendly, and simple to use.

Harmony is an online direct personal lender that operates across Australia and New Zealand providing customers with unsecured personal loans, and secured and unsecured auto loans, that are easy to access, competitively priced (using risk-adjusted interest rates) and accessed 100% online.

Harmony's proprietary digital lending platform, Stellare™, facilitates its personalised loan product with applications processed and loans typically funded within 24 hours of acceptance by the customer. Stellare™ applies a customer's individual circumstance to its data-driven, machine learning credit scorecard to deliver automated credit decisioning and accurate risk-based pricing.

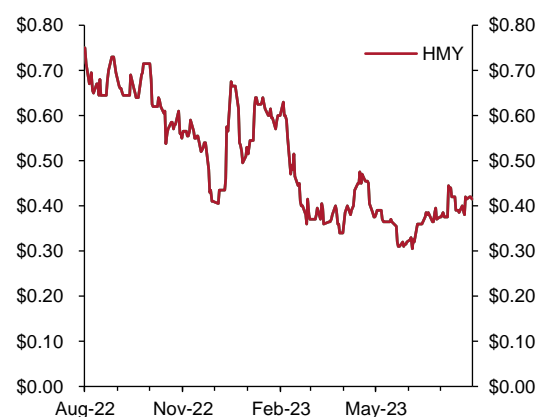
<https://www.harmony.com.au/>

Valuation	A\$2.50 (previously \$3.17)
Current price	A0.44
Market cap	A\$44.20m
Unrestricted cash on hand	\$27.5m

Upcoming Catalysts / Next News

Late October 2023	1Q23 Result
15 November 2023	Annual General Meeting

Share Price (\$A)



Source: FactSet, MST Access

HARMONEY CORP LIMITED

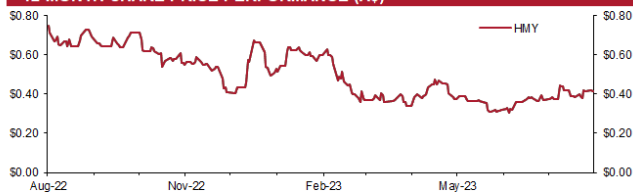
HMV-AX

Year end 30 June, A\$

MARKET DATA

Price	A\$	\$0.44
Valuation	A\$	\$2.50
52 week low - high	A\$	1.20 - 0.75
Market capitalisation	A\$m	44.2
Shares on issue (basic)	m	101.6
Options / rights (currently antidilutive)	m	0.0
Other equity	m	0.0
Shares on issue (fully diluted)	m	101.6

12-MONTH SHARE PRICE PERFORMANCE (A\$)



INVESTMENT FUNDAMENTALS		FY22A	FY23A	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
EPS - diluted reported	cps	-18.6	-6.7	-8.1	-2.2	4.4
EPS - diluted cash	cps	0.2	4.7	4.4	10.1	14.8
EPS growth	%	-101%	2593%	-5%	128%	47%
Reported PE	x	-2.3	-6.5	-5.4	-19.4	9.8
Cash PE	x	251.6	9.3	9.9	4.3	2.9
DPS	cps	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Franking	%	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Dividend yield	%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Payout ratio	%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Operating cash flow per share	cps	353.6	23.6	7.1	16.2	24.9
Free cash flow to equity per share	cps	-992.1	-14.0	0.3	7.4	13.4
FCF yield	%	-2281%	-32%	1%	17%	31%

Enterprise value	\$m	27.7	36.5	40.9	38.5	30.1
EV/Total Income	x	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.1
EV/Net lending income	x	0.9	1.0	1.2	0.9	0.6
EV/Net operating margin	x	3.2	1.6	1.9	1.2	0.7

NAV per share	A\$	0.59	0.53	0.45	0.43	0.47
NTA per share	A\$	0.42	0.33	0.23	0.17	0.17
Price / NAV	x	0.74	0.82	0.97	1.02	0.92
Price / NTA	x	1.04	1.31	1.93	2.60	2.54

KEY RATIOS		FY22A	FY23A	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
NTA/Net Receivables	%	7.6%	5.1%	3.9%	3.6%	3.8%
Proforma ROE - reported	%	-29.0%	-12.0%	-16.5%	-5.1%	9.9%
Proforma ROE - cash	%	0.3%	8.4%	9.0%	23.0%	33.1%
Net corporate debt	A\$m	-16.5	-7.7	-3.3	-5.7	-14.0

