



MARKET ANNOUNCEMENT

24 April 2006

ASX Quarterly Update 9 Months to 31 March 2006

The Australian Stock Exchange Limited (ASX) today announced an unaudited Profit after Tax of \$106.5 million for the nine months to 31 March 2006. This result includes the profit on the sale of ASX-Perpetual Registrars Limited¹ (APRL) and other significant items.

Normal Profit after Tax, which excludes significant items, was \$99.8 million. This represents an increase of 25.9% when compared with the \$79.3 million reported for the corresponding nine months to 31 March 2005.

ASX's costs associated with the proposed merger with SFE Corporation were \$2.5 million for the nine months to 31 March 2006. As these costs are expected to be capitalised, they are not included in the reported profit. Should the merger not proceed, all merger costs will be expensed and included in reported profit.

Normal Revenue² for the nine months to 31 March 2006 was \$223.2 million. This compares with \$208.3 million Normal Revenue for the corresponding nine months to 31 March 2005, an increase of 7.2%.

Operating Performance

There were 157 new listings recorded for the period, compared with 159 for the corresponding nine months. This brings the total number of listed entities to 1,891 as at 31 March 2006. Approximately \$16.7 billion in IPO (initial) capital and \$18.8 billion in subsequent (secondary) capital was raised on ASX's market during the nine months to 31 March 2006.

¹ Please refer to ASX's announcements of 17 August 2005 and 17 February 2006 for details on the sale of APRL.

² Normal Revenue excludes interest, dividends and significant items.

Daily average SEATS trades (incorporating equities, warrants and interest rate securities) for the period were 33.2% higher than for the corresponding nine months (114,953 compared with 86,325). The average revenue per trade for the nine months was \$3.93 compared with \$4.79 for the previous corresponding period.

Daily average options contracts were at a similar level to the previous corresponding period at 88,915. The average revenue per contract for the nine months was \$1.44 compared with \$1.47 for the previous corresponding period.

The number of new warrant series listed during the period was 3,366 compared with 2,454 listed during the previous corresponding nine months, a 37.2% increase. Total warrant series listed at the end of the period were 2,728 compared with 2,111 as at 31 March 2005.

ASX will update the market on the outcomes of the Profit and Loss Drivers review, including premises, as and when it becomes appropriate. An update will also be provided with ASX's full year results.

For further information

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Quarterly Unaudited Results Summary

	Actual 9 months to 31 March 2006	Actual 9 months to 31 March 2005
Group Normal Operating Revenue ^a (\$m) – excluding NGF receipt and gain on sale of APRL	\$223.2 m	\$208.3 m
Group Normal Unaudited Net Profit After Tax and equity accounts (\$m) – excluding significant items	\$99.8 m	\$79.3 m
Group Unaudited Net Profit After Tax and equity accounts (\$m) – including significant items	\$106.5 m	\$150.8 m

	Actual 9 months to 31 March 2006	Actual 9 months to 31 March 2005
Number of new listings ^b	157	159
Number of listed entities ^b	1,891	1,732
Equity trading, clearing and settlement ^c		
Total trades ('000)	22,071	16,402
Average trades per day ('000)	115.0	86.3
Average revenue per trade	\$3.93	\$4.79
Options		
Total contracts trades ('000)	17,072	16,867
Average contracts per day ('000)	88.9	88.8
Average revenue per contract	\$1.44	\$1.47
Warrants		
Number of new warrant series	3,366	2,454
Total warrant series on issue	2,728	2,111
Capital Raised		
Total IPO (Initial) Capital Raised (\$ billion)	\$16.7 b	\$11.0 b
Total Subsequent (Secondary) Capital Raised (\$ billion)	\$18.8 b	\$17.9 b

^a Operating revenue excludes interest and dividends.

^b Includes interest rate securities.

^c Includes trades in equities, interest rate securities and warrants.

Daily volumes for equity, interest rate security and warrant trades, and for options and futures contracts are available on www.asx.com.au.

Average Revenue Per Equities Trade

Current ASX Pricing:

Single side (buy or sell)	Actual 9 months to 31 March 2006 One side	Actual 9 months to 31 March 2005 One side
Order fee	\$0.16	\$0.15
Trade fee	\$0.47	\$0.54
Clearing and settlement net of SVR	\$0.78	\$0.95
Total trading, clearing and settlement charge to brokers (one side) for buy or sell trade	\$1.41	\$1.64
Total of both buy and sell	\$2.82	\$3.28
Other CHESS fees	\$0.15	\$0.15
Non broker participants	\$0.33	\$0.37
Listed companies	\$0.63	\$0.99
Total Average fee per trade (both sides)	\$3.93	\$4.79

Important Note – ASX Pricing Review

In December 2005, ASX announced the outcomes of its Pricing Review. For further information, please see ASX's announcements of 15 December 2005 and 24 April 2006.