

Analyst

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Authorisation

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AMA Group (AMA)

Levers to pull?

Recommendation
Hold (unchanged)
Price
\$0.23
Target (12 months)
\$0.24 (previously \$0.17)

GICS Sector
Automobiles and Components

Expected Return

Capital growth	4.3%
Dividend yield	0.0%
Total expected return	4.3%

Company Data & Ratios

Enterprise value	\$410.8m
Market cap	\$246.8m
Issued capital	1,073.1m
Free float	95%
Avg. daily val. (52wk)	\$1.1m
12 month price range	\$0.145 - \$0.51

Price Performance

	(1m)	(3m)	(12m)
Price (A\$)	0.15	0.17	0.50
Absolute (%)	70.00	54.55	-49.00
Rel market (%)	75.62	53.66	-39.18

Absolute Price



SOURCE: IRESS

Levers to pull?

In our view AMA is close to needing a capital raise given the debt facility is close to fully drawn and the company only had cash of \$52m at 30 June. There are, however, some levers the company can potentially pull to reduce the need for or avoid a capital raise and these include: 1. A pull forward of the next market incentive payment to this financial year; 2. The sale of ACM Parts; and/or 3. Successful renegotiation of the Capital Smart contract and an earlier commencement than 1 July 2023. In our view the most likely of these scenarios occurring in the near term is the first or the third – ACM is probably considered too integral to the business to sell – though neither is at the option of AMA and would have to be negotiated with the relevant other party. In fact, the need or desire of AMA to achieve one or both of these outcomes potentially puts AMA in a weaker negotiating position so the company may have to give up something or accept less than hoped for in order to reach an agreement.

Modest upgrades in FY24 and FY25

There is no change in our FY23 forecasts and we continue to forecast normalised EBITDA of \$63.2m which is below the company's guidance range of \$70-90m. We have, however, upgraded our normalised EBITDA forecasts in FY24 and FY25 by 5% and 7% given the likelihood of a successful renegotiation of the Capital Smart contract at some stage this financial year and we were also well below the FY24 guidance. We now forecast FY24 normalised EBITDA of \$99.9m which is closer to but still below the guidance of \$120-140m.

Investment view: PT up 33% to \$0.24, Maintain HOLD

We have updated each valuation used in the determination of our price target for the forecast changes as well as market movements and time creep. We have also increased the multiple applied in the EV/EBITDA valuation from 4.25x to 5.25x and reduced the WACC in the DCF from 11.8% to 11.3% due to the potential for AMA to pull one or more of the highlighted levers and reduce or avoid the need of a capital raise. The net result is a 33% increase in our PT to \$0.24 and we maintain the HOLD.

Earnings Forecast

Year end 30 June	2022	2023e	2024e	2025e
Total revenue (A\$m)	844.9	955.6	1,018.2	1,067.3
EBITDA (normalised) (A\$m)	21.6	63.2	99.9	105.2
NPAT (statutory) (A\$m)	-144.2	-32.0	2.1	12.3
EPS (diluted) (cps)	-15.1	-3.0	0.2	1.1
EPS growth (%)	NM	NM	NM	NM
PER (x)	NM	NM	118.6	20.2
Price/CF (x)	NM	5.3	3.3	3.0
EV/EBITDA (x)	21.8	6.6	4.1	3.9
Dividend (€ps)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Yield (%)	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
ROE (%)	NM	NM	NM	5.1%
Franking (%)	0%	0%	0%	0%

SOURCE: BELL POTTER SECURITIES ESTIMATES

Levers to Pull?

In our view AMA is close to needing a capital raise given the debt facility is close to fully drawn and the company only had cash of \$52m at 30 June. There are, however, some levers the company can potentially pull to reduce the need for or avoid a capital raise and these include:

- **Pull forward of next market incentive:** Every four to five years or so AMA receives a “market incentive” from its paint supplier – BASF – which is effectively a prebate or upfront discount for the exclusive use of BASF paint. The last market incentive was \$59.5m in FY20 and since then has this payment been amortised against purchases of paint. The market incentive balance at 30 June 2022 had been reduced to \$48.0m which is enough for another three years or so given the current annual amortisation charge is around \$14m. There is, therefore, no particular need for another market incentive payment at present though in theory AMA could ask for another payment now which would increase the balance and further extend the exclusivity period. But given there is no particular need for a payment currently AMA may have to agree to a change in terms of the agreement in order to receive a payment now which may, for instance, include a reduction in the discount and/or an extension of the exclusivity period.
- **Sale of ACM Parts:** ACM Parts was acquired as part of the Capital SMART acquisition in 2019 and is a provider of recycled parts for use in collision repair. The business forms most of the Supply division within AMA which generated revenue of \$96m in FY22 and a modest positive EBITDA. In theory, the business could be sold as it is separate from the other three collision repair divisions – Drive, Non Drive and Heavy Motor – and not only provides parts to these divisions but the wider collision repair industry as well. But ACM is becoming increasingly integral to AMA given it works closely with each repair division and is key in the sourcing of parts. A sale is therefore perhaps unlikely and this is also supported by the relatively low EBITDA at present which may hamper the ability to achieve a reasonable price for the business.
- **Renegotiation of Capital SMART deal:** AMA has flagged numerous times over the past several months that renegotiation of the Capital SMART deal is a key focus for FY23 with the current unprofitable deal set to expire on 30 June 2023. CEO Carl Bizon has said he hopes to have a new deal sorted by Christmas and, while not saying this, what would be even better is if the new deal took effect before the current deal expires at the end of FY23. But for Suncorp to agree to this they would likely want something in return so, again, AMA may have to give up something to achieve such an outcome. This may include a lower margin or a less favourable mix of repairs or lower guaranteed volumes or some combination of these. A new deal commencing pre 1 July next year may therefore provide a boost to earnings in FY23 but may also provide less of a boost in FY24 and beyond.

In our view the most likely of these scenarios occurring in the near term is the first or the third – ACM is probably considered too integral to the business to sell – though, as indicated, neither is at the option of AMA and the company may have to give up something or accept less than hoped for in order to reach an agreement on one or both. The company may try to achieve both outcomes to try and minimise the risk and also strengthen their negotiation position (i.e. not be dependent on solely one outcome). In our view a result on one or both sometime next quarter is necessary to reduce or avoid the need of a capital raise – and keep the banks onside – and is also consistent with when AMA has indicated it wants a new Capital SMART deal sorted (i.e. pre Christmas).

Forecast and Valuation Changes

Modest Upgrades in FY24 and FY25

There is no change in our FY23 forecasts and we continue to forecast normalised EBITDA of \$63.2m which is below the company's guidance range of \$70-90m. We have, however, upgraded our normalised EBITDA forecasts in FY24 and FY25 by 5% and 7% given the likelihood of a successful renegotiation of the Capital Smart contract at some stage this financial year and we were also well below the FY24 guidance. We now forecast FY24 normalised EBITDA of \$99.9m which is closer to but still below the guidance of \$120-140m.

A summary of the changes in our key forecasts is shown below. These forecasts assume a successful renegotiation of the Capital SMART deal but only commencing 1 July 2023. We also assume no capital raise though it is tight with cash forecast to fall below \$50m in FY23.

Figure 1 - Change in key forecasts

Year end 30 June	FY23e			FY24e			FY25e		
	Old	New	Change	Old	New	Change	Old	New	Change
Total revenue (A\$m)	955.6	955.6	0.0%	1,018.2	1,018.2	0.0%	1,067.3	1,067.3	0.0%
EBITDA (normalised post AASB 16)	63.2	63.2	0.0%	95.4	99.9	4.7%	98.0	105.2	7.4%
NPAT after OEI	-32.0	-32.0	NM	-2.2	2.1	NM	5.8	12.3	>100%
Diluted EPS	-3.0c	-3.0c	NM	-0.2c	0.2c	NM	0.5c	1.1c	NM
DPS	0.0c	0.0c	NM	0.0c	0.0c	NM	0.0c	0.0c	NM

SOURCE: BELL POTTER SECURITIES ESTIMATES

33% Increase in PT to \$0.24

We have updated each valuation used in the determination of our price target for the forecast changes as well as market movements and time creep. We have also increased the multiple applied in the EV/EBITDA valuation from 4.25x to 5.25x and reduced the WACC in the DCF from 11.8% to 11.3% due to the potential for AMA to pull one or more of the highlighted levers and reduce or avoid the need of a capital raise.

The change in each valuation and the impact on our PT calculation is shown below.

