

## CREDIT OPINION

30 January 2026

Update



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### RATINGS

#### First Pacific Company Limited

|                  |                             |
|------------------|-----------------------------|
| Domicile         | Hong Kong                   |
| Long Term Rating | Baa3                        |
| Type             | LT Issuer Rating - Fgn Curr |
| Outlook          | Stable                      |

Please see the [ratings section](#) at the end of this report for more information. The ratings and outlook shown reflect information as of the publication date.

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# First Pacific Company Limited

Update following rating affirmation

### Summary

[First Pacific Company Limited](#)'s (First Pacific) Baa3 issuer rating reflects the company's high-quality portfolio with its key businesses holding leading positions in their respective markets. These key businesses have manageable debt levels and a track record of stable earnings, thus providing the company with a steady dividend stream. It has held some of its businesses for more than 15 years.

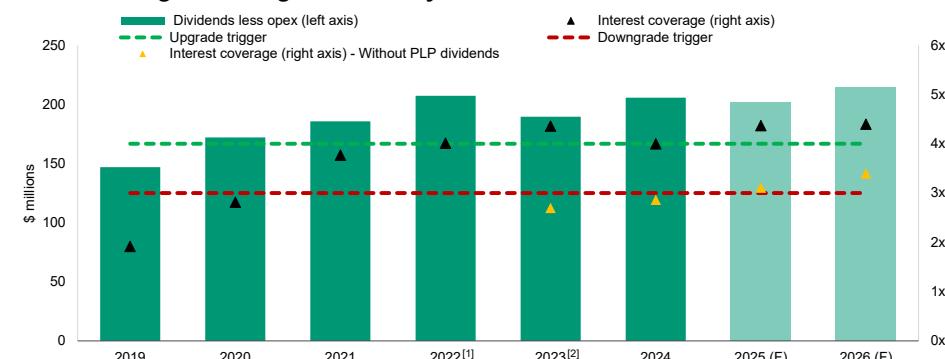
There are multiple large scale infrastructure projects under First Pacific's infrastructure businesses, however, mainly within Manila Electric Company (Meralco) and PacificLight Power (PLP), which could lead to a substantial increase in debt levels at the two operating companies, constrain dividend payments and also expose the group to higher execution risks.

The rating also recognizes the company's reliance on the [Indonesian](#) (Baa2 stable) and [Philippine](#) (Baa2 stable) economies, which expose it to macroeconomic conditions and regulatory changes. Nonetheless, this risk is mitigated by the portfolio's diversified businesses across consumer food products, telecommunications and infrastructure, which have countercyclical characteristics and low correlation, helping to reduce overall earnings volatility.

In addition, the rating takes into consideration organizational complexity, with cross shareholdings and related-party transactions between group entities, and potential governance considerations arising from its concentrated ownership (45.2%) by Anthoni Salim.

### Exhibit 1

#### Interest coverage has strengthened, mainly on account of dividends from PLP



[1] PLDT's special dividends are included in 2022-23. [2] PLP paid first-time dividends in 2023. Interest coverage is defined as dividend income less operating expenses/interest expense.

All data based on adjusted financial data, which follow our Financial Statement Adjustments in the Analysis of Nonfinancial Corporations methodology. LTM = Last 12 months.

Moody's Ratings forecasts are our opinion and do not represent the views of the issuer.

Sources: *Company filings*, *Moody's Financial Metrics™* and *Moody's Ratings forecasts*

## Credit strengths

- » High-quality portfolio in industries with countercyclical characteristics
- » Leading market positions and stable earnings of its main businesses, which provide a steady stream of dividend income
- » Disciplined financial management and close supervision of group companies
- » Good interest coverage at the holding company level

## Credit challenges

- » Large infrastructure projects expose the group to higher execution risks
- » Reliance on dividends from subsidiaries and associated companies to service debt at the holding company
- » Some dependence on the Indonesian and Philippine economies
- » Governance considerations arising from concentrated ownership

## Rating outlook

The stable outlook reflects our expectation that First Pacific will maintain adequate liquidity and consistent coverage of interest and operating expenses, with its interest coverage ratio, defined as dividend income less operating expenses to interest expenses, of over 3.0x. The rating also incorporates our expectation of stable operating performance across core assets and prudent execution of investment plans, such that there is no material increase in borrowings at the group or holding company level.

