

STANDARD & POOR'S

Press Release

Standard & Poor's To Distribute Australian Agribusiness Group Research

Melbourne, May 4, 2006—Standard & Poor's Fund Services announced today that it will provide subscribers with access to research on Australian agribusiness managed investment schemes (MIS) from the Australian Agribusiness Group (AAG).

“Standard & Poor's subscribers will now be able to access research on agribusiness MIS at the same time as accessing S&P's research on managed funds, structured products, and indices,” said Chris Dalton, Managing Director of Standard & Poor's Australia. “In the lead up to the end of the financial year, interest in MIS schemes is at its highest. We are delighted to offer our subscribers access to research from AAG to help with their investment decisions. Along with AAG's considerable experience in this highly specialized sector, AAG shares Standard & Poor's commitment to independence and quality research.”

AAG Managing Director Marcus Elgin said, “Agribusiness, done well, is highly profitable and outperforms many other sectors in the economy, with less risk and less volatility. However, the same rules should be followed as for other investments—research the sector and the manager, understand the track record, and understand the product on offer. AAG's investment research and ratings can assist financial planners and investors in making informed decisions. We are pleased to be able to provide our insights to Standard & Poor's subscribers.”

AAG reports will be available to subscribers of S&P's subscription Web site, www.assirt.com.au. Reports can be accessed via a dedicated page under ‘External Research’ or by contacting Client Services on 1300-792-553. S&P provides access to the AAG reports under license from AAG, and is not involved in the design or preparation of the AAG reports.

About Standard & Poor's

Standard & Poor's is the world's foremost provider of independent credit ratings, indices, risk evaluation, investment research and data. With approximately 6,300 employees located in 20 countries, Standard & Poor's is an essential part of the world's financial infrastructure and provides investors with the independent benchmarks they need to feel more confident about their investment and financial decisions. For more information, visit www.standardandpoors.com.au.

About Australian Agribusiness Group

Australian Agribusiness Group (AAG) was formed in 1997 and provides the largest volume of high-quality research on the agribusiness Managed Investment Schemes (MIS) sector in Australia. AAG's unique research process includes Corporate Governance Ratings, Track Record Ratings, and Project Ratings, which come together for an overall investment rating. AAG also provides national project-management and consulting services to the wider agribusiness community, particularly through the growth stages of its businesses, where the focus is on finance, strategy, management, and market development. For further information visit: www.ausagrigrp.com.au

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