

Appendix 4B (equity accounted)

Half yearly/preliminary final report

Introduced 1/12/97. Origin: Appendices 3, 4. Amended 1/7/98, 1/9/99.

Name of entity

The Australian Gas Light Company

ACN, ARBN or ARSN

052 167 405

Half yearly
(tick)

}

Preliminary
final (tick)

Half year/financial year ended ('current
period')

31 December 1999

Equity accounted results for announcement to the market

Extracts from this report for announcement to the market (see note 1).

\$Amillions

Sales (or equivalent operating) revenue (<i>item 1.1</i>)	up/down	27.7%	to	937.6
Abnormal items after tax attributable to members (<i>item 2.5</i>)	gain (loss) of			40.7
+Operating profit (loss) after tax (before amortisation of goodwill) attributable to members (<i>item 1.26</i>)	up/down	56.4%	to	185.7
+Operating profit (loss) after tax attributable to members (<i>item 1.10</i>)	up/down	55.8%	to	181.7
Extraordinary items after tax attributable to members (<i>item 1.13</i>)	gain (loss) of			Nil
+Operating profit (loss) and extraordinary items after tax attributable to members (<i>item 1.16</i>)	up/down	55.8%	to	181.7
Dividends (distributions)		Amount per security		Franked amount per security at 36% tax
Final dividend (<i>Preliminary final report only - item 15.4</i>)				
Interim dividend (<i>Half yearly report only - item 15.6</i>)		24¢		4¢
Previous corresponding period (<i>Preliminary final report - item 15.5; half yearly report - item 15.7</i>)		21¢		12¢
+Record date for determining entitlements to the dividend, (in the case of a trust, distribution) (<i>see item 15.2</i>)		31 March 2000		
Brief explanation of omission of directional and percentage changes to profit in accordance with Note 1 and short details of any bonus or cash issue or other item(s) of importance not previously released to the market:				
Not applicable				

+ See chapter 19 for defined terms.

Consolidated profit and loss account

	Current period - \$Amillions	Previous corresponding period - \$Amillions (a)
1.1 Sales (or equivalent operating) revenue	937.6	734.4
1.2 Share of associates' "net profit (loss) attributable to members" (equal to item 16.7)	39.8	22.1
1.3 Other revenue	42.4	14.7
1.3a Total revenue (refer to Attachment B)	1,019.8	771.2
1.4 +Operating profit (loss) before abnormal items and tax (refer to Attachment B)	204.9	153.3
1.5 Abnormal items before tax (detail in item 2.4)	40.7	0.0
1.6 +Operating profit (loss) before tax (items 1.4 + 1.5)	245.6	153.3
1.7 Less tax (refer to Attachment C)	(58.3)	(36.6)
1.8 +Operating profit (loss) after tax but before outside +equity interests	187.3	116.7
1.9 Less outside +equity interests	(5.6)	(0.1)
1.10 +Operating profit (loss) after tax attributable to members	181.7	116.6
1.11 Extraordinary items after tax (detail in item 2.6)	0.0	0.0
1.12 Less outside +equity interests	0.0	0.0
1.13 Extraordinary items after tax attributable to members	0.0	0.0
1.14 Total +operating profit (loss) and extraordinary items after tax (items 1.8 + 1.11)	187.3	116.7
1.15 +Operating profit (loss) and extraordinary items after tax attributable to outside +equity interests (items 1.9 + 1.12)	(5.6)	(0.1)
1.16 +Operating profit (loss) and extraordinary items after tax attributable to members (items 1.10 + 1.13)	181.7	116.6
1.17 Retained profits (accumulated losses) at beginning of financial period	437.9	363.9
1.18 If change in accounting policy as set out in clause 11 of AASB 1018 Profit and Loss Accounts, adjustments as required by that clause (include brief description)	0.0	0.0
1.19 Aggregate of amounts transferred from reserves	0.0	0.0
1.20 Total available for appropriation (<i>carried forward</i>)	619.6	480.5

(a) Refer to Attachment A

+ See chapter 19 for defined terms.

