

## Important Announcement from Beirut Hellenic Bank

Beirut Hellenic Bank has issued an update on recent business developments, which will strengthen its ability to deliver a high quality service to customers across Australia.

Beirut Hellenic Bank is currently 92.5% owned by Bank of Beirut, one of the world's best performing banks in terms of financial growth and balance sheet strength.

As a result of the original acquisition agreement with Cyprus Popular Bank (Laiki Bank), Beirut Hellenic Bank will shortly be 100% owned by Bank of Beirut. Under this new arrangement, customers will continue to receive a high quality, personalized service and gain further benefit from Bank of Beirut's international presence and financial strength.

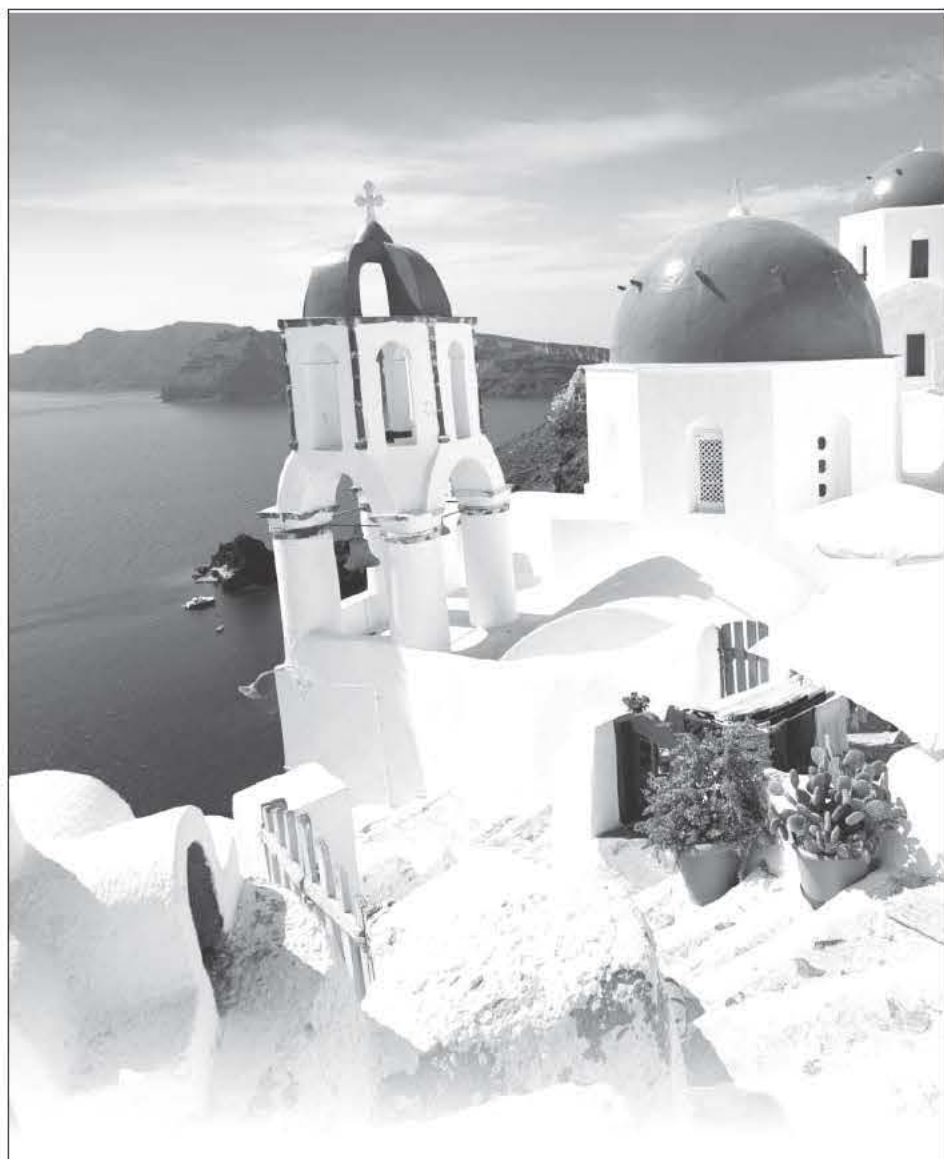
Beirut Hellenic Bank has also

addressed potential concerns with regards to the Cyprus Eurozone bailout and the Cypriot Government's austerity measures on local bank deposits.

As an Australian Authorized Deposit-taking Institution (ADI), Beirut Hellenic Bank is regulated by the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority (APRA) and subject to the Australian Government Deposit Guarantee Guide. Beirut Hellenic Bank will therefore not be impacted by the situation in Cyprus or any other overseas financial crisis.

Beirut Hellenic Bank is one of the most liquid, best asset quality and most capitalized banks in Australia. The bank is confident of a great future in 2013 and beyond, and has stated its commitment to providing customers with the highest quality of service and a unique personal banking experience.

## No fears of impact on tourism flow from Russia



The developments in Cyprus don't appear to have had any negative effects as far as Greece's positive outlook for the 2013 season is concerned, according to the president of the Association of Hellenic Tourism Enterprises (SETE), Andreas Andreadis.

The trend in bookings from major markets such as Germany, Britain and Russia remains strongly upward, with SETE expecting foreign tourists this year to total a record 17 million.

The Cyprus crisis failed to dent Russian interest in Greece, as confirmed by the

two international travel fairs held in the last few days in Moscow – MITT and the Intour Market. Greek tourism officials expect the number of Russians traveling to Greece this year for holidays to exceed 1 million for the first time ever, up from 875,000 in 2012.

Last week in Moscow the head of the Russian Federal Agency for Tourism, Alexander Radkov, told the general secretary of the Greek Tourism Ministry, Anastasios Liaskos, that Greece is currently Russians' favorite destination.

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