

APAC Realty Ltd

The recovery is underway

SINGAPORE | REAL ESTATE (AGENCIES) | 4Q19 RESULTS

- 4Q19 revenue met our estimates. Net profit was below due to higher than expected provision for doubtful debts and effective tax. Net earnings rebounded 32% YoY.
- New homes sales the largest driver to revenue. The sluggish resale market is undergoing a recovery as the gap in buyer expectation narrows.
- Maintained a market share of around 33% for all residential property transactions (resale, new, leasing and HDB).
- We maintain our ACCUMULATE recommendation. Our target price is maintained at \$\$0.55. The outlook is positive as property transactions are beginning to recover. New launches with attractive pricing enjoy good take-up rates. HDB resale market will be spurred by the enhanced grant and more units meeting their MOP. Resale market recovery is less clear and dependent on sentiment. But the widening price gap between new and older units will reach an inflexion point for buyers.

Results at a glance

(SGD 000)/Dec Yr End	4Q19	4Q18	YoY (%)	Comments
Revenue	107,846	81,863	32%	
- resale and rental	62,800	56,100	12%	
a) resale	44,300	40,200	10%	Recovery process is underway
b) rental	18,500	15,900	16%	
- new home sales	42,000	23,500	79%	The main growth driver for the business.
Gross profit	15,167	11,196	35%	GP margin stable at
Operating expenses	8,268	6,429	29%	
Operating Profit	6,899	4,767	45%	
PATMI	5,382	4,092	32%	Effective tax was 21% vs 14% a year ago
Dividend Per Share (S\$ cts)	1.25	2.50	-50%	

Source: Company, PSR

The Positives

+ New home sales surged 79% YoY. The spike in home sales volumes was in comparison to new home sales a year ago, due to the fall out from the July 2018 cooling measures. Revenue from new homes sales in 4Q19 was the 2^{nd} highest in history. The lag between the transaction date of the property and revenue recognition is 3 to 6 months depending on the project.

The Negatives

- **Provision for doubtful debts jumped in 4Q19.** Provision for doubtful debts swung from write-back of \$\$300k to an allowance of \$\$869k. APAC has a policy of making full provision of a trade receivable when due more than a certain period outstanding. These are one-off provisions likely from resale and do not appear systemic. Disputes over commission are some triggers for the provision. Exposure is offset by a trade payable write-back in cost of services for the amount due to the agent. Total exposure is 10% of the provision.
- Taxes higher in 4Q19. The effective tax was 21% compared to 14% last year due to certain allowances not allowable. Full-year the effective tax was 19.4% (FY18: 17%).
- **Dividends cut by 50%.** Final dividend was cut 50% to 1.25 cents in-line (FY19: 2 cents) with the drop in earnings. Dividend payout ratio policy is still at least 50%.



26 February 2020

ACCUMULATE (Maintained)

LAST DONE PRICE SGD 0.490
FORECAST DIV SGD 0.023
TARGET PRICE SGD 0.55
TOTAL RETURN 17.0%

COMPANY DATA

BLOOMBERG CODE:	APAC SP Equity
O/S SHARES (MN) :	355
MARKET CAP (USD mn / SGD mn) :	130/179
52 - WK HI/LO (SGD) :	0.95 / 0.44
BM Average Daily T/O (mn) :	1.74

MAJOR SHAREHOLDERS (%)

TAN CHOON HONG	71.8%
FIL INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT	4.3%
QILIN ASSET MANAGEMENT	3.4%

PRICE PERFORMANCE (%)

	1M TH	3 M TH	1Y R
COMPANY	(14.0)	(5.8)	(38.9)
STIRETURN	(5.8)	0.4	(6.4)

PRICE VS. STI



Source: Bloomberg, PSR

KEY FINANCIALS

Y/E Dec, SGD (mn)	FY18	FY19	FY20e	FY21e
Revenue	424.0	369.5	409.5	442.2
Gross Profit	52.8	46.4	49.1	53.1
PATMI	24.2	13.9	16.6	19.3
P/E (x)	7.2	12.5	10.5	9.0
P/B (x)	1.1	1.2	1.1	1.1
EPS, SGD cents	6.8	3.9	4.7	5.4
Dividend yield, %	9.2	4.1	4.8	5.6
ROE	16.9%	9.5%	10.8%	11.8%
ROA	8.6%	4.7%	5.5%	6.2%