Consolidated profit and loss account continued

1.20	Total available for appropriation (<i>brought forward</i>)	619.6	480.5
1.21	Dividends provided for or paid	(81.2)	(68.4)
1.22	Aggregate of amounts transferred to reserves	0.0	0.0
1.23	Retained profits (accumulated losses) at end of financial period	538.4	412.1

Profit restated to exclude amortisation of goodwill		Current period \$Amillions	Previous corresponding period \$Amillions
1.24	+Operating profit (loss) after tax before outside equity interests (items 1.8) and amortisation of goodwill	191.2	118.8
1.25	Less (plus) outside +equity interests	5.5	0.1
1.26	+Operating profit (loss) after tax (before amortisation of goodwill) attributable to members	185.7	118.7

Intangible, abnormal and extraordinary items		<i>Consolidated - current period</i>			
		Before tax \$A millions	Related tax \$A millions	Related outside +equity interests \$A millions	Amount (after tax) attributable to members \$A millions
2.1	Amortisation of goodwill	3.9	0.0	0.0	3.9
2.2	Amortisation of other intangibles				
2.3	Total amortisation of intangibles	3.9	0.0	0.0	3.9
2.4	Abnormal items	0.0	40.7	0.0	40.7
2.5	Total abnormal items	0.0	40.7	0.0	40.7
2.6	Extraordinary items				
2.7	Total extraordinary items	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Comparison of half year profits <i>(Preliminary final report only)</i>		Current year - \$Amillions	Previous year - \$Amillions
3.1	Consolidated +operating profit (loss) after tax attributable to members reported for the <i>1st</i> half year (item 1.10 in the half yearly report)	N/A	N/A
3.2	Consolidated +operating profit (loss) after tax attributable to members for the <i>2nd</i> half year	N/A	N/A

+ See chapter 19 for defined terms.

Appendix 4B (equity accounted)
Half yearly/preliminary final report

Consolidated balance sheet (See note 5)		At end of current period \$Amillions	As shown in last annual report \$Amillions	As in last half yearly report \$Amillions
Current assets				
4.1	Cash	45.0	20.0	22.3
4.2	Receivables	305.4	296.6	240.3
4.3	Investments	0.0	0.1	0.0
4.4	Inventories	28.8	27.5	29.8
4.5	Other (provide details if material) (a)	21.8	19.7	26.4
4.6	Total current assets	401.0	363.9	318.8
Non-current assets				
4.7	Receivables	121.8	63.8	72.8
4.8	Investments in associates and joint venture entities	539.2	482.2	526.8
4.9	Other investments	10.5	85.1	0.0
4.10	Inventories	162.9	2.4	2.4
4.11	Exploration and evaluation expenditure capitalised (see para .71 of AASB 1022)	0.0	0.0	0.0
4.12	Development properties (+mining entities)	0.0	0.0	0.0
4.13	Other property, plant and equipment (net)	2,275.8	1,723.4	1,578.6
4.14	Intangibles (net)	664.9	601.3	603.4
4.15	Other (provide details if material) (b)	297.0	293.9	241.4
4.16	Total non-current assets	4,072.1	3,252.1	3,025.4
4.17	Total assets	4,473.1	3,616.0	3,344.2
Current liabilities				
4.18	Accounts payable	191.3	215.8	145.3
4.19	Borrowings	269.9	96.1	45.4
4.20	Provisions	125.3	114.9	128.7
4.21	Other (provide details if material)(c)	24.9	32.3	25.7
4.22	Total current liabilities	611.4	459.1	345.1
Non-current liabilities				
4.23	Accounts payable	12.9	19.1	22.3
4.24	Borrowings	1,669.9	1,239.9	1,167.0
4.25	Provisions	322.1	345.5	294.4
4.26	Other (provide details if material)	33.7	28.1	39.6
4.27	Total non-current liabilities	2,038.6	1,632.6	1,523.3
4.28	Total liabilities	2,650.0	2,091.7	1,868.4
4.29	Net assets	1,823.1	1,524.3	1,475.8

(a) Principally prepayments and surplus properties held for sale.

(b) Principally deferred expenditure and future income tax benefits.

(c) Unearned revenue.

+ See chapter 19 for defined terms.

Consolidated balance sheet continued

Equity				
4.30	Capital	1,147.3	1,064.1	1,031.7
4.31	Reserves	(12.3)	22.1	31.7
4.32	Retained profits (accumulated losses)	538.4	437.9	412.1
4.33	Equity attributable to members of the parent entity	1,673.4	1,524.1	1,475.5
4.34	Outside +equity interests in controlled entities	149.7	0.2	0.3
4.35	Total equity	1,823.1	1,524.3	1,475.8
4.36	Preference capital included as part of 4.33	0.0	0.0	0.0

Exploration and evaluation expenditure capitalised

To be completed only by entities with mining interests if amounts are material. Include all expenditure incurred regardless of whether written off directly against profit.

