WESTPAC BANKING CORP Form 424B5 August 06, 2012

Use these links to rapidly review the document TABLE OF CONTENTS

Filed Pursuant to Rule 424(b)(5) Registration No. 333-163800

Subject to Completion
Preliminary Prospectus Supplement dated August 6, 2012

The information in this preliminary prospectus supplement is not complete and may be changed. This preliminary prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus are not an offer to sell these securities and we are not soliciting an offer to buy these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale of these securities is not permitted.

PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT (TO PROSPECTUS DATED AUGUST 6, 2012)

US\$

US\$

Westpac Banking Corporation (ABN 33 007 457 141) % Notes due

We are offering US\$ aggregate principal amount of our % notes due , which we refer to as the notes. We will pay interest on the notes at a rate of % per year. Interest on the notes will be payable semi-annually in arrears on February and August of each year, beginning on February , 2013. The notes will mature on . We may redeem all, but not less than all, of the notes if specified events occur involving Australian taxation, as described under "Description of the Debt Securities Redemption of Debt Securities Redemption for Taxation Reasons" in the accompanying prospectus.

The notes will be our direct, unconditional and unsecured senior obligations and will rank, except for certain debts required to be preferred by law, equally with all of our other unsecured and unsubordinated obligations from time to time outstanding. For a description of debts preferred by law, see "Ranking" in the accompanying prospectus. The notes will constitute a separate series of senior Debt Securities described in the accompanying prospectus.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or passed upon the accuracy or adequacy of this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

Investing in the notes involves risks. To read about certain factors you should consider before investing the notes, see "Forward-Looking Statements" on page S-ii and "Risk Factors" on page S-7 of this prospectus supplement, and the risk factors set forth in our U.S. Interim Profit Announcement for the half-year ended March 31, 2012 furnished to the US Securities and Exchange Commission on Form 6-K, dated May 9, 2012, which we refer to as the 2012 U.S. Interim Profit Announcement and which is incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus.

The notes are not protected accounts or deposit liabilities of Westpac for the purpose of the Banking Act 1959 of Australia, which we refer to as the Australian Banking Act, and are not insured or guaranteed by (1) the Commonwealth of Australia or any governmental agency of Australia, (2) the United States of America, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other governmental agency of the United States or (3) the government or any governmental agency of any other jurisdiction.

Public Offering Price(1)	Per Note % US\$	Total		
Underwriting Discount(2) Proceeds to Westpac (before expenses)(1)	% US\$ % US\$			
(25)	<i>γ</i> ε 35φ			
(1) Plus accrued interest from August , 20	12 if settlement occurs after th	at date		
	12 if settlement occurs after th	at date.		
(2) See "Underwriting" on page S-18 for furt	her information.			
6 1 6				
The notes will not be listed on any securi	ties exchange Currently th	here is no public market:	for the notes	
The notes will not be fisted on any securi	des exchange. Currentry, ti	nere is no public market	for the notes.	
The underwriters expect that the notes with	ill be ready for delivery in l	book-entry form only thr	ough The Depository Tru	st Company and its
participants, including Euroclear Bank SA/NV	and Clearstream Banking,	société anonyme, on or	about August , 2012.	
	Joint Book-Runr	ing Managers		
Deutsche Bank Securities				J.P. Morgan
	August	. 2012		

