BÉLL POTTER

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Synlait Milk Ltd (SM1)

Rabbit don't come easy

Recommendation

Buy (unchanged)
Price

A\$2.67

Target (12 months)

A\$3.20 (previously A\$4.00)

GICS Sector

Food Beverage and Tobacco

Expected Return	
Capital growth	19.9%
Dividend yield	0.0%
Total expected return	19.9%
Company Data & Ratios	
Enterprise value	A\$1,090m
Market cap	A\$584m
Issued capital	218.6m
Free float	37%
Avg. daily val. (52wk)	A\$74,610
12 month price range	A\$2.56-3.60
-	

Price Performance								
	(1m)	(3m)	(12m)					
Price (A\$)	3.21	3.45	2.97					
Absolute (%)	-16.20	-22.03	-9.43					
Rel market (%)	-10.09	-19.01	-6.38					

\$5.0 \$4.0 \$3.0 \$1.0 \$0.0 Mar 21 Sep 21 Mar 22 Sep 22 Mar 23 —SM1 — S&P 300 Rebased

Six more weeks of winter

SM1 have downwardly revised FY23e NPAT expectations relative to market expectations ahead of its 1H23e result. Key points below:

NPAT guidance statements: FY23e NPAT is forecast at NZ\$15-25m, which is lower than our previous NZ\$35.8m forecast (and consensus of ~NZ\$50m). Major drivers of the changes to expectations have been listed as order deferrals from major IMF customers, inflationary cost pressures, lower milk production levels and higher working capital funding costs. SM1 has also stated that the two year recovery plan is likely to now take three years, implying a lower FY23e exit rate than previously suggested (previous guidance was for a FY23e exit run rate more consistent with profitability levels pre-FY21), reflecting elevated costs and reduced customer demand.

Nutritionals: Our previous forecasts had implied limited demand growth from A2M in FY23e (we note A2M FY23e revenue guidance was unchanged in Feb'22), with low-mid single digit volume growth in FY24-25e assuming SAMR registration and a resumption of growth in China distribution points. These estimates remain broadly unchanged. However, we have moderated assumed volume ramp-up profiles for both the new Pokeno and new base powder customers.

Following the update we have downgraded our EBITDA forecasts by -11% in FY23e, -12% in FY24e and -11% in FY25e. This along with a higher funding cost to carry working capital, results in NPAT downgrades of -43% in FY23e, -33% in FY24e and -22% in FY25e. Our target price is downgraded to A\$3.20ps (prev. A\$4.00ps) following these changes.

Investment view: Buy rating unchanged

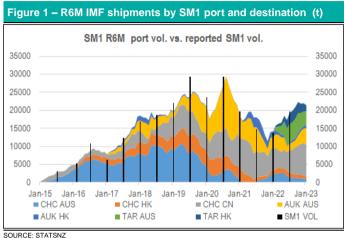
SM1 has now been imbedded in a three year earnings downgrade cycle and is not without risk. However, if it can deliver acceptable returns on the new Pokeno nutritionals customer, successfully navigate A2M's new-GB registration and add new base powder customers then there is material operating leverage beyond FY23e profitability levels and this is what drives the expected earnings uplift in FY24-25e.

Earnings Forecast									
Year end July	2022	2023e	2024e	2025e					
Sales (NZ\$m)	1551.0	1523.3	1700.9	1782.5					
EBITDA (NZ\$m)	116.8	124.2	153.1	167.5					
NPAT (reported) (NZ\$m)	38.5	20.5	43.6	59.8					
NPAT (adjusted) (NZ\$m)	38.5	20.5	43.6	59.8					
EPS (adjusted) (NZ¢ps)	17.5	9.3	19.9	27.2					
EPS growth (%)	n.a.	-46.8	113.0	37.0					
PER (x)	16.4	30.8	14.4	10.5					
FCF Yield (%)	18.9	6.0	15.3	17.4					
EV/EBITDA (x)	10.0	9.4	7.7	7.0					
Dividend (NZ¢ps)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0					
Franking (%)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0					
Yield (%)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0					
ROE (%)	5.1	2.7	5.4	6.9					
SOURCE: BELL POTTER SECURITIES ESTIMATES									

SOURCE: IRESS

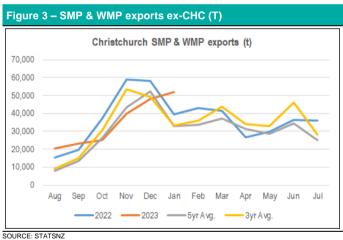
SM1 drivers in charts

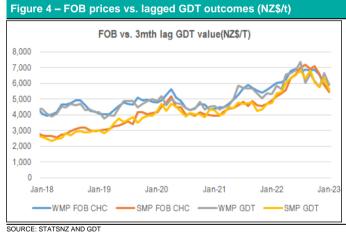
R6M IMF export trends remain at elevated levels from SM1 ports. We would expect shipment volumes to weaken materially in 2H23e as China volumes are removed.