	Current period \$Amillions	Previous corresponding period - \$Amillions
5.1	Opening balance	
5.2	Expenditure incurred during current period	
5.3	Expenditure written off during current period	
5.4	Acquisitions, disposals, revaluation increments, etc.	
5.5	Expenditure transferred to Development Properties	
5.6	Closing balance as shown in the consolidated balance sheet (item 4.11)	0.0

Development properties

(To be completed only by entities with mining interests if amounts are material)

	Current period \$Amillions	Previous corresponding period - \$Amillions
6.1	Opening balance	
6.2	Expenditure incurred during current period	
6.3	Expenditure transferred from exploration and evaluation	
6.4	Expenditure written off during current period	
6.5	Acquisitions, disposals, revaluation increments, etc.	
6.6	Expenditure transferred to mine properties	
6.7	Closing balance as shown in the consolidated balance sheet (item 4.12)	0.0

+ See chapter 19 for defined terms.

Consolidated statement of cash flows

(See note 6)

	Current period \$Amillions	Previous corresponding period - \$Amillions
Cash flows related to operating activities		
7.1 Receipts from customers	947.7	731.9
7.2 Payments to suppliers and employees	(710.8)	(535.0)
7.3 Dividends received from associates	16.3	16.6
7.4 Other dividends received	0.0	0.0
7.5 Interest and other items of similar nature received	4.0	2.5
7.6 Interest and other costs of finance paid	(61.6)	(36.6)
7.7 Income taxes paid	(19.2)	(36.7)
7.8 Other (provide details if material)	0.2	0.9
7.9 Net operating cash flows	176.6	143.6
Cash flows related to investing activities		
7.10 Payment for purchases of property, plant and equipment	(106.6)	(199.8)
7.11 Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment	3.1	7.0
7.12 Payment for purchases of equity investments	(380.7)	(199.5)
7.13 Proceeds from sale of equity investments	24.5	0.0
7.14 Loans to other entities	(53.0)	(39.5)
7.15 Loans repaid by other entities	8.6	17.7
7.16 Other (provide details if material)	0.0	0.0
7.17 Net investing cash flows	(504.1)	(414.1)
Cash flows related to financing activities		
7.18 Proceeds from issues of +securities (shares, options, etc.)	83.0	32.7
7.19 Proceeds from borrowings	453.2	336.1
7.20 Repayment of borrowings	(96.0)	(4.8)
7.21 Dividends paid	(87.4)	(71.2)
7.22 Other (provide details if material)	0.0	0.0
7.23 Net financing cash flows	352.8	292.8
7.24 Net increase (decrease) in cash held	25.3	22.3
7.25 Cash at beginning of period (see Reconciliation of cash)	19.4	(4.2)
7.26 Exchange rate adjustments to item 7.25.	0.0	0.0
7.27 Cash at end of period (see Reconciliation of cash)	44.7	18.1

+ See chapter 19 for defined terms.

Non-cash financing and investing activities

Details of financing and investing transactions which have had a material effect on consolidated assets and liabilities but did not involve cash flows are as follows. If an amount is quantified, show comparative amount.

There were no material non-cash financing or investing activities during the year.

Reconciliation of cash

Reconciliation of cash at the end of the period (as shown in the consolidated statement of cash flows) to the related items in the accounts is as follows.	Current period \$Amillions	Previous corresponding period - \$Amillions
8.1 Cash on hand and at bank	41.7	6.0
8.2 Deposits at call	3.3	16.3
8.3 Bank overdraft	(0.3)	(4.2)
8.4 Other (provide details)	0.0	0.0
8.5 Total cash at end of period (item 7.26)	44.7	18.1

Ratios

	Current period	Previous corresponding period
Profit before abnormals and tax / sales		
9.1 Consolidated +operating profit (loss) before abnormal items and tax (item 1.4) as a percentage of sales revenue (item 1.1)	21.9%	20.9%
Profit after tax / +equity interests		
9.2 Consolidated +operating profit (loss) after tax attributable to members (item 1.10) as a percentage of equity (similarly attributable) at the end of the period (item 4.33)	10.9%	7.9%

Earnings per security (EPS)

	Current period	Previous corresponding period
10.1 Calculation of the following in accordance with AASB 1027: <i>Earnings per Share</i>		
(a) Basic EPS	54.6	35.9
(b) Diluted EPS (if materially different from (a))		N/A
(c) Weighted average number of ordinary shares outstanding during the period used in the calculation of the Basic EPS	332,531,152	324,671,094

NTA backing

(see note 7)

	Current period	Previous corresponding period
11.1 Net tangible asset backing per +ordinary security	\$2.98	\$2.68

+ See chapter 19 for defined terms.