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

PRESENTATION OF INFORMATION	
	<u>S-ii</u>
FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS	<u>S-ii</u>
SUMMARY	<u>S-1</u>
RISK FACTORS	<u>S-7</u>
<u>USE OF PROCEEDS</u>	<u>S-9</u>
RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES	<u>S-9</u>
<u>CAPITALIZATION</u>	<u>S-10</u>
DESCRIPTION OF THE NOTES	<u>S-11</u>
TAXATION	S-17
<u>UNDERWRITING</u>	S-18
WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION	S-23
INCORPORATION OF INFORMATION WE FILE WITH THE SEC	S-23
CURRENCY OF PRESENTATION AND EXCHANGE RATES	S-24
VALIDITY OF SECURITIES	S-25
<u>EXPERTS</u>	S-25
<u>EXPENSES</u>	S-25
PROSPECTUS	
ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS	
	<u>ii</u>
FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS	<u>ii</u>
WESTPAC BANKING CORPORATION	
USE OF PROCEEDS	3
DESCRIPTION OF THE DEBT SECURITIES	1 3 4
TAXATION	<u>22</u>
PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION	32
WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION	34
INCORPORATION OF INFORMATION WE FILE WITH THE SEC	34
ENFORCEABILITY OF FOREIGN JUDGMENTS IN AUSTRALIA	36
CURRENCY OF PRESENTATION AND EXCHANGE RATES	36
VALIDITY OF SECURITIES	37
<u>EXPERTS</u>	<u>37</u>
LIMITATION ON INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM'S LIABILITY	37
S-i	

Table of Contents

You should rely only on information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and any free writing prospectus with respect to the offering of the notes filed by us with the Securities and Exchange Commission, which we refer to as the SEC. We have not, and the underwriters have not, authorized anyone to provide you with different or additional information. If anyone provides you with different, additional or inconsistent information, you should not rely on it. You should assume that the information in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and any free writing prospectus with respect to the offering of the notes filed by us with the SEC and the documents incorporated by reference herein and therein is only accurate as of the respective dates of such documents. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since those dates.

We are offering to sell, and are seeking offers to buy, the notes only in jurisdictions where offers and sales of the notes are permitted. The distribution of this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus and the offering of the notes in certain jurisdictions may be restricted by law. Persons outside the United States who come into possession of this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus must inform themselves about and observe any restrictions relating to the offering of the notes and the distribution of this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus outside the United States. This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus do not constitute, and may not be used in connection with, an offer to sell, or a solicitation of an offer to buy, any notes offered by this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus by any person in any jurisdiction in which it is unlawful for such person to make such an offer or solicitation.

PRESENTATION OF INFORMATION

This document is in two parts. The first part is this prospectus supplement, which describes the specific terms of the offering of the notes and also adds to and updates information contained in the accompanying prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. The second part is the accompanying prospectus which gives more general information about our debt securities, some of which may not apply to this offering.

If the information in this prospectus supplement is inconsistent with information contained in the accompanying prospectus or any document incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus on or prior to the date hereof, you should rely on the information contained in this prospectus supplement.

Unless otherwise indicated, or the context otherwise requires, references in this prospectus supplement to "we," "us" and "our" or similar terms are to Westpac Banking Corporation and its controlled entities (within the meaning of Section 50AA of the Corporations Act 2001 of Australia, which we refer to as the Australian Corporations Act), and references to "Westpac" are to Westpac Banking Corporation (ABN 33 007 457 141).

We publish our consolidated financial statements in Australian dollars. In this prospectus supplement, unless otherwise stated or the context otherwise requires, references to "dollars", "\$", or "A\$" are to Australian dollars, references to "US\$", "USD" or "U.S. dollars" are to United States dollars and references to "NZ\$", "NZD" or "NZ dollars" are to New Zealand dollars.

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus supplement contains or incorporates by reference statements that constitute "forward-looking" statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, which we refer to as the Securities Act. Forward-looking statements appear in a number of places in this prospectus supplement and the information incorporated by reference herein and include statements regarding our intent, belief or current expectations with respect to our business and operations, market conditions, results of operations and financial condition including, without

Table of Contents

limitation, future loan loss provisions and financial support to certain borrowers. We use words such as "will", "may", "expect", "intend", "seek", "would", "should", "could", "continue", "plan", "estimate", "anticipate", "believe", "probability", "risk" or other similar words to identify forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements reflect our current views with respect to future events and are subject to change, certain risks, uncertainties and assumptions which are, in many instances, beyond our control and have been made based upon management's expectations and beliefs concerning future developments and their potential effect upon us. There can be no assurance that future developments will be in accordance with our expectations or that the effect of future developments on us will be those anticipated. Actual results could differ materially from those which we expect, depending on the outcome of various factors, including, but not limited to, those set forth in our 2012 U.S. Interim Profit Announcement and the other documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus. These factors include:

the effect of, and changes in, laws, regulations, taxation or accounting standards or practices and government policy, particularly changes to liquidity, leverage and capital requirements; the stability of Australian and international financial systems and disruptions to financial markets and any losses or business impacts we or our customers or counterparties may experience as a result; market volatility, including uncertain conditions in funding, equity and asset markets; adverse asset, credit or capital market conditions; changes to our credit ratings; levels of inflation, interest rates, exchange rates and market and monetary fluctuations; market liquidity and investor confidence; changes in economic conditions, consumer spending, saving and borrowing habits in Australia, in New Zealand and in other countries in which we or our customers or counterparties conduct our or their operations and our ability to maintain or to increase market share and control expenses; the effects of competition in the geographic and business areas in which we conduct our operations; reliability and security of our technology and risks associated with changes to technology systems;

the effectiveness of our risk management policies, including our internal processes, systems and employees;

services by customers;

the occurrence of environmental change or external events in countries in which we or our customers or counterparties conduct our or their operations;

the timely development and acceptance of new products and services and the perceived overall value of these products and

internal and external events which may adversely impact our reputation;

changes in political, social or economic conditions in any of the major markets in which we or our customers or counterparties operate; and

various other factors beyond our control.

All forward-looking statements speak only as of the date made. We are under no obligation, and do not intend, to update any forward-looking statements contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise.

S-iii

Table of Contents

SUMMARY

This summary highlights selected information about Westpac and this offering. It does not contain all of the information that may be important to you in deciding whether to purchase the notes. We encourage you to read the entire prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and the documents that we have filed with the SEC that are incorporated by reference prior to deciding whether to purchase the notes.

Westpac Banking Corporation

We are one of the four major banking organizations in Australia and, through our New Zealand operations, we are also one of the largest banking organizations in New Zealand. We provide a broad range of banking and financial services in these markets, including retail, business and institutional banking and wealth management services.

We were founded in 1817 and were the first bank to be established in Australia. In 1850 we were incorporated as the Bank of New South Wales by an Act of the New South Wales Parliament. In 1982 we changed our name to Westpac Banking Corporation following our merger with the Commercial Bank of Australia. On August 23, 2002, we were registered as a public company limited by shares under the Australian Corporations Act. Our principal office is located at 275 Kent Street, Sydney, New South Wales, 2000, Australia. Our telephone number for calls within Australia is 132 032 and our international telephone number is +61 2 9293 9270.

We have branches, affiliates and controlled entities throughout Australia, New Zealand and the near Pacific region and maintain branches and offices in some of the key financial centers around the world. As at March 31, 2012, we had total assets of A\$653.9 billion. Our market capitalization as of August 3, 2012 was approximately A\$71.8 billion.

We have three key customer-facing divisions. These divisions are Australian Financial Services, Westpac Institutional Bank and Westpac New Zealand.

Australian Financial Services, which we refer to as AFS, is responsible for Westpac's Australian retail banking, business banking and wealth operations. It incorporates the operations of Westpac Retail & Business Banking, St.George Banking Group and BT Financial Group (Australia). AFS also includes the product and risk responsibilities for Australian banking.

Westpac Retail & Business Banking, which we refer to as Westpac RBB, is responsible for sales and service for our consumer, small to medium enterprise customers and commercial customers (typically with turnover of up to A\$100 million) in Australia under the Westpac brand. Activities are conducted through Westpac RBB's nationwide network of branches and business banking centers and specialized consumer and business relationship managers, with the support of cash flow, financial markets and wealth specialists, customer service centers, automated teller machines, which we refer to as ATMs, and internet and mobile channels.

St.George Banking Group, which we refer to as St.George, is responsible for sales and service for consumer, business and corporate customers in Australia under the St.George, BankSA, Bank of Melbourne and RAMS brands. RAMS is a diversified non-bank financial services group. Consumer activities are conducted through a network of branches, third party distributors, call centers, ATMs, EFTPOS terminals and internet banking services. Business and corporate customers (businesses with facilities typically up to A\$150 million) are provided with a wide range of banking and financial products and services including specialist advice for cash flow finance, trade finance, automotive and equipment finance, property finance, transaction banking and treasury services. Sales and service activities for

Table of Contents

business and corporate customers are conducted by relationship managers via business banking centers, internet and customer service center channels.