## Factors that could lead to an upgrade

For an upgrade, First Pacific must maintain a strong standalone financial profile reflective of interest coverage – measured as dividends less operating expenses to interest expenses – of over 4.0x and excellent liquidity. An increase and diversification in its stable dividend income streams will also be key for upward ratings momentum to build.

Although First Pacific's interest coverage has improved to over 4.0x, a substantial portion of PLP's dividend will need to be reinvested to support capacity expansion projects, which also introduce execution risks across the group's infrastructure businesses.

## Factors that could lead to a downgrade

A downgrade of First Pacific could result from the downgrade of one or more of its rated subsidiaries or affiliates, or from a deterioration in First Pacific's standalone financial position with protracted weakness in the group's businesses, resulting in lower dividend income. Large debt-funded acquisitions or investments or a deterioration in liquidity profile could also add downward ratings pressure.

Quantitatively, we could downgrade the ratings if First Pacific's dividend coverage falls below 3.0x at the holding company level.

This publication does not announce a credit rating action. For any credit ratings referenced in this publication, please see the issuer/deal page on <https://ratings.moodys.com> for the most updated credit rating action information and rating history.

## Key indicators

Exhibit 2

First Pacific Company Limited

Hold Co (Standalone)

| (in \$ millions)        | 2020  | 2021  | 2022  | 2023  | 2024  | 2025F | 2026F |
|-------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Dividend and fee income | 189.9 | 204.4 | 225.9 | 324.1 | 305.3 | 302.9 | 298.0 |
| FFO / Debt              | 7.7%  | 9.5%  | 10.7% | 16.1% | 14.7% | 14.9% | 14.6% |
| Interest Coverage       | 2.8x  | 3.8x  | 4.0x  | 4.4x  | 4.0x  | 4.4x  | 4.4x  |

HoldCo interest coverage is defined as dividend income less operating expenses/interest expense.

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## Profile

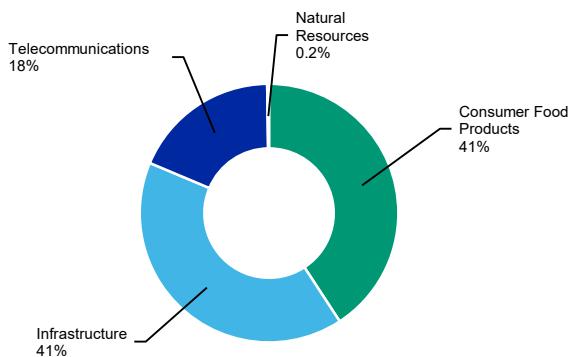
The group was founded in May 1981, and First Pacific Company Limited (First Pacific) was incorporated in Bermuda in May 1988 as a limited liability company. First Pacific is an investment holding company based in [Hong Kong SAR, China](#) (Aa3 stable), with its principal business interests in Asia-Pacific relating to consumer food products, telecommunications, infrastructure and natural resources (see Exhibit 3 and Exhibit 4).

Listed on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange, First Pacific is 45.2% owned by Anthoni Salim. As of 30 January 2026, the company had a market capitalization of around HKD26 billion (\$3.3 billion).

Exhibit 3

Profit contribution by business segment (LTM Jun-25)

Total recurring profit of \$709 million



Based on First Pacific's reported consolidated results.

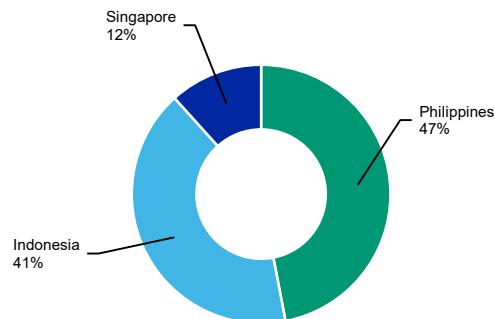
LTM = Last 12 months.

Source: *Company filings*

Exhibit 4

Profit contribution by geography (LTM Jun-25)

Total recurring profit of \$709 million



Based on First Pacific's reported consolidated results.

LTM = Last 12 months.