Details of specific receipts/outlays, revenues/ expenses

	Current period \$Amillions	Previous corresponding period - \$Amillions
12.1 Interest revenue included in determining item 1.4	9.6	9.5
12.2 Interest revenue included in item 12.1 but not yet received (if material)	0.0	0.0
12.3 Interest expense included in item 1.4 (include all forms of interest, lease finance charges, etc.)	66.7	42.3
12.4 Interest costs excluded from item 12.3 and capitalised in asset values (if material)	0.4	0.3
12.5 Outlays (except those arising from the +acquisition of an existing business) capitalised in intangibles (if material)	0.0	0.0
12.6 Depreciation and amortisation (excluding amortisation of intangibles)+	65.6	50.5

Control gained over entities having material effect

(See note 8)

13.1 Name of entity (or group of entities)	Natural Gas Corporation Holdings Limited
13.2 Consolidated +operating profit (loss) and extraordinary items after tax of the entity (or group of entities) since the date in the current period on which control was +acquired	\$17.1 million
13.3 Date from which such profit has been calculated	14 July 1999
13.4 +Operating profit (loss) and extraordinary items after tax of the entity (or group of entities) for the whole of the previous corresponding period*	\$7.6 million

* As previously reported, NGC was equity accounted and this figure represents AGL's equity accounted share of profit for the period.

+ During the period, the useful lives of inlet services and customer connections were reviewed and extended from 13 years to 50 years, equivalent to their technical lives and in-line with the regulators draft determination. The extension of useful lives has resulted in a reduction of \$6.7 million in depreciation of plant and equipment and a reduction of \$5.1 million in amortisation of deferred expenditure for the period.

+ See chapter 19 for defined terms.

Loss of control of entities having material effect

(See note 8)

14.1	Name of entity (or group of entities)	Not applicable
14.2	Consolidated +operating profit (loss) and extraordinary items after tax of the entity (or group of entities) for the current period to the date of loss of control	\$
14.3	Date to which the profit (loss) in item 14.2 has been calculated	
14.4	Consolidated +operating profit (loss) and extraordinary items after tax of the entity (or group of entities) while controlled during the whole of the previous corresponding period	\$
14.5	Contribution to consolidated +operating profit (loss) and extraordinary items from sale of interest leading to loss of control	\$

Reports for industry and geographical segments

Information on the industry and geographical segments of the entity must be reported for the current period in accordance with AASB 1005: Financial Reporting by Segments. Because of the different structures employed by entities, a pro forma is not provided. Segment information should be completed separately and attached to this report. However, the following is the presentation adopted in the Appendices to AASB 1005 and indicates which amounts should agree with items included elsewhere in this report.

Segments

Operating Revenue

Sales to customers outside the economic entity

Inter-segment sales

Refer Attachment D

Unallocated revenue

Total revenue

Segment result (including abnormal items where relevant)

Unallocated expenses

Consolidated +operating profit before tax (equal to item 1.6)

Segment assets

)

Comparative data for segment assets should be as at the end of the previous corresponding period.

Unallocated assets

)

Total assets (equal to item 4.17)

)

Dividends (in the case of a trust, distributions)

15.1	Date the dividend (distribution) is payable	14 April 2000
15.2	+Record date to determine entitlements to the dividend (distribution) (ie, on the basis of registrable transfers received by 5.00 pm if +securities are not +CHESS approved, or security holding balances established by 5.00 pm or such later time permitted by SCH Business Rules if +securities are +CHESS approved)	31 March 2000
15.3	If it is a final dividend, has it been declared? <i>(Preliminary final report only)</i>	Not applicable

+ See chapter 19 for defined terms.

Appendix 4B (equity accounted)
Half yearly/preliminary final report

Amount per security

		Amount per security	Franked amount per security at 36% tax	Amount per security of foreign source dividend
15.4	<i>(Preliminary final report only)</i> Final dividend: Current year	N/A	N/A	N/A
15.5	Previous year	N/A	N/A	N/A
15.6	<i>(Half yearly and preliminary final reports)</i> Interim dividend: Current year	24¢	4¢	10¢
15.7	Previous year	21¢	12¢	N/A

Total dividend (distribution) per security (interim plus final)

(Preliminary final report only)

	Current year	Previous year
15.8 +Ordinary securities	N/A	N/A
15.9 Preference +securities	N/A	N/A

Half yearly report - interim dividend (distribution) on all securities or Preliminary final report - final dividend (distribution) on all securities

	Current period \$Amillions	Previous corresponding period - \$Amillions
15.10 +Ordinary securities	81.2	68.4
15.11 Preference +securities	N/A	N/A
15.12 Total	81.2	68.4

The +dividend or distribution plans shown below are in operation.