Gross debt / equity	x	929%	1303%	1993%	2611%	2852%
Leverage (net debt / invested capital)	x	-39%	-17%	-8%	-15%	-42%

DUPONT ANALYSIS		FY22A	FY23A	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
Net Profit Margin	%	-26%	-7%	-6%	-1%	2%
Asset Turnover	x	15%	15%	15%	16%	16%
Return on Assets	%	-4%	-1%	-1%	0%	0%
Financial Leverage	x	769%	1259%	1782%	2462%	2903%
Return on Equity	%	-29%	-13%	-17%	-5%	10%

HALF YEARLY DATA		2H22A	1H23A	2H23A	1H24E	2H24E
Total income	A\$m	40.6	50.1	57.0	62.6	71.2
Net lending income	A\$m	10.0	17.5	17.4	15.5	17.8
Net operating margin	A\$m	-0.6	11.0	11.6	9.7	11.9
Reported NPAT	A\$m	-14.0	-3.4	-4.2	-4.8	-3.4
Cash NPAT	A\$m	0.3	2.3	2.4	1.0	3.5

EPS - diluted cash	cps	0.3	2.3	2.3	0.9	3.5
EPS - diluted reported	cps	-13.8	-3.3	-4.1	-4.8	-3.3
DPS	cps	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS		FY22A	FY23A	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
Group originations	A\$m	442.5	426.2	419.2	508.1	570.9
Warehouse funded % of book (average)	%	79%	96%	100%	100%	100%
Gross loan receivables	A\$m	581.0	744.0	947.6	1,181.2	1,414.1
Average gross loan receivables (AGR)	A\$m	432.5	683.1	841.7	1,064.7	1,297.5
Growth in AGR	%	117%	58%	23%	26%	22%

Interest income / AGR	%	15.9%	15.5%	15.9%	16.0%	16.0%
Interest expense / AGR	%	-4.2%	-5.8%	-6.7%	-6.7%	-6.7%
Net interest margin	%	11.8%	9.6%	9.2%	9.3%	9.3%
Incurred credit losses / AGR	%	2.45%	3.6%	4.11%	4.19%	4.22%
Net lending margin / AGR	%	8.40%	5.1%	3.96%	4.06%	4.21%

Cost to income ratio	%	37%	26%	22%	19%	17%
New business expenses / total costs	%	52.3%	22.7%	21.8%	3.4%	-27.8%

Source: HMY reports, MST Access estimates

PROFIT AND LOSS		FY22A	FY23A	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
Interest income	A\$m	68.9	105.5	133.8	170.3	207.5
Fee income	A\$m	3.9	1.5	0.0	0.0	0.0
Other income	A\$m	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total income	A\$m	72.8	107.1	133.8	170.3	207.5
Interest expense	A\$m	-18.1	-39.8	-56.1	-70.8	-86.7
Incurred credit losses	A\$m	-10.6	-24.6	-34.6	-44.7	-54.7
Risk Adjusted Income	A\$m	44.1	42.7	43.1	54.8	66.1
Movement in ECL provision	A\$m	-14.9	-7.8	-9.8	-11.5	-11.5
Net lending income	A\$m	29.2	34.9	33.3	43.3	54.6
Marketing expenses	A\$m	-20.7	-12.3	-11.7	-12.1	-12.4
Net operating margin	A\$m	8.5	22.6	21.6	31.2	42.2
Personnel expenses	A\$m	-9.8	-11.0	-11.8	-13.5	-14.7
Share based payments	A\$m	-2.7	-1.9	0.0	0.0	0.0
Customer servicing expenses	A\$m	-5.2	-6.2	-6.3	-6.8	-7.2
Technology expenses	A\$m	-4.2	-4.8	-4.9	-5.2	-5.7
General and administrative expenses	A\$m	-4.0	-3.7	-3.8	-4.4	-4.8
Depreciation and amortisation expenses	A\$m	-1.3	-2.5	-2.9	-3.1	-3.4
Profit before income tax	A\$m	-18.8	-7.6	-8.1	-1.8	6.4
Income tax expense	A\$m	0.0	0.0	-0.1	-0.5	-1.8
Reported NPAT	A\$m	-18.8	-7.6	-8.2	-2.3	4.5
Adjustments	A\$m	3.2	12.3	12.7	12.5	10.5
Cash NPAT	A\$m	1.9	4.7	4.5	10.2	15.1
Weighted average diluted shares	m	1.4	101.6	101.6	101.6	101.6

