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APN News & Media operates leading multi-media brands in growth markets across Australasia.

# **APN Interim Profit** up 5% to \$73.2 million

# Second Half growth to accelerate

#### Dear Shareholder.

The Directors of your Company are pleased to report on the results for the half-year ended June 30 2007.

APN News & Media Limited (APN) recorded a Net Profit After Tax and before non-recurring items (NRI) of A\$73.2 million for the six months ended June 30 2007, up 5% on the prior year.

H1 Results pre NRI	\$A million	Growth
Revenue and other income*	633.7	+2%
EBITDA**	160.4	+3%
EBIT**	142.4	+3%
NPAT	73.2	+5%
Earnings Per Share	15.4c	+4%

<sup>\*</sup> Excludes finance income and businesses disposed/closed in the prior year

The Directors have declared an unfranked interim dividend of 10.5 cents per share, up 8% on the prior year.

This is a solid outcome for the first half of the year. While trading conditions in New Zealand were subdued, Australian Publishing continued to perform well, due in part to the ongoing strength of the Oueensland economy. The Outdoor division recorded a very pleasing 33% increase in EBIT, demonstrating the value of our market leading brands.

The second half of the year is traditionally our busiest trading period and we are well placed to profit from changes that have been made to our business model and the ongoing growth of our portfolio of assets across a broad range of economies and geographies.

Cost management has been a priority across the Group, with cost growth in local currency being limited to just 2% despite significant increases in newsprint prices.

The period saw significant investment in two areas of our business. First, APN continues to invest in its Online Division, building new assets and forming strategic joint ventures that expand our offering to advertisers and to audiences. Secondly, the Company has almost completed the process of redefining its business model, requiring investment in new business systems, facilities and training that transforms the way we operate in our markets.

The new business model has initially focused on the Company's Publishing divisions but will broaden its scope to bring subsequent benefits to Radio, Outdoor and Online. Already there has been a significant reduction in staffing requirements and an improvement in production efficiencies. The gains from the new business model will continue throughout the second half, with full benefits to be seen in 2008/09.

<sup>\*\*</sup> Excludes businesses disposed/closed in the prior year

#### **Divisional EBIT results**

All of the Company's divisions recorded EBIT growth in the first six months of the year.

ΔPNI	Group	FRIT	nre	NIRI

Total	142.4	140.3	2%
Businesses disposed/closed	0.0	1.4	
Group Trading	142.4	138.9	3%
Other	(1.3)	(1.9)	
Online	(4.9)	(1.8)	
NPI	(6.2)	(3.7)	
Group EBIT pre New Product Initiatives (NPI)	148.6	142.6	4%
Corporate & Other	(4.8)	(5.1)	(7%)
Outdoor	9.2	6.9	33%
Radio	36.5	35.9	2%
New Zealand National Publishing	48.2	48.0	1%
Regional Publishing	59.5	56.9	5%
Publishing	107.7	104.9	3%
(AUD million)	June 2007	June 2006	Reported Growth

### **Regional Publishing**

APN publishes 23 regional daily newspapers and more than 100 non-daily and community titles across high growth markets in Australia and New Zealand. The Regional Publishing division recorded EBIT growth of 5%, on top of good growth in the previous corresponding period. In Australia, the continuing strong resource sector and superior growth in tourism provided robust trading conditions in our local markets. Revenue was up double-digit, led by strong growth in retail advertising and an outstanding result in national advertising.

Unemployment in Queensland continues at 30-year lows, which is again reflected in double-digit growth for employment advertising. The extension of our advertising offering to clients, including online packages and job exhibitions, has also been well received.

The division continues to make strategic acquisitions and, as announced at the Company's Annual General Meeting, completed the acquisition of Toowoomba Newspapers, bringing The Chronicle in Toowoomba and a number of important non-daily and community titles fully into the company's portfolio of assets.

New publishing products continue to be developed, taking advantage of the gloss colour capacity now available from the new press centre at Yandina. In particular, gloss colour property sections are now produced for nine newspapers, delivering double-digit growth in real estate advertising. More than 20 different publications and colour sections are now printed at Yandina as readers and advertisers continue to benefit from the Group's investment in world-leading printing technology.