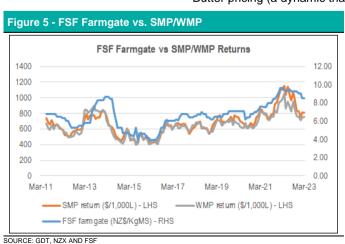


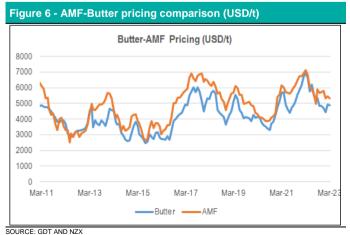
Ingredient volumes ex-CHC have demonstrated a recovery from the levels seen in 1Q23 that are likely to impact 1H23 ingredient earnings. Average realised SMP & WMP values ex-CHC are no longer demonstrating premium outcomes relative to lagged GDT values.





SMP & WMP returns continue to correct downwards. AMF pricing has been exceeding Butter pricing (a dynamic that benefits SM1), though weakened from 1Q23 levels.





SM1 Overview

COMPANY DESCRIPTION

Synlait Milk (SM1) is NZ's fourth largest milk processor (accounting for ~4% of NZ's milk intake) and a B2B supplier of dairy ingredients (SMP, WMP & AMF), infant formula (IMF) products and Lactoferrin. SM1 counts global FMCG companies among its client base, including the a2Milk Co (A2M) for which SM1 is the exclusive supplier of infant formula in China, Australia and NZ.

TARGET PRICE

In deriving our A\$3.20ps target price we have utilised an ROIC based model, which looks to capitalise returns on the existing asset base twelve months forward while incorporating a value for assets currently under development. Major assumptions in this model are: (1) a WACC hurdle of 9.7%; (2) spot AUDNZD for conversion to an AUD target price; and (3) underlying ROIC of 6.2% in FY23e lifting to 9.0% in FY24e.

RISKS

SM1 is a high growth FMCG business with exposures to an agricultural supply chain. Risks associated in an investment in SM1 include but are not isolated to:

COVID-19: The substantial impact of COVID-19 on the global and domestic economies is creating enormous volatility and uncertainty in global share markets. The forecasts in the report may be subjected to significant changes if this situation continues for an extended period of time.

NZD Commodity prices: A large portion of SM1's volumes and revenues are exposed to global export markets for dairy ingredient and infant nutrition products. As a consequence SM1 is exposed to both movements in the NZD and global dairy commodity prices. Sharp movements up or down in these commodity prices can have a material impact on profitability, particularly in movements of non-reference products that don't flow through to the Fonterra FMP mechanism;

Milk supply risk: SM1 is exposed to supply risk in the form of: (1) competition for milk among NZ processors and its ability to pay an above market FMP to secure new farmer suppliers; (2) on farm profitability risk and the ability of farmers to produce milk to the volume requirements of SM1; and (3) seasonal weather factors that may reduce the level of milk produced in the catchment area;

Change in long-term relationships: as a B2B processor SM1 manufacturers and distributes both bulk and canned IMF products for a number of leading branded dairy businesses, with A2M the most important for existing and projected growth. Any change in the operating results of key offtake partners can have a material impact on the profitability and growth prospects of SM1. In addition any change to contractual supply arrangements including product mix could impact SM1's returns profile;

A2M risk scientific risk: As the largest single customer for SM1 and a key growth driver for the business, SM1 is inherently bound by company specific risks that face A2M including but not isolated to: (1) **Scientific risk**: The A2M brand proposition is built primarily on the potential digestive well-being benefits of A1 Protein Free milk products. Any information that diminishes or rejects the scientific arguments for consumers' experiences may impact the performance of A2M and SM1; and (2) **Intellectual Property:** A2M's business relies in part on its intellectual property portfolio, including brands and trademarks, patents, proprietary processes and know-how. Any loss of these protection may impact the performance of A2M and SM1;