BT Financial Group (Australia), which we refer to as BTFG, is Westpac's Australian wealth division. BTFG's funds management operations include the manufacturing and distribution of investment, superannuation and retirement products, investment platforms such as Wrap and Master Trusts, private banking, financial planning as well as margin lending and broking. BTFG's insurance solutions cover the manufacturing and distribution of life, general and lenders mortgage insurance. BTFG's brands include Advance Asset Management, Ascalon, Asgard, BT, BT Investment Management (64.5% owned by us and consolidated in BTFG's Funds Management business), Licensee Select, Magnitude, Securitor, and the Advice, Private Banking and Insurance Operations of Bank of Melbourne, BankSA, St.George and Westpac.

Westpac Institutional Bank, which we refer to as WIB, delivers a broad range of financial services to commercial, corporate, institutional and Government customers with connections to Australia and New Zealand. WIB operates through dedicated industry relationship and specialist product teams, with expert knowledge in transactional banking, financial and debt capital markets, specialized capital, and alternative investment solutions. Customers are supported through branches and subsidiaries located in Australia, New Zealand, the United States, the United Kingdom and Asia.

Westpac New Zealand is responsible for sales and service of banking, wealth and insurance products for consumers, business and institutional customers in New Zealand. Westpac conducts its New Zealand banking business through two banks in New Zealand: Westpac New Zealand Limited, which is incorporated in New Zealand, and Westpac Banking Corporation (NZ Division), a branch of Westpac, which is incorporated in Australia. The division operates via an extensive network of branches and ATMs across both the North and South Islands. Business and institutional customers are also served through relationship and specialist product teams. Banking products are provided under the Westpac and Westpac Institutional Bank brands while insurance and wealth products are provided under Westpac Life and BT brands, respectively.

Other business divisions include:

Pacific Banking, which provides banking services for retail and business customers in seven Pacific island nations;

Group Services, which encompasses technology, banking operations, legal and property services;

Treasury, the primary focus of which is the management of our interest rate risk and funding requirements by managing the mismatch between our assets and liabilities; and

Core Support, which comprises those functions performed centrally, including finance, risk and human resources.

Table of Contents

The Offering

The following is a brief summary of some of the terms of this offering. For a more complete description of the terms of the notes, see "Description of the Notes" in this prospectus supplement and "Description of the Debt Securities" in the accompanying prospectus.

Issuer Westpac Banking Corporation.

Notes Offered US\$ aggregate principal amount of % notes due

Maturity Date The notes will mature on

Interest Rate We will pay interest on the notes at a rate of % per year.

Interest Payment Dates Interest on the notes will be payable semi-annually in arrears on February and August of

each year, beginning February , 2013. Any payment of principal or interest with respect to the notes required to be made on an interest payment date that is not a business day in New York, London and Sydney will be made on the next succeeding business day, and no interest will accrue on that payment for the period from and after the interest payment date to the date

of payment on the next succeeding business day.

Ranking The notes will be our direct, unconditional, unsubordinated and unsecured obligations and will

rank, except for certain debts required to be preferred by law, equally with all of our other unsecured and unsubordinated obligations from time to time outstanding. For a description of debts preferred by law, see "Ranking" in the accompanying prospectus. The notes will rank

senior to our subordinated obligations, including any subordinated debt securities.

Redemption for Taxation ReasonsSubject to certain limitations, the senior indenture provides that we will have the right to

redeem the notes in whole, but not in part, as described in the accompanying prospectus under the heading "Description of the Debt Securities Redemption of Debt Securities Redemption for

Taxation Reasons", with respect to the notes.

If we redeem the notes in these circumstances, the redemption price of each note redeemed will

be equal to 100% of the principal amount of such note plus accrued and unpaid interest on such

note to but excluding the date of redemption.