Trading conditions in regional New Zealand were subdued; however, new product developments continue to be well received by advertisers and readers. New gloss colour property sections across a number of titles helped grow real estate advertising. Similar to Australia, unemployment in New Zealand is at generational lows, and double-digit growth in employment advertising was achieved.

### New Zealand National Publishing (NZNP)

NZNP comprises The New Zealand Herald, Herald on Sunday, The Aucklander and New Zealand Magazines. The division leads the major Auckland market, with 8 out of 10 Aucklanders reading at least one APN title each week.

Trading conditions remain challenging; however, growth in revenue and EBIT continues to be positive. Costs were flat despite a 6% increase in the cost of newsprint, showing the early benefits of the business restructuring programme.

The New Zealand Herald has the highest readership of any daily newspaper in the country and undertook a number of strategic new product developments in the first half, including new Metro Pages, Green Pages and The Business

The Herald on Sunday, which launched in October 2004, has now moved into profitability. It is the most read Sunday newspaper in Auckland and continues to make good gains in advertising market share. Combined with the Weekend Herald – the biggest selling newspaper in New Zealand – the publications reach 86% of weekend readers in Auckland. A number of new sections were launched in the first half, maintaining readership and advertising momentum.

The New Zealand Woman's Weekly continues to be the best read weekly magazine in the country, growing circulation by 1.5% in the first half, leading the women's magazine category. Similarly, the Listener grew its circulation in the current affairs category, and Crème magazine recorded an exceptional 22% increase in circulation in the 12 months to June 2007.

#### Online

APN continues to invest in its Online Division, developing products that extend existing APN brands, as well as identifying joint venture partners for standalone internet opportunities. The nzherald.co.nz website grew advertising revenue in the first half by 75% on the previous corresponding period. The site now generates more than 7 million page impressions from 500,000 unique browsers each week. It is the third most visited website in New Zealand and the most popular news site, receiving the best news website award in the Oantas Media Awards.

The investment phase continues for the 'Search 4' classifieds brand, which is being extended for cars, jobs, property and general classifieds across New Zealand and Australia. Search4jobs is a strong second in the New Zealand online employment market, where audience growth flattened in the last quarter. Search4cars and Search4stuff are both building good audience numbers in Queensland, while the Worksearch jobs site has provided an important complement to our newspaper employment sections across northern NSW and Queensland.

The Sunshine Coast Daily's website was relaunched as thedaily.com.au and has been well received by the local community, with other site relaunches being planned. The New Zealand joint venture classified site sellmefree continues to build volumes and is increasing market share. The joint venture finda has successfully consolidated and transformed APN's existing UBD businesses, with the online directory including more than 270,000 listings, now the largest online directory in New Zealand.

#### Radio

The Radio Division comprises the Australian Radio Network (ARN) and The Radio Network (TRN) in New Zealand, which together reach almost 6 million listeners each week – the largest radio audience in Australasia. Overall, EBIT grew 2% to \$36.5 million. In Australia, the network's two music streams of Classic Hits and Mix continued to focus on their core demographic of 25-54. The Classic Hits network in particular continues to show good returns, increasing share of agency advertising in key markets, and Mix has increased its cumulative 10+ audience across the 2007 surveys to date. Tight cost management helped deliver a 3% increase in EBIT for ARN. In New Zealand, EBIT moderated as costs rose, reflecting new licences and sales related costs. TRN remains the market leader in New Zealand radio, with the number 1 stations in Auckland and Christchurch and number 2 in Wellington. TRN has a combined 45% share of all audiences aged 10+, well ahead of its nearest competitor.

#### Outdoor

APN Outdoor operates the market leading brands in each of the main outdoor advertising categories in Australia and New Zealand. The division produced a very strong 33% increase in EBIT to \$9.2 million, building on the acquisition of a number of major new contracts, including Christchurch Airport and Vic Roads. Adshel was also successful in retaining the Melbourne Street Furniture contract, the largest contract of its type in Australia.

Buspak introduced new formats which have been well supported by advertisers. New digital panels were also introduced in Australia and are due for rollout in New Zealand. In Asia, operations continued to grow. In Hong Kong, the Company's transit business benefited from a renewed focus on new product development and new revenue streams. The success achieved in the first half of 2007 across the Outdoor division is expected to continue in the second half.