The Australian Gas Light Company Dividend Reinvestment Plan

The last date(s) for receipt of election notices for the +dividend or distribution plans

31 March 2000

Any other disclosures in relation to dividends (distributions)

None

+ See chapter 19 for defined terms.

Details of aggregate share of profits (losses) of associates

Entity's share of associates'	Current period \$Amillions	Previous corresponding period - \$Amillions
16.1 Operating profit (loss) before income tax	36.9	33.4
16.2 Income tax expense	2.9	(11.3)
16.3 Operating profit (loss) after income tax	39.8	22.1
16.4 Extraordinary items net of tax	0.0	0.0
16.5 Net profit (loss)	39.8	22.1
16.6 Outside equity interests	0.0	(0.0)
16.7 Net profit (loss) attributable to members	39.8	22.1

Material interests in entities which are not controlled entities

The economic entity has an interest (that is material to it) in the following entities. If the interest was acquired or disposed of during either the current or previous corresponding period, indicate date of acquisition ("from xx/xx/xx") or disposal ("to xx/xx/xx").

Name of entity	Percentage of ownership interest held at end of period or date of disposal		Contribution to +operating profit (loss) and extraordinary items after tax (item 1.14)	
	Current period	Previous corresponding period	Current period - \$Amillions	Previous corresponding period- \$Amillions
17.1 Equity accounted associates and joint venture entities				
Auscom Holdings Pty Limited	50	50	6.3	4.1
East Australian Pipeline Limited (b)	76.48	51.00	27.0	8.8
Natural Gas Corporation Holdings Limited	(a)	33.33	(a)	7.6
SCP Investments	45	45	4.1	0.0
Other			2.4	1.6
17.2 Total			39.8	22.1
17.3 Other material interests				
17.4 Total			0.0	0.0

(a) Became a controlled entity when AGL acquired an additional 33% share on 14 July 1999.

(b) Not a controlled entity in terms of Accounting Standard AASB 1024

+ See chapter 19 for defined terms.

(b) Issued and quoted securities at end of current period

Description includes rate of interest and any redemption or conversion rights together with prices and dates.

Category of +securities	Total number	Number quoted	Issue price per security (see note 15) (cents)	Amount paid up per security (see note 15) (cents)
18.1 Preference +securities <i>(description)</i>	Nil			
18.2 Changes during current period (a) Increases through issues (b) Decreases through returns of capital, buybacks, redemptions	Nil			
18.3 +Ordinary securities	338,313,314	338,313,314		
18.4 Changes during current period (a) Increases through issues (b) Decreases through returns of capital, buybacks	9,507,555 Nil	9,507,555 Nil		
18.5 +Convertible debt securities <i>(description and conversion factor)</i>	Nil			
18.6 Changes during current period (a) Increases through issues (b) Decreases through securities matured, converted	Nil			
18.7 Options <i>(description and conversion factor)</i>	Nil		Exercise Price	Expiry date <i>(if any)</i>
18.8 Issued during current period	Nil			
18.9 Exercised during current period	Nil			
18.10 Expired during current period	Nil			
18.11 Debentures <i>(totals only)</i>	Nil			
18.12 Unsecured notes <i>(totals only)</i>	Nil			

+ See chapter 19 for defined terms.

Comments by directors

Comments on the following matters are required by ASX or, in relation to the half yearly report, by AASB 1029: Half-Year Accounts and Consolidated Accounts. The comments do not take the place of the directors' report and statement (as required by the Corporations Law) and may be incorporated into the directors' report and statement. For both half yearly and preliminary final reports, if there are no comments in a section, state NIL. If there is insufficient space to comment, attach notes to this report.

Basis of accounts preparation

If this report is a half yearly report, it is a general purpose financial report prepared in accordance with the listing rules and AASB 1029: Half-Year Accounts and Consolidated Accounts. It should be read in conjunction with the last annual report and any announcements to the market made by the entity during the period. [Delete if preliminary final statement.]

Material factors affecting the revenues and expenses of the economic entity for the current period

Refer to separate accompanying commentary

A description of each event since the end of the current period which has had a material effect and is not related to matters already reported, with financial effect quantified (if possible)

Refer Attachment E

Franking credits available and prospects for paying fully or partly franked dividends for at least the next year

The balance of the franking credits available to the economic entity at 31 December 1999 was \$6.6 million.

It is expected that dividends paid during the next twelve months will be partly franked, principally out of the franking credit which will arise in that period.

Changes in accounting policies since the last annual report are disclosed as follows.

