

Independent audit report to the members of Brambles Industries Limited

Audit opinion

In our opinion, the financial report of as set out on pages 106 to 121:

- gives a true and fair view, as required by the Corporations Act 2001 in Australia, of the financial position of the Brambles Industries DLC Group (defined below) as at 30 June 2003, and of its performance for the year ended on that date, and
- is presented in accordance with the Corporations Act 2001, Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional financial reporting requirements in Australia, and the Corporations Regulations 2001.

This opinion must be read in conjunction with the rest of our audit report.

Scope

The financial report and Directors' responsibility

The financial report comprises the statement of financial position, statement of financial performance, statement of cash flows, accompanying notes to the financial statements, and the Directors' declaration for the Brambles Industries DLC Group (the Group), for the year ended 30 June 2003. The Group comprises Brambles Industries Limited, Brambles Industries plc and the entities they controlled during that year.

The combined financial statements have been prepared applying the relief from the requirements of the Corporations Act 2001 provided under the Australian Securities and Investments Commission order dated 20 September 2002, as detailed in Note 1 to the combined financial statements.

The Directors of the Company are responsible for the preparation and true and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with the Corporations Act 2001. This includes responsibility for the maintenance of adequate accounting records and internal controls that are designed to prevent and detect fraud and error, and for the accounting policies and accounting estimates inherent in the financial report.

Audit approach

We conducted an independent audit in order to express an opinion to the members of the Company. We do not, in producing this report, accept or assume responsibility or liability for any other purpose or for the consequences of any reliance that may be placed on our report by any person other than the members of the Company to whom this report is shown or into whose hands it may come save where expressly agreed by our prior consent in writing. Our audit was conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, in order to provide reasonable assurance as to whether the financial report is free of material misstatement. The nature of an audit is influenced by factors such as the use of professional judgement, selective testing, the inherent limitations of internal control, and the availability of persuasive rather than conclusive evidence. Therefore, an audit cannot guarantee that all material misstatements have been detected.

We performed procedures to assess whether in all material respects the financial report presents fairly, in accordance with the Corporations Act 2001, Accounting Standards and other mandatory financial reporting requirements in Australia, a view which is consistent with our understanding of the Group's financial position, and of its performance as represented by the results of its operations and cash flows.

We formed our audit opinion on the basis of these procedures, which included:

- examining, on a test basis, information to provide evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial report, and
- assessing the appropriateness of the accounting policies and disclosures used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the Directors.

When this audit report is included in an Annual Report, our procedures include reading the other information in the Annual Report to determine whether it contains any material inconsistencies with the financial report.

While we considered the effectiveness of management's internal controls over financial reporting when determining the nature and extent of our procedures, our audit was not designed to provide assurance on internal controls.

Our audit did not involve an analysis of the prudence of business decisions made by Directors or management.

Independence

In conducting our audit, we followed applicable independence requirements of Australian professional ethical pronouncements and the Corporations Act 2001.

PricewaterhouseCoopers

B W D Morgan
Partner

Sydney
2 September 2003