



Australian Agribusiness Group

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Media Release

AAG “Agri MIS of the Year” Finalists Announced

Tim Lee, Research Director has announced the finalists for the inaugural AAG Agri MIS of the Year Award today. “These MIS investments represent our highest rated projects for FY 2008. Each of these investment managers should be delighted with their accomplishments this year and in turn we want to congratulate them and recognise their achievement in being selected as a finalist.”

The finalists who have received the highest overall AAG investment ratings are:

- FEA Plantations Project 2008 - Option 1
- Gunns Plantations Woodlot Project 2008 - Option 1
- ITC Diversified Forestry Project 2008
- Heathcote Ridge Vineyard Project No. 2
- Macquarie Almond Investment 2007 - Late Growers

To select the Agri MIS of the Year AAG is asking Financial Planners and Dealer Group Researchers to select from the shortlist and vote for the investment they feel presents the best overall option in this market segment, taking into account management, governance, track record and the risk vs return of the investment offering.

Mr Lee says that “by allowing the people who make the investment recommendations - financial planners and researchers - we have a great way of ensuring we achieve an accurate and fair result. After all, these are the people who are making the investment recommendations and have the market and product knowledge.”

When asked about AAG’s role in the award Marcus Elgin, Managing Director of AAG stated he has felt a market selected best Agri MIS Investment is something the industry has needed for a long time. “We research and rate around 35 of the best agri investments a year providing a wide range of investment options. The companies selected for this year’s shortlist have been awarded an average of 4 ¼ stars. It’s about time we publicly recognised the efforts of these managers and the quality of these investments and the AAG MIS of the Year is a great way to do that. Those shortlisted have achieved a good balance over the entire MIS investment ‘Offering’.”

Voting will begin tomorrow when voters will receive an invitation. An announcement regarding the winner of the AAG Investment of the Year will be made at the end of August. AAG has asked planners and researchers who would like to participate and who don’t already receive communications from AAG to register by emailing jtaylor@ausagrigroup.com.au

Further queries should be directed to James Taylor, AAG Marketing and Communications Manager on 03 9602 6501. Tim Lee and Marcus Elgin are also available for comment.

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About the Award

The awards have been created to reward the most outstanding Agri MIS of the Year for FY 2008 and to recognise those Investment Managers providing an outstanding investment product to the market.

Major requirements for shortlist include:

- The five MIS investments shortlisted were the highest AAG rated projects during 2008
- All investments received an overall rating of at least 4¼ stars and performed well in each of the Part A Corporate Governance Review, Part B Track Record Review and Part C Project Review ratings
- All investments had appropriate risk - return profiles
- Investment fees were appropriate for the MIS investment offering
- Shortlisted investments had no "key fail point" issues
- Shortlisted projects were of appropriate scale
- MIS Investment Managers had organisational stability and had strong management
- MIS Investment Managers had an identifiable track record of performance in the current market
- MIS Investment Managers has strong corporate governance credentials

About AAG

Australian Agribusiness Group (AAG) was formed in 1997. It provides agribusiness, research, investment and management skills to smart agribusinesses.

AAG is the market leader in research into the agri MIS sector. In alliance with Grant Thornton, it provides detailed research and rates product offerings and supports the sector with a range of decision making tools. Its research reaches over 140 financial planning groups, covering some 9,000 financial planners. AAG's ratings are also distributed by Standard & Poor's.

AAG provides research to other high growth agribusinesses, provides investment and management services and operates a national consulting practice.

AAG also produces the Agri Index, a measure of the relative performance of ASX to listed agribusiness.

For more information about AAG please visit www.ausagrigrp.com.au,