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8 August 2006

St.George acquires HSBC's margin lending portfolio

St.George Bank has announced that it has acquired the margin lending assets of HSBC Bank Australia, effective 7 August. The portfolio has loan receivables of around \$420m, which will increase the St.George margin loan book to \$2.5b. The HSBC clients become St.George margin lending customers immediately, with transition expected to be complete by mid-September.

St.George Margin Lending is a multi-award winning margin lender in Australia. It has been Personal Investor magazine's Margin Lender of the Year for the past three years, and was recently named Margin Lender of the Year at the Money magazine awards for the second consecutive year. St.George Margin Lending is a standout performer for the St.George Group, with excellent growth of 35% annualised as at 31 July 2006.

St.George Group Executive Paul Fegan said; "We are pleased to welcome the margin lending customers of HSBC Australia to St.George. We look forward to providing them with our outstanding product and service benefits. We consider margin lending as strategically important to the Group and are delighted that we will have a continuing relationship with HSBC for margin lending. "

St.George Margin Lending has maintained a five star Cannex rating for the past five years. These award-winning products and services will be offered to HSBC Group customers in Australia, through their network of 35 branches and offices.

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