

Australia

MPB is still present in Australia as minority shareholder (with a shareholding of 7.5%) of Beirut Hellenic Bank (BHB) in Australia. BHB, formerly known as Laiki Bank Australia (LBA) has operated as a full service retail bank since 2001 with branches in Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide. LBA was a wholly owned subsidiary of MPB. On 28th of February 2011 MPB sold 85% of LBA to Bank of Beirut (BOB), a private Lebanese bank.

Further to the sale, LBA has been renamed as Beirut Hellenic Bank (BHB) and has also increased its' share capital by AU \$80m. MPB decided not to participate in this share capital increase and therefore its shareholding in the Bank has been diluted to 7.5%. MPB will remain as a minority shareholder in BHB until at least February 2013. BHB opened a new branch in Sydney in July 2011 (the total number of branches in the country are now 11) and intends to open another 4 branches soon. To further enhance its distribution capabilities BHB has developed recently an alliance with Australia Post which has over 3.200 outlets in Australia, and has launched a new Internet Banking Platform. The Bank has also launched the Trade Finance Division and is expecting a positive impact on the growth of the Bank and in supporting trade between Australia, Greece, Cyprus, Lebanon and other countries.

The vision of Beirut Hellenic Bank is to be the premier Australian Multicultural Bank delivering superior products and services to meet the needs of its customers.

MPB participates in BHB's Board of Directors. Through this strategic partnership MPB remains dedicated to delivering top of the range services to its clientele, promoting their Australian interests and business ventures.

23 September 2011