Source: Company Data, PSF

Valuation Method

DCF (Cost of equity 8.0%, Terminal growth 0%)

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Outlook

We expect earnings to rebound in FY20e. Transaction volumes are picking-up across all three core business segments – new home sales, HDB resale and private resale. Some of the other non-macro drivers to growth include agency force rising 8.6% YoY to 7,048 agents, ERA APAC Centre turning to profitability and secured agency rights to 25 projects for 2020 so far. Unclear at present is whether APAC will subsidise agency fees of \$\$230 per year. It is a sizeable \$\$1.6mn out of pocket expense for the 7,000 plus agents.

Other updates:

New Home Sales

- There URA data shows around 32,272 unsold units with planning approvals (End Dec19).
 With historical private residential take-up of 9,000 to 10,000 units per annum as a guide, it would take c.4 years for the number of units in the pipeline to be absorbed by the market. As a reference, private residential units excluding EC sold in 2019 and 2018 were 9,912 and 8,795 units respectively.
- 2. Recent successful launch of a high-end private project, "The M" by Wing Tai Asia (366 sold from 522 units) was due to the attractive pricing. Nearby projects were selling at \$\$2800-\$3200, in comparison to The M's launch price of \$\$2100-\$\$2600. Investors see the value of the project and many smaller units have been taken up.
- 3. Another recent EC project performed well due to proximity to MRT.
- 4. 50 new project launches are expected in 2020.

Resale market

- 1. One of the advantages of purchasing a new residential project is the benefit of progress payment over the construction period. Additionally, most new projects would experience greater price appreciation by the time the project achieves TOP, in comparison to resale units.
- 2. New launches will help spur the resale transaction as the price premium will widen.

Covid-19

- 1. Marketing of property and balloting is conducted more online.
- 2. Developers are cautious of show flat becoming potential areas of transmission.
- 3. More planning required to arrange time slots to visit show flats to reduce group size.

Maintain ACCUMULATE with an unchanged target price of S\$0.55

We maintained our recommendation and target price. Our FY20e earnings cut by 13% on higher expenses and effective tax rate.



Financials

Statement

FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20e	FY21e
400.6	424.0	369.5	409.5	442.2
345.8	371.2	323.2	360.4	389.1
54.9	52.8	46.4	49.1	53.1
13.8	13.0	13.0	13.8	14.3
11.7	10.5	16.1	15.4	15.5
29.4	29.2	17.2	20.0	23.3
(3.5)	(5.0)	(3.3)	(3.4)	(4.0)
25.9	24.2	13.9	16.6	19.3
	400.6 345.8 54.9 13.8 11.7 29.4 (3.5)	400.6 424.0 345.8 371.2 54.9 52.8 13.8 13.0 11.7 10.5 29.4 29.2 (3.5) (5.0)	400.6 424.0 369.5 345.8 371.2 323.2 54.9 52.8 46.4 13.8 13.0 13.0 11.7 10.5 16.1 29.4 29.2 17.2 (3.5) (5.0) (3.3)	400.6 424.0 369.5 409.5 345.8 371.2 323.2 360.4 54.9 52.8 46.4 49.1 13.8 13.0 13.0 13.8 11.7 10.5 16.1 15.4 29.4 29.2 17.2 20.0 (3.5) (5.0) (3.3) (3.4)

Per share data

SGD cents, Y/E Dec	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20e	FY21e
EPS	8.0	6.8	3.9	4.7	5.4
DPS	2.0	4.5	2.0	2.3	2.7
NAV per share	41.9	45.1	41.0	43.3	46.0

