

## Press Release

2 February 2009

### APPOINTMENT OF NEW HEAD OF INVESTMENT MARKETS RESEARCH

Stephen Halmarick has joined Colonial First State Global Asset Management as Head of Investment Markets Research, becoming its key spokesperson to media and clients on economic and broader financial market issues.

With a career spanning more than 23 years, Mr Halmarick was most recently Managing Director and Co-Head of Citigroup's Economic and Market Analysis department for Australia and New Zealand.

David Dixon, Chief Investment Officer, said, "I would like to welcome Stephen to Colonial First State Global Asset Management. As financial markets continue to be challenging, Stephen's expert advice and depth of experience make him a very valuable addition to our team. His appointment demonstrates our continuing ability to attract high quality people."

In his role as Head of Investment Markets Research, Mr Halmarick succeeds Hans Kunnen, who retired in December 2008 after a 35-year career. Mr Halmarick will commence with Colonial First State Global Asset Management on 2 March 2009.

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**About Colonial First State Global Asset Management**

Colonial First State Global Asset Management is the consolidated asset management division of Commonwealth Bank of Australia, one of the largest financial institutions in Australia and a leading banking group in the world.

Colonial First State Global Asset Management is Australia's largest asset manager of Australian-sourced funds, employing more than 200 investment professionals located in Sydney, London, Auckland, Edinburgh, New York, Singapore, Hong Kong and Jakarta. Colonial First State Global Asset Management is also represented in Beijing and Shenzhen through the First State Cinda joint venture.

Colonial First State Global Asset Management manages more than A\$129 billion across a diverse range of asset classes including Australian and global shares, cash, fixed interest and credit, property securities, hedge funds, direct property, global resources and infrastructure.

Colonial First State Global Asset Management is a signatory to the United Nations' Principles for Responsible Investment, a voluntary program which encourages best practice in environmental, social and corporate governance issues.