BALANCE SHEET		FY22A	FY23A	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
Unrestricted cash	A\$m	31.2	27.5	23.1	25.5	33.9
Finance receivables	A\$m	551.4	708.9	900.8	1,123	1,344
Property, plant and equipment	A\$m	0.4	3.7	4.6	5.9	7.8
Goodwill and other intangibles	A\$m	8.5	11.6	14.3	18.4	24.3
Other assets	A\$m	43.3	34.1	41.4	30.2	30.0
Total Assets	A\$m	634.9	785.7	984.1	1,203	1,440
Trade and other liabilities	A\$m	6.4	9.9	9.9	9.9	9.9
Borrowings - receivables funding	A\$m	549.5	700.7	907.8	1,130	1,363
Borrowings - corporate debt	A\$m	14.7	19.8	19.8	19.8	19.8
Provisions	A\$m	5.2	1.5	1.0	0.0	0.0
Total Liabilities	A\$m	575.8	732.0	938.6	1,160	1,393
Net assets	A\$m	59.1	53.8	45.6	43.3	47.8
Net tangible assets	A\$m	42.3	33.7	22.9	17.0	17.4
Invested capital	A\$m	42.6	46.1	42.3	37.6	33.7
Tangible invested capital	A\$m	25.8	26.0	19.6	11.3	3.3

Contributed equity	A\$m	123.3	124.0	124.0	124.0	124.0
Treasury shares	A\$m	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reserves	A\$m	7.4	8.9	8.9	8.9	8.9
Retained earnings/accumulated losses	A\$m	-71.5	-79.1	-87.3	-89.6	-85.1
Non-controlling interests	A\$m	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total equity	A\$m	59.1	53.8	45.6	43.3	47.8
Basic shares on issue	m	101.0	101.6	101.6	101.6	101.6

CASH FLOW		FY22A	FY23A	FY24E	FY25E	FY26E
Operating						
Net operating cashflow	A\$m	5.0	23.9	7.2	16.4	25.3
Investment						
Capital expenditure	A\$m	-6.3	-5.0	-6.4	-8.5	-11.3
Acquisitions and divestments	A\$m	-312.6	-181.6	-203.6	-233.7	-232.9
Net investment cashflow	A\$m	-318.9	-186.7	-210.0	-242.2	-244.2
Financing						
Equity	A\$m	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Debt	A\$m	300.8	149.0	203.6	233.7	232.9
Leases	A\$m	-0.8	-0.5	-0.4	-0.4	-0.4
Net financing cashflow	A\$m	300.0	148.5	203.1	233.2	232.5
Net cash flow	A\$m	-13.9	-14.2	0.3	7.5	13.6
Free cash flow to equity	A\$m	-13.9	-14.2	0.3	7.5	13.6

FY23 Results Analysis and Outlook

Risk Adjusted Income

(RAI) = Revenue - Funding
– Credit Losses

Income

As of 30 June 2023, Harmony's loan portfolio was \$744m up \$163m (or 28% on pcp), driven by \$426m in originations during the period. This was a 4% reduction in origination volumes on the prior year, led by a deliberate moderation in growth expenses to focus on delivering profitability, including a 41% reduction on marketing costs (customer acquisitions costs) on the prior year.

Interest income for FY23 was \$105.5m (up 53.5% on pcp) driven by growth in the average loan book, however tempered by a marginally lower average interest of 15.5% (was 15.9%). However, management have highlighted a 15.7% average portfolio interest for June 2023, following interest rate increases on new lending.

Management have also pointed to reduced levels of early repayments compared to the prior year, with reducing mortgage refinancing activity due to rising interest rates.