(Disclose changes in the half yearly report in accordance with paragraph 15(c) of AASB 1029: Half-Year Accounts and Consolidated Accounts. Disclose changes in the preliminary final report in accordance with AASB 1001: Accounting Policies-Disclosure.)

Not applicable

+ See chapter 19 for defined terms.

Additional disclosure for trusts

19.1 Number of units held by the management company or responsible entity or their related parties.

N/A

19.2 A statement of the fees and commissions payable to the management company or responsible entity.

N/A

Identify:

- initial service charges
- management fees
- other fees

Annual meeting

(Preliminary final report only)

The annual meeting will be held as follows:

Place

N/A

Date

--

Time

--

Approximate date the annual report will be available

--

Compliance statement

1 This report has been prepared under accounting policies which comply with accounting standards as defined in the Corporations Law or other standards acceptable to ASX (see note 13).

Identify other standards used

N/A

2 This report, and the financial statements prepared under the Corporations Law (if separate), use the same accounting policies.

3 This report does give a true and fair view of the matters disclosed (see note 2).

+ See chapter 19 for defined terms.

4 This report is based on financial statements to which one of the following applies.

(Tick one)

The financial statements have been audited.

The financial statements have been subject to review.

The financial statements are in the process of being audited or subject to review.

The financial statements have *not* yet been audited or reviewed.

5 If the audit report or review by the auditor is not attached, details of any qualifications are attached/will follow immediately they are available* (*delete one*). (*Half yearly report only - the audit report or review by the auditor must be attached to this report if this report is to satisfy the requirements of the Corporations Law.*)

6 The entity has a formally constituted audit committee.

Sign here: Date: 2 March 2000.....
(Director)

Print name: M J Phillips (Chairman).....

Notes

1. **For announcement to the market** The percentage changes referred to in this section are the percentage changes calculated by comparing the current period's figures with those for the previous corresponding period. Do not show percentage changes if the change is from profit to loss or loss to profit, but still show whether the change was up or down. If changes in accounting policies or procedures have had a material effect on reported figures, do not show either directional or percentage changes in profits. Explain the reason for the omissions in the note at the end of the announcement section.
2. **True and fair view** If this report does not give a true and fair view of a matter (for example, because compliance with an Accounting Standard is required) the entity must attach a note providing additional information and explanations to give a true and fair view.
3. **Consolidated profit and loss account**
 - Item 1.1 The definition of "operating revenue" and an explanation of "sales revenue" (or its equivalent) and "other revenue" are set out in *AASB 1004: Disclosure of Operating Revenue*.
 - Item 1.2 'Share of associates' "net profit (loss) attributable to members" would form part of "other revenue" in *AASB 1004* to the extent that a profit is to be reported. ASX has elected to require disclosure of a share of a loss in the same location for consistency of presentation.
 - Item 1.4 "+operating profit (loss) before abnormal items and tax" is calculated before dealing with outside +equity interests and extraordinary items, but after deducting interest on borrowings, depreciation and amortisation.
 - Item 1.7 This item refers to the total tax attributable to the amount shown in item 1.6. Tax includes income tax and capital gains tax (if any) but excludes taxes treated as operating expenses (eg, fringe benefits tax)

+ See chapter 19 for defined terms.

4. **Income tax** If the amount provided for income tax in this report differs (or would differ but for compensatory items) by more than 15% from the amount of income tax *prima facie* payable on the profit before tax, the entity must explain in a note the major items responsible for the difference and their amounts.

5. **Consolidated balance sheet**
Format The format of the consolidated balance sheet should be followed as closely as possible. However, additional items may be added if greater clarity of exposition will be achieved, provided the disclosure still meets the requirements of *AASB 1029* and *AASB 1034*. Banking institutions, trusts and financial institutions identified in an ASIC Class Order dated 2 September 1997 may substitute a clear liquidity ranking for the Current/Non-Current classification.

Basis of revaluation If there has been a material revaluation of non-current assets (including investments) since the last annual report, the entity must describe the basis of revaluation adopted. The description must meet the requirements of paragraphs 9.1 - 9.4 of *AASB 1010: Accounting for the Revaluation of Non-Current Assets*. If the entity has adopted a procedure of regular revaluation, the basis for which has been disclosed and has not changed, no additional disclosure is required. Trusts should also note paragraph 10 of *AASB 1029* and paragraph 11 of *AASB 1030*.