Source: *Company filings*

## Detailed credit considerations

### High-quality and diversified portfolio, with leading market positions

First Pacific's principal businesses relate to consumer food products, telecommunications, infrastructure and natural resources. We view the diversification across industries positively because of the low correlation between them. Please refer to the Appendix for a simplified organization chart. The company's principal businesses include the following:

- » A direct 50.1% interest in Indofood (INDF), one of the world's largest noodle makers. Its market leadership in instant noodles extends from Indonesia to Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Nigeria and Turkiye through its 80.5% interest in the listed [Indofood CBP Sukses Makmur Tbk PT](#) (ICBP, Baa2 stable). INDF is listed on the Indonesia Stock Exchange and had a market capitalization of around \$3.6 billion as of 30 January 2026.
- » A direct 25.6% interest in [PLDT Inc.](#) (PLDT, Baa2 stable), one of the leading telecommunications service providers in the fixed line, wireless and broadband markets in the Philippines with a subscriber share of around 48% and revenue share of 55% as of 30 September 2025. The company is listed on the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) and had a market capitalization of around \$4.9 billion as of 30 January 2026.
- » An effective 49.9% interest in Metro Pacific Investments Corporation (MPIC), one of the largest infrastructure investment management and holding companies in the Philippines. MPIC holds a diverse set of assets with leading market positions — primarily across energy, toll roads and water distribution — and these assets are held through its main operating companies. MPIC was voluntarily delisted from the PSE in October 2023.
- » An effective 55.7% interest in PacificLight Power Pte Ltd (PLP), which is a Singapore-based merchant power generator and electricity retailer. In 1H 2025, PLP generated nearly 10% of Singapore's total electricity demand.

The group's main businesses (INDF, PLDT and MPIC) have leading market positions in their respective markets. Despite some dependence on the Indonesian and Philippine economies, which expose the companies to macroeconomic conditions and regulatory changes, these businesses are generally in defensive industries, providing a stable level of cash flow through macroeconomic cycles.

Following MPIC's delisting in September 2023, First Pacific remains its single largest shareholder. The other key shareholders of MPIC include GT Capital Holdings, Inc. (19.6%), Mit-Pacific Infrastructure Holdings Corporation (7.8%), Government Service Insurance System (12.5%) and MIG Holdings Incorporated (7.7%).

Maynilad listed on the PSE in November 2025 per the requirements of its franchise agreement. As of January 2026, Maynilad Water Holding Company, Inc. (MWHCI; incorporated in the Philippines and a 51.27%-owned subsidiary of MPIC) holds a 66.78% stake in Maynilad. MPIC also directly owns an additional 4%, bringing its effective ownership interest to 38.24%. Other shareholders include First Pacific Company (0.34%), DMCI Holdings Inc, (18.16%), and Marubeni Corporation (14.36%).

#### **Stable earnings of core businesses generates a steady stream of dividend income**

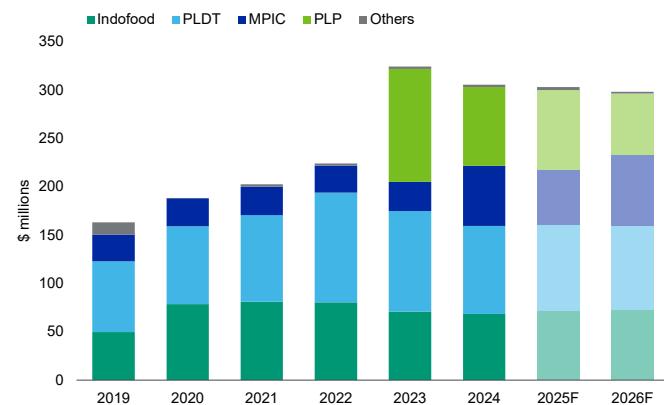
INDF, PLDT and MPIC underpin our credit assessment of First Pacific, due to their competitive market positions, profitable operations, and stable earnings. Moreover, each company maintains a clear dividend policy, ensuring a reliable dividend stream for First Pacific. As the largest shareholder, First Pacific exerts control or considerable influence over these companies' strategic direction and financial management, including their dividend policies. We do not expect First Pacific to reduce its shareholdings materially from the current levels of 25.6%, 50.1% and 49.9% in PLDT, INDF and MPIC, respectively.

We expect First Pacific to receive around \$300 million annually in dividends from its three principal businesses along with PLP, which saw a significant profit increase in 2023 due to elevated electricity tariffs in Singapore. PLP initiated dividend payments to First Pacific with around \$117 million paid in 2023, followed by approximately \$81 million in 2024. First Pacific's management remains confident in PLP's financial performance and dividend visibility through 2027, given the merchant power operator's existing contracts; although absolute dividends will likely decline to \$50-\$60 million because of continued capex needs. Beyond this period, the stability of PLP's dividends will be contingent on the terms of contract renewals.