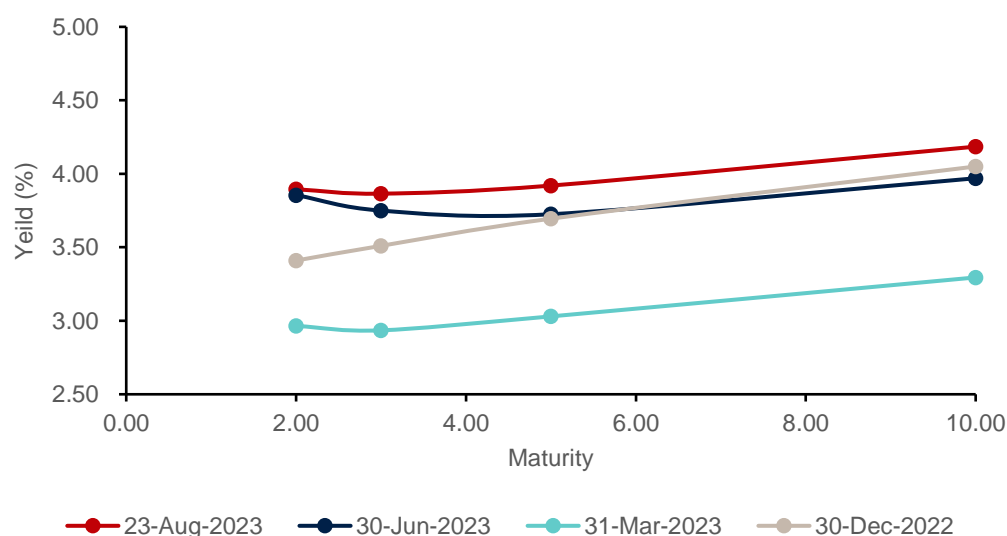
Funding Costs

Harmony's FY23 interest costs were \$39.8, up a significant 120% on pcp, due to loan book growth and a material shift in interest rates from abnormal lows experienced in FY22.

During the period RBA and RBNZ increased official cash rates by 3.25% and 3.50% respectively, with Harmony's average funding rate increasing to 6.0%, up from 4.5% in FY22. Harmony's hedging strategies have softened effects of the underlying cost of fund increases in FY23, however as these positions expire management expect the average cost of funds to stabilise close to 7% in the near term.

Interest rate expectations have changed rapidly in the past few months, however based upon the market data and statements by Harmony, interest rate expectations are stabilising. In recent weeks, the inversion of the Australian government bond yield curve, representing a fall in risk-free rate expectations in the short term, has lessened in intensity. Although the expectations of significant short term rate cuts have diminished, this should still be positive for Harmony's average funding costs moving forward, as it signals a potential crest or plateau in the RBA's current monetary policy tightening cycle.

Figure 1: Australian Government Bond Yields (%)



Source: RBA Capital Market Yields – Daily F2

Credit Quality

As Harmony's secured product line (car loans) has only recently been launched earlier this year, most of their book is still unsecured loans, which typically have both higher lending rates and a higher cost of wholesale funding associated with operations due to the absence of collateral for recovery in the event of default, which increases the overall risk. As such Harmony's realised credit losses are slightly higher than some its peers given its loan book is heavily skewed towards

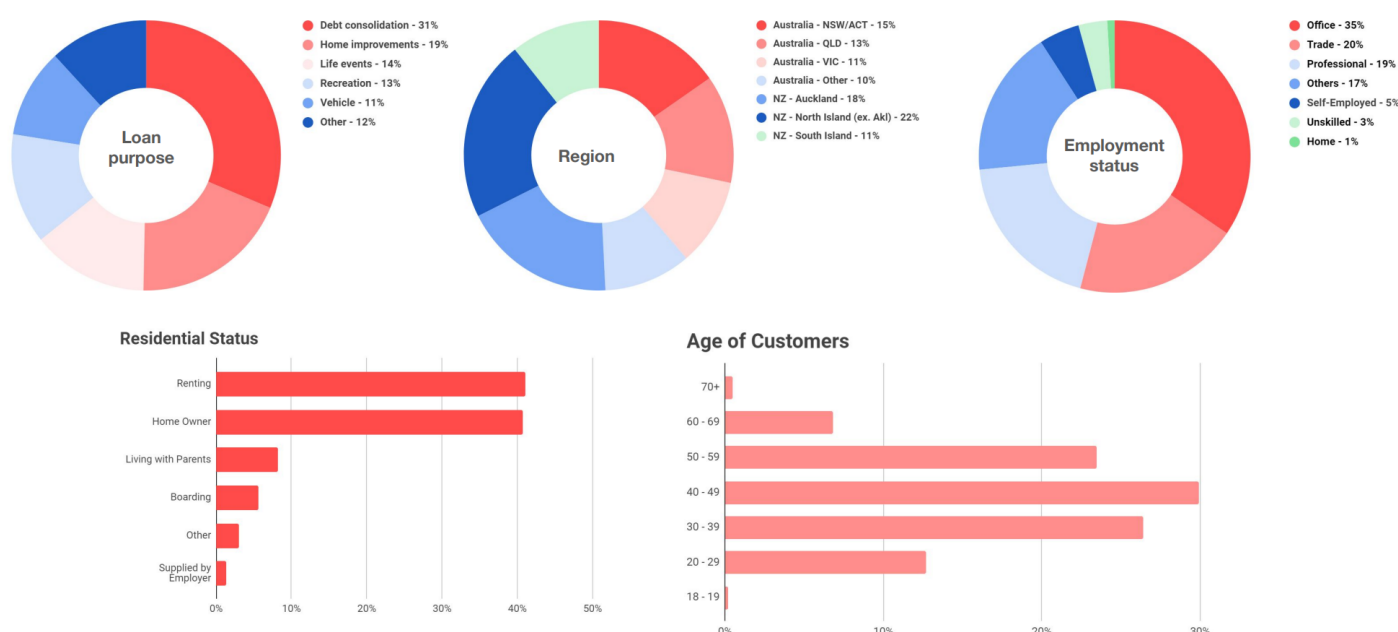
unsecured lending, however this is offset and accounted for in the risk adjusted lending rates, delivering a risk adjusted income margin of 6%

