

Understanding Trading and Investment Warrants

WARRANTS

EDITION 18



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Before you begin

What are warrants?

Warrants are financial instruments issued by banks and other institutions and are traded on ASX. They are very broadly split into investment-style products and trading-style products.

Warrants are a form of derivative – that is, they derive their value from another ‘thing’ (underlying instrument). Some give holders the right to buy, or to sell the underlying instrument (for example a share) to the warrant issuer for a particular price according to the terms of issue. Alternatively, others entitle holders to receive a cash payment relating to the value of the underlying instrument at a particular time (for example index warrants).

Warrants may be issued over securities such as shares and Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs), a basket of different securities, a share price index, debt, currencies, or commodities.

The range of financial instruments traded as warrants has evolved over time so that it is now difficult to define particular characteristics of all warrants. Warrants cover a wide spectrum of risk profiles, investment objectives and likely returns.

Some warrants have higher risk/return profiles than others that offer lower risk features such as capital guarantees.

About this booklet

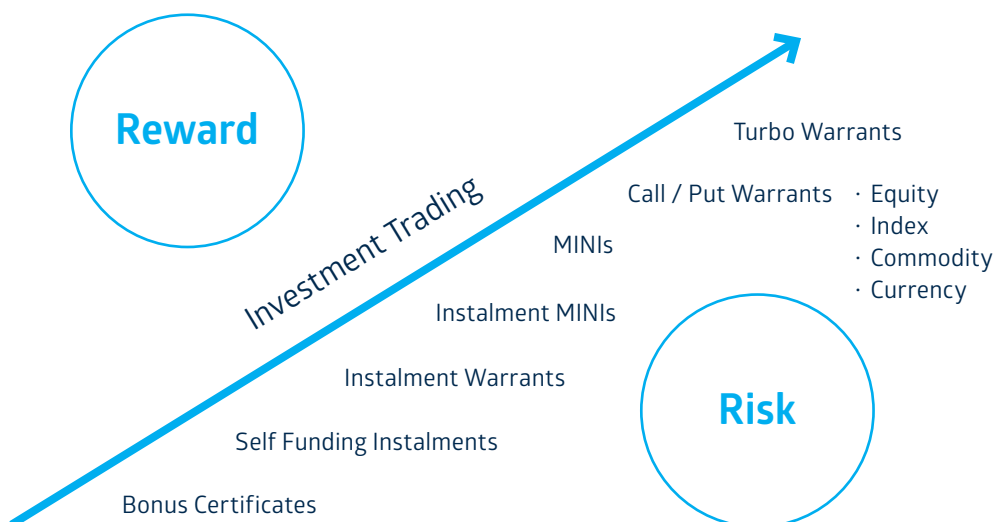
This booklet contains an outline of common features and a general description of most types of warrants. It is not an exhaustive or complete analysis of all warrant types and features.

The main objective is to provide you with general information about warrants and about some of the risks of trading or investing in warrants.

Before buying warrants, you should understand the terms and risks associated with the particular warrant series. You should read the disclosure document (called either a product disclosure statement or in some cases an offering circular) prepared by the issuer of the warrants and seek specific advice from your accredited adviser.

A section dealing exclusively with risks associated with warrants is on page 21.

Risk/Reward matrix

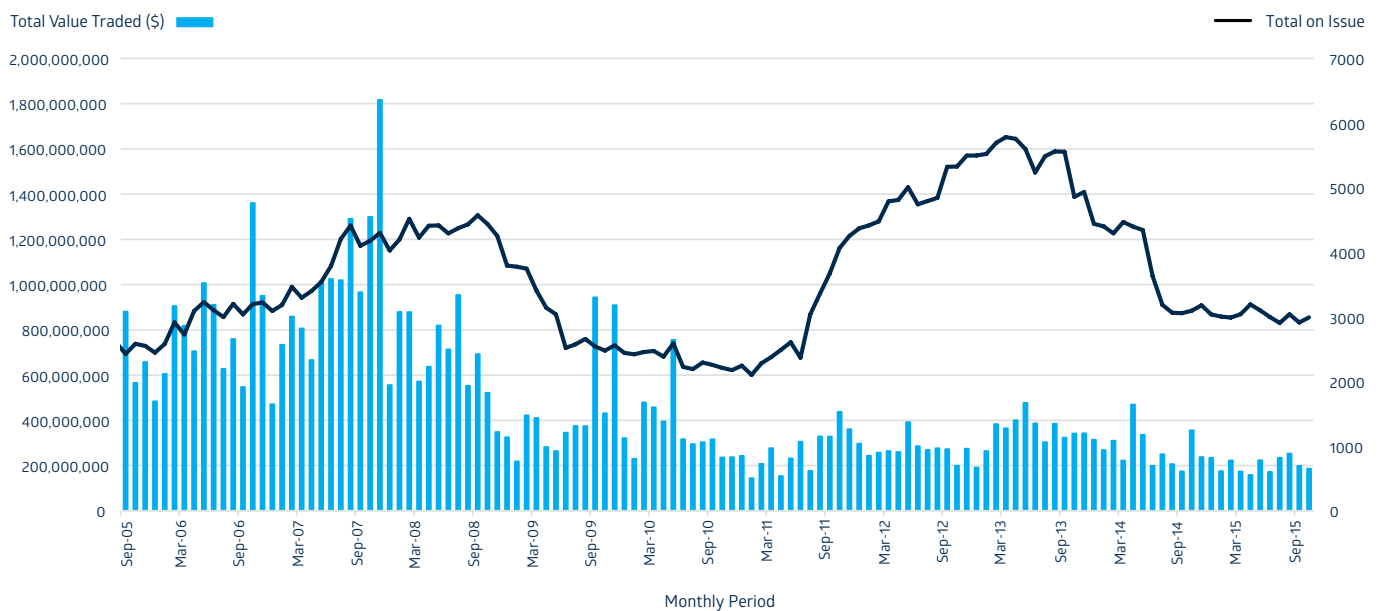


The ASX warrants market

Warrants are traded in many key financial markets of the world. ASX has operated a warrant market since 1991.

The market began by trading equity call warrants only. Other types have been introduced over time. There are now a number of different warrants available for trading or investment including instalments, trading warrants, MINIs, barrier warrants, commodity warrants, currency warrants, structured investment products & endowments. These (and others) are discussed later in this booklet.

Warrant turnover and series on issue



Important

It is important that you understand:

- ASX grants permission for warrants to be traded on its market (called 'admission to trading status') on the application of warrant issuers. ASX does not guarantee the performance of warrant issuers nor does it vouch for the accuracy of their product disclosure statements.
- You must make your own credit assessment of the warrant issuer of a particular warrant series.
- Most warrants have a limited life and cannot be traded after the relevant expiry date. The terms of a warrant series may be subject to adjustments or the warrants may expire early in particular circumstances.
- Warrants do not have standardised terms. The terms may vary considerably between different series (even between warrants of the same type) and different warrant issuers. You should seek information regarding the specific terms of issue for a series of warrants before you trade in a series.
- There are different risk and return profiles for different warrant series. Some warrants have features that make them more risky than others. You should seek specific advice about the risks and features of a warrant series from your accredited derivatives adviser.
- Some advisers may be paid commissions or other benefits by warrant issuers in relation to the sale of particular warrants. Your adviser is obliged to disclose to you any commissions or other benefits which may influence his/her recommendation.

Warrants and ETOs

ASX also operates a derivatives market for exchange traded options (ETOs). To varying degrees (depending on the type), warrants have similarities to ETOs. Warrants and options are primarily financial products that allow you to gain exposure to the underlying instrument without necessarily owning that instrument.

Warrants and ETOs do not give direct control over the underlying instrument until exercise and unlike shares, will expire after a certain period of time. There are however some key differences between warrants and ETOs such as:

- The terms of ETOs are standardised and are set by ASX, whereas the terms of different warrant series are set by the issuer and can be quite diverse.
- Warrants are tailored to meet specific needs. There are different types of warrants and some of these types of warrants have little in common with ETOs.
- Unlike ETOs, you cannot write warrants and there are no margin payments associated with warrants to cover the risk of financial loss due to adverse market movements.
- Settlement of warrant trades occurs through CHES in the same manner in which share transactions are processed. ASX Clear Pty Limited (ASXCL), which controls the clearing of ETOs has no involvement in settling warrant trades.

Warrant features

Some key warrant features are described below – some appear in all warrant types and some do not. As we state many times, warrants do not have standardised terms. The terms are specified by the warrant issuer within the constraints of the ASX Operating Rules and the law. This means the terms may vary significantly between different warrant types, between different series of the same type of warrant and between different warrant issuers.

The terms and conditions of a particular warrant series are set out in a document prepared by the warrant issuer called a disclosure document (either a product disclosure statement (PDS) or an offering circular). To obtain a copy of a disclosure document, you should speak to your adviser or the warrant issuer. Some warrant issuers put their disclosure documents on their own websites. All relevant disclosure documents, issued post 1999, are available on the ASX website.

When reading the disclosure document, you should be aware that some issuers use different terminology for different types of warrants. Where this occurs, the disclosure document will generally contain a table to cross-reference the terms to known concepts.

Underlying instrument

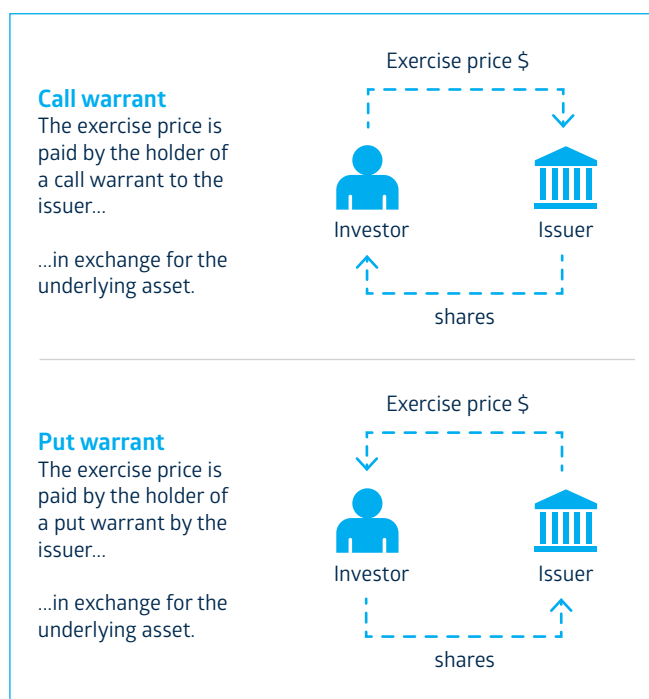
A warrant derives its value from some other 'thing' or instrument. The underlying instrument may be a security (such as a share in a company including overseas securities & ETFs), a share price index, a commodity or a currency. Some warrants are over a 'portfolio' or 'basket' of securities. The basket may consist of securities in entities with similar activities, for example mining or manufacturing. Warrants over a basket of securities give exposure to the performance of a group of securities or a particular industry. If there is a corporate action, or similar event, the underlying instrument may be adjusted. The disclosure document will explain when this may occur.

A warrant derives its value from some other instrument.