Execution risk: SM1 is in the midst of a material capital expenditure program aimed at lifting revenues and earnings of SM1. A lack of success in both installing and then utilising these facilities may have a material impact on the business and prospects for SM1;

Brand risk: While SM1 does not directly own brands, its counterparties do. In common with many other food companies, there is a risk that raw materials may deteriorate or that products may become contaminated, tampered with, adulterated or otherwise unsafe or unfit for sale or consumption within the supply chain due to various factors, including human error and equipment failure. Potential adverse consequences for SM1 include regulatory penalties, termination of distribution arrangements, liability associated with adverse health effects on consumers, product recall and disposal costs, loss of stock, delay in supply and financial costs;

Regulatory risk: SM1 and its offtake partners require certain licences, approvals and consents in order to conduct their businesses. There is a risk that any such licences, approvals or consents that are material to SM1 in operating its business will not be issued, renewed or will be issued or renewed on more restrictive or onerous terms, or in limited circumstances, revoked. Particular reference should be made to SAMR re-registration applications for a2 Platinum in China. Should re-registration not be achieved then SM1 would likely fail to achieve our forecasts.

Key personnel risk: SM1's performance is dependent on the ability of its senior executives and key personnel to manage and grow its business. Continuity and retention of senior executives and key personnel are important for the ongoing implementation of SM1's strategy; and

Industry risk: There are a number of industry factors outside the control of the company, including regulatory, compliance and variations in legislation and government policies.

Synlait Milk Ltd as at 17 March 2023

RecommendationBuyPriceA\$2.67Target (12 months)A\$3.20

2.67 3.20 Buy 218.6 **583.6** 316.3 163.3 27.0 **1090.3** 37%

2025e

27.22

37.0%

10.54

7.00

3.64

0.79

3.99

0.00

0.0%

0.0%

9.4%

5.8%

103%

170%

6.9%

10.3%

2.62

0.39

0.68

13%

8.1%

48.4

(27.2) 21.2

(3.2)

29.9%

0.0

0.0

7.4

19.88

113.0%

14.44

7.66

13.24

3.33

0.86

3.72

0.00

0.0%

0.0%

9.0%

5.2%

105%

204%

5.4%

8.4%

2.37

0.39

1.41

27%

790.6

19.0%

68.4

(27.0)

41.4

(10.3)