Figure 2 - Change in forecasts and impact on PT

Methodology	Old (as at 23-Aug-22)			New (as at 26-Sep-22)		
	Valuation per share	% weighting	Price target	Valuation per share	% weighting	Price target
EV/EBITDA	\$0.10	50%	\$0.05	\$0.16	50%	\$0.08
DCF	\$0.24	50%	\$0.12	\$0.32	50%	\$0.16
Total			\$0.17			\$0.24

SOURCE: BELL POTTER SECURITIES ESTIMATES

The figure shows strong double digit percentage increases in both valuations. The net result is a 33% increase in our PT to \$0.24 which is a modest premium to the share price so we maintain our HOLD recommendation.

AMA Group

Company Description

AMA Group (AMA) is the largest accident repair group in Australia with approximately 170 vehicle panel repair shops. The company also has a presence in New Zealand with 6 vehicle panel repair shops. AMA sold its parts business – called ACAD – in 1H FY21 so is now almost a pure play accident repair group. The only parts of the company outside of panel repair are ACM Auto parts – a parts recycler – and Fluiddrive (a remanufacturer of automatic transmissions).

Investment Thesis

We maintain our HOLD recommendation on AMA. Our investment thesis is based on:

- **Valuation:** Our 12 month price target on AMA is \$0.24. The price target is generated from a blend of two valuation methodologies we apply to the company: EV/EBITDA and DCF. The price target is a 4% premium to the current share price and the total expected return (which includes the forecast dividend yield) is the same.
- **Consolidation opportunity:** AMA is the largest accident repair group in Australia but still only has around a 13% market share in what is a very fragmented industry. AMA is well positioned to lead consolidation in the industry and has a track record of successfully integrating acquisitions. A lack of strength in the Balance Sheet at present, however, suggests this opportunity is currently on hold.
- **Situational headwinds:** AMA is facing headwinds at present largely driven by the lockdowns and labour shortages associated with COVID-19. How long these headwinds will last is unclear though the company describes them as situational rather than structural.

Key Risks

Key downside risks to our estimates and valuation include (but are not limited to):

- **Acquisition risk:** The business model of AMA is to acquire, operate and develop complementary businesses in the automotive aftercare market. A risk is that an acquisition may not deliver to the expectations of AMA and this may negatively impact the financial performance of the company. A further risk is there may need to be a write down of goodwill or other intangibles associated with the acquisition.
- **Integration risk:** Every acquisition of AMA needs to be integrated into the group and this involves the centralising of finance and admin systems and potentially also the rationalisation of production process and brand integration. Integration is key for a successful acquisition and in some cases can be the key driver of an acquisition if cost savings or synergies are expected to be achieved. A risk, therefore, is the integration does not go well and/or the expected level of cost savings or synergies is not achieved.
- **Personnel risk:** A key strength of AMA is its experienced management team who have long standing customer relationships and a proven track record of targeted acquisitions and successful integration. A risk is that some key management leave the company and with that also goes one or more key customer relationships and lowers the overall experience level of the team which could have an adverse effect on the financial performance of the company.