Call or put warrants

Warrants can be either call warrants or put warrants. Call warrants benefit from an upward price movement in the underlying instrument whereas put warrants benefit from a downward trend.

A deliverable call warrant generally gives you the right to buy the underlying instrument (eg a share) from the warrant issuer at a particular price on, or before, a particular date. A deliverable put warrant generally gives you the right to sell the underlying instrument to the warrant issuer at a particular price on, or before, a particular date. For cash settled calls and puts, the value of the warrant is paid to you in cash.



Exercise price (or strike price)

This is the amount of money which must be paid by you (in the case of a call warrant) or by the warrant issuer to you (in the case of a put warrant) for the transfer of each of the underlying instrument(s) (not including any brokerage or other transfer costs).

In the case of cash settled warrants, the difference between the exercise price (sometimes referred to as the exercise level) and the value of the underlying instrument at expiry is paid on settlement.

The exercise price is generally fixed when the warrants are issued. However, the exercise price could be variable. For example the exercise price of self-funding instalments and MINI warrants is not fixed. The exercise price of some warrants may also be in a foreign currency – eg. currency warrants and international equity warrants.

Some issuers charge for costs associated with the delivery of the underlying product, so the amount payable on exercise may be more than the stated exercise price.

The exercise price or the basis for calculating the exercise price will be specified in the disclosure document prepared by the warrant issuer.

Like the underlying instrument, the exercise price may be adjusted in certain circumstances. Again, the disclosure document should explain when this may occur.

Please note that in the case of instalments, the exercise price is referred to as the loan amount, for tax purposes.

Expiry date

The expiry date is the last date on which the warrant can be exercised. Trading in a warrant ceases on the expiry date. Under some circumstances warrants may expire early including when the warrant has been validly exercised.

The issuer will be obliged to deliver or take delivery of the underlying instrument or make a cash payment according to the terms of the warrant series.

Exercise style

Warrants can be either American style or European style exercise. American style means you can exercise the warrant at any time on or before the expiry date. European style means you can only exercise the warrant on the expiry date of the warrant.

Occasionally warrants are a mixture of American and European, eg. they may be European up to a certain date and then American thereafter. The terms of the warrant series will set out how you may exercise the warrant. You should be familiar with the terms relating to exercise. A failure to follow the terms may mean the exercise of the warrant is not effective.

Exercise style	Able to exercise	
	Before expiry	At expiry
American	✓	✓
European	✗	✓

Deliverable or cash settled

Deliverable warrants are settled in the first instance by a transfer of the underlying instrument, eg. equity warrants. Cash settled warrants are settled by a cash payment by the warrant issuer to you, eg. index warrants. Some deliverable warrants may also provide for cash settlement in certain circumstances.

In some cases a large number of warrants may need to be exercised to give rise to a delivery obligation, eg. international equity warrants. The terms of issue will identify any exercise conditions.

Issue size

This is the number of warrants that may be issued in a particular warrant series. The warrant issuer may reserve the right to apply to ASX to have more warrants issued in the same series without notice to holders.

Conversion ratio

The conversion ratio is the number of warrants that must be exercised to require the transfer of the underlying instrument. The terms of issue may require one warrant to be exercised to trigger delivery of one underlying instrument. Alternatively, a number of warrants may need to be exercised for the delivery of one underlying instrument.

Example

If you want to exercise a call warrant over BHP ordinary shares with a conversion ratio of 4, you are required to exercise 4 warrants to buy 1 underlying instrument, which in this case is 1 BHP share.

Do not forget that the conversion ratio is not the only term that must be satisfied to trigger a settlement obligation – refer to the disclosure document for other conditions relating to a valid exercise.

The conversion ratio will affect the price of the warrant on a per share basis (but not the leverage).

A higher conversion ratio means a lower warrant price. While trading prices are quoted on a per warrant basis, the exercise price is quoted on a per underlying instrument (or share) basis. It is therefore important to know the conversion ratio of a warrant series before investing.

The conversion ratio of a warrant may be affected following a corporate action by the underlying company, eg as a result of a bonus issue or a capital reconstruction.

Covered warrants

A warrant is said to be covered if the warrant issuer places the underlying instrument in a trust or similar custodial arrangement on behalf of the holder. To be called 'fully-covered', the warrant series must also meet particular criteria set out in the ASX Operating Rules.

Index multiplier

This is only relevant to index warrants. It is the figure used to determine the amount payable to you on exercise or expiry.

As a formula,

$$\begin{aligned} &\text{The intrinsic value of a call index warrant} \\ &\text{on exercise or expiry} \\ &= \\ &\text{the index multiplier} \\ &\times \\ &(\text{closing level of the index} - \\ &\text{the exercise level of the warrant}). \end{aligned}$$

Example

If the closing level of the index is 4,800 points and the exercise level of a call index warrant is 4,600 points then the warrant has an intrinsic value of 200 points. If the index multiplier is 1 cent then you are entitled to receive \$2.00 per warrant (being $\$0.01 \times (4,800 - 4,600)$).

Barrier levels

Some warrants have barrier features. A barrier level is a defined level that causes some event to occur. Some barriers cause the warrant to terminate before the original expiry date. Others may cause an adjustment to the exercise price and barrier level (and the warrant continues until expiry) but may require you to make an additional payment to the issuer. Other barriers simply cause the exercise price (or level) and barrier to be reset. The consequences of triggering a barrier level will be specified in the disclosure document for the warrant series. Barrier levels are nominated by the issuer before warrants are issued. The barrier can be above or below the exercise price (or level) of the warrant. Warrants may expire worthless if they are out-of-the-money when the barrier is triggered.

If however, the warrants are in-the-money, then the issuer may be obliged to pay a cash amount to holders. The descriptions of index warrants and equity warrants in the [Types of warrants](#) section of this booklet include examples of warrants with barrier levels.

Cap levels

Some warrants have their upside potential capped at a certain level. This is sometimes called the cap level.

Cap levels are different to barriers. Cap levels generally do not cause the warrant to terminate but will limit the upside profit potential of the warrant. A cap level is fixed by the issuer when the warrant is issued. If, on exercise or expiry, the value of the underlying instrument is above the cap level, settlement of the warrant is based on a return equal to the cap level (and not the value of the underlying instrument). You could be entitled to a cash payment or transfer of the underlying instrument at a value equal to the cap level. Cap levels are used in a number of different warrant types. In some warrants the cap level is an essential feature. In these warrants, the position of the cap relative to the current share price has a significant economic impact on how the warrant works. The description of capped warrants in the [Types of warrants](#) section of this booklet has examples of these warrants.

Bonus levels

Some warrants, most commonly Bonus Certificates, have a feature that adjusts the settlement amount depending upon whether a barrier level has been reached. This is sometimes called a bonus level.

Bonus levels are different to caps. Bonus levels do not limit the upside profit potential of a warrant. A bonus level is fixed by the issuer when the warrant is issued. If the value of the underlying instrument has not fallen beneath the barrier level at any time before the expiry date, the holder will get the value of the bonus level when the warrant expires. Unlike a cap, the bonus level sets a minimum value for the settlement amount. If the value of the underlying instrument is higher than the bonus level the settlement amount of the warrant will reflect the higher value. For a bonus certificate both the bonus level and the barrier level are essential features. The description of bonus certificates in the [Types of warrants](#) section of this booklet has examples these types of warrants.

Types of warrants

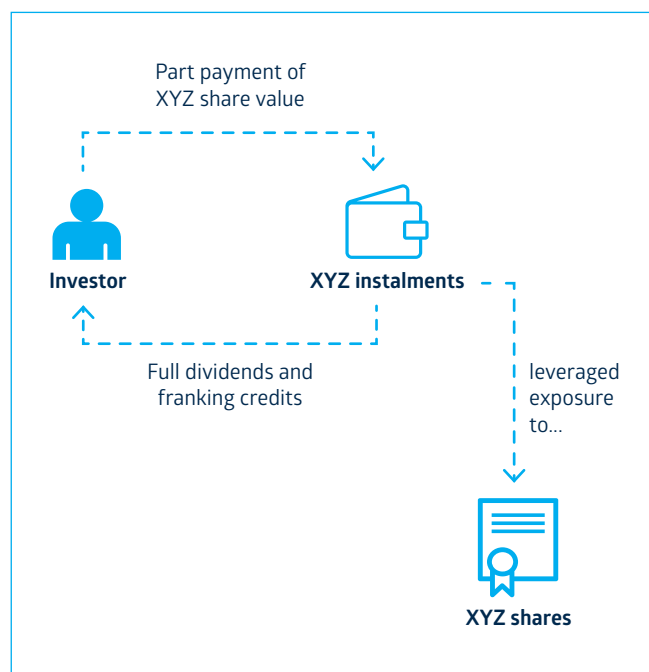
In broad terms, warrants can be viewed as being either trading-style or investment-style products. Some may fall into both categories. Trading style warrants are frequently traded and are generally short dated. They have a higher risk/return profile compared to the investment-style warrants. Equity warrants, index warrants, barrier warrants and MINI warrants usually fall within this category. Investment-style warrants have other features to attract investors. These warrants tend to be longer dated and are less frequently traded. They have a lower risk/return profile and often have a higher initial outlay compared to trading-style warrants. Endowments and structured investment products are investment-style products. Instalments bridge the gap between trading and investment-style products as some investors hold instalments for trading purposes and some hold them for longer term investment purposes.

Before buying warrants, you should understand the features, benefits and risks of the warrant series you are considering. You should read the disclosure document prepared by the warrant issuer and seek advice from an accredited derivatives adviser. Disclosure documents are available from the warrant issuer and can also be downloaded from the ASX website www.asx.com.au.

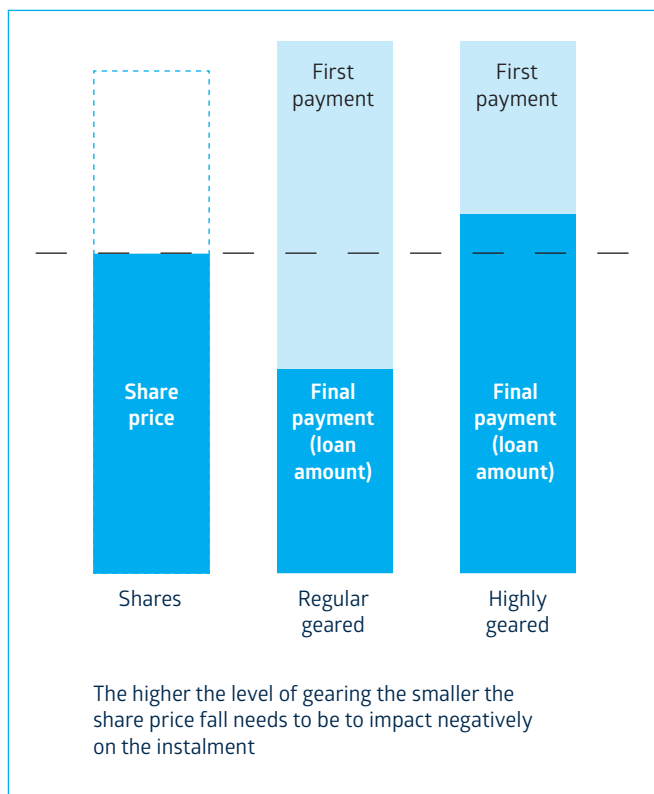
From time to time we may add further information about new warrant types or features to the ASX website at www.asx.com.au/warrants.

