

# **ComfortDelGro Corp Ltd**

# Major drag overseas

## SINGAPORE | TRANSPORT SERVICES | 3Q22 UPDATE

- 3Q22 earnings were below expectations. YTD22 revenue and PATMI were 74%/50% respectively of our FY22e forecast. UK and Australia earnings disappointed due to lags in repricing higher bus fuel and wages. A performance worse than the pandemic.
- Operating profit in Singapore recovered significantly from S\$1.8mn to S\$46.7mn.
   Recovery is from the surge in rail ridership and lower taxi rental rebates plus maiden booking commissions.
- We cut our FY22e PATMI by 24% to S\$207.3mn. The recovery in Singapore from the surge in rail ridership and lower taxi rebates will continue in 4Q22. However, the time lag to pass through higher labour and fuel costs in Australia and UK will place pressure on operating margins. We lowered our DCF target price from \$\$1.80 to \$\$1.75.

#### Results at a glance

(SGD mn)	3Q22	3Q21	YoY	Comments
Revenue	969.5	880.3	10.1%	
- Public transport	772.5	710.6	8.7%	
- Taxi	112.3	97.3	15.4%	
EBIT	58.8	40.3	45.9%	Excl. relief & gain on disposal,,up 171% YoY to S\$53.6mn.
- Public transport	26.9	32.0	-15.9%	Excl. relief & gain on disposal.,up 48% YoY to S\$22.5mn.
- Taxi	16.0	(5.9)	n.m.	Excl. relief & gain on disposal., from loss S\$8.1mn to S\$15.5mn profit.
Gain on disposal	(0.2)	0.7	n.m.	
PATMI	34.3	25.8	32.9%	
PATMI - normalised	34.5	25.1	37.5%	Excludes government relief S\$29.1mn (3Q21: S\$5.3mn).

Source: Company, PSR #Note – Only selected financials are provided in the 3Q22 update.

### The Positives

- + Surge in Singapore profitability. 3Q22 operating profit in Singapore (excluding disposals/grants) recovered strongly to S\$46.7mn, from \$1.8mn a year ago. The turnaround was driven by a recovery in rail traffic plus lower taxi rebates. Daily ridership for SBS Transit is up 52% YoY in 3Q22. Rebound in taxi earnings is from lower rebates of 15% (3Q21: 25%) plus booking commissions of 4%.
- + Healthy free cash flows. FCF in 3Q22 improved from \$\$95.2mn to \$\$193.7mn. Net CAPEX for the year was moderately higher at \$\$150.7mn (YTD21: \$\$136.1mn). CAPEX will not return to pre-pandemic \$\$400mn-500mn levels as the conversion of the fleet to hybrid and EV is almost complete. Furthermore, higher COEs negatively impact the return profile of vehicle investments.

#### The Negative

- Multiple bumps overseas. The combined operating profit of overseas operations (Australia, China, UK) collapsed 63% YoY to \$\$6.7mn. The worse performer was the UK with a \$\$6.5mn loss (3Q21: \$\$0.9mn profit). UK bus operations to pass on the higher fuel and labour cost. In the UK, the pass-through of higher cost occurs on the anniversary of each bus route. The wage cost has sharply risen due to a shortage of bus drivers. To manage the shortage, higher priced agency bus drivers were deployed and more overtime billings were made. In China, rebates continued in undisclosed millions but lower than the \$10mn in 2Q22.



#### 17 November 2022

## **BUY (Maintained)**

TOTAL RETURN	39.0%
TARGET PRICE	SGD 1.75
FORECAST DIV	SGD 0.057
AST CLOSE PRICE	SGD 1.30

#### **COMPANY DATA**

BLOOMBERG CODE:	CD SP
O/S SHARES (MN):	2,166
MARKET CAP (SGD mn):	2,708
52 - WK HI/LO (SGD) :	1.53/1.21
3M Average Daily T/O (mn) :	10.0

#### MAJOR SHAREHOLDERS

Ameriprise Financial Inc	6.8%
BlackRock Inc	5.0%

#### PRICE PERFORMANCE (%)

	1MTH	змтн	YTD
COMPANY	2.4	-8.9	-3.0
STI RETURN	8.1	1.1	8.9

#### PRICE VS. STI



Source: Bloomberg, PSR

#### KEY FINANCIALS

Y/E Dec	FY 20	FY 21	FY 22e	FY 23e
Revenue (S\$ mn)	3,243	3,538	3,813	3,868
PATMI, adj (S\$ mn)	119.9	153.8	176.9	223.6
EPS, adj. (cents)	5.6	7.1	8.2	10.3
P/E, a dj. (x)	23.3	18.3	15.9	12.6
BVPS (cents)	142	145	153	156
P/B (x)	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.8
DPS (cents)	1.4	4.2	5.7	7.2
Div. Yield (%)	1.1	3.2	4.4	5.6