The FY23 results reported 90+ day arrears of 0.58% and an increase in incurred credit losses to 3.6% of the average loan portfolio (FY22: 2.5%) due to “seasoning” of the loan book following rapid prior year growth. Management commentary suggests personal loans reach peak distress 12-18 months into the term. The FY23 figures remain with managements 3-4% target range.

Management have also highlighted the diversification of Harmony’s loan book provides resilience to macroeconomic disruptions, given its broad exposure to economically secure customers, including approximately:

- 40% owning their own home.
- 74% either employed in an office, trade, or professional capacity.

Figure 2: Diversification of Harmony’s 30 June 2023 Loan Book



Source: RBA Capital Market Yields – Daily F2

Harmony has maintained a stable provision rate of 4.9% of loan book from FY22 to FY23, resulting in a FY23 movements of provisions of \$7.8m due to growth in the loan book. (This is excluded from the calculation of Cash NPAT, which only recognised realised credit losses incurred in the period). Due to a forecast continued loan book expansion the coming periods, movements in provisions are expected to be a significant drag on statutory profitability.

Net Operating Income

(NOI) = RAI – Acquisition Costs

Acquisition Costs

In a testament to the strength of Harmony’s consumer direct model, Harmony’s customer acquisition expense to origination ratio improved from 4.7% in FY22 to 2.9% in FY23 following a deliberate moderation in acquisition expenses, with exceptional growth from existing (repeat) customers with repeat customer originations growing 9% on pcg.

Under Harmony’s consumer-direct model its acquisition costs largely comprise online advertising to prospective customers. These costs are expensed up front in the period that they are incurred, not amortised over the life of the loan. Due to the consumer-direct (non-broker intermediated) relationship, when these existing customers return for a subsequent loan this is at near zero origination cost to Harmony, resulting in an annuity style income stream from Harmony’s up front acquisition cost.

Due to characteristics of the consumer direct model, Harmony recognises the acquisition expense of acquiring the ‘lifetime value’ of an annuity style income stream, as originations to returning existing customers have a near zero acquisition cost.

In comparison to broker or dealer led models where acquisition costs are typically amortised over the life of each loan (i.e. commissions), Harmony’s customer acquisition expense to origination ratio is expected to continue to improve as the proportion of loans to existing customers continues to increase.

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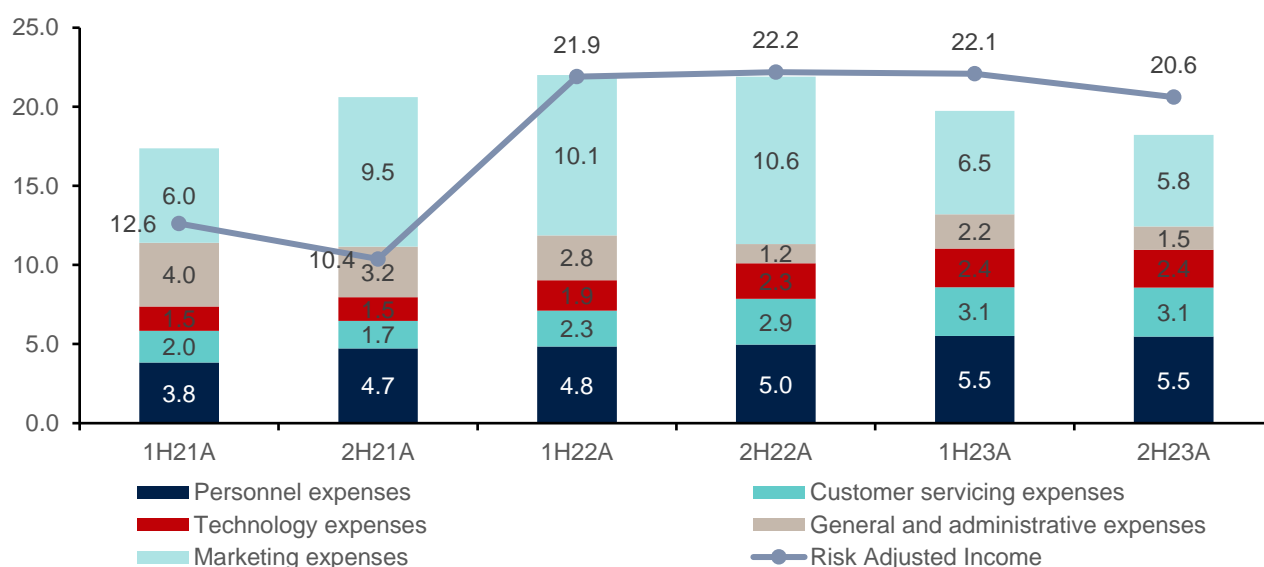
The launch of Stellare 2.0 is expected to continue to improve marketing efficiency in FY24.