Instalments

Instalments allow holders to gain direct exposure to underlying shares by making an initial payment (first instalment) and delaying an optional final payment (final instalment) to a later date (expiry date). In simple terms, instalments are a loan to buy shares, without the obligation to repay the loan or the risk of receiving margin calls. The unique feature that sets instalments apart from other types of warrants is that you are entitled to dividends or distributions and franking credits paid by the underlying instrument during the life of the instalment. It is important to note that in some circumstances, holders, although entitled to a dividend, may not actually receive that dividend in cash.



For example, special dividends may, subject to the terms of issue, be used to reduce the loan amount rather than paid as cash to the holder. Likewise, holders of 'Self Funding Instalments' are entitled to a dividend although it will be used to reduce the loan amount rather than being paid out in cash. Instalments generally do not pass on voting entitlements of the underlying instrument.



Instalments can have a variety of gearing levels. When considered from a gearing perspective, instalments can generally be divided into two categories; 'regular geared' and 'high geared' instalments. At the time of issue, a 'regular geared' instalment will be geared at between 40% and 65%, i.e., for a 50% geared instalment the loan amount would be 50% of the share price. The traditional instalment price will reflect the difference between the share price and loan amount plus funding cost (interest and borrowing fees). At the time of issue, a 'high geared' instalment will have a gearing level between 65% and 90%. As a result of the gearing level the instalment price will reflect a significantly higher funding cost compared to regular geared instalments.

Instalments are considered to have some characteristics of call warrants, giving holders the right to exercise the instalment to receive the underlying instrument. Instalments can be either European or American exercise style and they usually have a life of between 12 months and 15 years. Instalments are deemed to be a covered warrant meaning that the underlying instrument is held in a trust arrangement for your benefit by a trustee (generally the issuer). If you decide to exercise the instalment and repay the loan amount

the underlying instrument will be transferred from the trust to you. If you decide you do not wish to exercise the instalment, some instalments give you an option to put the underlying instrument back to the issuer and receive a cash payment. Because an instalment is in essence a loan to buy the underlying instrument, the interest component of the payments may allow you to claim the interest as a tax deduction. Many warrant issuers obtain ATO product tax rulings which detail the tax benefits of their instalment series. The PDS should detail the tax benefits of the instalment.

Example

Warrant code	XYZIMM
Underlying instrument	XYZ ordinary shares
Warrant type	Instalment
Expiry date	28 September 2019
Exercise price	\$21.00
Exercise style	American
Conversion ratio	1
Settlement	Physical delivery

If XYZ's share price was around \$35.00 at the time of issue of the instalment then you would have paid about \$16.60 for the instalment (about half the share price at the time plus funding cost which consists of prepaid interest and fees). If you want to hold the XYZ share outright, you can exercise the instalment by paying \$21.00 at any time on or before 28 September 2015 to receive one XYZ share per instalment.

The relatively conservative gearing level of instalments means that there tends to be a close relationship between movements in instalment prices and movements in the underlying share.

As investors have different needs and financial objectives, innovation has led to the development of different types of instalments. A particular type of instalment may appeal to one's investment objectives compared to another. Therefore it is important to find the most appropriate instalment structure for your needs and objectives. Below is a description of some of these variations on an 'ordinary instalment' structure and an explanation of the unique features associated with each.

Rolling instalments

Rolling instalments are a variation on the ordinary instalment structure. They have a much longer life (up to 15 years). On a periodic basis (12, 18 or 24 months) the instalment will undergo a reset of the loan amount. The reset period is identified upon the issue date and is outlined in the disclosure document and on the ASX website. The instalment is structured so that the interest and borrowing fees are prepaid only up to the next reset date. During a reset period the issuer will ask the holder to prepay the next period's interest and fees up to the next period, if they wish to continue to maintain exposure. At this time the issuer may also adjust the exercise price (often called the "loan amount" of the instalment) with the objective of maintaining a desired gearing level during the life of the instalment (for example, the exercise price may be adjusted to keep it between 40% and 60% of the current market price of the underlying instrument).

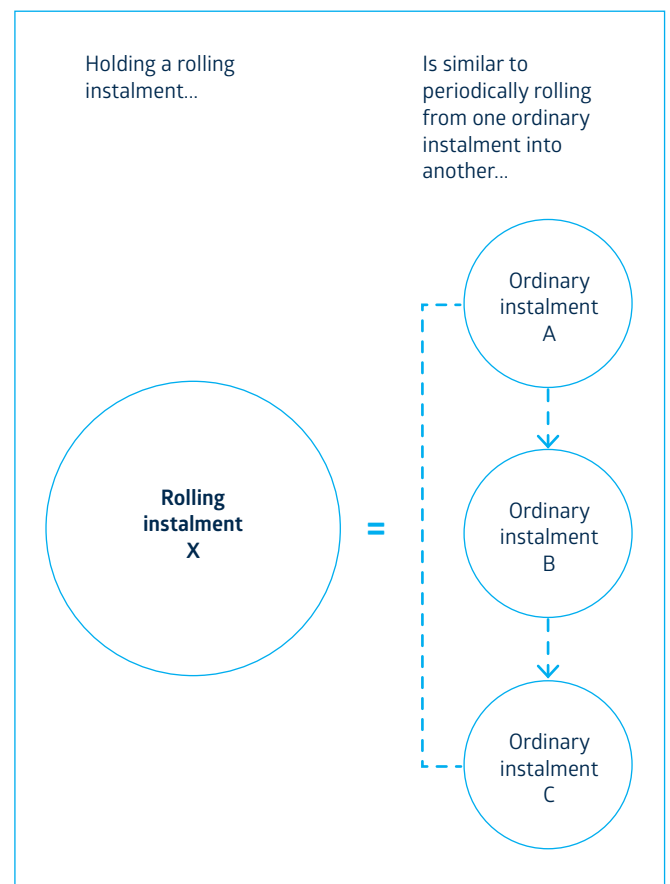
The issuer may either:

1. Reduce the exercise price (loan amount): In this case, holders will be asked to make an additional cash payment in order to reduce their loan and prepay their funding costs up until the next reset period (12, 18 or 24 months) if they wish to maintain exposure.
2. Increase the exercise price (loan amount): In this case the issuer may make a payment to holders equal to the amount of the increase less funding costs until the next reset period (this may either be in cash or in the form of a reinvestment in additional instalments).
3. Retain the exercise price (loan amount) unchanged: In this case the holder will be asked to make a payment to the issuer for the prepayment of funding costs up until the next reset period, if they wish to maintain exposure.

There tends to be a close relationship between movements in instalment warrant prices and movements in the underlying share or other instrument.

On the annual reset date you may choose to exercise some or all of the instalments and take delivery of the underlying securities, cash out the instalment, roll into the following year (by agreeing to pay any additional amounts necessary) or do nothing. If you do nothing you are deemed to have accepted the new exercise price and will automatically roll into the following year. If there is an amount due on a series on the 'reset date', and you don't pay this amount, the issuer may terminate some (or all) of your instalments and use the proceeds to meet the amount due. Conceptually, these instalments can be explained as a series of consecutive ordinary instalments that run back to back with the exercise price being reset on a periodic basis.

During the period surrounding each 'reset date', investors should take care to consider the effect of a change in the exercise price on the value of the rolling instalment. Information on an upcoming reset can be obtained from the warrant issuer or from ASX.



Self Funding Instalments

Self Funding Instalments (“SFI”) are another variation on the (ordinary) instalment structure. Like other instalments, you make a partial upfront payment and the issuer loans you the remaining amount. Once you have made your initial payment, generally, there are no additional payments required during the investment term (unless you do not provide your TFN (tax file number) or ABN). SFIs are regular geared with an investment term between one and ten years.

Holders are entitled to dividends (including franking credits), however the cash component of a dividend will be used to reduce the loan amount rather than being paid in cash to the holder, stepping it down. The loan amount for a traditional SFI will generally step up once every 12 months, as funding costs are added to the total loan amount. Hence, over the life of the SFI, the loan amount will periodically decrease due to the payment of dividends from the underlying instrument, and increase by the amount of funding costs. Ideally the loan amount will progressively reduce over the life of the SFI if the regular dividend payments exceed interest and borrowing charges.

As a result of the dividends being treated differently as compared to other instalments, ASX differentiates SFIs by using the letter ‘S’ instead of ‘I’ or ‘J’ as the fourth letter in the warrant code eg XYZSOC.

There may be some tax considerations as holders are entitled to dividends (including franking credits) and make interest payments. As not all instalments have the same structure or features, you should talk to your tax adviser and contact the warrant issuer for an ATO product ruling.

Example

Warrant code	XYZSOC
Underlying instrument	XYZ ordinary shares
Warrant type	Self funding instalment
Expiry date	30 June 2021
Exercise price (loan amount)	\$9.50 (16 February 2014)
Exercise price (loan amount)	\$9.154 (21 March 2015)
Exercise style	American
Conversion ratio	1
Current price	\$12.10

In this example XYZSOC was issued with a loan amount of \$10.50 in February 2010. Over time dividends have been paid which have been used to reduce the loan amount. In addition, prepaid interest has been added to the loan amount periodically (generally on 30 June) to reflect the ongoing funding cost of the loan. Taking into account the dividend payments and funding cost, the loan amount has decreased over a 12 month basis from \$9.50 to \$9.154, reflecting a positively geared investment. The franking credits continue to be passed to the holder of the instalment.

Variations of Self-funding instalments

Two variations on the traditional Self funding instalment structure are rolling SFIs and stop loss SFIs. There are a number of key differences between these styles of self-funding instalments that it is important to be aware of.

Rolling SFIs

As the name suggests rolling SFIs incorporate attributes of both rolling instalments and the traditional SFI. There are two key differences that differentiate the rolling SFI from the traditional SFI.

Firstly the protection fees that allow you to walk away without having to make that final payment are only paid 12 months in advance as opposed to the traditional SFI where you pay all protection fees upfront.

Secondly the rolling SFI will have an annual review every 12 months with a range of options available to the investor. One of which will be to roll the SFI on for another 12 month period.

Stop loss SFIs

Unlike the traditional and rolling SFIs all loan protection costs are eliminated in the stop loss SFI by the incorporation of a stop loss feature. The stop loss feature is a predetermined level of the underlying share price set by the warrant issuer. This stop loss feature will prevent the value of the SFI from becoming negative. However it is important to note that if this stop loss level is breached, trading in the SFI will cease.

Stop loss SFIs will also incur funding costs on a daily basis rather than an annual basis as is the case with the traditional and rolling SFIs.

Income instalments

With an initial investment term between 18 and 24 months, Income Instalments may provide tax efficiency. You will prepay up to 12 months of interest on investing, with the remaining interest portion added to the loan amount at one or more later dates. You should talk to your tax adviser regarding the potential for any tax efficiency.

At maturity you have the option to make the second payment (equal to the outstanding amount) and take possession of the reference shares; do nothing and receive the net sale proceeds of the shares, or you may be able to maintain your share exposure by rolling over for another term.