Additionally, in January 2025, PLP secured the rights to construct and operate a new hydrogen-ready Combined Cycle Gas Turbine (CCGT) generating unit with a capacity of 670 megawatts. This expansion project will require PLP to allocate funds for construction, and we expect a substantial portion of the cash dividends received by First Pacific from PLP will be reinvested as an equity contribution to this project.

Exhibit 5

Annual dividends of about \$300 million expected over 2025-2026

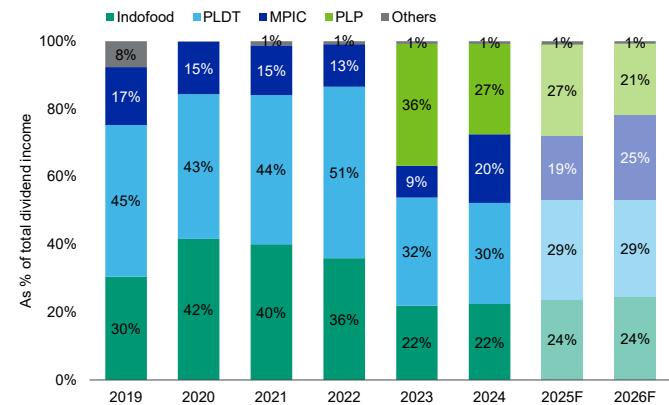


Others include primarily Philex and FPW Singapore Holdings. Periods are financial year-end unless indicated.

Moody's Ratings forecasts are our opinion and do not represent the views of the issuer.  
Sources: Company filings and Moody's Ratings forecasts

Exhibit 6

PLP contributed to First Pacific's dividend pool for the first time in 2023



Others include primarily Philex and FPW Singapore Holdings. Periods are financial year-end unless indicated.

Moody's Ratings forecasts are our opinion and do not represent the views of the issuer.  
Sources: Company filings and Moody's Ratings forecasts

### Large infrastructure projects expose the group to higher execution risks

There are multiple large scale ongoing projects within First Pacific's infrastructure businesses, mainly at Meralco and PLP. These could result in a substantial increase in debt levels at the two operating companies, constrain dividend payments and also expose the group to higher execution risks over the next few years (Exhibit 7).

Exhibit 7

#### Key new infrastructure projects

|                              | Terra solar project in the Philippines   | CCGT power plant   | Pacific Medco Solar Energy project                              |
|------------------------------|--|--|---|
| Project entity               | Meralco  | PLP  | PMSE [1]  |
| Description                  | Construction of solar thermal power plant and energy battery storage facility              | A new build Combined Cycle Gas Turbine (CCGT) facility on Jurong Island in Singapore | Import solar energy from Bulan Island in Indonesia to Singapore |
| Capacity                     | Solar power capacity of 3,500 MW and a battery energy storage system capacity of 4,500 MWh | 670 MW   | 600 MW  |
| Consolidated by Meralco/PLP? | Yes  | Yes  | No  |
| Other partners               | Actis  | N/A  | Medco Power, Gallant Venture, Meralco                           |
| Timing                       | - Phase 1 within 2026<br>- Phase 2 within 2027   | - Expected CoD by 1H 2029  | Unclear   |

[1] PMSE refers to Pacific Medco Solar Energy Pte Ltd, formed by PacificLight Renewables Pte Ltd, Medco Power Global Pte Ltd and Gallant Venture Ltd.  
Source: Company filings

Apart from the above projects at the operating companies level, MPIC is also exploring opportunistic investments outside its three core businesses at the holdco level such as the agribusiness and healthcare segment. While the intended amount of investments by MPIC is unclear, we note that its appetite for growth and expansion seems evidently higher following its delisting, exposing the group to more execution risk.

### Rating supported by credit quality of its operating assets

Although First Pacific describes itself as an investment holding company, it has some conglomerate-like characteristics, primarily reflecting the absence of active portfolio rebalancing or recycling, the long hold period (over 15 years) of its main businesses, and the control and significant influence it has over their business and financial strategies.

