

ASX Announcement

9 March 2016

Moody's assigns A2 rating to Vicinity with a stable outlook

Vicinity Centres (Vicinity, ASX:VCX) today announced that Moody's Investors Service (Moody's) had initiated coverage and assigned an investment-grade credit issuer rating of A2 with a stable outlook. The associated announcement by Moody's is attached.

On 4 March 2016, Standard & Poor's affirmed its A- rating of Vicinity with a revised rating outlook to positive from stable.

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About Vicinity Centres



Vicinity Centres (Vicinity or the Group) is one of Australia's leading retail property groups with a fully integrated asset management platform, and over \$23 billion in retail assets under management across 95 shopping centres, making it the second largest listed manager of Australian retail property. The Group has a Direct Portfolio with interests in 85 shopping centres and manages 38 assets on behalf of Strategic Partners, 28 of which are co-owned by the Group. Listed on the Australian Securities Exchange under the trading code 'VCX', Vicinity has over 24,000 securityholders. For more information visit the Group's website vicinity.com.au, or use your smartphone to scan this QR code.

Vicinity Centres

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Rating Action: Moody's assigns first-time A2 issuer rating to Vicinity Centres; outlook stable

Global Credit Research - 08 Mar 2016

Sydney, March 08, 2016 -- Moody's Investors Service has assigned a long-term issuer rating of A2 to Vicinity Centres.

This is the first time that Moody's has assigned a rating to Vicinity.

The outlook on the rating is stable.

RATINGS RATIONALE

"The A2 issuer rating reflects Vicinity's strong market position in the Australian retail property sector, following its creation with the merger of Novion Property Group and Federation Centres in June 2015", says Maurice O'Connell, a Moody's Vice President -- Senior Analyst.

"At the same time, the rating recognizes the real estate investment trust's stable and predictable level of operating income, as well as its extensive and diversified portfolio of predominantly regional and sub-regional retail shopping centres in Australia", adds O'Connell.

Moody's notes that Vicinity's 85 directly owned properties -- with 2.8 million square metres of gross lettable area and market value of AUD15 billion -- provide significant operating benefits, while the strong positioning of the assets within their respective local areas has led to their consistent long-term robust operating performance.

The strong level of demand for these properties is illustrated by the portfolio's exceptionally high and consistent occupancy rates of around 99% each year for the past decade.

Furthermore, the fixed rent structure of the portfolio's leases, typically based on fixed annual rent increases of around 5%, should underpin continued growth in net operating income.

Vicinity's rating also takes into consideration Moody's expectation that the level of development activity will be moderate and restricted to refurbishing and renovating existing assets rather than developing new greenfield projects.

Vicinity is expected to have a moderate financial profile with Moody's forecasting net debt/EBITDA of around 5-5.2 times and EBITDA/interest cover of around 4.5 times over the next 12-24 months.

Moody's also expects Vicinity to maintain a conservative financial profile, which is consistent with its stated gearing target range -- defined in terms of net debt/tangible assets -- of 25-35%.

Moody's expects that Vicinity will maintain a conservative approach to gearing and that the overall quality of its portfolio will improve over time through asset recycling, as evidenced by the trust identifying AUD750 million-AUD1 billion of assets for sale.

Vicinity has a solid liquidity profile which includes undrawn facilities of around AUD1.4 billion.

What Could Change the Rating -- Up

Upward rating pressure is unlikely in the intermediate term, but would be contingent upon Vicinity demonstrating a track record and profile consistent with an A1 rating through an economic cycle.

Financial indicators that Moody's would look for in such an instance include debt/EBITDA falling below 3.5 times, EBITDA/interest exceeding 6 times, and net debt/tangible assets falling below 25%, on a consistent basis.

What Could Change the Rating -- Down

Negative rating pressure could arise if we foresee a weakening in Vicinity's financial metrics. Metrics that we will consider for a downgrade include net debt/EBITDA rising above 5.5 times, EBITDA/interest coverage falling below 3.75 times, and net debt/tangible assets rising above 35%, on a consistent basis.

The principal methodology used in these ratings was Global Rating Methodology for REITs and Other Commercial Property Firms published in July 2010. Please see the Ratings Methodologies page on www.moodys.com for a copy of this methodology.

Vicinity Centres (VCX, formerly Federation Centres) is a vertically integrated Australian Real Estate Trust with the ownership and management of 95 Australian shopping centres. It provides a full suite of property services including property investment, retail development, property management, leasing and fund administration.

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