Instalment MINIs

For a fraction of the cost, Investors are afforded all the benefits of share ownership, including any share price appreciation on a one-for-one basis, all distributions or dividends in full as well as associated franking credits.

Each Instalment has a Stop-Loss feature, the level of which is set for each Instalment before it is issued and is typically reset monthly (or at any time at the issuer's discretion).

The Stop Loss Level is set at a certain level above the final instalment. Once the Stop Loss Level is reached, this triggers a Stop Loss Event and the relevant Instalment will expire.

Any remaining value will be paid to the investor.

Instalment MINIs will also incur funding costs on a daily basis rather than on an annual basis as is the case with traditional instalments where interest is prepaid until the earlier of the next reset date or the maturity date.

MINIs

MINI warrants are a type of trading warrant that offers leveraged exposure to a diverse range of underlying assets including shares, indices (domestic and international), currencies, commodities and exchange traded funds (ETFs). They allow you to track the value of an underlying asset, on a one for one basis, for a relatively small upfront cost. MINI warrants are classified as either 'longs' or 'shorts'. MINI longs enable you to benefit from an upward price movement in the underlying instrument whereas MINI shorts enable you to benefit from a downward trend or the opportunity to hedge an existing position.

Value of MINIs

The calculation of the value of a MINI varies based on the underlying asset which you are gaining exposure to. The examples overleaf provide you with an understanding of how the value of a MINI is calculated.

Where the underlying asset is a share, the value of a MINI is generally:

Value of a MINI Long = Share Price – Strike Price

Value of a MINI Short = Strike Price – Share Price

Where the underlying investment is a domestic index, the value of an Index MINI is generally:

Value of an Index MINI Long = [Level of Index Futures – Strike Price]/Multiplier

Value of an Index MINI Short = [Strike Price – Level of Index Futures]/Multiplier

The multiplier for index MINIs is usually* 100. This multiplier converts the value of the index value of the MINI into dollar terms.

Where the underlying asset is an international index, currency or commodity, the value of the MINI is generally:

Value of MINI long = (underlying price – Strike price) x Multiplier/exchange rate

Value of MINI short = (Strike Price – Underlying Price) x Multiplier/exchange rate

Once again, the multiplier for international index, currency and commodity MINIs is usually* 100.

Features of MINIs

MINIs combine features and benefits of other warrant types with unique features of their own.

MINIs offer varying degrees of leveraged exposure (commonly between 50 and 95%) to a range of underlying assets. This leverage is primarily determined by the difference between the MINI's exercise price and the price of the underlying asset. The level of leverage offered by the MINI is determined by dividing the strike price by the current value of the underlying asset. Warrant issuers provide information on the level of leverage and the value of the MINI at the start of each trading day via the company announcements section on the ASX website and via the warrant issuers' website.

MINIs have an in-built stop loss feature which is set above the exercise price for MINI longs and below the exercise price for MINI shorts. This feature ensures that investors cannot lose more than their initial capital outlay. The stop loss is triggered:

- for a MINI long, the market price of the underlying instrument is less than or equal to the barrier at any time; and
- for a MINI short, the market price of the underlying instrument is greater than or equal to the barrier at any time.

Please note that where the underlying asset derives its value from an overseas exchange, the breach of a barrier may occur outside of ASX Market Hours.

The level at which the stop loss is set depends on the liquidity of the underlying asset. For very liquid underlying assets the stop loss will be set very close to the exercise price of the MINI. The stop loss level is adjusted by the issuer at the beginning of each month to the same percentage level above the strike price as when the MINI was issued.

The stop loss level is also adjusted on the ex-dividend date, since the issuer will reduce the strike price of the MINI on the ex-dividend date to ensure that an investor is not disadvantaged by a dividend event.

Unlike other types of warrants quoted on ASX, MINIs are open ended contracts with no set expiry date. Since they have no set expiry date they will generally track the underlying instrument on a one for one basis. Also unlike other types of warrants MINIs cannot be exercised to take ownership of the underlying asset. They only allow investors to trade directional movements in the underlying assets.

To purchase a MINI, you only need to pay a fraction of the price upfront (capital outlay). This amount does not include funding costs (like interest expenses which are charged daily). The daily funding costs associated with MINIs are added to the previous day's strike price. With MINI longs on shares, investors pay funding costs, however with MINI shorts investors receive a funding benefit.

Holders who both buy and sell their MINIs intra-day are generally not required to pay these funding costs.

The example demonstrates the way in which the funding costs impact return.

Example: Trading a BHP MINI Long

Action	Units	Share Price	Strike Price	MINI Price	Stop Loss Level	Profit/(Loss)	% Return
Buy	1,000	\$40.00	\$30.00	\$10.00	\$33.00		
BHP rises to \$42.00							
SELL (same day)	1,000	\$42.00	\$30.00	\$12.00	\$33.00	\$2.00	20.00%
Sell (2 weeks)	1,000	\$42.00	\$30.12	\$11.88	\$33.00	\$1.88	18.8%
BHP falls to \$38.00							
SELL (same day)	1,000	\$38.00	\$30.00	\$8.00	\$33.00	\$2.00	-20.00%
SELL (2 weeks)	1,000	\$38.00	\$30.12	\$7.88	\$33.00	\$2.12	-21.2%

Example: Trading a BHP MINI Short

Action	Units	Share Price	Strike Price	MINI Price	Stop Loss Level	Profit/(Loss)	% Return
Buy	1,000	\$40.00	\$50.00	\$10.00	\$45.00		
BHP falls to \$38.00							
SELL (same day)	1,000	\$38.00	\$50.00	\$12.00	\$45.00	\$2.00	20.00%
Sell (2 weeks)	1,000	\$38.00	\$50.04	\$12.04	\$45.00	\$2.04	20.4%
BHP rises to \$42.00							
SELL (same day)	1,000	\$42.00	\$50.00	\$8.00	\$45.00	-\$2.00	-20.00%
SELL (2 weeks)	1,000	\$42.00	\$50.04	\$8.04	\$45.00	-\$1.96	-19.6%

Guaranteed Stop Loss MINIs

Guaranteed Stop Loss (GSL) MINIs have the added benefit of a guaranteed stop loss level. They are listed over ASX listed single stocks as well as Australian indices.

For all GSL MINIs, the Guaranteed Stop Loss Level is equal to the Strike Price. The Guaranteed Stop Loss feature ensures that regardless of the movement of the underlying asset price, investors are unable to lose more than their initial investment amount.

If the Stop Loss Level is reached then the GSL MINI will automatically terminate. As the Stop Loss Level is equal to the Strike Price there is no residual value available to be paid to the GSL MINI holder if it is terminated.

The price of a GSL MINI is determined by the following inputs:

- Underlying Share Price
- Strike Price
- Gap Premium

The Gap Premium is paid to guarantee that the Stop Loss Level is equal to the Strike. For example;

Price of a GSL MINI Long = (Share Price – Strike Price) + Gap Premium

Price of a GSL MINI Short = (Strike Price – Share Price) + Gap Premium

The amount of the Gap Premium is based on market factors including the volatility of the underlying security, the price of the underlying security relative to the Guaranteed Stop Loss Level, and the future expected dividends, if any, on the underlying security. Other factors influencing the amount of the Gap Premium include internal costs in respect of the Issuer (including, for example, in respect of hedging, resourcing, market-making and risk management) and prevailing interest rates.

Please refer to the relevant PDS or the issuer for further information on pricing GSL MINIs and the Gap Premium

Equity warrants

Equity call and put warrants are issued over securities (in some cases securities quoted on an Exchange other than ASX). The exercise price is usually set reasonably close to the value of the security at the time of issue. The expiry date is usually anything from about three to twelve months from the date of issue (average 6 months). Equity warrants can be American or European exercise style and, if exercised, are settled in the first instance by delivery of the underlying security. Equity warrants are frequently traded, particularly when they are short dated.

Example

Warrant code	XYZWOH
Underlying Instrument	XYZ ordinary shares
Warrant type	Equity call warrant
Expiry date	28 December 2018
Exercise price	\$7.50
Exercise style	European
Conversion ratio	3
Settlement	Physical delivery

The example above is a call warrant over XYZ Ltd ordinary shares. It is a European style warrant with an expiry date of 28 December 2018 and an exercise price of \$7.50. The holder of three XYZWOH warrants has the right to buy one XYZ share for \$7.50 on 28 December 2018.

International equity warrants

International equity warrants are offered over securities quoted on an overseas exchange. Hence, although similar to an equity warrant, the structure raises additional issues that you should consider. You should speak to your accredited adviser about the additional complexities of these warrants. For example:

- **Time zone differences between ASX's market and the overseas market** – that is the home market for the underlying securities may not be open for trading at the same time as ASX's market is open for trading in the warrants. Note however the securities may be quoted on more than one exchange and there could be trading hours overlapping with ASX.

- **Delivery of the underlying securities** – the settlement, ownership and custodial arrangements in the overseas jurisdiction will differ from arrangements in relation to ASX quoted securities. You may need to make arrangements to hold the securities overseas.
- **ASX supervision** – ASX does not supervise or regulate trading in relation to the underlying securities. This is primarily the responsibility of regulatory bodies within the jurisdiction of the underlying securities. As a result company announcements and historical trading data will not be available from ASX, although disclosure documents will identify other places where this information can be accessed.
- **Restrictions on exercise** – additional conditions may be placed on exercise, for example, requiring a minimum (large) number of securities to be delivered before the warrants can be validly exercised.

Equity knock-out (barrier) warrants

Equity knock-out (barrier) warrants are equity warrants with a barrier feature that causes the warrant to terminate before the original expiry date. ASX differentiates knock-out warrants from other trading-style warrants through the ASX six letter warrant code. ASX denotes knockout warrants with the fourth letter as X, Y or Z compared to W, V, U or T for other call and put warrants.

In the example overleaf, the holder of one XYZXSE warrant has the right to buy one XYZ share for \$20.47 at the expiry date. This is a knock-out call warrant over XYZ shares. It is a European style warrant that will expire on 28 November 2018 and has an exercise price of \$20.47.

Example

Warrant code	XYZXSE
Underlying Instrument	XYZ ordinary shares
Warrant type	Equity barrier call warrant
Expiry date	28 November 2018
Exercise price	\$20.47
Barrier level	\$20.47
Exercise style	European
Conversion ratio	1
Settlement	Physical delivery

The warrant will terminate before the original expiry date if the market price (as defined in the terms of issue) trades at or below \$20.47 prior to expiry. In the event that the barrier is hit the warrant will expire prematurely with the warrant value at zero.

Index warrants

Index warrants are linked to the performance of a share price index such as the S&P™/ASX 200 Share Price Index or a foreign index. The exercise level (rather than exercise price) is expressed in index points. These warrants are generally cash settled on exercise or expiry (although certain index warrants may have a deliverable asset such as an exchange traded fund (ETF)).

If the closing level of the S&P/ASX 200 Share Price Index is at 4,800 points on the expiry date, then you will be entitled to receive a cash payment equal to \$0.50 per warrant. This is calculated as the (closing level of the index – exercise level) x index multiplier i.e. $(4,800 - 4,700) \times \$0.005 = \0.50 per warrant.