Source: Bloomberg, PSR

#### VALUATION METHOD

DCF (WACC: 9.2%; Terminal g: 1.0%)

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#### Outlook

We expect the rebound in Singapore rail and taxi operations to rebound into 4Q22. An additional boost for taxi revenue will come from an increase in booking commission from 4% to 5%, effective October 2022. Although taxi rental rebates are expected to maintain at 15%, booking commission effective rental cover is 1.5x (i.e. 5% commission is equivalent to 7.5% recovery in taxi rentals).

FY23 rail operations will enjoy an uplift from the fare adjustment of 13.5%. Part of the increase will stem from the higher passenger fares of 2.9% (effective 26Dec22), with the balance a government subsidy instead of fare increases. The headwind for Singapore earnings will be the lower bus contracting fees from 5 packages, as announced a year ago.

The margin pressure on overseas bus operations will persist until cost recovery is implemented. The anniversary dates for cost recovery were not disclosed but we expect an improvement in margins from overseas operations to gradually improve over the next three quarters.

The dividend policy is maintained at 70-80% and any higher will depend on cash-flow needs.

## Maintain BUY with a lower TP of S\$1.75 (prev. S\$1.80)

ComfortDelgro pays a 4% dividend yield, net cash balance sheet of \$\$643mn and its share price is still around 50% below pre-pandemic levels.

Total avg. daily street and ride hails trips

30%

20%

550

30%

450

Jan-21 Mar-21 May-21 Jul-21 Sep-21 Nov-21 Jan-22 Mar-22 May-22 Jul-22

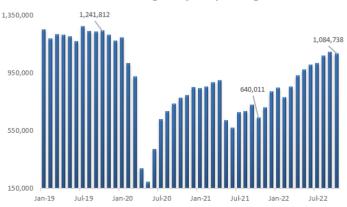
Avg., daily street and ride hail apps (000s)

YoY (RHS)

Figure 1: Taxi ridership volumes trending at 10% YoY in Jul22/Aug22

Source: CEIC, PSR





Source: CEIC, PSR



# **Financials**

Income Statement					
SGD mn, Y/E Dec	FY 19	FY 20	FY 21	FY 22e	FY 23e
Revenue	3,901.1	3,242.6	3,538.3	3,812.9	3,868.5
EBITDA	841.5	553.7	611.6	645.0	721.3
Depreciation & Amortisatio	(425.7)	(432.0)	(401.6)	(383.5)	(392.2)
EBIT	415.8	121.7	210.0	261.5	329.1
Net Finance (Expense)/Inc	(9.2)	(5.9)	(5.1)	3.7	4.7
Profit Before Tax	406.6	115.8	204.9	303.1	333.8
Taxation	(88.4)	(24.5)	(44.9)	(54.9)	(60.1)
Profit After Tax	318.2	91.3	160.0	248.3	273.7
Non-controlling interest	53.1	30.9	29.9	40.9	50.1
PATMI, reported	265.1	60.4	130.1	207.3	223.6
PATMI. adi.	287.8	119.9	153.8	176.9	223.6

Per s	hare	data	(cents)	)

	FY 19	FY 20	FY 21	FY 22e	FY 23e
EPS, reported	12.2	2.8	6.0	9.6	10.3
EPS, adj.	13.3	5.6	7.1	8.2	10.3
DPS	9.8	1.4	4.2	5.7	7.2
BVPS	140	142	145	153	156