### Capital management

At the Annual General Meeting, the Company announced it would continue the share buy-back program commenced in 2005. By the end of last year, 55 million shares had been bought back.

During the period the balance of the 63 million convertible notes issued in 2001 as part of the acquisition funding for Wilson and Horton were converted or redeemed. The buy-back has, and will continue to help ensure that the Company's capital is efficiently managed to enhance returns to shareholders.

The Company is in a sound financial position, with access to capital for worthwhile growth opportunities.

### Future reporting to shareholders

As you may be aware, recently there have been changes to the law governing the distribution of Annual Reports to shareholders. Companies are now able to use their corporate websites as the primary distribution point for Annual Reports. This will provide shareholders with information in a more timely manner, as well as reduce costs. Like other leading companies, from the 2007 reporting year, APN intends to produce a more concise Shareholder Review, which will include an overview of operations and a financial summary. Both the Shareholder Review and the Annual Report will be made available on APN's corporate website. In terms of efficiency as well as for good environmental practice, I would encourage shareholders to access this information via the internet. Alternatively, printed copies of the Shareholder Review or of the full text Annual Report will be available upon request. Enclosed with this interim report is a notice about the changes to the distribution of this information. I encourage you to read it and select your preferred distribution option.

### Outlook

The Board of APN News & Media continues to believe that second half growth will be in line with expectations outlined at the Annual General Meeting. Growth in Net Profit After Tax of between 5% and 10% is likely for the year.

The Board wishes to thank all APN employees for their contribution to the Company's ongoing success.

James J. Parkinson Chairman

27 September 2007

# CONSOLIDATED INCOME STATEMENT APN NEWS & MEDIA LIMITED AND CONTROLLED ENTITIES

FOR THE HALF-YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2007			
	Notes	June 2007 \$'000	June 2006 \$'000
Revenue before finance income	2,3	627,526	638,944
Other income	3	15,015	10,963
Expenses before finance costs		(504,753)	(507,935)
Finance income		2,329	2,430
Finance costs		(33,042)	(34,999)
Net finance costs		(30,713)	(32,569)
Share of profits of associates		2,426	2,523
Profit before income tax expense		109,501	111,926
Income tax expense	4	(17,671)	(24,403)
Profit from continuing operations		91,830	87,523
Net profit attributable to minority interest		(19,352)	(15,397)
Net profit attributable to members of the parent entity		72,478	72,126
		cents	cents
Basic earning per share		15.2	15.3
Diluted earnings per share		14.9	14.7
Reconciliation of net profit before non-recurring items			
		June 2007 \$'000	June 2006 \$'000
Net profit attributable to members of the parent entity		72,478	72,126
Non-recurring items, net of tax and minority interest		691	(2,134)
Net profit before non-recurring items, net of tax		73,169	69,992

The above consolidated income statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

# CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET APN NEWS & MEDIA LIMITED AND CONTROLLED ENTITIES

AS AT 30 JUNE 2007			
	Notes	June 2007 \$'000	Dec 2006 \$'000
Current assets	Notes	7 000	<del> </del>
Cash and cash equivalents		69,349	70,681
Receivables		225,219	223,702
Inventories		22,051	21,939
Tax assets		34,896	24,861
Other		25,036	28,120
Total current assets		376,551	369,303
Non-current assets			
Receivables		10,304	7,174
Other financial assets		30,946	22,696
Investments accounted for using the equity method		24,408	25,703
Property, plant and equipment		301,930	292,605
Intangible assets	6 <b>1</b> ,	852,878	1,740,614
Deferred tax assets		35,905	36,471
Total non-current assets	2,	256,371	2,125,263
Total assets	2	,632,922	2,494,566
Current liabilities			
Payables		161,219	197,295
Derivative financial instruments		3,037	3,418
Interest bearing liabilities		94,446	89,414
Current tax provisions		13,822	5,299
Provisions		13,161	14,108
Total current liabilities		285,685	309,534
Non-current liabilities			
Payables		5,420	5,558
Interest bearing liabilities		810,336	801,593
Deferred tax liabilities		205,897	203,380
Provisions		2,152	2,159
Total non-current liabilities	1,	023,805	1,012,690
Total liabilities	1,	309,490	1,322,224
Net assets	1,	323,432	1,172,342
Equity			
Contributed equity		972,358	817,579
Reserves		39,439	25,497
Retained profits		59,151	86,559
Total parent entity interest	1,	,070,948	929,635
Minority interest		252,484	242,707
Total equity	1,	323,432	1,172,342