Example

Warrant code	XJOWSE
Underlying	S&P/ASX™200 Share Price Index
Warrant type	Index call warrant
Expiry date	16 December 2018
Exercise level	4,700 points
Index multiplier	\$0.005 (1 index point = half a cent)
Exercise style	European
Settlement	Cash Payment

Knock-out (barrier) index warrants

Some index warrants are issued as knock-out warrants which contain a barrier feature. Similar to equity knock-out warrants, if the index level hits or passes through the barrier level, the warrant will expire prematurely with the warrant value as zero.

Index warrants are based on a share price index and may be settled in cash.

International index warrants

Index warrants may also be issued over foreign indices, which represent movements on overseas exchanges. These warrants can have index multipliers in either Australian dollars or the foreign currency (with the foreign amount converted back to Australian dollars at the time of settlement). You should pay close attention to the unique features of international index warrants.

Example

Warrant code	XSPWOK
Underlying instrument	S&P 500 Index
Warrant type	Index Call warrant
Expiry date	17 December 2018
Exercise level	2,300 points Index multiplier \$US 0.005
Exercise style	European
Settlement	Cash payment

If the closing level of the S&P 500 Index is 2,450 points on the expiry date, then you will be entitled to receive a cash payment equal to \$US 0.75 per warrant. This is calculated as the (closing level of the index – exercise level) x index multiplier i.e. $(2,450 - 2,300) \times US\$0.005 = US\$7.75$ per warrant.

Currency warrants

Holders of currency warrants may exchange an amount of foreign currency for Australian dollars on or before the expiry date. The value of the warrant rises and falls in line with movements in the exchange rate. For example, holders of AUD/USD call warrants benefit from an increase in the AUD/USD exchange rate and holders of AUD/USD put warrants benefit from a decrease in the AUD/USD exchange rate.

In this example, you pay US\$9.50 and receive A\$10.00 at expiry.

Example

Warrant code	AXUWMI
Underlying instrument	A\$10.00
Warrant type	Call warrant
Expiry date	23 December 2018
Exercise level	US\$9.50
Exercise style	European
Settlement	Physical delivery or cash

Commodity warrants

Commodity warrants may be call or put warrants where the underlying instrument is a commodity such as gold, silver, platinum, copper, light sweet crude and natural gas. Although they have many similarities with equity call and put warrants, the different nature of the underlying gives rise to a number of additional issues that you should consider. For example:

- If exercised for delivery, holders should consider the different forms of delivery that may be available. This may include the location at which delivery may occur. Delivery of a commodity may also give rise to additional costs such as those associated with transportation and storage.
- Various commodities are traded continuously around the world, hence it is important to recognise the benchmark measure of that commodity being used for the purposes of valuing that index. For example, if cash settled, it may be important to understand the method for pricing the specified grade of the designated commodity, the currency it is priced in, and the time at which it is to be valued.

Endowments

Endowments are long term call warrants typically with a 10 year life at the time of issue. They are over an ASX quoted security or basket of securities. Endowments are promoted as investment products to be bought by investors and held until expiry.

The issue price of an endowment is between 30 and 65 percent of the market value of the underlying security at the time of issue. The exercise price (called the “outstanding amount” of the endowment) is initially the remaining sum plus other costs.

The outstanding amount varies over the life of the warrant. In this respect endowment warrants differ from most warrants as they do not have a fixed exercise price.

The outstanding amount is reduced by any dividends that are paid in relation to the underlying security. In some instances other payments may also reduce the outstanding amount. However, an interest rate is also applied and the outstanding amount is increased by these interest amounts.

At expiry, if you exercise the warrant and pay the balance of the outstanding amount (if any) the issuer will transfer the underlying securities to you. Ideally the reductions applied against the outstanding amount exceed the interest incurred over the life of the warrant, and the outstanding amount will have decreased. It could reduce to zero prior to or at expiry. If this occurs you may only have to pay a nominal exercise price such as one cent.

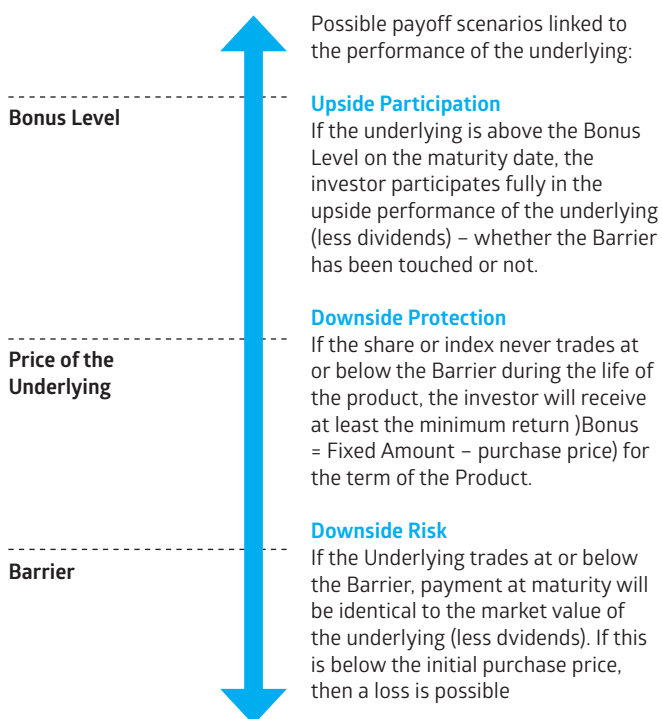
An investor in endowments is taking a long term view on the underlying company's dividend policy versus interest rates with the belief that the dividends will outweigh the interest payments and the outstanding amount will reduce over time. The issuers of endowments can provide you with details of the outstanding amount and the expiry dates of particular endowment warrant series.

Example

Warrant code	XYZEME
Underlying instrument	XYZ Ordinary Shares
Warrant type	Endowment
Expiry date	18 August 2020
Outstanding amount when first issued – 14 February 2005	\$9.95
Outstanding amount as at 31 March 2015	\$2.617
Conversion ratio	1
Exercise style	American

Bonus Certificates

Bonus Certificates are the newest type of investment warrants available. They benefit both from prices going up as well as a sideways movement in the underlying. A Bonus Certificate enables an investor to receive a Bonus Payment in flat to slightly down markets without having to forego the upside potential, as long as during the life of the certificate the underlying never trades at or below the Barrier Level.



If the underlying trades at or below the Barrier Level during the life of the warrant, the payoff is identical to that of a direct investment in the underlying, except you will not receive any dividend or franking payments. These are used to finance the bonus mechanism.

Example

Warrant code	XYZBOA
Underlying instrument	XYZ ordinary shares
Warrant type	Bonus Certificate
Expiry date	12 Dec 2016
Bonus Level	\$23.10
Barrier Level	\$17.10
Exercise Style	European
Conversion ratio	1
Current price	\$22.10

In the example above if XYZ's share price was around \$22.10 at the time of issue of the Bonus Certificate then you would have paid about \$22.10 for the warrant. The price of the warrant on expiry will depend on three scenarios

1. Underlying moves sideways

If the underlying does not trade at or below \$17.10 during the life of the warrant and the share price is below \$23.10 at maturity then the value of the Bonus Certificate on expiry will be \$23.10.

2. Underlying price rises

If the underlying does not trade at or below \$17.10 during the life of the warrant and the share price is above \$23.10 at maturity then the value of the Bonus Certificate on expiry will be the value of the underlying (i.e above \$23.10).

3. Underlying price falls

If the underlying trades does below \$17.10 during the life of the warrant then the value of the Bonus Certificate on expiry will be the value of the underlying. If the share price of XYZ rises above the initial purchase price of \$22.10, the investor will make a profit despite the Barrier being triggered. If the share price of XYZ is below \$22.10, the investor will make a loss.

Structured Investment Products

There are a number of structured investment products listed on ASX, listed below are some examples of particular structured investment product issues. For a full list visit www.asx.com.au/warrants.

Yield Income Enhanced Listed Deferred Securities (YIELDS)

YIELDS stands for Yield Income Enhanced Listed Deferred Securities. YIELDS give you a 100% capital guaranteed on the issue price (if held to maturity). They provide exposure to global equities with the potential for a quarterly income payment and capital growth. The potential return is achieved by generating a dividend yield while writing call options over the underlying instrument.

Example

Warrant code	YLDS02
Underlying instrument	Shares within the Dow Jones Global Titans 50 Index
Warrant type	Structured Investment Product
Issue price	\$10.00
Expiry date	6 December 2017
Capital protection	Yes, 100% if held to maturity
Exercise style	European

Capital Plus

Capital Plus are issued over a basket of securities quoted on ASX. Capital Plus also offer a 100% capital guarantee on the issue price (if held to maturity). The issue price of each Capital Plus series has varied, either being issued at \$1,000 or \$1 per warrant. Generally the investment exposure has been up to 5 years from the issue date. While the Capital Plus does not offer an income stream, the holder will receive an investment bonus if held to maturity. Any performance above the issue price at maturity will be geared at a pre-determined level. For example if the issue price of a Capital Plus series is \$1,000 with a gearing level bonus of 10% and it matures at \$1,500. The holder will receive the original \$1,000 back plus \$550 (\$500 times 110%).

Benefits of warrants

Leverage

Most warrants offer some degree of leverage. This can range from negligible leverage to a high level of leverage, depending on the type of warrant. Some warrants, such as structured investment products effectively have no leverage and generally speaking, investment-style warrants offer less leverage than trading-style warrants. Leverage means that small percentage changes in one variable are levered up into larger percentage changes in another variable.

For example, given a 5% change in the underlying share price, the market value of a warrant might change by 20%.

Example

	XYZ Shares	XYZ Warrants
16/05/2015	\$13.68	\$0.47
30/05/2015	\$14.44	\$0.68
Absolute profit	\$0.76	\$0.21
Percent return	5.6%	44.7%

In the example shown above, on 16 May 2015 the shares of XYZ Limited were trading at \$13.68 and the XYZ warrant were \$0.47.

By 30 May 2015, the warrants in the table were trading at \$0.68 and the shares were trading at \$14.44 giving you a 44.7% return from the warrant (not annualised) compared with a 5.6% return on the shares.

It is important to recognise that leverage is a 'double-edged sword.' In addition to magnifying your gains, a warrant can also magnify the percentage of your losses where the value of the underlying instrument moves against the warrant position. This is because an adverse movement in the underlying instrument will also result in a greater percentage decrease in the value of your warrant, i.e. leverage works in both ways.

Speculation

A speculator is a trader who is prepared to bear more risk in return for an expected higher return. If a speculator believes that the value of a particular asset will rise in the future they could purchase the asset now in anticipation. An alternative would be to buy a deliverable call warrant over the same asset. The difference between these and other alternatives is the cost of investment.

Purchasing a leveraged warrant costs less than purchasing the underlying asset. There is however the risk that the warrant will be worthless at the expiry date, this may be more common when using trading-style warrants.

