

**Chairman's Responses to Shareholders Questions
2007 Annual General Meeting
7 November 2007**

As is the custom, we have received a significant number of written questions from shareholders who are not able to be here today. While I am not able to provide answers to all of them, quite a number cover common themes so I will comment on a number of the issues which have been raised, which were not covered in the addresses made to the AGM by the CEO or myself. We will also be posting answers to the most commonly asked questions on our website.

A number of questions related to the composition of our Board and how we select Board members. The Board regularly reviews its composition in the light of the skills and experience of existing Directors and the current and future strategies of the Bank. With this background we develop criteria which define the skill and experience requirements for the Directors as a whole and new Directors specifically.

We seek the highest quality Directors to form a Board as a team capable of guiding, challenging and monitoring management, and inputting to and approving the strategic direction of the Bank. We aim to ensure that at least half of the Board has had experience as CEO of a major company.

The Board works continuously in its selection and appraisal processes to improve its performance and ensure its mix of skills and experience can meet the current and expected challenges and opportunities we face.

Whilst diversity is a factor, the most important considerations are the skills, experience and a demonstrated ability to contribute as members of a cohesive team responsible for the efficient and effective operation of the Board.

I have also been asked if the group is planning to hold its Annual General Meeting outside of Sydney and can confirm that next years meeting will be held in Melbourne on 13 November 2008 at Melbourne Function Centre.

Finally we have had a number of questions concerning the Group's involvement with Tasmanian forestry company Gunns Limited. The Bank's funds management business, Colonial First State Global Asset Management, has a small shareholding in Gunns Limited on behalf of investors. This holding represents less than 2 per cent of the issued capital of Gunns Limited.