Use of ProceedsWe estimate that the net proceeds from the offering of the notes, after taking into account the

underwriting discount and deducting estimated offering expenses payable by us, will be

US\$. We intend to use the net proceeds for general corporate purposes.

S-3

Table of Contents

Sinking Fund The notes will not be entitled to the benefit of any sinking fund.

Form of Note Notes, in global form, which we refer to as global notes, will be held in the name of The

Depository Trust Company, which we refer to as the Depositary or DTC, or its nominee.

Trustee The Bank of New York Mellon, which we refer to as the trustee.

S-4

Table of Contents

Summary Financial Information

The following table sets forth summary consolidated financial information as of, and for the financial years ended, September 30, 2011, 2010, 2009, 2008 and 2007, and as of, and for the half-years ended, March 31, 2012 and 2011. We have derived the summary financial information from our audited consolidated financial statements and related notes as of, and for the financial years ended, September 30, 2011, 2010, 2009, 2008 and 2007, and our unaudited interim consolidated financial statements and related notes as of, and for the half-years ended, March 31, 2012 and 2011, which have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and International Financial Reporting Standards as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board.

You should read this information together with the operating and financial review set forth in "Section 2" of our Annual Report on Form 20-F for the year ended September 30, 2011, which we refer to as the 2011 Form 20-F, and our audited consolidated financial statements and the accompanying notes included in our 2011 Form 20-F and the operating and financial review set forth in "Section 3" and "Section 4" of our 2012 U.S. Interim Profit Announcement and our unaudited consolidated financial statements and the accompanying notes included in our 2012 U.S. Interim Profit Announcement, each of which is incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement. See "Where You Can Find More Information" in this prospectus supplement.

	As of and for the half-year ended March 31,				As of and for the financial year ended September 30,				
	2012(1) (in US\$	2012	2011	2011(1) (in US\$ millions)	2011	2010(2)	2009(2)	2008(2)	2007(2)
	millions)	(in A\$ mi	illione)	(Unaudited)		(in	A\$ million	e)	
				(III A					
Income statement	((Jnaudited)							
Net interest income	6,412	6,185	5,845	12,436	11,996	11,842	11,646	7,222	6,313
Non-interest income	2,744	2,647	2,502	5,098	4,917	5,068	4,859	4,383	4,006
	•	,	,	•	,	,	ĺ	,	,
Net operating income before operating									
expenses and impairment charges	9,156	8,832	8,347	17,534	16,913	16,910	16,505	11,605	10,319
Operating expenses	(4,039)	(3,896)	(3,653)	(7,678)	(7,406)	(7,416)	(7,171)	(5,455)	(4,689)
Impairment charges on loans	(630)	(608)	(463)	(1,029)	(993)	(1,456)	(3,238)	(931)	(482)
Profit before income tax expense	4,487	4,328	4,231	8,827	8,514	8,038	6,096	5,219	5,148
Income tax expense	(1,376)	(1,327)	(235)	(1,508)	(1,455)	(1,626)	(2,579)	(1,287)	(1,630)
Profit attributable to non-controlling									
interests	(35)	(34)	(35)	(71)	(68)	(66)	(71)	(73)	(67)
Net profit attributable to owners of									
Westpac Banking Corporation	3,076	2,967	3,961	7,248	6,991	6,346	3,446	3,859	3,451
Balance sheet									
Loans	524,699	506,124	484,207	514,835	496,609	477,655	463,459	313,545	275,377
Other assets	153,232	147,808	137,751	179,991	173,619	140,622	126,128	126,131	102,243
Total assets	677,931	653,932	621,958	694,826	670,228	618,277	589,587	439,676	377,620
Deposits	391,311	377,458	342,498	383,867	370,278	337,385	329,456	233,730	202,054
Debt issues and acceptances	163,359	157,576	153,597	172,021	165,931	150,971	133,024	100,369	87,126
Loan capital	8,663	8,356	8,250	8,473	8,173	9,632	11,138	8,718	7,704
Other liabilities	68,076	65,667	75,494	85,049	82,038	80,171	79,398	77,388	62,828
Total liabilities	631,409								