Investment

Some warrants are structured as longer term investment-style products, for example instalments. The benefits of investing in these types of products might be capital growth, income, capital protection or a combination depending on the nature of the product. For example:

Income

Holders of instalments are entitled to the full dividends and franking credits. This income stream is accelerated as the holder only pays a fraction of the share price upfront. If the share price is \$10 and pays a 50c dividend, this would give holders a 5% yield, while an instalment worth \$5 would entitle the instalment holder to the same 50c dividend generating a 10% yield.

Unlock wealth – cash extraction

Holders of an existing share portfolio can convert the shares into instalments allowing them to unlock the wealth to invest elsewhere, while deferring Capital Gains Tax (CGT). This allows you to further leverage your exposure to the share or spread the risk and build a broader asset base. If the share price is \$10, a holder could convert them into an instalment worth \$5, unlocking \$5 in cash. This cash can then be reinvested to buy more of the same shares, instalments or other investments. The cash extraction strategy cannot be used in a SMSF.

Portfolio protection – hedging

Equity and index put warrants allow you to protect the value of your portfolio against falls in the market or in particular shares. Put warrants allow you to lock in a selling price for the underlying instrument. Protecting your position in this way is called hedging. A hedge is a transaction which reduces or offsets the risk of a current holding.

Limitation of loss

If the value of the underlying instrument is less than the exercise price of the warrant at expiry then a call warrant will expire worthless. Your maximum loss* is the amount paid for the warrant. While you can lose your entire investment in the warrants, you have to compare that loss to the size of the exposure the warrant holding gave you, and what an equivalent exposure in the underlying instrument would have cost.

Example

If you buy 1,000 XYZ call warrants which have a current market price of \$0.50 per warrant, then the maximum amount you can lose is \$500 (i.e. $\$0.50 \times 1000$)*.

However, these warrants may give you exposure to \$10,000 (say) of XYZ shares, so a similar exposure in the shares would cost you \$10,000. If the share price dropped significantly you could lose far more than the \$500 you invested in the warrants.

(*excluding transaction costs when you purchase the warrant)

Market exposure

Some warrants such as index, warrants over ETFs and basket warrants, offer you the opportunity to profit from movements in the market or in a sector without necessarily owning a large portfolio, which effectively tracks the market or sector. International index warrants, international equity warrants and currency warrants allow you to gain exposure to overseas and other markets. Some warrants and structured investment products may also give you exposure to overseas underlying assets, such as shares, ETFs, indices and debt.

Tailored to meet specific requirements

Warrant issuers have flexibility in structuring warrants which allows a warrant series to be tailored to the investment needs of a particular kind of investor. For example, index warrants may appeal to investors looking to profit from moves in a particular index over a short period of time, while endowment warrants may appeal to investors looking for long term exposure.

Tax effectiveness

Some products, such as instalments and endowments, offer tax effective benefits to investors. The disclosure document will contain information on tax considerations.

Benefits within SMSFs – earnings and contributions offset

Along with being an eligible form of gearing within a self managed super fund, instalments may also provide additional benefits for SMSFs. The enhanced income and franking credit stream and the potential deductibility of prepaid interest can be used to offset tax on other income earned by the fund, and tax payable on contributions made to the fund.

Risk with warrants

There are certain risks involved in investing and trading warrants. This section outlines some of the general risks associated with most warrants, but it does not deal with all aspects of risks associated with warrants. Different warrant series will have specific risks and different risk profiles. You should only invest in warrants if you understand the nature of the products (specifically your rights and obligations) and the extent of your exposure to risk. Before you invest you should carefully assess your experience, investment objectives, financial resources and other relevant considerations and discuss these with your accredited derivatives adviser. You should not rely on this booklet as a complete explanation of the risks of investing in warrants.

Issuer risk – ASX is not a guarantor

While ASX provides the platform for warrants to be traded, neither ASX nor its subsidiaries in any way guarantee the performance of the warrant issuer or the warrants issued. Each warrant is a contract between the warrant issuer and you. You are therefore exposed to the risk that the issuer (or its guarantor, where relevant) will not perform its obligations under the warrant. You must make your own assessment of the credit risk associated with dealing with the warrant issuer.

Warrant issuers are not covered by margins or other forms of security lodged with ASX, ASX Clear, or any other party. The risks associated with issuing warrants are managed entirely by the warrant issuer. Covered warrants allow the issuer to reduce this risk by placing the underlying instrument in a cover arrangement to meet its obligations under the warrant.

To help you evaluate the ability of an issuer to meet its obligations, the disclosure document contains information on the financial situation of the issuer and guarantor (if applicable). Some issuers are listed on ASX and therefore provide this information to the market on a regular basis.

General market risks

The market price of warrants is affected by the same risks that affect all stock market investments such as movements in domestic and international markets, the present and anticipated economic environment, investor sentiment, interest rates, exchange rates and volatility (see the later discussion for the impact of volatility on warrant prices). Principally if the direction of the underlying instrument does not fulfil your expectations, the warrant will not perform and lead to limited losses compared to holding the underlying instrument.

Limited life

Most warrants have a limited life. On expiry warrants cease trading and can no longer be exercised. It is possible a warrant will expire without your expectations being realised. You should make an assessment whether the warrants you have selected have sufficient time to expiry for your market views to be realised. The different types of warrants offer you the choice to select the most appropriate warrant for your investment time horizon. For example, a trading-style warrant may suit a short term view while an investment-style warrant may suit a medium to long term view.

Also, the value associated with the life of the warrant (such as funding cost or time value) will decay. Upon expiry, the value remaining will be the intrinsic value. If the warrant is not sold or exercised prior to expiry and has intrinsic value, the issuer is required to provide the holder with an Assessed Value Payment (AVP) (see the Trading and settlement section).

Leverage risk

As well as being a benefit, leverage is also a risk of warrants. This concept is discussed in the [Benefits of warrants](#) section.

Currency risk

International equity warrants and index warrants may give rise to foreign currency risk. In the case of index warrants this currency exposure may arise where the index multiplier is denominated in foreign currency. Likewise, international equity warrants may give rise to currency risk.

Liquidity risk

This is the risk that you may not be able to sell your warrants for a reasonable price in the market. This could be because there are insufficient orders to buy your warrants, or the price at which others are prepared to buy them is very low. In some cases a lack of liquidity in a warrant series may be due to a lack of liquidity in the underlying instrument. Refer to discussion in the section [Trading and settlement – Market making and liquidity](#).

Suspension from trading

ASX may suspend or remove a warrant series from trading; for example, if the warrant issuer is unwilling, unable or fails to comply with the ASX Operating Rules. ASX may also suspend trading in warrants in the interests of maintaining a fair and orderly market and to protect investors. In almost all circumstances, a warrant will automatically be suspended if the underlying share is suspended.

Early termination or expiry

In certain circumstances a warrant may terminate or lapse before the expiry date. An example would be where an extraordinary event occurs or some barrier levels are triggered. Barrier levels are discussed in the [Warrant features](#) section of this booklet. Issuers reserve the right to nominate extraordinary events which may result in the early expiry of the warrant series with the consent of the ASX. These events may vary depending on the type of warrant. Examples of the possible extraordinary events include:

- the suspension of trading in the warrant (except if it is caused by the issuer);
- the suspension of trading in the underlying securities;
- the de-listing of the underlying company;
- compulsory acquisition of the underlying securities following a successful takeover bid.

What actually happens when an extraordinary event occurs depends on the type of warrant in question and the terms of issue for that series. The expiry date may be brought forward or the warrants may simply lapse with a payment in certain circumstances.

Extraordinary events should be taken into consideration when assessing the merits of a warrant. For information on the treatment of extraordinary events view the warrant Product Disclosure Statement.

National guarantee fund not a guarantor in all cases

The National Guarantee Fund (NGF) is a pool of assets that is available to meet valid claims arising from dealings with brokers in certain circumstances. Under certain circumstances you may be able to claim against the NGF in relation to secondary trading in warrants on the stock market conducted by ASX. Claims can in no way relate to the primary issue of the warrants or the settlement obligations of the issuer arising from the exercise or lapse of the warrant.

Warrant issuers and the Disclosure Document

Who issues warrants?

Warrants may only be issued by institutions that meet the eligibility criteria set out in the ASX Operating Rules. In general terms, institutions eligible to issue warrants must:

- be subject to the Banking Act; or
- be a government; or
- have an Australian Financial Services Licence (AFSL) (or overseas equivalent), an investment grade credit rating, and sufficient net tangible assets; or
- have a guarantor that meets any of the above categories; or
- issue fully covered warrants.

In addition, other institutions which are not objected to by ASX and the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) may also issue warrants.

A list of all warrants and warrant issuers is available at www.asx.com.au/warrants.

A list of all warrants and warrant issuers is available on the ASX website. Go to www.asx.com.au/warrants

Disclosure Documents

Warrant issuers are required to produce a disclosure document for warrant series. A disclosure document sets out information for investors to assess the risks, rights and obligations associated with the warrant and the warrant issuer's capacity to fulfil its obligations. A disclosure document must be given to all persons offered or invited to subscribe for the warrants.

The disclosure document will contain the terms of issue of a warrant series. The terms of issue are the contractual rights and obligations of both the issuer and warrant holder. In addition to the terms, the issuer may have other obligations, for example, under the ASX Operating Rules.

You are encouraged to read the relevant disclosure document and terms of issue document before investing in a particular warrant series. Disclosure documents are available on the ASX website www.asx.com.au/warrants when you look up a warrant price.

Important

While ASX considers a proposed warrant series as part of an application for admission to trading status, ASX does not warrant the accuracy or truth of the contents of the disclosure document. Admission to trading status should not be taken in any way as an indication of the merits of the particular warrants or issuer.

Neither ASX, its subsidiaries, and the National Guarantee Fund in any way guarantees the performance of the warrant issuer. You must independently assess the credit worthiness of the warrant issuer.

Trading and settlement

Secondary trading of warrants

Warrants are traded on the ASX's trading system, just like shares, and are subject to its dealing rules.

Warrant codes

All warrants have a six-letter code. For example, the code BHPZZA represents a warrant issued by RBS Group (Australia) Pty Ltd over the ordinary shares of BHP Billiton Ltd.

- The first three characters of the code identify the underlying instrument. For most equity and instalment warrants this will be the same as the three letter ASX code of the underlying company shares.
- The fourth character of the code identifies the type of warrant (see table on right hand side).
- The fifth character of the code identifies the warrant issuer. See page 30 for a list of unique warrant issuer codes.
- The sixth character of the code identifies the particular warrant series. For trading-style warrants the range A to O is reserved for call warrants, while the range P to Z is reserved for put warrants. In addition, the range 1 to 6 is reserved for call and put warrants.

Please note that ETOs and other securities traded on ASX may also be represented by a six-letter code (and their codes may not follow the same format as a warrant). Therefore, not all six-letter codes relate explicitly to a warrant.

Market making and liquidity

The ASX Operating Rules are intended to promote a liquid market in which warrant holders can sell their warrants. The rules seek to do this by requiring the issuer of each warrant series to:

- ensure that the warrant series has an initial spread of holders that, in the opinion of ASX, is adequate and reasonable; or
- “make a market” in the warrant series on an ongoing basis, by ensuring that a reasonable bid and volume is maintained in the market for a prescribed period (90% of the time between 10:15 am and the close of Normal Trading (normally 4:00 pm) on any Trading Day), except in certain “Permitted Circumstances” (outlined overleaf).