6. **Statement of cash flows** For definitions of “cash” and other terms used in this report see *AASB 1026: Statement of Cash Flows*. Entities should follow the form as closely as possible, but variations are permitted if the directors (in the case of a trust, the management company) believe that this presentation is inappropriate. However, the presentation adopted must meet the requirements of *AASB 1026*. +Mining exploration entities may use the form of cash flow statement in Appendix 5B.

7. **Net tangible asset backing** Net tangible assets are determined by deducting from total tangible assets all claims on those assets ranking ahead of the +ordinary securities (ie, all liabilities, preference shares, outside +equity interests etc). +Mining entities are *not* required to state a net tangible asset backing per +ordinary security.

8. **Gain and loss of control over entities** The gain or loss must be disclosed if it has a material effect on the consolidated financial statements. Details must include the contribution for each gain or loss that increased or decreased the entity’s consolidated +operating profit (loss) and extraordinary items after tax by more than 5% compared to the previous corresponding period.

9. **Rounding of figures** This report anticipates that the information required is given to the nearest \$1,000. However, an entity may report exact figures, if the \$A’000 headings are amended. If an entity qualifies under ASIC Class Order 98/0100 dated 10 July 1998, it may report to the nearest million dollars, or to the nearest \$100,000, if the \$A’000 headings are amended.

10. **Comparative figures** Comparative figures are the unadjusted figures from the previous corresponding period. However, if there is a lack of comparability, a note explaining the position should be attached.

11. **Comparative figures when equity accounted information first included in the accounts**
There will be a lack of comparability in the figures for the previous corresponding period

+ See chapter 19 for defined terms.

when equity accounted information is first included if this information has a material effect on the consolidated accounts. If it does have a material effect, attach a note providing a better comparison by restating “Operating profit (loss) after tax attributable to members” (item 1.10) and “Investments in associates” (item 4.8) for the previous corresponding period to incorporate equity accounted information. In addition, as required by Note 1, no directional or percentage changes in profit are to be reported in the “For announcement to the market” section. Where the disclosures were not previously required in Appendix 4B, no comparatives need be shown.

12. **Additional information** An entity may disclose additional information about any matter, and must do so if the information is material to an understanding of the reports. The information may be an expansion of the material contained in this report, or contained in a note attached to the report. The requirement under the listing rules for an entity to complete this report does not prevent the entity issuing reports more frequently. Additional material lodged with the +ASIC under the Corporations Law must also be given to ASX. For example, a directors’ report and statement, if lodged with the +ASIC, must be given to ASX.
13. **Accounting Standards** ASX will accept, for example, the use of International Accounting Standards for foreign entities. If the standards used do not address a topic, the Australian standard on that topic (if one) must be complied with.
14. **Corporations Law accounts** As at 1/7/96, this report may be able to be used by an entity required to comply with the Corporations Law as part of its half-year financial statements if prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards.
15. **Issued and quoted securities** The issue price and amount paid up is not required in items 18.1 and 18.3 for fully paid securities.

+ See chapter 19 for defined terms.

Revenue disclosure

Previous corresponding period revenues have been restated on the adoption of the revised accounting standard AASB 1004 “Revenue”.

Total revenue (item 1.3a) and operating profit before abnormal items and tax (item 1.4) are comprised as follows:

	Current period \$A millions	Previous Corresponding Period \$A millions
Operating revenue		
Continuing operations	1,011.6	769.9
Property operations	8.2	1.3
Total (item 1.3a)	1,019.8	771.2
Operating profit before borrowing costs, abnormal items and income tax		
Continuing operations	265.1	189.3
Property operations	(0.5)	(0.7)
	264.6	188.6
Net borrowing costs	(59.7)	(35.3)
Operating profit before abnormal items and income tax (item 1.4)	204.9	153.3

Property operations

The economic entity is continuing its orderly withdrawal from real property activities, comprising the development, sale and rental of residential, commercial and industrial properties and the sale of properties surplus to the requirements of the consolidated entity. Accordingly, operating revenue and operating profit before borrowing costs, abnormal items and income tax attributable to property activities have been separately identified from continuing operations.

