



Adelaide Brighton Ltd
ACN 007 596 018

Adelaide Brighton Ltd
12 Month Report
of an 18 Month Reporting Period
June 2000 Summary
Issued Adelaide
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Media Release

ADELAIDE BRIGHTON PROFIT INCREASES 157% IN A DIFFICULT MARKET

Adelaide Brighton Ltd today reported a net profit after tax and before abnormal items for the twelve months ended 30 June 2000 of \$29.6 million compared with \$11.5 million for the corresponding period.

A fully franked dividend of 1.5 cents has been declared.

The profit increase, before abnormals, of \$18.1 million reflects the significant growth in the size of the Company following last years acquisition of Cockburn Cement and the 49% of Adelaide Brighton Cement not previously owned. There was also a lower tax charge as the Company utilises bought forward tax losses.

Commenting on the result, Mr Phil Wright, Managing Director of Adelaide Brighton Ltd said, "This is our first 12 month result following last years merger and the strength of the new Adelaide Brighton can now start to be seen in terms of its earnings and cashflow.

"This strength has allowed us to reduce net debt by \$59 million and our balance sheet is now the strongest it has been for 10 years" Mr Wright said.

Earnings per share reduced from 7.3 cents (on capital of 157.4 million shares) to 6.3 cents (on expanded capital of 473.4 million shares). Earnings per share are only marginally short of the 7.2 cents forecast in the Explanatory Memorandum, issued last year in connection with the Merger, despite substantial dumping of imports that have cost an estimated \$24 million in the last 12 months and was unforeseen at the time of the merger.

In commenting on the outlook Mr Wright said, "Earnings are under some pressure and it is anticipated that the next half will be weaker owing to the forecast cyclical downturn in residential construction.

"However we are achieving significant operational improvements as well as planned cost reductions through rationalisation and should emerge significantly stronger over the next few years" Mr Wright said.

Adelaide Brighton Ltd is Australia's largest cement and lime company following last year's acquisition of Cockburn Cement and has operations in all mainland States and trades under the symbol ABC on the Australian Stock Exchange.

During January 2000, RMC Group p.l.c. acquired The Rugby Group PLC's 55% shareholding in Adelaide Brighton. RMC are the world's largest producers of ready mixed concrete, No. 5 in aggregates and No. 12 in cement.

For further information please consult our web-site at www.adbri.com.au or contact:

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