

FACT SHEET

Australian Stock Exchange Limited (“ASX”)

ASX provides fully electronic trading, clearing and settlement of equities, interest rate securities, warrants, options, and other derivatives products, and provides live and historical market data.

- Listed on 14 October 1998, becoming the world’s first stock exchange to demutualise and list on itself
- 71st largest company, valued at \$3.35bn (as at 24 March 2006)
- FY05 normal net profit after tax – \$108.5m, up 31% - on FY05 operating revenue of \$279.7m, up 16%
- Dividend payout ratio of 90% (of NPAT)
- Revenue sources and product range:
 - 42% from equities (including trading, and clearing and settlement)
 - 26% from listings
 - 16% from derivatives (equity options and warrants, index futures, commodity futures and options)
 - 11% from market data and
 - 5% from other revenue
- 479 staff (as at February-end 2006)

Market

- Formed from amalgamation of six state-based exchanges in April 1987
- Ranked 8th largest market in the world on the Morgan Stanley Capital International global free float index, with 2.37% of the world’s market share
- Domestic market capitalisation of \$1.11 trillion (as at December-end 2005), up 12% on 2004
- Total entities listed 1,891 (as at 24 March 2006)
 - 232 new entities listed in CY05, up from 202 in CY04
 - 155 new listings for FY06 and 26 new listings for CY06 (as at 24 March 2006)
 - Entities raised \$46.2bn in capital (via IPOs and subsequent raisings) in CY05, up 34% on CY04
- Turnover figures:
 - 25.03 million equity trades in CY05, average of 99,339 per day
 - Value of turnover in CY05 of \$885.5bn, average of \$3.5bn per day
 - 23.2m options traded in CY05, up 14% on CY04
- S&P/ASX200 passed 5,000 points on 21 March 2006
- Ownership of the Australian equity market by investors:
 - 26% retail investors
 - 39% domestic institutions
 - 35% international institutions

SFE Corporation Limited (“SFE”)

SFE provides exchange-traded and over-the-counter financial services for investors globally. Fully electronic and with 24-hour trading capability, SFE offers trading products for investment and risk management, disseminates real-time and historical market data, and provides centralised clearing, settlement and depository services for both derivative and cash products.

- Listed on ASX on 16 April 2002 after having demutualised in August 2000
- 108th largest company, valued at \$1.91bn (as at 24 March 2006)
- The holding company holds 100% of the shares in all its clearing and trading companies:
 - SFE Clearing Corporation Pty Ltd
 - Austraclear
 - Sydney Futures Exchange Limited (trading and market data)
 - Also owns NZ Futures and Options Exchange
- CY05 normal net profit after tax – \$69.2m, up 27% - on CY05 revenue (excluding interest) of \$134.9m, up 15%
- Dividend payout ratio of 85% (of NPAT) in FY05
- 172 staff (as at December-end 2005)

Market

- Began as the Sydney Greasy Wool Futures Exchange in May 1960
- First futures exchange to extend its normal floor trading with a screen-dealing system, SYCOM, in 1989
- Exchange-traded derivatives covering five major markets:
 - Equities
 - Interest rates
 - Currencies
 - Commodities
 - Energy
- Proposing to list exchange-traded Contracts for Differences (CFDs)
- Turnover figures:
 - 64.3m futures and options contracts traded in CY05 at an average of 250,000 per day
 - Annual nominal value exceeding \$24 trillion, at an average of \$96bn per day - market turnover value second only to foreign exchange market within Australia
- Four main futures contracts generate 95% of all futures volume:
 - 42% 3-year bonds
 - 26% 90-day bank bills
 - 18% 10-year bonds
 - 9% SPI200