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28 June 2010

By fax: 1300 135 638

Company Announcement Platform ASX Limited

Dear Sir/Madam

# Takeover bid by Staples Australia Pty Limited for Corporate Express Australia Limited

We act for Staples Australia Pty Limited ACN 142 352 501 (**Staples Australia**), a whollyowned indirect subsidiary of Staples, Inc, in relation to its off-market takeover offer for all the ordinary shares in Corporate Express Australia Limited ACN 000 728 398.

We attach an announcement by Staples Australia in relation to its Offer.

Yours faithfully

**Corrs Chambers Westgarth** 

Staples Offer Information Line Australian callers: 1800 645 237

For international callers: +61 2 8280 7585



# STAPLES REACHES 87% IN ITS OFFER FOR CORPORATE EXPRESS AUSTRALIA AND PROPOSES TO DECLARE ITS OFFER UNCONDITIONAL

#### CORPORATE EXPRESS DETERMINES SPECIAL DIVIDEND OF 74 CENTS A SHARE

#### 28 June 2010

Staples Australia Pty Limited ACN 142 352 501 (**Staples Australia**) advises that after shares subject to the institutional acceptance facility have been processed, Staples Australia will have a relevant interest in 87% of Corporate Express Australia Limited (**Corporate Express**) shares.

Staples Australia proposes to declare its offer for Corporate Express (Offer) unconditional on or before 9 July 2010. After which time it will begin processing acceptances for payment in line with its undertaking to pay the consideration under the Offer within five business days of the Offer being declared unconditional, which will be on or before 16 July 2010.

Corporate Express has announced a fully franked special dividend of 74 cents for each Corporate Express share. The special dividend record date will be 7 July 2010 and the payment date is expected to be 16 July 2010. Staples Australia has agreed to provide funding for the special dividend.

In accordance with the terms of its offer contained in its bidder's statement dated 19 March 2010, Staples Australia's Offer price of \$5.60 per Corporate Express share will be reduced by the amount of the special dividend.

For further information, please call the Staples Offer Information Line on 1800 645 237 (toll-free within Australia) or +612 8280 7585 (for callers from outside Australia).

## - Ends -

Staples Australia Pty Limited ACN 142 352 501

#### Notes to Editors:

## **About Staples**

Staples, the world's largest office products company, is committed to making it easy for customers to buy a wide range of office products and services. Our broad selection of office supplies, electronics, technology and office furniture as well as business services, including computer repair and copying and printing, helps our customers run their offices efficiently. With 2009 sales of US\$24 billion and 91,000 associates worldwide, Staples operates in 25 countries throughout North and South America, Europe, Asia and Australia serving businesses of all sizes and consumers. Staples invented the office superstore concept in 1986 and today ranks second worldwide in e-commerce sales. The company is headquartered outside Boston. More information about Staples is available at <a href="https://www.staples.com/media">www.staples.com/media</a>.