Operating Costs

In a demonstration of operating leverage afforded by the consumer-direct model and efficacy of its proprietary Stellare platform, a 900bp improvement in its cost-to-income ratio to 28% in FY23, down from 37% on the prior year. This figure includes all operating costs which bridge Net Operating Income and Statutory NPAT.

Personal expenses were higher in 2H23 driven by additional investment in development capabilities as well as inflationary pressures on salaries driving an increase in cash expenses, however still maintained a considerable buffer afforded by Harmony's emerging operating leverage.

Figure 3: Cash Expenses (A\$m)



Source: RBA Capital Market Yields – Daily F2

Cash ROE

Cash NPAT / Average Shareholder Equity

Cash NPAT and Cash ROE

When assessing high growth lenders such as Harmony, Cash NPAT can be a superior measure to statutory NPAT as it adjusts out the AASB 9 requirement to expense estimated future period credit losses. Under AASB 9 a growing loan book drives an increased provision expense, ahead of actual credit losses or increased income from that loan book growth. Cash NPAT can be used to derive profit-based comparisons such as Cash Return on Equity and Cash P/E.

We calculate Cash NPAT as Reported NPAT, adding back:

- Movement in ECL Provision
- Share based Payment expense.
- Depreciation and Amortisation

Harmony's Cash NPAT of \$4.7m in FY23, delivered an 8.4% Cash ROE which is remarkably higher than FY22's 0.3%. Management has provided guidance of an expected 20% Cash ROE run rate by FY25, supported by the launch of Stellare 2.0 to both:

- Grow revenues through continued execution on Australian expansion plans and new credit product development to increase available users and customer lifetime value.
- Continue to improve cost-to-income ratio through the operating leverage afforded at scale.

Earnings changes

Following Harmony's FY23 results, we make the following changes to our earnings estimates.

Figure 4: MST Access General Residual Income Model ("GRIM") valuation of Harmony Corp Limited

		FY23E			FY24E			FY25E			FY26E		
		Expected	Actuals	% chg	Old	New	% chg	Old	New	% chg	Old	New	% chg
Interest income	A\$m	106.9	105.5	-1%	135.0	133.8	-1%	164.4	170.3	4%	200.2	207.5	4%
Total income	A\$m	107.5	107.1	0%	135.0	133.8	-1%	164.4	170.3	4%	200.2	207.5	4%
Interest expense	A\$m	-39.8	-39.8	0%	-54.8	-56.1	-2%	-63.3	-70.8	-12%	-77.6	-86.7	-12%
Net lending income	A\$m	36.7	34.9	-5%	38.6	33.3	-14%	51.8	43.3	-17%	60.2	54.6	-9%
Net operating margin	A\$m	19.1	22.6	18%	20.0	21.6	8%	32.7	31.2	-5%	39.6	42.2	6%
Profit before income tax	A\$m	-4.5	-7.6	-69%	-5.7	-8.1	-44%	5.6	-1.8	-132%	10.8	6.4	-41%
Reported NPAT	A\$m	-4.5	-7.6	-69%	-4.0	-8.2	-104%	4.0	-2.3	-158%	7.7	4.5	-41%
Cash NPAT	A\$m	4.7	4.7	1%	5.6	4.5	-20%	14.0	10.2	-27%	27.4	15.1	-45%
EPS diluted reported	cps	-4.4	-6.7	-51%	-4.0	-8.1	-104%	3.9	-2.2	-158%	7.6	4.4	-41%
EPS proforma diluted cash	cps	4.6	4.7	1%	5.5	4.4	-20%	13.8	10.1	-27%	26.9	14.8	-45%
DPS	cps	0.0	0.0	n.a.	0.0	0.0	n.a.	0.0	0.0	n.a.	0.0	0.0	n.a.

