

WESTPAC BANKING CORP  
Form 6-K  
December 22, 2011

**UNITED STATES**  
**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

Washington, DC 20549

**FORM 6-K**

**REPORT OF FOREIGN PRIVATE ISSUER PURSUANT TO RULE 13a-16 OR 15d-16 UNDER THE  
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

December 22, 2011

Commission File Number 1-10167

**WESTPAC BANKING CORPORATION**

(Translation of registrant's name into English)

**275 KENT STREET, SYDNEY, NEW SOUTH WALES 2000, AUSTRALIA**

(Address of principal executive office)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant files or will file annual reports under cover of Form 20-F or Form 40-F.

Form 20-F  Form 40-F

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Indicate by check mark if the registrant is submitting the Form 6-K in paper as permitted by Regulation S-T Rule 101(b)(1):

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is submitting the Form 6-K in paper as permitted by Regulation S-T Rule 101(b)(7):

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant by furnishing the information contained in this form is also thereby furnishing the information to the Commission pursuant to Rule 12g3-2(b) under the Securities Act of 1934.

Yes  No

If  Yes is marked, indicate the file number assigned to the registrant in connection with Rule 12g3-2(b):82-

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**Index to Exhibits**

The information contained in Exhibit 5.1 and 5.2 to this Report on Form 6-K shall be incorporated by reference in the prospectus relating to the Registrant's debt securities contained in the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form F-3 (File No. 333-172579), as such prospectus may be amended or supplemented from time to time.

| <b>Exhibit No.</b> | <b>Description</b>                  |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 5.1                | Opinion of Debevoise & Plimpton LLP |
| 5.2                | Opinion of Mallesons Stephen Jaques |

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

WESTPAC BANKING CORPORATION  
(Registrant)

Date: December 22, 2011

By: /s/ Sean Crellin  
Sean Crellin  
Director, Legal