Our approach to First Pacific's rating considers the credit risk of each main business segment and its overall contribution to the credit quality of the group. This is effectively a weighted sum of the parts approach based on the combined financials of the company's main businesses. We overlay the group's complexity with less than 50% ownership of some of the key companies to the analysis. We also take into account the leverage at First Pacific holding company in our final ratings.

INDF, PLDT and MPIC drive First Pacific's weighted average outcome — on an EBITDA, dividend and asset basis — and support the portfolio's investment-grade-like qualities. We expect the credit quality to be maintained over the next few years because of their defendable leading market positions, stable earnings and manageable debt levels.

ICBP, INDF's largest subsidiary, drives INDF's credit quality because it contributes 60% of EBITDA. Historically, nearly all of INDF's dividend payouts have been driven by ICBP. We expect ICBP to pay out around 40% of net income as dividends, in line with INDF's dividend policy which is set at 25%-50% of net income attributable to owners. PLDT's dividend policy is set at 60% of core telecom profit.

As for MPIC, which is an investment holding company, we consider its three main businesses across power, water and tollways. However, the contribution of Meralco under our combined assessment, is the main driver of MPIC's credit quality. Despite a history of low financial leverage and strong operating cash flow, Meralco's leverage and cash outflow will increase over the next few years to fund its expansionary growth plans. In January 2025, Meralco obtained a new facility of PHP75 billion (~\$1.3 billion) which will largely be used to invest in a 2,500 MW liquefied natural gas project (Chromite project). A substantial portion of the additional debt of \$1.3 billion was since refinanced at Chromite on a non-recourse basis.

Following the delisting of MPIC, the company has a dividend payout trend of 25%-35% of core profits, compared with its historical fixed dividend per share (PHP 0.1105 per annum). Meralco's dividend policy is 50% of consolidated core net income supplemented by special dividend on a lookback basis; and has historically been 50%-80% of consolidated core net income.

### Reliance on dividends from subsidiaries and associated companies to service debt at the holding company

In our analysis, we also analyze First Pacific on a standalone basis, taking into consideration its holding company status because the company relies on dividend income from its main businesses to service its debt and other cash obligations. INDF, PLDT and MPIC are the company's key dividend contributors (see Exhibit 6).

First Pacific has around \$1.5 billion of debt at the holding company level, which has been used to invest in its portfolio assets, and around \$20 million in operating expenses. Apart from the equity contribution towards PLP's S\$1.2 billion CCGT capacity expansion plan over 2026-2029, the company has no significant capital spending plans. Nonetheless, we expect First Pacific to continue to invest in its portfolio businesses or related group entities.

We expect First Pacific's interest coverage, as measured by dividends less operating expenses to interest expense, at the holding company will be around 4.4x over 2025-26 (Exhibit 1). We also expect FFO/debt at the holding company to be around 15%. We use dividends less interest, overheads and tax as proxy for FFO.

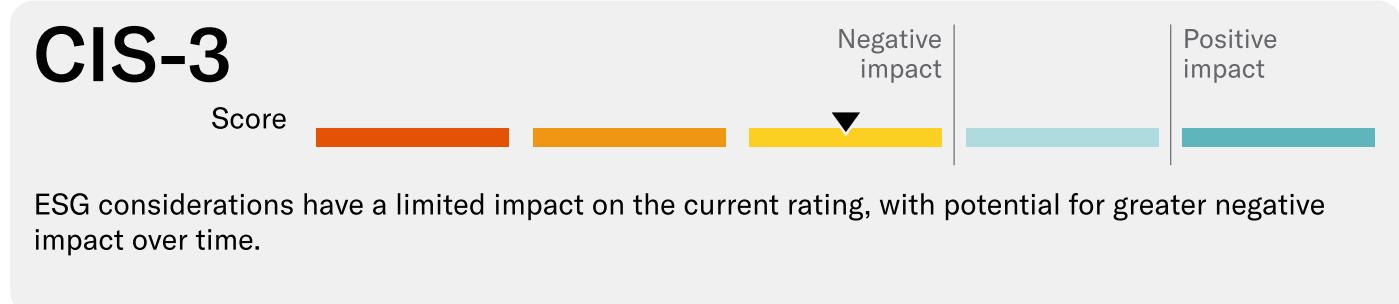
We expect First Pacific to manage its cash and cash flow in a prudent manner such that the company's quality and credit metrics do not deteriorate from our expectations. This includes further investments in its portfolio of related-group companies.