## Cash Flow

SGD mn, Y/E Dec	FY 19	FY 20	FY 21	FY 22e	FY 23e
CFO					
PBT	406.6	115.8	204.9	303.1	333.8
Adjustments	-	-	-	-	-
WC changes	(146.8)	(28.5)	75.0	(112.7)	7.4
Cash generated from ops	704.8	632.2	732.2	608.1	728.8
Others	(94.9)	(87.9)	(71.3)	(54.9)	(60.1)
Cashflow from ops	609.9	544.3	660.9	553.3	668.7
CFI					
CAPEX, net	(346.5)	(106.1)	(194.3)	(252.6)	(303.1)
Divd from associates & JVs	1.0	0.4	0.1	-	-
Others	(21.1)	(4.0)	(9.6)	9.6	10.5
Cashflow from investments	(366.6)	(109.7)	(203.8)	(243.0)	(292.6)
CFF					
Share issuance, net	1.3	1.1	2.3	-	-
Loans, net of repayments	31.3	(116.6)	(143.9)	(100.0)	-
Dividends	(274.3)	(144.4)	(107.4)	(107.3)	(201.0)
Others	12.0	(41.9)	(38.2)	(5.9)	(5.9)
Cashflow from financing	(229.7)	(301.8)	(287.2)	(213.1)	(206.9)
Effects of exchange rates	(5.5)	15.8	6.4	-	-
Net increase (decrease) in CCE	8.1	148.6	176.3	97.1	169.2
CCE, end	594.2	742.8	919.1	1,016.2	1,185.5

Source: Company, Phillip Securities Research (Singapore) Estimates

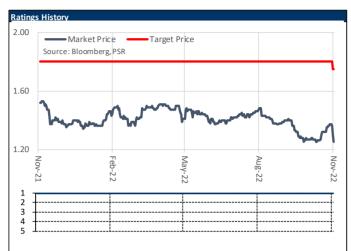
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SGD mn, Y/E Dec	FY 19	FY 20	FY 21	FY 22e	FY 23e
ASSETS					
Cash	594.2	742.8	919.1	1,016.2	1,185.5
Accounts Receivables	318.7	291.8	295.3	291.7	297.2
Inventories	150.7	127.9	116.9	137.1	134.6
Prepayments	255.5	241.6	241.6	260.7	252.5
Others	-	20.1	15.4	15.4	15.4
Total current assets	1,319.1	1,424.2	1,588.3	1,721.1	1,885.2
PPE	2,879.7	2,604.1	2,430.5	2,299.6	2,210.5
Intangibles	848.7	870.0	866.9	866.9	866.9
Receivables	284.3	6.7	10.7	10.7	10.7
Others	47.2	53.6	58.6	58.6	58.6
Total non-current assets	4,059.9	3,534.4	3,366.7	3,235.8	3,146.7
Total Assets	5,379.0	4,958.6	4,955.0	4,956.9	5,031.9
LIABILITIES					
Short term loans	198.8	110.3	23.9	23.9	23.9
Accounts Payables	670.3	675.0	775.6	698.6	700.9
Others	246.7	227.2	190.6	190.6	190.6
Total current liabilities	1,115.8	1,012.5	990.1	913.1	915.4
Long term loans	331.3	353.4	317.1	217.1	217.1
Others	922.9	524.0	511.5	511.5	511.5
Total non-current liabilities	1,254.2	877.4	828.6	728.6	728.6
Total Liabilities	2,370.0	1,889.9	1,818.7	1,641.7	1,644.0
EQUITY					
Non-controlling interest	414.0	422.0	429.8	470.7	520.8
Shareholder Equity	2,595.0	2,646.7	2,706.5	2,776.2	2,829.4

## Valuation Ratios

	FY 19	FY 20	FY 21	FY 22e	FY 23e
P/E (x), adj.	9.8	23.3	18.3	15.9	12.6
P/B (x)	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.8
Dividend Yield	7.5%	1.1%	3.2%	4.4%	5.6%
Growth & Margins					
Growth					
Revenue	2.5%	-16.9%	9.1%	7.8%	1.5%
EBITDA	1.1%	-34.2%	10.5%	5.5%	11.8%
EBIT	-5.2%	-70.7%	72.6%	24.5%	25.8%
Net Income, adj.	-5.1%	-58.3%	28.3%	15.0%	26.4%
Margins					
EBITDA margin	21.6%	17.1%	17.3%	16.9%	18.6%
EBIT margin	10.7%	3.8%	5.9%	6.9%	8.5%
PBT margin	10.4%	3.6%	5.8%	7.9%	8.6%
Net Profit Margin	7.4%	3.7%	4.3%	4.6%	5.8%
Key Ratios					
ROE	11.1%	4.6%	5.7%	6.5%	8.0%
ROA	5.5%	2.3%	3.1%	3.6%	4.5%
Dividend Payout	73.7%	25.6%	59.2%	70.0%	70.0%
Net Debt or (Net Cash)	-64	-279	-578	-775	-944
Net Gearing (x)	Net Cash				





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

#### COMFORTDELGRO CORP LTD RESULTS



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