Cash Flow

Cash Flow					
SGD mn, Y/E Dec	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20e	FY21e
CFO					
Profit before tax	29.4	29.2	17.2	20.0	23.3
Adjustments	4.4	3.3	6.4	6.6	6.6
WC changes	4.2	(13.3)	(0.4)	(7.6)	(5.1)
Interest and Taxes paid, others	(3.4)	(5.1)	(6.3)	(5.0)	(5.6)
Cashflow from operations	34.6	14.1	17.0	13.9	19.1
<u>CFI</u>					
Acquisition of investment ppty	-	(72.8)	-	-	-
Purchase of PP&E	(0.5)	(0.4)	(1.2)		-
Others	(0.2)	(3.2)	(10.4)	-"	-
Cashflow from investments	(0.7)	(76.3)	(11.7)	-	-
<u>CFF</u>					
Change in loans and borrowings	(18.0)	57.5	(2.9)	_	_
Payment of dividends	-	(14.2)	(11.5)	(8.3)	(9.7)
Others	28.2	-	-	-	-
Cashflow from financing	10.2	43.3	(16.3)	(8.3)	(9.7)
Net change in cash	44.2	(19.0)	(11.0)	5.6	9.5
CCE, end	62.0	43.0	32.0	37.6	47.1

Source: Company, Phillip Securities Research (Singapore) Estimates

Ra	ance	Sheet

SGD mn, Y/E Dec	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20e	FY21e
ASSETS					
Investment property	-	72.8	72.8	72.8	72.8
PP&E	1.2	1.1	1.7	1.1	0.5
Intangible assets	100.4	99.5	98.5	97.6	96.7
Others	0.4	0.4	6.5	4.9	3.3
Total non-current assets	102.0	173.7	179.5	176.3	173.2
Trade & other receivables	71.7	53.4	68.2	70.6	75.5
Cash balance	62.0	43.0	32.0	37.6	47.1
Others	0.2	13.1	15.4	15.4	15.4
Total current assets	133.9	109.5	115.7	123.7	138.0
Total Assets	236.0	283.2	295.1	300.0	311.2
LIABILITIES					
Trade & other payables	91.5	71.3	81.2	77.8	79.4
Loans and borrowings	-	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9
Provision for taxation	5.0	5.2	3.3	3.3	3.3
Others	2.0	1.8	3.0	3.0	3.0
Total current liabilities	98.5	81.2	90.4	87.0	88.6
Loans and borrowings	-	54.6	51.7	51.7	51.7
Deferred taxation	4.5	4.3	4.2	4.2	4.2
Total non-current liabilities	4.5	58.9	59.3	59.3	59.3
Total Liabilities	102.9	140.1	149.7	146.3	147.8
EQUITY					
Share capital	98.9	98.9	98.9	98.9	98.9
Accumulated profits	34.1	44.1	46.6	54.9	64.5
Non-controlling interests	-	0.0	(0.1)	(0.1)	(0.1)
Total Equity	133.0	143.1	145.5	153.8	163.4

Valuation Ratios

Y/E Dec	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20e	FY21e
P/E (x)	6.1	7.2	12.5	10.5	9.0
P/B (x)	1.2	1.1	1.2	1.1	1.1
Dividend Yield (%)	4.1	9.2	4.1	4.8	5.6
Growth & Margins (%)					
Growth					
Revenue	39.2%	5.8%	-12.8%	10.8%	8.0%
Gross profit	37.7%	-3.8%	-12.2%	6.0%	8.0%
PBT	62.7%	-0.6%	-41.1%	16.0%	16.6%
PAT	63.1%	-6.4%	-42.8%	19.5%	16.6%
Margins					
GP margin	13.7%	12.5%	12.5%	12.0%	12.0%
PBT margin	7.3%	6.9%	4.7%	4.9%	5.3%
PAT Margin	6.5%	5.7%	3.8%	4.0%	4.4%
Key Ratios					
ROE (%)	19.5%	16.9%	9.5%	10.8%	11.8%
ROA (%)	11.0%	8.6%	4.7%	5.5%	6.2%
Gearing (x)	-	0.40	0.38	0.36	0.33





PSR Rating System		
Total Returns	Recommendation	Rating
> +20%	Buy	1
+5% to +20%	Accumulate	2
-5% to +5%	Neutral	3
-5% to -20%	Reduce	4
< -20%	Sell	5

Remarks

We do not base our recommendations entirely on the above quantitative return bands. We consider qualitative factors like (but not limited to) a stock's risk reward profile, market sentiment, recent rate of share price appreciation, presence or absence of stock price catalysts, and speculative undertones surrounding the stock, before making our final recommendation





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