

AUSTRALIA PACIFIC EXCHANGE LIMITED

1 September 2004

Media Release

NEW EXCHANGE GETS TREASURY GREEN LIGHT

Australia Pacific Exchange Limited (APX) has been granted an Australian market licence by the Federal Treasury to operate a new national securities market.

"APX is a cooperatively styled stock exchange where those who participate, or are involved in the market, have the ability to own the market," said the Executive Chairman of APX, Mr. Bill Bessemer.

"Participants may either earn an interest in the market by doing business with APX or they may purchase shares in APX or both," he said

"Already there is significant support for our market," Mr Bessemer said. APX appeals particularly to mutuals and private companies because there are no prescriptive requirements about voting control or Board structure."

APX is the first such licence granted to a new operator since the introduction of the Financial Services Reform Act. The licence was granted by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer, the Hon Ross Cameron MP, on advice from the Australian Securities and Investments Commission and the Federal Department of Treasury.

Mr. Bessemer said, "Now that the license has been granted, we anticipate the exchange being fully operational by 1 December 2004."

"By building on the strength of the exempt markets, we believe the potential for this exchange is enormous."

"From 1997 there were 22 exempt markets, including three companies that are now among the top 300 ASX listed companies. The total exempt markets turnover was nearly \$500 million, more than 30 times greater than the combined turnover of Newcastle and Bendigo Stock Exchanges (NSX and BSX respectively) during the same period," Mr. Bessemer said

APX will operate three separate sub-markets or "boards" specialising in equities, property and fixed interest or hybrid securities, each supported by people with appropriate skills and experience.

The board of APX includes a former Executive Director of the ASX and former head of the NCSC, two past presidents of the Australian Direct Property Industry Association (ADPIA), and a past President of the Property Council. Joining Bill Bessemer on the Board of APX are:

- Ray Schoer, Chairman of IOOF Ltd, former Executive Director of the ASX, former Chief Executive of the National Companies and Securities Commission
- Greg Paramor, CEO James Fielding Group, past president of the Property Council
- Julius Colman, former CEO of MCS Property Ltd

Enquiries

Bill Bessemer
Executive Chairman
Australia Pacific Exchange Limited
Tel: (03) 8601 2027
Mob: 0418 126 481

Adrian Hill
General Manager Compliance &
Supervision
Australia Pacific Exchange Limited
Tel: (03) 8601 2046
Mob: 0418 390 620

350 COLLINS STREET MELBOURNE, VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA 3000