National Australia Bank

Group Corporate Affairs
500 Bourke Street, Melbourne
Victoria 3000 Australia

ASX Announcement

Melbourne, Tuesday 21 February 2006

NAB sells Asian life insurance businesses to AXA Asia Pacific

National Australia Bank Limited (NAB) today announced it has agreed to sell its MLC life insurance businesses in Hong Kong and Indonesia to AXA Asia Pacific Holdings for A$575 million. The impact on the Group profit and loss is not expected to be material.

National Australia Bank Managing Director and Group Chief Executive, John Stewart, said the sale of the life insurance businesses in Hong Kong and Indonesia is part of the on-going business portfolio review.

"These are good businesses and AXA Asia Pacific is in a strong position to develop them. The sale is therefore a sensible decision for both NAB and AXA Asia Pacific," Mr Stewart said.

"We want to focus on areas where we have core capabilities and can create sustainable shareholder value.

"The sale allows us to consolidate our banking and wealth management services in Asia.

"NAB will continue to develop the financial services businesses in Hong Kong, Singapore and Japan based on premium banking, wealth management and corporate banking.

"This sale has no bearing on our MLC wealth management business in Australia."

The sale is subject to regulatory approvals. The proceeds will be utilised as part of the NAB's total capital management program.

Employees of MLC Hong Kong and MLC Indonesia will transfer with the sale.

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