Table 1 - Financial summary

AMA Group (AMA)						Share price:	\$0.23	Target price:	\$0.24		
						No. of issued shares:	1,073.1m	Market cap:	\$246.8m		
Profit & Loss (A\$m)						Valuation data					
Year end 30 Jun	2021	2022	2023e	2024e	2025e	Year end 30 Jun	2021	2022	2023e	2024e	2025e
Revenue from operations	916.5	838.1	952.2	1,014.9	1,064.3	NPAT (A\$m)	-97.1	-144.2	-32.0	2.1	12.3
Other revenue (excl. int.)	3.1	6.9	3.4	3.2	3.0	Diluted EPS (cps)	-13.1	-15.1	-3.0	0.2	1.1
Total revenue (excl. int.)	919.6	844.9	955.6	1,018.2	1,067.3	<i>Change</i>	<i>NM</i>	<i>NM</i>	<i>NM</i>	<i>NM</i>	<i>NM</i>
<i>Change</i>	11%	-8%	13%	7%	5%	P/E ratio (x)	NM	NM	NM	118.6	20.2
Expenses (excl. D&A, int.)	-813.6	-826.1	-893.4	-918.3	-962.1	CFPS (cps)	7.1	-3.0	4.3	6.9	7.7
<i>% of revenue</i>	-88.8%	-98.6%	-93.8%	-90.5%	-90.4%	Price/CF (x)	3.3	NM	5.3	3.3	3.0
EBITDA (statutory)	105.9	18.9	62.2	99.9	105.2	DPS (cps)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Depreciation	-63.3	-61.0	-59.5	-58.0	-56.6	Yield	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Amortisation	-17.9	-17.7	-17.3	-16.8	-16.4	Franking	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Impairment	-102.5	-105.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	EV/EBITDA (x)	3.9	21.8	6.6	4.1	3.9
EBIT	-77.8	-165.4	-14.6	25.0	32.2	NTA per share (cps)	-40.2	-21.9	-25.0	-25.0	-24.3
Net interest (expense)/revenue	-29.9	-31.1	-29.6	-25.9	-21.4	Price/NTA (x)	NM	NM	NM	NM	NM
Share of associates' profit	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Normalised EBITDA	116.1	21.6	63.2	99.9	105.2
Pre-tax profit bef. adjust.	-107.7	-196.6	-44.2	-0.9	10.8	EV/EBITDA (x)	3.5	19.1	6.5	4.1	3.9
Fair value adjustments	-6.0	13.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	Performance ratios					
Pre-tax profit from ops.	-113.6	-182.8	-44.2	-0.9	10.8	Year end 30 Jun	2021	2022	2023e	2024e	2025e
Profit from discount ops	12.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	EBITDA margin	11.6%	2.2%	6.5%	9.8%	9.9%
Pre-tax profit	-101.5	-182.8	-44.2	-0.9	10.8	Return on assets	-8.8%	-15.0%	-3.8%	-0.1%	1.1%
Income tax expense	2.3	34.8	8.8	0.0	-1.1	Return on equity	NM	NM	NM	NM	5.1%
NPAT before OEI	-99.2	-148.0	-35.3	-0.8	9.8	ROIC	NM	NM	NM	NM	NM
OEI	2.1	3.8	3.3	2.9	2.5	Payout ratio	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
NPAT after OEI	-97.1	-144.2	-32.0	2.1	12.3	Effective tax rate	-2.2%	-19.0%	-20.0%	-5.0%	-10.0%
<i>Change</i>	<i>NM</i>	<i>NM</i>	<i>NM</i>	<i>NM</i>	<i>NM</i>	Leverage ratios					
Cash Flow (A\$m)						Year end 30 Jun	2021	2022	2023e	2024e	2025e
EBITDA	105.9	18.9	62.2	99.9	105.2	Net debt/(cash) (A\$m)	206.0	164.0	167.3	147.3	127.1
Change in working capital	-19.9	-19.7	4.8	0.0	0.0	Net debt/equity	82%	75%	89%	78%	63%
Gross cash flow	86.0	-0.9	67.0	99.9	105.2	Gearing	45%	43%	47%	44%	39%
Interest received	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	Net debt/EBITDA (x)	1.9	8.7	2.7	1.5	1.2
Interest paid	-27.0	-26.4	-29.6	-25.9	-21.4	Net interest cover (x)	-2.6	-5.3	-0.5	1.0	1.5
Tax paid	-7.2	-1.2	8.8	0.0	-1.1	Segmentals (A\$m)					
Operating cash flow	52.1	-28.2	46.3	74.0	82.7	Revenue	2021	2022	2023e	2024e	2025e
Proceeds from sale of PPE/bus.	63.9	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	Vehicle collision repairs	775.4	687.7	790.9	844.3	886.5
Payments for PPE	-12.5	-6.8	-12.5	-15.0	-17.5	Heavy motor	54.1	53.9	55.2	56.6	58.0
Payments for intangibles	-0.2	-0.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	Supply	86.7	96.2	105.8	113.8	119.4
Payments for acquisitions	-17.9	-10.8	-10.0	-10.0	-12.5	Other services	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Loans and other investments	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	Total revenue	916.5	838.1	952.2	1,014.9	1,064.3
Investing cash flow	33.3	-18.0	-22.5	-25.0	-30.0	Other income (excl. int.)	3.1	6.9	3.4	3.2	3.0
