

Press Release

15 September 2009

Colonial First State Global Asset Management climbs ladder in PRI rankings

Colonial First State Global Asset Management's continued focus on sustainability and responsible investment has resulted in significantly improved scores in the latest United Nations Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI) survey.

Colonial First State Global Asset Management achieved quartile ranking improvements, relative to peers, in each of the six principles. Colonial First State Global Asset Management now sits in the top quartile in three of the six principles relative to global investment managers - a marked improvement from the previous year where there was no top quartile ranking.

Colonial First State Global Asset Management CEO Mark Lazberger, said: "Despite 2008 being a challenging year for the financial services industry, we have remained focused on our commitment to sustainability and made good progress towards implementing all of the principles in our business. There is still much work to be done, but it is encouraging to see we are heading in the right direction.

"We became a signatory to the PRI because we believe that sustainability and responsible investment issues have the potential to impact investment returns over the long term. The PRI provides us with a framework to help us better understand and manage these issues to fulfil our role as a fiduciary," Mr Lazberger said.

Colonial First State Global Asset Management is the only Australian-domiciled investment manager to produce a responsible investment report which outlines how the principles have been implemented in the business during the year. The PRI survey is completed by all PRI signatories and seeks to represent an organisation's level of implementation of the principles relative to peers, as well as the progress of the overall PRI initiative globally.

Note to editors.

The PRI Reporting and Assessment process was designed to assist signatories in their efforts to report on progress under Principle 6 and also to provide a methodology for assessing the efforts of individual signatories, as well as the progress of the overall PRI initiative. The Reporting and assessment questionnaire consists of around 100 questions designed to capture signatories' progress in implementing the Principles. The full report from the PRI with aggregate results is available at www.unpri.org/report09/.

For More information

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Disclaimer

Scores have been calculated based on signatories' self assessment and using the scoring methodology approved by the PRI Assessment Group. Although a limited verification exercise was undertaken with a proportion of signatories, responses have not been independently audited by the PRI Secretariat, PRI Assessment Group, or any other third party. Individual results including comparisons to the overall results (quartiles) are indicative and do not imply an endorsement of signatory activity. While this information is believed to be reliable, no representations or warranties are made as to the accuracy of information presented, and no responsibility or liability can be accepted for any error, omission or inaccuracy in this information.

About Colonial First State Global Asset Management

Colonial First State Global Asset Management is the consolidated asset management division of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia group, one of the largest financial institutions in Australia. At 30 June 2009, Colonial First State Global Asset Management managed A\$138 billion. In March 2007, Colonial First State Global Asset Management signed the UN Principles of Responsible Investment, which provide a framework for including environmental, social and governance issues for investment decisions.