## ESG considerations

First Pacific Company Limited's ESG credit impact score is **CIS-3**

Exhibit 8

ESG credit impact score

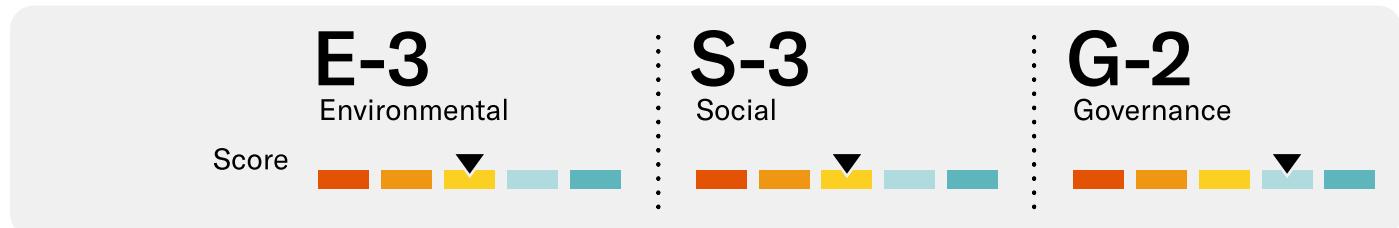


Source: Moody's Ratings

First Pacific's ESG credit impact score of **CIS-3** indicates that ESG considerations have a limited impact on the current credit rating with potential for greater negative impact over time. While First Pacific has a track record of prudent financial management and adopts a disciplined approach towards its investment decisions, it is indirectly exposed to environmental and social risks across its principal businesses.

Exhibit 9

ESG issuer profile scores



Source: Moody's Ratings

### Environmental

First Pacific's credit exposure to environmental risk is driven by its operations in the consumer food products business and power businesses. The consumer food products business is heavily dependent on natural resources, specifically water, making it susceptible to water management challenges. This sector also faces waste and pollution risks due to the use of packaging materials that are often non-recyclable or not recycled. In addition to the high environmental risks related to carbon transition and waste and pollution, which are inherent in the power sector, the company's power business is exposed to physical climate risk. Its operating assets are concentrated in Philippines, which has high incidence of climate-related shocks, including typhoons and extreme precipitation leading to flooding.

### Social

First Pacific's credit exposure to social risks is influenced by its telecommunications business, which manages substantial customer data and is therefore vulnerable to risks related to customer relations and information security breaches. These risks are mitigated through continuous investments in network and cybersecurity, with no significant breaches reported in recent years. At the same time, any negative publicity relating to First Pacific's consumer brands can lead to reputational damage and disrupt its earnings and cash flows. The company's consumer food and power businesses are exposed to health and safety and responsible production risks. Many of First Pacific's businesses are labor intensive which expose the company to human capital risk, although these are mitigated by the availability of a large labor force in its operating regions.

## Governance

First Pacific has a track record of prudent financial management with a clearly articulated financial policy that is publicly disclosed. The management team comprises of experienced senior executives who adopt a disciplined approach towards investment decisions; most of them have been with the company for over a decade. Despite this, First Pacific's organizational structure is complex, with cross shareholdings and related-party transactions, alongside concentrated ownership of approximately 45% by Anthoni Salim. These risks are mitigated by the fact that First Pacific and its main subsidiaries are publicly listed, ensuring timely and transparent disclosures. Regulatory oversight in their respective listing countries further enhances governance. In addition, First Pacific's board comprises five independent non-executive directors with broad professional experience out of a total of 10 directors.