Equity raised	0.0	95.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	Total revenue and other inc.	919.6	844.9	955.6	1,018.2	1,067.3
Change in borrowings	-102.5	-28.5	0.0	0.0	-25.0	EBITDA					
Lease payments	-31.6	-32.5	-33.5	-34.5	-35.0	Vehicle collision repairs	95.7	24.4	53.4	88.6	93.1
Dividends paid	0.0	0.0	3.3	2.9	2.5	Heavy motor	12.6	10.8	11.0	11.3	11.6
Financing cash flows	-134.1	34.2	-30.2	-31.6	-57.5	Supply	2.2	1.2	2.6	5.1	6.0
Net change in cash	-48.7	-11.9	-6.4	17.4	-4.7	Corporate/eliminations	-4.2	-17.3	-4.8	-5.1	-5.3
Cash at start of period	112.9	64.2	52.2	45.8	63.2	Total EBITDA	106.3	19.1	62.3	100.0	105.3
Exchange rate impact	0.0	-0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	Less interest income	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1
Cash at end of period	64.2	52.2	45.8	63.2	58.4	EBITDA	105.9	18.9	62.2	99.9	105.2
Balance Sheet (A\$m)						Interims (A\$m)					
Year end 30 Jun	2021	2022	2023e	2024e	2025e	Year end 30 Jun	1HFY21	2HFY21	1HFY22	2HFY22	
Cash	64.2	52.2	45.8	63.2	58.4	Revenue from operations	435.0	481.6	418.1	427.1	
Current receivables	72.9	67.4	71.4	76.1	79.8	Other revenue (excl. int.)	0.1	3.0	1.7	0.0	
Inventories	32.4	39.6	47.6	50.7	53.2	Total revenue (excl. int.)	435.1	484.5	419.8	0.0	
Other current assets	7.6	25.3	25.3	25.3	25.3	<i>Change</i>	<i>10%</i>	<i>13%</i>	<i>-4%</i>	<i>0%</i>	
PPE	379.6	319.9	263.6	210.9	162.4	EBITDA (statutory)	55.6	50.3	2.8	16.1	
Intangibles - Goodwill	349.2	268.4	273.4	278.4	284.6	Depreciation	-32.3	-31.1	-29.6	-31.4	
Intangibles - Other	202.7	185.8	182.8	180.6	179.9	Amortisation/Impairment	-11.0	-109.4	-25.6	-97.6	
Other non-current assets	18.6	26.2	26.2	26.2	26.2	EBIT	12.4	-90.2	-52.5	-112.9	
Total assets	1,127.2	984.7	936.0	911.4	869.8	Net interest (expense)/revenue	-15.7	-14.2	-15.5	-15.6	
Payables	119.2	102.2	119.0	126.9	133.0	Share of associates' profit	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Current borrowings	32.5	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	Pre-tax profit bef. adjust.	-3.3	-104.4	-68.0	-128.5	
Current provisions	34.2	42.6	42.6	42.6	42.6	Fair value adjustments	-5.4	-0.6	0.0	13.7	
Other current liabilities	14.0	29.1	29.1	29.1	29.1	Pre-tax profit	-8.7	-105.0	-68.0	-114.8	
Non-current borrowings	237.7	205.1	205.1	205.1	180.1	Pre-tax profit from ops.	14.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Non-current provisions	64.1	59.9	59.9	59.9	59.9	Profit from discount ops	5.5	-107.0	-68.0	-114.8	
Other non-current liabilities	47.6	33.8	33.8	33.8	33.8	Income tax expense	-0.9	3.2	20.0	14.8	
Total liabilities	876.2	764.9	748.2	721.5	667.7	NPAT before OEI	4.6	-103.8	-48.0	-100.0	
Contributed equity	424.4	536.7	536.7	536.7	536.7	Normalised EBITDA	65.1	51.1	4.2	17.4	
Reserves	0.6	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1						
Retained earnings/(losses)	-188.3	-332.5	-364.5	-362.4	-350.1						
Outside equity interest	14.2	10.4	10.4	10.4	10.4						
Total shareholders' equity	250.9	219.8	187.8	189.9	202.2						

SOURCE: BELL POTTER SECURITIES ESTIMATES

Recommendation structure

Buy: Expect >15% total return on a 12 month view. For stocks regarded as 'Speculative' a return of >30% is expected.

Hold: Expect total return between -5% and 15% on a 12 month view

Sell: Expect <-5% total return on a 12 month view

Speculative Investments are either start-up enterprises with nil or only prospective operations or recently commenced operations with only forecast cash flows, or companies that have commenced operations or have been in operation for some time but have only forecast cash flows and/or a stressed balance sheet.

Such investments may carry an exceptionally high level of capital risk and volatility of returns.

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