



Monday, 16 January 2012

The Manager  
Company Announcements  
Australian Stock Exchange Limited  
20 Bridge Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Sir / Madam

**RETIREMENT OF MANAGING DIRECTOR**

I enclose a statement in relation to the retirement of Ms Laura Reed from the position of Managing Director and Chief Executive of Spark Infrastructure, and the appointment of Mr Richard Francis as the new Chief Executive.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Alex Finley". The signature is stylized and cursive.

**Alexandra Finley**  
**Company Secretary**



# MEDIA RELEASE

Monday, 16 January 2012

## RETIREMENT OF MANAGING DIRECTOR

Spark Infrastructure advises that Ms. Laura Reed will retire as Managing Director with effect from 31 May 2012. After five years in Sydney with Spark Infrastructure, three and a half of those leading the organisation, Ms. Reed has decided to return to her home town of Adelaide to spend more time with her family.

The Chairman of Spark Infrastructure, Mr. Brian Scullin, said that Ms. Reed has made an enormous contribution to Spark Infrastructure through a period of substantial change.

"Laura has made a great contribution to Spark. Her key achievements include managing the successful implementation of the strategic review in 2010 and the internalisation of Spark's management function completed in May of last year", said Mr. Scullin.

"Laura leaves Spark in an ideal position to embrace its next phase of development. While we regret her decision to retire, on behalf of the Board, I wish her all the best for the future." he added.

"I've very much enjoyed being involved with Spark and the many opportunities it has provided to me. I'm particularly pleased that during my time as CEO and Managing Director we have been able to position Spark to make the most of the growth inherent in its Asset Companies. Its share market performance over the past year demonstrates that it now ranks among the premier defensive listed equity investments in Australia." said Laura Reed.

The Board of Spark Infrastructure has employed a professional executive search firm to seek a replacement for Ms. Reed. As a result of that process, the Board has decided to appoint the current Chief Financial Officer, Mr. Richard (Rick) Francis, as the successor to Ms. Reed effective from her departure at the end of May 2012.

"I am very pleased to announce that Mr. Francis has agreed to accept the role of Chief Executive Officer of Spark Infrastructure. Rick has served as our Chief Financial Officer since February 2009 and has a wealth of experience in senior financial roles in the energy and utilities sectors. He is therefore extremely familiar with Spark, its Asset Companies, our investors and the industry in general. Our ability to make an internal appointment is testament to the depth and strength of the team which Laura has nurtured." said Mr. Scullin.

"I am delighted to accept this exciting role, and I thank the Board for their continued support. I am very much looking forward to the new opportunities for Spark in the future. Spark is well placed and in excellent shape to face the challenges ahead, whilst continuing to deliver to our securityholders a solid and dependable yield coupled with the strong asset growth inherent in our Asset Companies." said Mr. Francis.

### Further Information:

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General Manager  
Investor Relations and Corporate Affairs

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### ***Richard Francis BCom, MBA, CA, GAICD***

Rick Francis has significant experience in the Australian energy infrastructure industry. He joined Spark Infrastructure from the APA Group, where he was Chief Financial Officer for four years.

Prior to that, Rick was employed by Origin Energy Limited for over eight years in a number of senior management roles including those of Group Financial Controller, Commercial Manager, Trading and Development and Operations Manager, Energy Trading. Rick is also a chartered accountant with over 15 years' experience in the accounting industry in Australia and the UK.

Rick was appointed to the position of Chief Financial Officer of Spark Infrastructure in February 2009.