31.1 (3.2) 10.2%

27.9 0.0

27.9

Table 1 - Finan	cial sı	ımmar	v					
ıly year end	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023e	2024e	2025e
ofit & Loss (NZ\$m) ales revenue	879.0	1024.3	1302.0	1367.3	1551.0	1523.3	1700.9	1782.5
. Change	16%	17%	27%	5%	13%	-2%	12%	5%
TDA	138.6	152.1	171.4	37.3	116.8	124.2	153.1	167.5
prec. & amort	(25.6)	(27.6)	(48.1)	(55.0)	(54.2)	(62.4)	(64.6)	(63.8)
IT	113.1	124.5	123.3	(17.7)	62.6	61.8	88.5	103.7
erest expense	(9.3)	(9.4)	(21.4)	(21.5)	(21.0)	(32.6)	(27.1)	(19.9)
e-tax profit ax expense	103.8 (29.3)	115.1 (32.8)	101.9 (26.7)	(39.2) 10.7	41.6 (3.1)	29.2 (8.7)	61.4 (17.8)	83.8 (24.0)
. tax rate	28%	29%	26%	27%	7%	30%	29%	29%
inorities	2070	2370	2070	-	-	-	2370	-
et Profit	74.6	82.2	75.2	(28.5)	38.5	20.5	43.6	59.8
os. & extras.	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
eported Profit	74.6	82.2	75.2	(28.5)	38.5	20.5	43.6	59.8
tiana								
ssumptions utritionals	42,177	51,231	52,871	34,362	33,506	35,872	47,574	53,870
gredients	86,424	98,499	97,561	125,914	132,481	120,000	125,000	130,000
quids	00,121	8,947	32,803	31,499	31,972	39,472	46,972	47,097
onsumer Foods		-,-	12,015	26,983	26,983	28,332	29,749	31,236
otal sales volumes	128,601	158,677	195,250	218,758	224,942	223,676	249,294	262,203
ross margin per ton (\$)	1283	1168	1031	309	662	663	711	741
ross margin per KgMS (\$) BITDA per ton (\$)	2.71 1078	2.80 959	2.86 878	0.82 171	1.89 519	2.07 555	2.30 614	2.38 639
or ton (\$)	1070	333	010	1/1	JIJ	333	014	033
ashflow (NZ\$m)								
BITDA	138.6	152.1	171.4	37.3	116.8	124.2	153.1	167.5
ax Paid	(13.9)	(26.7)	(26.6)	(8.0)	3.0	(5.9)	(13.2)	(20.9)
et Interest Expense	(11.2)	(16.8)	(22.9)	(23.7)	(25.9)	(26.8)	(29.8)	(23.5)
hange in Wkg Capital	(20.7)	20.0	(34.5)	(21.6)	114.3	(11.3)	4.1	3.7
her perating Cash Flow	(5.6) 87.2	(8.8) 119.9	(8.9) 78.4	4.3	(5.4) 203.0	0.0 80.3	0.0 114.1	0.0 126.8
apex	(120.3)	(320.4)	(139.2)	(116.2)	(92.9)	(45.0)	(25.0)	(25.0)
v Paid	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
ree Cash Flow	(33.1)	(200.6)	(60.8)	(127.9)	110.1	35.3	89.1	101.8
oquisitions	(0.2)	(18.1)	(86.2)	(24.2)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
sposals	0.0	0.0	0.4	3.6	30.5	0.0	0.0	0.0
nare Issues	0.0	0.0	0.0	196.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
her	1.3	(0.1)	(44.1)	(0.5)	(3.8)	0.0	0.0	0.0
nc.) /dec. in net debt	(32.0)	(218.8)	(190.7)	47.0	136.7	35.3	89.1	101.8
alance Sheet (NZ\$m)								
ash & near cash	32.1	16.1	5.9	16.2	14.5	15.9	54.0	57.7
ventories	145.4	174.4	269.4	270.9	232.9	259.0	289.1	303.0
eceivables	47.1	61.9	63.1	108.4	91.1	73.1	76.1	75.7
ther	15.2	30.2	48.1	57.5	32.1	31.9	32.7	33.0
urrent assets xed assets	239.8 537.7	282.6 845.2	386.4 965.1	453.0 1,027.1	370.6 1,015.9	380.0 1,007.5	452.0 976.0	469.4 944.6
xed assets tangibles	7.3	20.1	108.0	123.8	161.7	1,007.5	144.5	137.1
her	8.9	0.2	32.7	14.2	27.9	27.8	28.1	28.2
on current assets	553.8	865.4	1,105.9	1,165.2	1,205.4	1,187.9	1,148.6	1,110.0
otal assets	793.7	1,148.0	1,492.3	1,618.2	1,576.0	1,567.9	1,600.6	1,579.4
reditors	152.2	216.0	238.8	264.1	323.1	319.9	357.2	374.3
orrowings	49.3	99.6	102.8	33.3	58.9	39.8	29.7	15.1
her	35.2	57.2	43.1	14.0	60.2	68.7	71.5	71.5
urrent liabilities	236.7	372.8 249.5	384.7 426.8	311.4 459.6	442.3 295.6	280.8	240.0	460.9 156.4
orrowings ther	97.1 35.2	33.3	426.8 74.3	459.6 80.0	295.6 89.7	280.8 89.7	240.0 89.7	89.7
on current liabilities	132.2	282.8	501.0	539.6	385.3	370.6	329.7	246.2
otal liabilities	368.9	655.6	885.8	851.0	827.6	799.0	788.1	707.1
et assets	424.7	492.4	606.5	767.1	748.4	768.9	812.5	872.3
nare capital	268.1	268.1	268.5	464.8	464.8	464.8	464.8	464.8
eserves	(9.9)	(24.5)	14.0	8.8	(48.5)	(48.5)	(48.5)	(48.5)
etained earnings	166.5	248.8	324.0	293.6	332.1	352.6	396.2	456.0
utside equity Interests	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
holders' funds	424.7	492.4	606.5	767.1	748.4	768.9	812.5	872.3
(Cash)	114.3	333.0	523.7	476.7	340.0	304.7	215.6	113.9

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

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