



ASX Limited
ABN 98 008 624 691

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19 September 2012

Australian Securities and Investments Commission
Mr Oliver Harvey
Senior Executive Leader, Financial Market Infrastructure
Level 5, 100 Market Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

ASX Market Announcements Office
ASX Limited
20 Bridge Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Chairman's letter to Shareholders – ASX 2012 Final Dividend

Attached is a letter from ASX's Chairman, Rick Holliday-Smith regarding the ASX 2012 Final Dividend.

Amanda J Harkness
Group General Counsel & Company Secretary

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Dear ASX shareholder,

On 16 August 2012, ASX Limited (ASX) announced its full-year result for the 12 months to 30 June 2012.

ASX's well-diversified revenue profile allowed the company to deliver solid earnings in a difficult market environment. After a strong start to the year, market conditions weakened significantly with both retail and institutional investors reducing their activity levels, particularly in the equity market.

- Statutory profit after tax (including significant items) of \$339.2 million, down 3.7%
- Underlying profit after tax (excluding significant items) of \$346.2 million, down 2.9%
 - Operating revenue of \$610.4 million, down 1.2%
 - Interest and dividend revenue of \$49.8 million, up 5.1%
 - Cash operating expenses of \$141.1 million, up 4.1%
 - Earnings per share of 197.6 cents, down 3.1%

The Board declared a final dividend of 85.1 cents per share, making a full-year dividend of 177.9 cents per share and reflecting a payout ratio of 90% of underlying profit, consistent with previous results. Please find enclosed your dividend advice. The Dividend Reinvestment Plan will not operate for this dividend.

2012 saw a change in the equity market structure with the introduction of exchange competition. ASX was well prepared for the change and introduced a range of new products and services for its customers. ASX has a strong balance sheet that enables the company to continue to invest and adapt to the new environment. The company will continue to be an active participant in the debate about the future and structure of Australia's financial markets. I say more on this in my Chairman's letter in the 2012 Annual Report.

Complete full-year results and the 2012 Annual Report detailing ASX's performance and initiatives throughout the year are available at: <http://www.asxgroup.com.au/investor-relations.htm>

If you would like to ask the ASX Board or management questions they can be emailed to: company.secretariat@asx.com.au

ASX's **2012 Annual General Meeting** will be held on 5 October 2012 in Sydney. Further information is in the Notice of Meeting www.asxgroup.com.au/asx-annual-general-meetings.htm

It is an honour to serve as your Chairman. Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rick Holliday-Smith', written in a cursive style.

Rick Holliday-Smith
Chairman

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT FUTURE ASX DIVIDENDS

Commencing in February 2013, ASX dividend payments will be made by direct credit only to ASX shareholders with registered addresses in Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom.

You will benefit from this change as an ASX shareholder. Payment by direct credit is faster than payment by cheque. There will be no mailing delays and you will have the convenience of cleared funds being deposited directly into your nominated account on the payment date.

We will continue to send you dividend advice according to your current instructions so that you have details of the payments made.

What you need to do

If you have not previously provided us with the details of your nominated bank account, please do so by **18 January 2013** to make sure you receive future dividends. You can do this:

- online at www.linkmarketservices.com.au or
- by completing and returning the enclosed Request for Direct Credit of Payments Form.

If your banking instructions are not received by 18 January 2013 we will not be able to distribute future dividend payments to you.

If you already receive your dividend payments directly into your bank account you do not need to do anything. Cheques will only be issued to shareholders with a registered address outside of Australia, New Zealand or the United Kingdom.

If you have any questions about these changes, please contact Link Market Services by phoning 1300 724 911 (or +61 2 8280 7470) or email asx@linkmarketservices.com.au

ShareGift Australia: ASX is proud to continue to give its shareholders the chance to support ShareGift Australia. ShareGift Australia is a not-for-profit organisation that allows shareholders to sell shares in any actively trading listed company free of brokerage costs and donate the proceeds to charity. It is an easy way to make a charitable donation of a small parcel of shares that might otherwise be difficult or expensive to trade.

ASX has been a supporter since ShareGift Australia began operations in 2007. ASX reimburses to brokers all exchange fees on ShareGift transactions and prints details about ShareGift on every CHESS statement. To the end of June 2012, ShareGift Australia had donated close to \$300,000 to over 170 Australian charities thanks to the generosity of shareholders.

More information on ShareGift Australia can be found at: www.sharegiftaustralia.org.au. If you are interested, a ShareGift Share Sale Donation Form is enclosed for your consideration and should be returned to ShareGift Australia at the reply paid address shown on the form. Please contact ShareGift Australia if you have any queries on: 1300 731 632 or info@sharegiftaustralia.org.au.

This is a voluntary initiative for those who wish to sell their shares and donate 100% of the proceeds to charity. It is not a recommendation to sell shares or a recommendation regarding a normal share sale facility. If you do not wish to participate, you do not need to do anything.