Source: Company reports, MST Access estimates

These changes are primarily due to:

- the incorporation of FY23 results into our model;
- revisions to our loan book growth assumptions and operating expenses given management execution and scale ambitions provided in results commentary, and;
- revisions to our funding costs assumptions given market stabilisation in the expected cost of funds and management guidance.

Changes may appear large due to a small denominator, with Harmony transitioning from being loss making to being profitable on in the near future.

Full details of our earnings estimates appear in the financial summary on page 2.

Valuation

We use a blend of valuation approaches to estimate Harmony valuation, considering:

- peer multiples and growth rates,
- intrinsic valuation scenarios of its potential future growth profiles

Other equity market considerations such as short sales; any likely forthcoming changes in index inclusion; depth of stock research coverage; composition of and change in the mix of investors (such as founders, board and staff, domestic institutions, foreign institutions, and retail investors) are not incorporated in our valuation; however investors should consider such factors if they seek to develop a price target for the company.

Many analysts use some form of residual income or value-added valuation approach, due to the complexities and uncertainties involved in forecasting cashflow, in part due to regulatory capital requirements. Some of the advantages of this approach are that:

- the bulk of the valuation is generally recognized upfront, in the net asset value providing greater certainty around a large component of the valuation;
- uses profit, rather than cashflow, forecasts.

The derivation of our book value per share and cash EPS used in this valuation method can be found in our balance sheet and income statement respectively.

General Residual Income Model ("GRIM")

We use a two-stage model, using our explicit forecasts over the next five years, followed by a terminal value, to which we add current net assets per share. We continue to assume a risk free rate of 4.0%, an equity risk premium of 5.0% and estimate HMY's equity beta to be 1.5. Based on these, our estimate of HMY's cost of equity to 11.5% and our terminal growth rate assumption is 3.0%.

This produces a general residual income model valuation of A\$2.50 per share, down from our previously valuation A\$3.17 due to discount roll forward and earnings changes. We note the current valuation still represents a significant upside to the current share price, at 474%.

Figure 5: MST Access General Residual Income Model ("GRIM") valuation of Harmony Corp Limited

Current date	29-Aug-23											
Last balance date	30-Jun-23											
		Jun-23	Dec-23	Jun-24	Dec-24	Jun-25	Dec-25	Jun-26	Dec-26	Jun-27	Dec-27	Jun-28
Book value per share	A\$	0.53	0.48	0.45	0.43	0.43	0.44	0.44	0.47	0.52	0.59	0.73
Equity charge	A\$		-0.03	-0.03	-0.03	-0.02	-0.02	-0.03	-0.03	-0.03	-0.03	-0.03
Cash EPS	A\$	0.02	0.01	0.03	0.05	0.05	0.07	0.07	0.08	0.10	0.12	0.16
Residual income	A\$		-0.02	0.01	0.02	0.03	0.04	0.04	0.06	0.08	0.09	0.12
Discounted cash flow	A\$	0.00	-0.02	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.05	0.06	0.07
Sum of discount streams	A\$	0.31	CAPM									
Future value into perpetuity	A\$	2.5	Risk free rate									
NPV of terminal value	A\$	1.66	Equity beta									
add net assets	A\$	0.53	Equity risk premium									
Residual income value per share	A\$	2.50	Cost of equity									
P/B multiple implied by GRIM valuation	x	4.7	Terminal growth									
Upside/downside	%	474%										

Source: Company reports, MST Access estimates

Theoretical book multiple valuation

With Harmony's medium term ROE target of 20%, we can use this to ascertain what theoretical book multiple the company would trade at if it achieves this target (which we think is probable).

One key shortcoming with this method is that it requires an assumed dividend payout ratio, as the theoretical multiple calculation can become undefined if no dividend payout ratio is assumed. For the purposes of this valuation, we assume a 50% dividend payout ratio, despite Harmony currently seeking to retain all its earnings to support future growth.