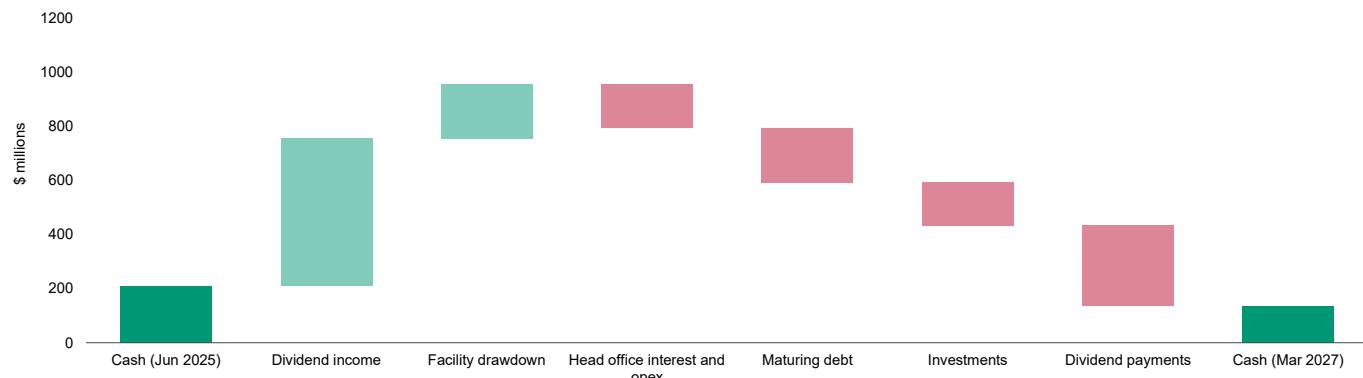
ESG Issuer Scores and Credit Impact Scores for the rated entity/transaction are available on Moody's.com. In order to view the latest scores, please click [here](#) to go to the landing page for the entity/transaction on MDC and view the ESG Scores section.

## Liquidity analysis

First Pacific has excellent liquidity at the holding company level. Its bank loan maturity of \$200 million in January 2026 has already been refinanced. The holding company's cash balance of \$210 million as of 30 June 2025 along with dividend income are sufficient to fund investments, capital expenditure and debt servicing needs over the next 18 months. The company has a track-record of refinancing its debt maturities in a timely manner and has demonstrated good access to bank and bond markets. The next large debt maturity is its \$350 million bond in September 2027.

Exhibit 10

### First Pacific's liquidity is excellent



Moody's forecasts are Moody's opinion and do not represent the views of the issuer.

Sources: *Company filings and Moody's Ratings forecasts*

## Structural considerations

First Pacific's Baa3 rating reflects our view that its creditors are not subject to significant structural subordination risks. This is because, despite First Pacific's status as a holding company with most of the group's claims at the operating subsidiary level, the group's diversified business profile with cash flow generation across four unrelated business sectors and industries with low correlation mitigates structural subordination risks. The market value of First Pacific's listed portfolio stood at \$3.8 billion compared with the holding company's gross debt of \$1.5 billion as of September 2025, suggesting substantial financial flexibility.

## Rating methodology and scorecard factors

First Pacific operates across several different industries. The principal methodology used to rate First Pacific is our Investment Holding Companies and Conglomerates rating methodology. We use the applicable industry rating methodology, and a comparison with relevant competitors, to gauge the credit quality of each of First Pacific's main businesses, represented by INDF, PLDT, MPIC and PLP. The weighted average outcome (based on EBITDA) is Baa3.

For INDF, which represents the consumer food products business, we consider ICBP to be the key driver of credit quality. For ICBP, we used our Consumer Packaged Goods rating methodology. Please see the respective company page for the detailed rating considerations.

For PLDT, we used our Telecommunications Service Providers rating methodology. Please see the respective company page for the detailed rating considerations.

For MPIC, the company's infrastructure business, we consider Meralco to be the key driver of credit quality. For Meralco, we used our Regulated Electric and Gas Utilities rating methodology. The key credit drivers include a strong market position, relatively low financial leverage and strong operating cash flow, counterbalanced by the evolving regulatory environment in the Philippines and the company's significant capital spending plans over the next few years.

To complete the MPIC assessment, we used our Privately Managed Toll Roads rating methodology, for Metro Pacific Tollways Corporation (MPTC). The key credit drivers include its market position, recovering traffic trends, ability to affect rate increases and exposure to the Philippine economy. We used our Regulated Water Utilities rating methodology, for Maynilad Water Services, Inc. (Maynilad). The key credit drivers include its leading market position, strong financial profile and some uncertainty around its tariff adjustments. These two businesses have little influence on the weighted sum of parts outcome.