Fourth letter of code	Description
E	Endowments
I or J	Instalments
S	Self Funding Instalments (SFIs) and Structured Investment Products (SIPs - These include longer-term investment style products)
W, V, U or T	Trading-style warrants including equity calls and puts, index calls and puts, currency calls and puts.
X, Y or Z	Warrants which have significantly different structures to any of the above. Examples include equity and index knock-out/barrier warrants, and Capital Plus Warrants.
K, L, M or Q	MINIs
D	This is a temporary code assigned to a warrant trading on a deferred settlement basis due to a corporate action, reconstruction or a rollover

If a warrant issuer satisfies ASX that the initial issue of warrants generates a sufficient spread of holders, it is not required to make a market in that series. A sufficient spread of holders demonstrates a level of interest that should ensure that there is a liquid market for buyers and sellers of the warrant series.

In most circumstances the warrant issuer elects the latter alternative, that is, to make a market in the warrant series. This means that apart from “Permitted Circumstances” (outlined overleaf), there should be a price quoted on the trading system at which warrant holders will be able to sell during most of the normal trading day.

The warrant issuer's market making obligation under the ASX Operating Rules is to ensure that a reasonable bid price and volume is maintained in the market for the relevant warrant series for the prescribed period. It is important to note that warrant issuers will normally display both bid and offer orders for most warrant series during normal trading hours.

A bid is considered reasonable for the purposes of the ASX Operating Rules if it either:

- satisfies an objective “price-volume spread” test, under which:
 - the warrant price spread must not exceed a prescribed amount (or proportion of the bid price); and
 - the bid value must not be less than a prescribed amount;or
- is otherwise considered by ASX to be reasonable having regard to a number of qualitative factors including the market conditions in the underlying instrument (or the underlying hedge instrument), consistency of warrant pricing, the nature and make up of the underlying instrument and any corporate actions or adjustments that may be occurring in respect of that underlying instrument.

A warrant issuer is not required to maintain a reasonable bid in respect of a warrant series in certain circumstances, known as “Permitted Circumstances”. These include (among other circumstances) when:

- The underlying instrument (or the underlying hedge instrument) is suspended from trading, has been placed in a trading halt or is otherwise unavailable for trading;
- The warrant series is placed in any of the market session states where bids and offers for that product are not automatically matched on the trading platform or is otherwise unavailable for trading;
- The theoretical value of the warrant series is below the relevant minimum price step;
- The warrant issuer would breach laws either in Australia or a relevant foreign jurisdiction by fulfilling its market-making obligations, and has advised ASX accordingly;
- The warrant issuer or its market-making agent experiences a continued interruption to its normal operating environment that prevents it from entering market making orders in a timely and accurate manner (for example, the malfunctioning of automated market making systems); or
- In times of high volatility warrant issuers may not be able to provide a bid or offer as the volatility in the underlying instrument may make it difficult to price the warrants.

Pricing matrices

Some warrant issuers publish pricing matrices. These are tables that show what a warrant price might be for a range of given share prices. These must be treated as only indicative and relevant on the day they are published and when there has been no change in the issuer’s volatility expectations for the underlying instrument.

Trading information

Twenty minute delayed trading details are available on the ASX website. To access this go to www.asx.com.au/warrants and click on the link to Warrant Prices. Real time prices are also available from your broker or on some websites. The trading prices of warrants are published daily in a number of major newspapers. The information in the newspapers does not necessarily contain details of all relevant factors to enable you to make a decision about a warrant series.

Short selling

Short selling occurs where a person sells securities which he or she does not own at the time of the transaction. As a general rule, warrants are not permitted to be short sold in the market. This means that you must generally own a warrant before you may sell it.

Suspension from trading

Refer to discussion in the section [Risks with warrants](#).

Warrant settlement – secondary trading

For secondary trading, warrants are settled through the equities settlement system, CHESSE.

ASX Clear, which clears ETO transactions, is not involved in warrant transactions.

Details of warrant trades are sent to CHESSE to effect settlement. For this to occur, you must be either issuer-sponsored or broker-sponsored. Your broker can help you with sponsorship arrangements.

You are required to settle your warrant transaction within the normal settlement period for a share transaction and you will receive regular statements of your warrant holdings in the same manner as share holdings. You will receive a Holder Identification Number (HIN) if you are broker-sponsored or a Shareholder Reference Number (SRN) if you are issuer-sponsored.

Warrant settlement – exercise or expiry

A warrant disclosure document will explain the requirements for a valid or effective exercise of the warrant. Generally, you will be required to lodge an exercise notice on or before a certain time. You must ensure the requirements for exercise are met to ensure the warrants are validly exercised. A failure to validly exercise (or an ineffective exercise) may mean that you are not able to insist on transfer of the underlying instrument. It should be noted that in the case of international equity warrants, transfer of the underlying instrument is likely to occur in an overseas jurisdiction. For further information, see the [Types of warrants](#) section of the booklet about international equity warrants.

When no exercise has occurred

If you hold deliverable warrants but do not exercise them before expiry you may be entitled to a cash payment, often called an “assessed value payment” (or AVP). The Terms of Issue of warrants may include provisions for calculation of an AVP based on the warrant’s intrinsic value (if any) less reasonable costs (which may include such things as taxes and expenses). The disclosure document for a warrant will explain the calculation of the AVP for that warrant and when it will be paid.

Issuer fails to meet its obligations

When a deliverable warrant is exercised the terms of issue will provide for delivery of the underlying instrument and payment of the exercise price. If a warrant issuer does not meet its settlement obligations within 20 business days following valid (or effective) exercise, you may ask for a liquidated damages payment. Alternatively, you could pursue other legal remedies against the issuer.

Adjustments

The disclosure document may contain terms providing for adjustment to the exercise rights of warrants where there is a change to the underlying instrument. Where the underlying instrument is an equity security, adjustments generally occur where there is a corporate action such as a reduction in capital, a rights issue or reconstruction in the underlying security. In the case of index warrants, adjustments often relate to the modification or discontinuance of the index. When an adjustment occurs, the underlying parcel, the exercise price and other variables could be changed.

Warrant pricing

It is important to have some understanding of how the market prices of warrants are determined. There is no simple answer to this question and a complete explanation is far beyond the scope of this booklet. Furthermore different types of warrants may be affected more or less by certain pricing factors.

Warrant pricing is a subset of general option or derivative pricing and involves the use of complex mathematical techniques to build pricing models.

Warrants prices are influenced by:

- the price or level of the underlying instrument
- the exercise price of the warrant
- the expiry date or the time left to expiry
- the volatility of the underlying instrument
- interest rates
- dividends

The table below shows how the variable factors affect warrant prices.

Factors in pricing	Change in variable	Change in call warrant price	Change in put warrant price
Exercise Price	Increase	↓	↑
Underlying Share Price	Increase	↑	↓
Time to Expiry	Decrease	↓	↓
Volatility	Increase	↑	↑
Interest Rates	Increase	↑	↓
Dividend Expectations	Increase	↓	↑

Price or level of the underlying instrument

This is perhaps the most obvious of the pricing determinants and it is also the most important. However, a common misunderstanding is to assume that the price of the underlying is the only determinant of warrant value. It is quite possible in some situations for a share price to go up and yet the price of a corresponding equity call warrant to remain steady (or even fall in value). This could occur if one or more of the other five factors above had changed and outweighed the effect of the increasing share price. In practice, it is often changes in volatility or an impending dividend payment which causes this effect.

Delta

The rate of change of a warrant price with respect to a change in the price of the underlying instrument is called the delta of a warrant. Theoretical values for call warrant deltas range from 0 to 1 and put warrant deltas from 0 to -1.

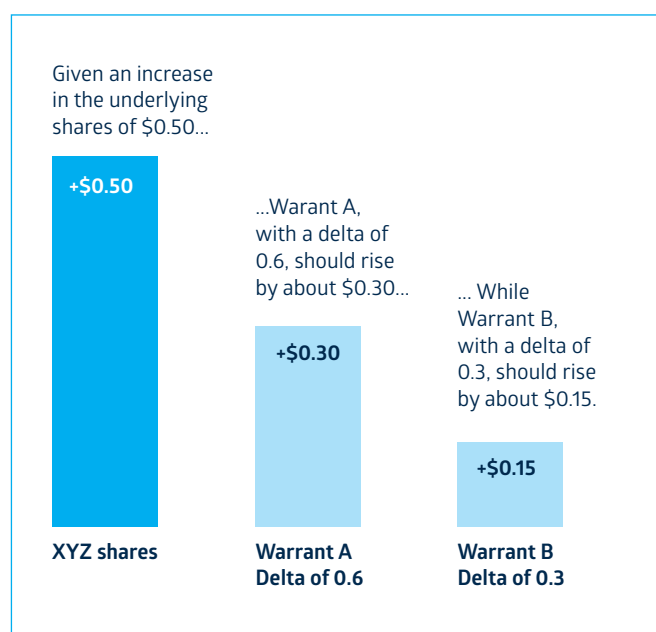
A delta of 1 means that for every 1 cent change in a share price, the warrant price also changes by 1 cent. This would be the case if the underlying share price was \$10 and the exercise price of a call warrant was \$5, i.e., the warrant is so far 'in-the-money' it should approximately move 1 for 1 with the share price.

A delta of 0 means that for every 1 cent change in a share price, the warrant price does not change. This would be the case if the underlying share price was \$5 and the exercise price of a call warrant was \$10, i.e., the warrant is so far 'out-of-the-money' that the warrant price should theoretically not move if there is a 1 cent rise in the share price. Most

equity call and put warrants and index warrants are issued with an exercise price (exercise level) in close proximity to the current share price (or index level) which gives them a delta of around 0.5, i.e., the warrant is 'at the money' and the warrant price should theoretically have moved 0.5 cent for a 1 cent share price movement. Instalment warrants have higher intrinsic value and typically have deltas closer to one. MINIs will typically have a delta of 1, as they track the value of the underlying asset on a one-for-one basis

The delta of a warrant is affected by the conversion ratio, for example, a warrant with a conversion ratio of 2 will have a theoretical delta range 0 to 0.5 for a call and 0 to -0.5 for a put.

However, you should not think of fractional warrants as providing more leveraged returns or being more highly geared. They are not. When you are comparing the leverage benefits of one warrant with those of another, you should compare like with like and take into account the fact that one warrant may have a conversion ratio greater than the other. To make things more complicated, the delta of a warrant is not a constant but also changes with the changing share price. This is called a warrant's Gamma but this is beyond the scope of this booklet.



Exercise price and expiry date

The higher the exercise price is relative to the price of the underlying instrument at the time of issue, the lower the price of an equity call warrant will be. Also, the further away the expiry date is, the more opportunity there is for the price of the underlying instrument to rise above the exercise price and so, all other things being equal, longer dated warrants are more expensive.

It is common for equity warrants to be issued with an exercise price close to the price of the underlying instrument at the time of issue. You should always consider the time to expiry of all warrants as some warrants have expiry dates of 3 months (or less) while others are long term such as 15 years.

