

## Change of Company Chairman & Address to Annual General Meeting Easton Investments Limited Wednesday 14 November 2012 11.00 am

Level 16, 90 Collins Street, Melbourne

## **Chairman's Address**

## Mr Lee laFrate

Good morning ladies and gentlemen I declare the meeting open.

At the Company's Board meeting held earlier this morning I announced my intention to stand down as Chairman effective immediately. I remain a non-executive director, however I feel that my other business interests are precluding me devoting the necessary time required for the role of Chairman. I am pleased to inform you that the Board has unanimously elected Mr Rodney Green to Chair your Company. His credentials and business acumen make him an outstanding choice to guide our company forward. Accordingly, I will now hand over to Rodney to Chair today's meeting.

## **Rodney Green**

On behalf of the Board I would like to acknowledge Lee's contribution to the company as Chairman, founder, shareholder and driving force behind the creation of Easton Investments as it stands today. On a personal note I am excited by the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead and I will do my best for all in the future.

As Chairman, I will now provide a brief address.

The Financial Year 2012 for Easton Investments, as stated in our Annual Report, was one of establishment and building for the future. The Company reported a loss before tax of \$1.52m, inclusive of a number of non-cash items.

During the course of the year Easton segmented the various businesses under three clear operating areas; Easton Wealth Australia, Easton Wealth Asia and API (Funds Management). In doing this the Board and executive management of the Company believe we have now set the tone for each of those divisions to take an increased level of accountability for their performance, and to drive their units forward.

Equally, each of the divisions has the ability as part of the bigger group to work together to take advantage of the significant cross referral potential that exists. Our new links into Asia via the recent purchase of Easton Asset Management are an obvious example of this potential. In this regard, Easton Asset Management has recently established a number of Separately Managed

Account Models, one of which gives Australian investors direct share ownership into the high growth Asian markets. This model has already begun attracting inflows and the relative uniqueness of the service should see this continue.

The year ahead is certainly not without its challenges, but with this comes significant opportunity. Easton released a market update in late September which while re-affirming our "barbell" strategy, also set out our goals for the 12 months ahead. These goals included, but were not limited to;

- Continuing to build Financial Planning exposure in both Asia and Australia.
- Ensuring exposure to the above remains relatively balanced.
- Offering unique Funds Management product / services.
- Achieving the above via both acquisition and organic growth.

Easton is currently reviewing a number of opportunities that fit within the above requirements. These are at various stages of development and we look forward to updating shareholders on them at the appropriate time.

For further information, please contact:

Campbell McComb Managing Director Ph: 03 9661 0444