The above consolidated balance sheet should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

# CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY APN NEWS & MEDIA LIMITED AND CONTROLLED ENTITIES

	Notes	June 2007 \$'000	June 2006 \$'000
Total equity at beginning of the period		1,172,342	1,264,305
Exchange differences on translation of foreign operations		11,320	(63,040)
Unrealised exchange differences on currency hedges		381	_
Revaluation of investments		1,541	106
Option expense		597	2,264
Net income recognised directly in equity		13,839	(60,670)
Profit from continuing operations		91,830	87,523
Total recognised income and expense for the period		105,669	26,853
Transactions with equity holders in their capacity as equity holders			
Contributions of equity, net of transaction costs	7	154,779	8,766
Dividends provided for or paid		(99,777)	(72,816)
Share buy-back		_	(83,190)
Other transactions with minority interests		(9,581)	(29,618)
Total equity at the end of the period		1,323,432	1,114,300
Total recognised income and expense for the half-year is attributable to:			
Members of APN News & Media Limited		86,317	11,456
Minority interest		19,352	15,397
		105,669	26,853

The above consolidated statement of changes in equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

# CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS APN NEWS & MEDIA LIMITED AND CONTROLLED ENTITIES

FOR THE HALF-YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2007		
	June 2007 \$'000	June 2006 \$'000
Cash flows from operating activities		
Receipts from customers	713,372	710,972
Payments to suppliers and employees	(582,583)	(554,619)
Dividends received	614	370
Interest received	2,329	2,430
Interest paid	(36,699)	(30,033)
Income taxes paid	(23,247)	(26,966)
Net cash inflows from operating activities	73,786	102,154
Cash flows from investing activities		
Payments for property, plant and equipment	(37,639)	(27,384)
Construction in progress pending resale	_	(21,832)
Payments for intangibles	(89,954)	(4,536)
Payments for investments	(6,030)	(82)
Proceeds from sale of property, plant & equipment	14,330	19,745
Other	2,531	
Net cash outflows from investing activities	(116,762)	(34,089)
Cash flows from financing activities		
Loan repayments (to)/from associated entities	(6,208)	1,047
Repayment of loans to director and director related entities	(152)	(83)
Proceeds from borrowings	266,291	182,095
Repayment of borrowings	(114,087)	(81,573)
Proceeds from short-term construction financing	_	21,832
Loans payments (to)/from other entities	128	(3,784)
Principal funding/(repayments) under finance leases	(59)	(9)
Payments for borrowing costs	(90)	_
Proceeds from issues of shares	8,612	8,726
Share buy-back		(83,190)
Dividends paid to shareholders	(99,777)	(72,816)
Net payments to minority interest	(12,766)	(4,746)
Net cash flows from financing activities	41,892	(32,501)
Change in cash and cash equivalents	(1,084)	
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period	70,681	68,934
Effects of exchange rate changes	(248)	(5,582)
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the period	69,349	98,916

The above consolidated statement of cashflows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

# NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE **CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

APN NEWS & MEDIA LIMITED AND CONTROLLED ENTITIES

FOR THE HALF-YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2007

#### 1. BASIS OF PREPARATION OF HALF-YEAR FINANCIAL REPORT

The half-year financial report is a general purpose financial report prepared in accordance with the Corporations Act 2001 and AASB 134 Interim Financial Reporting. The half-year financial report does not include notes of the type normally included in an annual financial report and shall be read in conjunction with the most recent annual financial report and any public announcements made by APN News & Media Limited during the interim reporting period and up to the date of this report in accordance with the continuous disclosure requirements of the Corporations Act 2001. The accounting policies adopted are consistent with those detailed in the 2006 Annual Report.