This method suggests that with a 11.5% cost of equity, 20% ROE and 50% retained earnings, the appropriate theoretical book multiple that Harmony should trade on is 6.67x, which applied to its current book value of 53cps would suggest a valuation of \$3.53.

Figure 6: Theoretical book multiple valuation for Harmony

HMY theoretical book multiple valuation		
Target cash ROE	%	20.0%
Cost of equity	%	11.5%
Dividend pay out ratio	%	50%
Theoretical book multiple	x	6.67
Current book value per share	A\$	0.53
Implied valuation	A\$	3.53
Implied upside	%	828.6%

Source: Company reports, MST Access estimates

Updated Investment Thesis

Harmony is a leading 100% online direct personal lender that operates across Australia and New Zealand, which continues to display strong growth and earnings momentum. The company is profitable on a cash basis and generates operating cashflows, and these should grow as its business grows.

A combination of superior technology, direct business model, and effective marketing strategies gives Harmony a clear edge over its peers, as well enabling it to achieve strong credit quality for its loan book. Harmony's highly automated Stellare™ technology ensures the businesses expenses are largely fixed, thus delivering strong operational leverage. Stellare's™ risk selection was strong from the outset and has continued to improve over time. Harmony is well-positioned in the cross-section of distribution and scalability, with a direct model and high scalability. Banks pulling back from the personal lending industry provides smaller alternative lenders (like Harmony) an opportunity to capture large market share.

Harmony uses multiple funding sources and has now largely transitioned to warehouse and ABS funding. The company's already attractive NIMs will be further enhanced by this transition, with the company reporting a NIM near 10% for FY23.

Risks and sensitivities

We elaborate on Harmony's risks and sensitivities in our initiation report. In summary, they can be categorised under strategic, financial and operational risks summarised as:

Strategic

Harmony operates in a dynamic and changing market, which sees competitors providing new and innovative offerings in a bid to capture market share.

Furthermore, there is a significant number of regulatory requirements, and could suffer from adverse changes to the requirements, including in Australia:

- Anti-money laundering and counter terrorist financing requirements administered by Austrac;
- Privacy requirements administered by the Privacy Commissioner;
- Financial Service licencing and Credit licencing administered by the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC);
- Australian Consumer Law and unfair contract terms contained in the Corporations Act administered by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC);
- Taxation legislation administered by the Australian Taxation Office (ATO);
- Accounting standards required under the Corporations Act administered by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) and ASIC;
- Design and distribution obligations, several of which will be governed by contract law.

Financial

Being a finance company, Harmony has a range of risks and sensitivities applicable to most companies in the financial sector. These include:

- Macroeconomic conditions
- Liquidity and funding risks
- Credit risk
- Fraud
- Compliance risks

Operational

Most companies, including Harmony, have a range of operational risks. These include:

- Governance
- Key personnel
- Information technology

- Cybersecurity and data protection
- Force majeure events
- Litigation, claims and disputes

Company Description

Harmony is the largest 100% consumer-direct money platform in Australia and New Zealand. The Company provides customers with unsecured personal loans, and secured and unsecured auto loans, that are easy to access, competitively priced (using risk-adjusted interest rates) and accessed 100% online. By effectively combining superior data, superior technology, and superior marketing, Harmony creates direct relationships with consumers, at scale.

It's direct-to-consumer automated loan approval system is underpinned by Harmony's scalable Stellare™ proprietary technology platform. Stellare™ efficiently facilitates its personalised loan product with applications processed and loans typically funded within 24 hours of acceptance by the customer. The 100% consumer-direct aspect of Harmony's business model allows the Company to gain access to deep data from consumers. The Stellare™ technology utilises deep consumer data and applies customer's individual circumstances to its machine learning credit scorecard to deliver automated credit decisioning and accurate risk-based pricing. Harmony have continually improved their credit scoring technology, with the latest Stellare™ Libra algorithms delivering high performance.

A large percentage of Harmony's originations come from existing or past customers. The minimal cost of marketing to its existing customer base proved a stable source of quality originations through COVID for the business and remain intrinsic to the business going forward.

Harmony is funded by a number of sources including three of the big 4 Australian banks as well as issuing ABS.

Harmony hold an Australian Credit Licence (ACL) which allows the company to conduct business as a consumer lender in Australia. Despite the Company ceasing retail peer-to-peer loans in New Zealand, they maintain their FMCA licence in relation to the run-off portfolio. Harmony also hold an Australian Financial Services Licence (AFSL), which is regulated by ASIC.

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