Volatility of the underlying instrument

Volatility is a measure of the amount of movement observed in the price or level of the underlying instrument. Historical volatility is a statistical measurement that can be applied to an historical sequence of prices or levels. An instrument whose price or level has varied dramatically in the last couple of months would have a higher historical volatility measure than one whose price or level has remained relatively constant in that time. Option and warrant pricing has to take into account a trader's expectation of volatility from the time they enter the trade until the expiry of the option or warrant. Historical volatility may provide a guide to future volatility, but the market's expectations of future volatility may differ considerably from what has transpired in the past. The volatility at which a trader (or the market) is prepared to buy or sell options or warrants at any point in time, is often referred to as the implied volatility of those options or warrants.

All other things being equal, the more volatile the underlying instrument, the higher the theoretical price of the warrant. This is because the underlying price has a greater probability of moving above (for a call) the exercise price of the warrant which makes the warrant more valuable.

Interest rates

Interest rates also affect warrant pricing. For example, if you buy a call warrant you are able to defer the payment of the exercise price until expiry. This saves you the funding costs compared to buying the underlying instrument directly. When interest rates are high, there is a bigger saving, and therefore you will have to pay more for the call warrant and less for puts.

Also, the issuer has to fund its underlying instrument hedge position. When interest rates are high, this is more expensive and so the issuer has to sell the warrants at a higher price.

Dividends

The effect of dividend payments varies depending on the type of warrant, and any entitlement of the warrant holder to receive dividends paid on the underlying instrument. Even in the case of warrants where holders are not entitled to receive dividends paid on the underlying instrument, the warrant price may still be influenced by changes in dividend expectations.

Call warrant prices fall and put warrant prices rise when a dividend is above market expectation. It is also relevant to consider whether the warrant is American or European. You should ask your accredited derivatives adviser about the impact of dividends.

Exchange rates

Exchange rate movements can affect the pricing of certain warrant types (even when the underlying instrument is not a currency warrant). These include international equity warrants, international index warrants and currency warrants.

Other influences on price

For some warrant types, the theoretical option value is less important in determining price than other specific factors. For instance, the price of an instalment warrant is closely related to the present value of the loan component of the instalment.

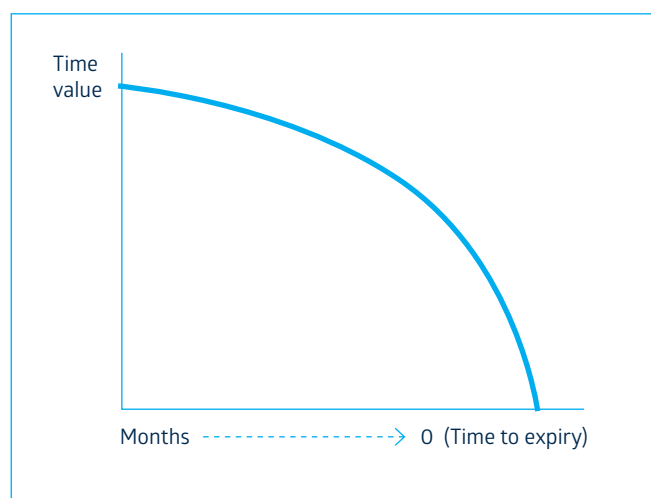
Other non quantifiable factors, such as supply and demand, investor sentiment, and general market expectations, can also influence the market value of all warrants (just like they do in any market). A warrant issuer may be able to influence the warrant price (because, for example, it holds a large percentage of the warrants on issue and makes a market in the warrant series).

Time value and intrinsic value

The price determinants discussed above give a theoretical value for a warrant. This may be the basis for the market value that an adviser quotes you. It may also take into account other non quantifiable factors. The market value of a warrant price can be divided into two components – intrinsic value and time value.

The intrinsic value of a warrant is the difference between the exercise price of the warrant and the market price of the underlying instrument at any given time. If this number is less than zero, the warrant is said to have no intrinsic value.

The time value is the remaining value that has been attributed to the warrant by the market, ie. the market price minus the intrinsic value of the warrant. Time value takes into account all the factors discussed above and represents the possibility that the market may move so that the warrant is in-the-money. Obviously, the closer you get to the expiry date, the less likely it becomes that the market will move in your favour and so time value drops. This is called time decay, and it does not happen at a linear or even rate. As a rule of thumb, a trading warrant will lose 1/3 of its time value during the first half of any given time period and 2/3 during the second half. For some warrants, like instalments, the (funding cost) time value makes up a much smaller component of total value than for other warrants such as equity warrants. MINIs do not have a set expiry date. Time value therefore has a limited impact on the value of a MINI.



Where to start

Further education/information

The ASX website provides a number of resources, educational materials and information on warrants:

www.asx.com.au/warrants

You can obtain information on:

- online warrants course
- trading and market information
- warrant strategies
- portfolio studies
- links to warrant issuers' websites.

Accredited derivatives advisers

Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) requires brokers who advise clients in ETO and warrants strategies to have completed the Accredited Derivatives Adviser program. You can ask your broker if they or their colleagues have this accreditation status before they assist you with options and warrants investment strategies.

You should understand the details for the particular warrant series you wish to invest in. We strongly recommend you read the disclosure document and the terms of issue of the warrant series to find out about your rights and obligations in relation to the warrant series. Your broker should be able to provide you with a summary of specifications for all warrants currently available for trading. Alternatively, you can download a list of warrant series from www.asx.com.au/warrants.

Warrant client agreement form

Before you buy your first warrant via a particular broker you will be required to sign a Warrant Client Agreement Form saying you have received and read a copy of this booklet. A Warrant Client Agreement Form is not required for on-market transactions to sell warrants.

You can place an order for warrants with any broker, however you should only receive advice from an accredited derivatives adviser.

Incentive payments

Warrant issuers may have arrangements in place whereby financial or other incentives are provided to brokers in relation to the sale of that issuer's warrants. Brokers are required to disclose to you any commission, fee or other benefit which may influence their investment recommendation. You should be aware of this and feel free to ask your broker whether incentive payments are being made by the warrant issuer to the broker.

Subscribing for warrants

You may also be able to apply for warrants to be issued to you by the issuer by completing an application form attached to the disclosure document (the primary issue). It is common for investors to subscribe for investment-style warrants in this way, whereas trading-style warrants will generally be bought on the secondary market.

Product matrix

Warrant type by Issuer	Investment						Trading						Knockout	
	Ordinary Instalments	Rolling Instalments	Self Funding Instalments	Instalment MINIS	Bonus Certificates	Structured Products	Equity	Index	Mini	Currency	Commodity	International	Equity	Index
Citi	■	■	■	■	■		■	■	■	■	■		■	■
CBA	■	■												
Macquarie			■									■		
RBS	■		■			■								
UBS	■	■	■			■	■					■		
WBC	■		■											

Issuer contact details

Investors can request information about specific financial products on offer or visit the issuer website for further information. The Issuer Letter in the table below denotes the fifth letter of the ASX code for a warrant issuer.

Letter	Issuer	Contact	Website	Recent Announcements
O	CitiWarrants (Citigroup Global Markets Aust Pty Ltd)	1300 30 70 70	www.citifirst.com.au	CTW
Y	Commonwealth Bank Australia	1300 786 039	www.commbank.com.au/warrants	CBA
M	Macquarie Bank Ltd	1800 990 107	www.macquarie.com.au	MBL
Z	RBS Alternative Investments (Aust) Pty Ltd	1800 450 005	markets.rbs.com.au	ABM
R	Royal Bank of Scotland plc	1800 450 005	markets.rbs.com.au	RBS
S	UBS AG	1800 633 100	investments-au.ubs.com/	UBS
U	UBS Investments Australia Pty Limited	1800 633 100	investments-au.ubs.com/	UIA
W	Westpac Banking Corporation Ltd	1800 990 107	www.westpac.com.au/structuredinvestments	WBC

Glossary of terms

ASX CLEAR

This stands for ASX Clear Pty Limited ABN 48 001 314 503 which is the clearing and settlement facility for ASX's Options market.

American style

Type of exercise style which allows the holder to exercise the warrant at anytime up to and including the expiry date.

CHESS

This stands for Clearing House Electronic Sub register System and means the system established and operated by Australian Settlement Transfer Corporation (ASTC) for the clearing and settlement of CHESS approved securities, the transfer of securities and the registration of transfers.

Delta

The rate of change of a warrant price with respect to a change in the price of the underlying instrument.

Derivative

An instrument which derives its value from the value of an underlying instrument (such as shares, share price indices, fixed interest securities, commodities, currencies, etc.). Warrants and options are types of derivatives.

Disclosure document

The document prepared by the warrant issuer which is dispatched to prospective subscribers of a warrant series. Disclosure documents are also known as either a product disclosure statement (PDS) or an offering circular.

European style

Type of exercise style which allows the holder to exercise the warrant only on expiry day.

Exchange traded options (or ETOs)

Options which are bought and sold in the options market operated by ASX.

Hedge

A transaction which reduces or offsets the risk of a current holding. For example, a put warrant may act as a hedge for a current holding in the underlying instrument.

In-the-money

When the exercise price is below (call) or above (put) the price of the underlying instrument.

Issue Price

The amount a person pays to subscribe for a warrant. May also be called 'premium'.

ASX Trade

ASX Trade is the name of the computerised trading system used by ASX to trade equities, options, warrants, interest rate securities and some futures.

Out-of-the-money

When the exercise price is above (call) or below (put) the market price of the underlying instrument.

Primary issue

The issue of the warrants by the warrant issuer to subscribers in the primary market.

Secondary market

The trading of warrants on ASX Trade after the primary issue.

Terms of issue

The rights, conditions and obligations of the warrant issuer and the warrant holder. These terms are contained in the disclosure document.

Volatility

A measure of the amount of movement observed in the level of the underlying instrument over a period of time.

Warrant code

A six letter code assigned to a warrant by ASX to identify it on ASX Trade.

Warrant issuer

The institution that issues the warrant.

Warrant series

All warrants with the same terms of issue and underlying instrument and having the same warrant issuer, exercise price, expiry date and settlement procedure. Each warrant series has a separate warrant code.

Further sources of information

Explanatory booklets and other information is available on the ASX website – asx.com.au/warrants:

- free online classes
- trading information and tools
- ASX trading codes and prices for warrants
- links to warrant issuers' websites (disclosure documents, pricing calculators)
- face to face seminars
- a range of free booklets: various warrant Fact Sheets, Taxation Treatment of Warrants

Online warrants class

The ASX instalment warrant classes have been designed to assist and educate all forms of investors, from the beginner to the advanced. The classes have been structured to cover all aspects of the warrants market and allow you to progress through all topics or select a particular topic of interest. Also included in the courses are a series of interactive exercises, diagrams and questions that will assess your progress and aid your learning and development.

Contact details

ASX Customer Service 131 279

Email

info@asx.com.au

ASX warrants

20 Bridge Street, Sydney NSW 2000

Website

www.asx.com.au/warrants

**Register your interest for
upcoming warrants events at
www.asx.com.au/keepmeposted**

This brochure and other fact sheets are available online at www.asx.com.au or call ASX on 131 279.

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