The method of presentation of associates has changed whereby the relevant share of associates profit after tax is included within "share of associates" and segment results. Comparative amounts have been adjusted to reflect this change. This change in disclosure has no impact on net profit for the periods.

June 2007 \$'000	June 2006 \$'000
2. REVENUE BEFORE FINANCE INCOME	
Advertising revenue 602,099	589,428
Sale of goods 25,427	30,234
Trading revenue from continuing operations 627,526	619,662
Revenue from operations closed since the start of the previous period –	19,282
Revenue before finance income 627,526	638,944

# NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

APN NEWS & MEDIA LIMITED AND CONTROLLED ENTITIES

FOR THE HALF-YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2007		
3. SEGMENT INFORMATION		
	June 2007 \$'000	June 2006 \$'000
Segment revenues – continuing revenue from external customers	\$ 000	<del> </del>
Publishing	386,686	370,907
Broadcasting	124,484	125,464
Outdoor	116,314	116,395
Corporate & other	42	6,896
	627,526	619,662
Revenue from operations closed/sold during the period		
Outdoor	_	472
Corporate & other	_	18,810
	_	19,282
Other income	15,015	10,963
Finance income	2,329	2,430
Total revenue and other income	644,870	652,337
Segment Results (before interest and income tax)		
Publishing	101,438	101,196
Broadcasting	36,519	35,895
Outdoor <sup>1</sup>	9,239	6,928
Corporate & other	(4,775)	(5,113)
Segment result excluding operations closed/sold during the period	142,421	138,906
Result from operations closed/sold during the period		
Outdoor	-	(106)
Corporate & other	_	1,461
Segment result including operations closed/sold during the period	142,421	140,261
Non-recurring items		
Corporate & other – profit on disposal of properties	7,780	9,991
Corporate & other – profit on sale of business	1,105	-
Corporate & other – asset write-offs	_	(3,108)
Corporate & other – business restructure	(5,691)	_
Corporate & other – scheme costs and other	(2,295)	
Online – establishment costs	(3,106)	
Outdoor – restructure & closure costs		(1,297)
	(2,207)	<del></del>
Profit from continuing operations before interest and tax	140,214	144,495
Net borrowing costs	(30,713)	
Profit before income tax expense	109,501	111,926
Income tax expense	(17,671)	(24,403)
Profit from continuing operations	91,830	87,523

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Outdoor segment result includes share of associates

# NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

APN NEWS & MEDIA LIMITED AND CONTROLLED ENTITIES

FOR THE HALF-YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2007

## 3. SEGMENT INFORMATION (continued)

	June 2007 \$'000	June 2006 \$'000
Depreciation and amortisation expense (including amortisation of borrowing costs)		
Publishing	9,163	8,496
Broadcasting	3,502	3,572
Outdoor	3,567	2,947
Corporate & other	3,384	4,196
Depreciation and amortisation excl operations closed/sold during the period	19,616	19,211
Depreciation and amortisation from operations closed/sold during the period		
Outdoor	-	212
Corporate & other	_	904
Depreciation and amortisation incl operations closed/sold during the period	19,616	20,327
<b>4. INCOME TAX EXPENSE</b> Income tax expense differs from the amount prima facie payable as follows:		
Profit before income tax expense	109,501	111,926
Prima facie income tax at 30%	32,850	33,578
Tax effect of permanent differences:		
Option expense	179	690
Differences in overseas tax treatments	(12,745)	(7,303)
Impact of adoption of Australian tax consolidation	_	(1,000)
Change in NZ tax rate	(1,550)	-
Sundry items	(1,121)	(2,184)
Prima facie tax adjusted for permanent differences	17,613	23,781
Deferred tax asset written-off	_	629
(Over)/under provision in prior years	58	(7)
Income tax expense	17,671	24,403

The Company continues to be engaged in a tax audit in New Zealand. The Company is satisfied that its treatment of the New Zealand Masthead Licensing Agreement ("MLA") complies with all relevant legislation.

As part of the Wilson & Horton acquisition in December 2001, APN has received commercial warranties and indemnities from the vendor Independent News & Media PLC ("IN&M") including a full indemnity from IN&M covering all aspects of the MLA (including the financial benefits of the MLA).

# NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

APN NEWS & MEDIA LIMITED AND CONTROLLED ENTITIES

FOR THE HALF-YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2007	
5. DIVIDENDS	
June 2007 	June 2006 \$'000
Ordinary Shares	
Dividends provided for and/or paid during the half-year 99,777	72,816
Dividends not recognised at the end of the half-year In addition to the above dividends, since the end of the half-year, the directors have declared the payment of an unfranked interim dividend of 10.5 cents per share (2006 – 9.7 cents per share franked to 2.91 cents per share). The aggregate amount of the proposed dividend expected to be paid on 27 September 2007 but not	
recognised as a liability at the end of the half-year is: 52,456	44,488
6. INTANGIBLE ASSETS	
Goodwill         301,027           Software – net of accumulated amortisation         7,028           Mastheads – at cost         1,128,823           Radio Licences – net of accumulated amortisation         309,116           Transit and outdoor advertising systems – at cost         53,742           Brands – at cost         51,378           Lease intangibles         1,764	212,646 5,643 1,107,385 309,598 54,713 48,739 1,890
1,852,878	1,740,614

During the year the company acquired the remaining 50% of the shares in Toowoomba Newspapers Pty Ltd ("TN") that it did not already own and which in substance represented a purchase of the minority interest in the masthead. As TN has historically been consolidated as part of the group, prevailing accounting standards do not permit the masthead to be restated to fair value as part of the transaction. The excess of consideration over the recorded minority interest has been recognised as goodwill in accordance with AASB 127 Consolidated and Separate Financial Statements.

# NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE **CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

APN NEWS & MEDIA LIMITED AND CONTROLLED ENTITIES

501,416,594

518.754.666

June 2007 No. of shares	June 2006 No. of shares	June 2007 \$'000	June 2006 \$'000
460,286,604	477,705,527	817,579	918,155
2,293,207	2,585,026	8,612	8,726
37,003,976	10,000	146,167	40
39,297,183	2,595,026	154,779	8,766
_	(16,721,818)	_	(83,190)
499,583,787	463,578,735	972,358	843,731
			June 2006 Number
ominator			
	476,237,	,975	471,620,081
	3,660,	620	2,650,850
	21,517,	999	44,483,735
	No. of shares 460,286,604 2,293,207 37,003,976 39,297,183 - 499,583,787	No. of shares No	No. of shares No. of shares \$'000 460,286,604 477,705,527 817,579  2,293,207 2,585,026 8,612 37,003,976 10,000 146,167 39,297,183 2,595,026 154,779 - (16,721,818) - 499,583,787 463,578,735 972,358

### 8. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

in calculating diluted eps

Weighted average number of shares used as the denominator

#### Guarantees

The Parent entity and all wholly owned controlled entities have provided guarantees in respect of its credit facilities. As at 30 June 2007, the facilities have been drawn to the extent of \$793,057,760 (December 2006: \$597,614,820). A standby letter of credit has been issued by Cedar Hill International Corporation, a subsidiary of JP Morgan Chase, on behalf of Biffin Pty Limited to a maximum value of NZ\$143,125,479 (December 2006: NZ\$188,996,726) to support the masthead financing liability arising on the acquisition of Wilson & Horton, As at 30 June 2007, no claims have been made against the standby letter of credit.

The parent entity and some wholly owned controlled entities have given guarantees in respect of certain banking facilities to a maximum of \$29,036,345 (December 2006: \$30,743,058).

#### Claims

Claims for damages are made against the consolidated entity from time to time in the ordinary course of business. The directors are not aware of any claim that is expected to result in significant costs or damages. Registered Office Level 4 100 William Street

SYDNEY NSW 2011 Telephone: +61 2 9333 4999 Facsimile: +61 2 9333 4900

**Share Registry** 

Computershare Investor Services Pty Limited Level 3, 60 Carrington Street SYDNEY, NSW 2000

GPO Box 2975 MELBOURNE, VIC 3001

Telephone within Australia: 1300 850 505

Telephone within New Zealand: (09) 488 8777

Telephone outside Australia and New Zealand: +61 3 9415 4095

Facsimile: +61 3 9473 2500



