Loans and receivables

This category includes loan assets held at amortised cost and amounts due from subsidiaries, which are non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market.

Other financial assets at fair value through profit or loss

This category includes only those financial assets which have been designated by management as held at fair value through profit or loss on initial recognition.

The policy of management is to designate a financial asset as such if: the asset contains embedded derivatives which must otherwise be separated and carried at fair value; it is part of a group of financial assets managed and evaluated on a fair value basis; or doing so eliminates or significantly reduces a measurement or recognition inconsistency that would otherwise arise. Interest income on debt securities designated as at fair value through profit or loss is recognised in the income statement in interest income using the effective interest method as disclosed in note 1(vi).

Investment securities available for sale

Investment securities available for sale comprise securities that are not actively traded and are intended to be held for an indefinite period. Such securities are available for sale and may be sold should the need arise, including purposes of liquidity, or due to the impacts of changes in interest rates, foreign exchange rates or equity prices.

Investment securities available for sale are initially carried at fair value plus transaction costs. Gains and losses arising from subsequent changes in fair value are recognised directly in the available for sale reserve in equity until the asset is derecognised or impaired, at which time the cumulative gain or loss is recognised in the income statement. Fair values of quoted investments in active markets are based on current bid prices.

If the relevant market is not considered active (or the securities are unlisted), fair value is established by valuation techniques, including recent arm's length transactions, discounted cash flow analysis and other valuation techniques commonly used by market participants.

Interest income on debt securities available for sale is recognised in the income statement in interest income using the effective interest method as disclosed in note 1(vi).

(xiii) Non-current assets and disposal groups classified as held for sale

This category includes interests in associates and joint ventures for which their carrying amount will be recovered principally through a sale transaction rather than continuing use, and subsidiaries held exclusively with a view to sale. These assets are classified as held for sale when it is highly probable that the asset will be sold within 12 months subsequent to being classified as such. Where there is a planned partial disposal of a subsidiary resulting in loss of control, all of the assets and liabilities of the subsidiary are classified as held for sale.

Non-current assets and assets of disposal groups classified as held for sale are measured at the lower of their carrying amount and fair value less costs to sell. These assets are not depreciated.

An impairment loss is recognised for any initial or subsequent write down of the asset to fair value less costs to sell. A gain is

recognised for any subsequent increase in fair value less costs to sell, limited by the cumulative impairment loss previously recognised. A gain or loss not previously recognised by the date of sale is recognised at the date of sale.

(xiv) Impairment

Loan assets held at amortised cost

Loan assets are subject to regular review and assessment for possible impairment. Provisions for impairment on loan assets are recognised based on an incurred loss model and re-assessed at each balance date. A provision for impairment is recognised when there is objective evidence of impairment, and is calculated based on the present value of expected future cash flows, discounted using the original effective interest rate.

Individually assessed provisions for impairment are recognised where impairment of individual loans are identified. Where individual loans are found not to be impaired, they are placed into pools of assets with similar risk profiles and collectively assessed for losses that have been incurred but are not yet specifically identifiable.

The Consolidated Entity makes judgements as to whether there is any observable data indicating that there is a significant decrease in the estimated future cash flows from a portfolio of loans before the decrease can be identified with an individual loan in that portfolio. This evidence may include observable data indicating that there has been an adverse change in the payment status of the borrowers in a group, or national or local economic conditions that correlate with defaults on assets in the group. Management uses estimates based on historical loss experience for assets with credit risk characteristics and objective evidence of impairment similar to those in the portfolio when scheduling its future cash flows. The methodology and assumptions used for estimating both the amount and timing of future cash flows are reviewed regularly to reduce any differences between loss estimates and actual loss experience. Changes in assumptions used for estimating future cash flows could result in a change in the estimated provisions for impairment on loan assets at the end of a reporting period.

If, in a subsequent period, the amount of impairment losses decrease and the decrease can be related objectively to an event occurring after the impairment losses were recognised, the previously recognised impairment losses are reversed through the income statement to the extent of what the amortised cost would have been had the impairment not been recognised.

Investment securities available for sale

The Consolidated Entity performs an assessment at each balance date to determine whether there is any objective evidence that available for sale financial assets have been impaired. Impairment exists if there is objective evidence of impairment as a result of one or more events (loss event) which have an impact on the estimated future cash flows of the financial asset that can be reliably estimated.

For equity securities classified as available for sale, the main indicators of impairment are: significant changes in the market, economic or legal environment and a significant or prolonged decline in fair value below cost. In making this judgement, the Consolidated Entity evaluates among other factors, the normal volatility in share price and the period of time for which fair value has been below cost.