Tax expense applicable to operating profit (item 1.7) is arrived at as follows:

	Current period \$A millions	Previous corresponding period \$A millions
Prima facie tax expense at 36%	(73.8)	(55.2)
Add/deduct tax effect of permanent differences:		
Non-allowable expenditure	(5.3)	(3.7)
Non-assessable revenue	2.2	3.5
Equity accounted profits of associates	14.3	8.0
Rehabilitation expenditure	2.3	3.1
Profit/losses on disposals of assets	0.1	0.0
Realised foreign currency exchange gains/losses	0.0	0.0
Development allowance	1.0	0.0
Other	0.1	0.8
Withholding taxes	0.1	0.0
Tax overprovided in prior years	0.7	6.9
Tax expense (item 1.7)	(58.3)	(36.6)

Reports for industry and geographical segments

Industry segments	Operating revenue		Operating result		Total assets	
	Current period \$A millions	Previous corresponding period \$A millions	Current period \$A millions	Previous corresponding period \$A millions	Current period \$A millions	Pr correspo \$A m
Energy						
Infrastructure						
Natural gas networks	196.7	208.9	102.3	89.2	1055.0	
Natural gas pipelines	104.7	69.2	45.3	21.5	642.3	
Electricity networks	86.0	86.0	36.1	35.6	1,113.5	1
	<u>387.4</u>	<u>364.1</u>	<u>183.7</u>	<u>146.3</u>	<u>2,810.8</u>	<u>2</u>
Sales and marketing	633.0	611.9	35.7	34.3	219.9	
Less network charges	241.3	248.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	
	<u>391.7</u>	<u>363.8</u>	<u>35.7</u>	<u>34.3</u>	<u>219.9</u>	<u>2</u>
	779.1	727.9	219.4	180.6	3,030.7	
Power generation	27.6	0.5	0.9	0.2	46.9	
LPG	15.9	11.6	10.5	5.7	83.2	
International business	166.1	9.4	43.7	9.2	1,121.0	
	<u>988.7</u>	<u>749.4</u>	<u>274.5</u>	<u>195.7</u>	<u>4,281.8</u>	<u>3</u>
Property	8.3	1.5	(0.5)	(0.7)	74.4	
Other	21.6	19.5	1.1	(0.6)	47.7	
Segment totals	<u>1,018.6</u>	<u>770.4</u>	<u>275.1</u>	<u>194.4</u>	<u>4,403.9</u>	<u>3</u>
Unallocated items	2.6	2.4	(10.5)	(5.8)	68.7	
	<u>1,021.2</u>	<u>772.8</u>	<u>264.6</u>	<u>188.6</u>	<u>4,472.6</u>	<u>3</u>
Less: inter-segment revenue	1.4	1.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	
net borrowing costs	0.0	0.0	59.7	35.3	0.0	
	<u>1,019.8</u>	<u>771.2</u>	<u>204.9</u>	<u>153.3</u>	<u>4,472.6</u>	<u>3</u>
Inter-segment revenue was derived as follows:						
Property	0.1	0.2				
Other	1.3	1.4				
	<u>1.4</u>	<u>1.6</u>				

Inter-segment pricing is on an “arms-length” basis.

Revenue is principally derived from:

(i) Energy

 Infrastructure

 Natural gas networks - distribution of natural gas.

 Natural gas pipelines - transportation of natural gas and management of gas pipelines.

 Electricity networks – distribution of electricity.

 Sales and marketing - sale of natural gas and electricity.

 Power generation – generation and sale of electricity.

 LPG – extraction and sale of LPG and investment in an associate involved in the LPG industry.

 International business – investments in foreign associates involved in the gas industry.

(ii) Property - sale and rental of properties.

(iii) Other - sale of nylon pipe and related products and revenue from other activities.

Reports for industry and geographical segments (continued)

Geographical segments	Operating revenue		Operating result		Total assets	
	Current period \$A million	Previous Corresponding Period \$A millions	Current period \$A millions	Previous corresponding period \$A millions	Current Period \$A millions	Previous corresponding period \$A millions
Australia	850.6	759.0	220.1	177.7	3,324.5	3,119.9
New Zealand	167.0	7.9	44.6	7.8	1068.2	149.1
Other	2.2	4.3	(0.1)	3.1	79.9	75.2
	<u>1,019.8</u>	<u>771.2</u>	<u>264.6</u>	<u>188.6</u>	<u>4,472.6</u>	<u>3,344.2</u>

There was no material inter-segment revenue.

Events subsequent to the end of the current period

On 21 January 2000 a sale agreement was finalised between TransAlta Energy Corporation of Canada (TEC) and Natural Gas Corporation Holdings Limited (NGC), for NGC to purchase TEC's 75.8% interest in TransAlta New Zealand for a price of approximately NZ\$834 million. NGC will fund the acquisition through a mixture of debt and equity. AGL as a 71.6% shareholder of NGC, has indicated support for an equity raising.

On 28 January 2000 the consolidated entity acquired the South Australian electricity retailing business of ETSA Power for \$175.0 million. The acquisition was debt funded as a result of which the consolidated entity's debt to equity ratio has increased to approximately 114.8% subsequent to reporting date.