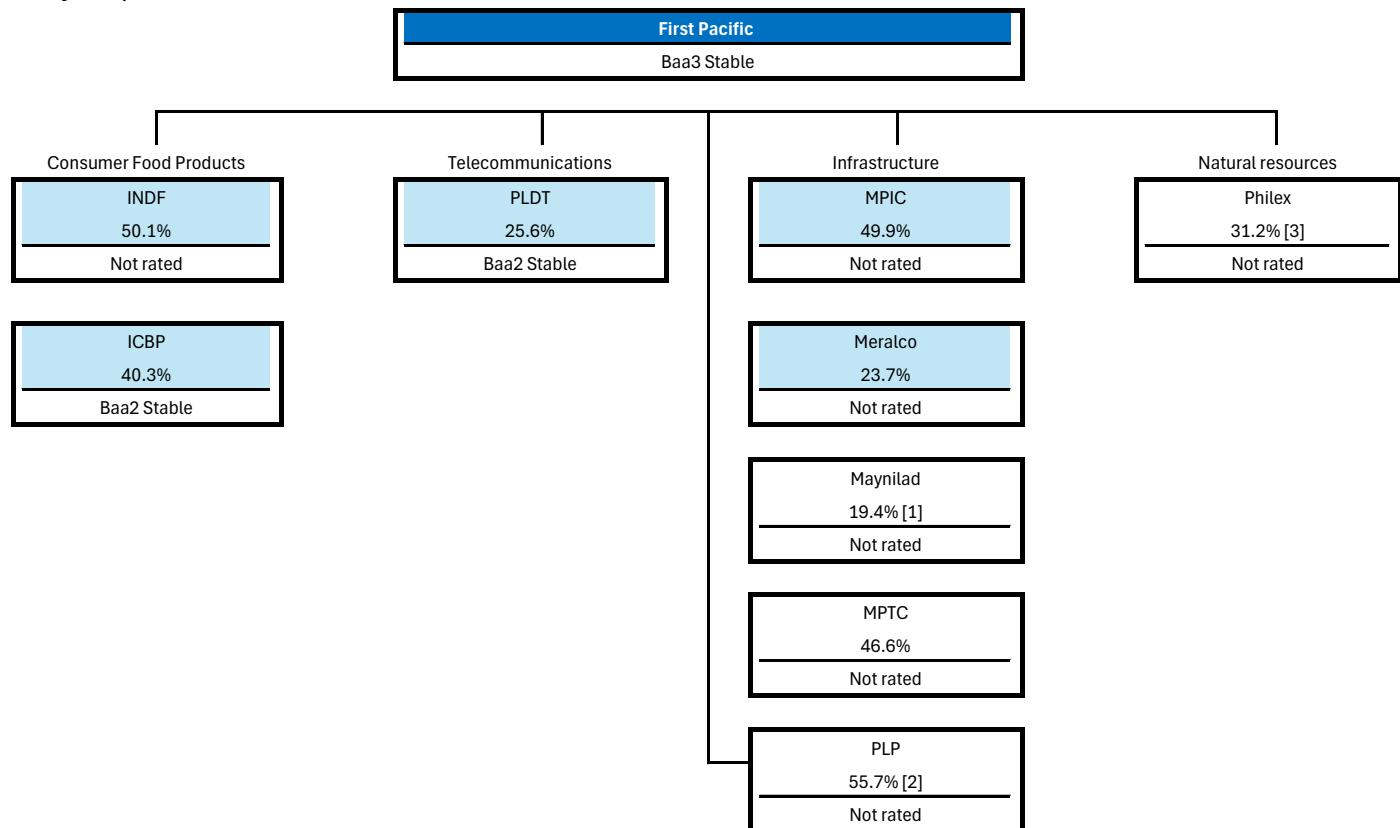
For PLP, we used our Unregulated Utilities and Unregulated Power Companies methodology. The key credit drivers include its contracts, favourable LNG contract, strong financial profile and increase in leverage and execution risk from its expansion plans.

## Appendix

Exhibit 11

First Pacific's simplified organizational structure

Moody's simplified view of main businesses



[1] 19.4% includes both First Pacific's direct and indirect ownership

[2] 55.7% represents First Pacific's effective economic interest in PLP.

[3] 31.2% excludes the 15% ownership in Philex by Two Rivers Pacific Holdings Corporation, a Philippine affiliate of First Pacific.

Organization chart does not include all subsidiaries or associated companies. It provides our simplified view of the company's main businesses only.

Sources: *Company filings and Moody's Ratings*

## Ratings

Exhibit 12

| Category                             | Moody's Rating |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|
| <b>FIRST PACIFIC COMPANY LIMITED</b> |                |
| Outlook                              | Stable         |
| Issuer Rating                        | Baa3           |

Source: Moody's Ratings

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