



# Press Release

## New S&P/ASX Infrastructure Index

**Sydney, 12 Nov., 2009** - S&P Indices (S&P) and the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX) today announced the launch of an Australian infrastructure benchmark – the S&P/ASX Infrastructure Index – which will be available from Monday Nov. 16, 2009. The new index will add to the Australian-focused S&P/ASX suite of indices while also forming part of the global S&P Thematic Indices family, which includes the S&P Global Infrastructure Index.

Constituents of the S&P/ASX Infrastructure Index are drawn from the transportation and utility sectors of the S&P/ASX 300 index to maximise liquidity and tradability. The index methodology borrows from that used by the S&P Global Infrastructure Index while also being tailored for Australian market conditions, and will be available via S&P as an end-of-day index.

Richard Murphy, General Manager, Equity Markets, ASX said: "This latest index initiative is in line with the ASX and Standard & Poor's longer term plan for index product coverage. For the last five years both organisations have worked with a wide range of market stakeholders to ensure index coverage exists for Australia's key industry sectors. The new Infrastructure Index joins the S&P/ASX Emerging Companies, A-REIT, LIC, Gold, and Metals & Mining indices, which have all been developed under this plan. Index coverage and capital and secondary market investment are closely aligned, which has been the driving force for these developments."

Simon Karaban, Director, Research and Design with S&P Indices said: "Infrastructure investing was pioneered in Australia and there has always been strong interest in infrastructure assets within the Australian market. Over time it has been recognised as a distinct asset class, with listed infrastructure stocks offering stable yields and low correlations with stocks and bonds, adding diversification benefits."

Back data is available on request and more information, including a detailed index methodology, can be obtained from the S&P website at <a href="https://www.standardandpoors.com">www.standardandpoors.com</a>.

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## About S&P Indices

S&P Indices, the world's leading index provider, maintains a wide variety of investable and benchmark indices to meet an array of investor needs. Over \$1 trillion is directly indexed to Standard & Poor's family of indices, which includes the S&P 500, the world's most followed stock market index, the S&P Global 1200, a composite index comprised of seven regional and country headline indices, the S&P Global BMI, an index with approximately 11,000 constituents, and the S&P GSCI, the industry's most closely watched commodities index. For more information, please visit <a href="https://www.standardandpoors.com/indices">www.standardandpoors.com/indices</a>.

#### **About Standard & Poor's**

Standard & Poor's, a subsidiary of The McGraw-Hill Companies (NYSE:MHP), is the world's foremost provider of independent credit ratings, indices, risk evaluation, investment research and data. With offices in 23 countries and markets, Standard & Poor's is an essential part of the world's financial infrastructure and has

played a leading role for nearly 150 years in providing investors with the independent benchmarks they need to feel more confident about their investment and financial decisions. For more information, visit <a href="http://www.standardandpoors.com">http://www.standardandpoors.com</a>

#### About ASX

As one of the world's top-10 listed exchange groups measured by market capitalisation, the ASX Group (ASX:ASX) was created through the merger of the Australian Stock Exchange and the Sydney Futures Exchange. The ASX Group operates under the brand Australian Securities Exchange.

The Australian Securities Exchange spans the markets for corporate control, capital formation and price discovery, and functions as an operator, supervisor, central counterparty clearer and payments system facilitator. The diverse domestic and international customer base of the Australian Securities Exchange includes issuers of a variety of listed securities, corporates, investment banks, trading banks, fund managers, hedge funds, commodity trading advisers, and proprietary and retail traders.

More information on ASX can be found on our website www.asx.com.au