



Tuesday, 12 September 2006

MARKET ANNOUNCEMENT

Net Profit Up 568% to \$8.8 Million and Dividend Declaration

The Company is pleased to advise that for the financial year ending 30 June 2006 it has recorded a net profit of \$8.8 million (pre tax) and \$6.5million (post tax).

This represents a pre tax increase of 568% from the previous financial year (\$1.3 million -2005) and a post tax increase of 564% (\$0.98 million - 2005).

The profit was generated from total revenues of \$9.5 million and total expenses of \$0.7 million.

Basic and diluted earnings per share increased from 6 cents per share for the 2005 financial year to 37 cents per share for the current reporting period (up 535%).

Full details of the financial performance of the Company are contained in its 30 June 2006 full year reports which will be released to the market shortly.

The three most notable contributors of value growth during the year were the successful spin-off of mining assets into Strike Resources Limited (**SRK**), investments in Bentley International Limited (**BEL**) and Scarborough Equities Limited (**SCB**) and in oil and gas junior Oillex NL (**OEX**).

During the year the Company added a total of 42 cents of shareholder value (pre-tax) per share (to \$1.56), equivalent to a 37% absolute return on \$1.14 of NTA per share at the beginning of the year. This result compares very favourably with the ASX All Ordinaries Index which returned 19% for the same period.

Commenting on the financial performance of the Company, Chairman Mr William Johnson said: "This is an excellent result for the Company. Significant value growth has been generated for shareholders from the Company's Strategic and Non-Strategic investment portfolios, endorsing the Company's strategy of taking both active and passive positions across a range of Australian investment sectors."

As a consequence of this profit, the Company will pay a final dividend of 3 cents per share fully franked in addition to the interim 1.5 cent per share fully ranked dividend paid by the Company in April 2006. The record date for the final dividend is 12 October 2006 with payment to be effected on 19 October 2006.

Further information:

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