

27 February 2009

Company Announcements Platform  
Australian Securities Exchange

**ANALYST BRIEFING NOTES  
- RESULTS FOR THE HALF YEAR ENDED  
31 DECEMBER 2008**

Please find attached revised analyst presentation inclusive of two minor amendments:-

1. Correction to Page 4 headings to reflect First Half 2009 and First Half 2008
2. Correction on Page 28; 3rd dot point reads "Total Assets \$2,535 million" as indicated on Page 29

Yours faithfully



**Wayne Chapman**  
**Company Secretary**

# RESULT FOR THE HALF YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2008

**Wayne Chapman**  
**Company Secretary / Chief Financial Officer**

**27 February 2009**



# AGENDA

- Performance highlights
- Operational review
- Financials
- Business Strategy



# Performance Highlights



# PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS

## - Summary

	First Half 2009	First Half 2008	% change
Revenue	\$427.6 m	\$368.5 m	Up 16%
EBIT	\$69.3 m	\$44.2 m	Up 57%
Underlying EBIT	\$60.8 m	\$53.2 m	Up 14%
NPAT	\$33.6 m	\$17.2 m	Up 95%
EPS (cents)	6.2 ¢	3.4 ¢	Up 82%
NTA per share #	\$1.82	\$2.01	Down 9%

Interim dividend of 2 ¢ payable on 20 April 2009. Dividend reinvestment plan not active.

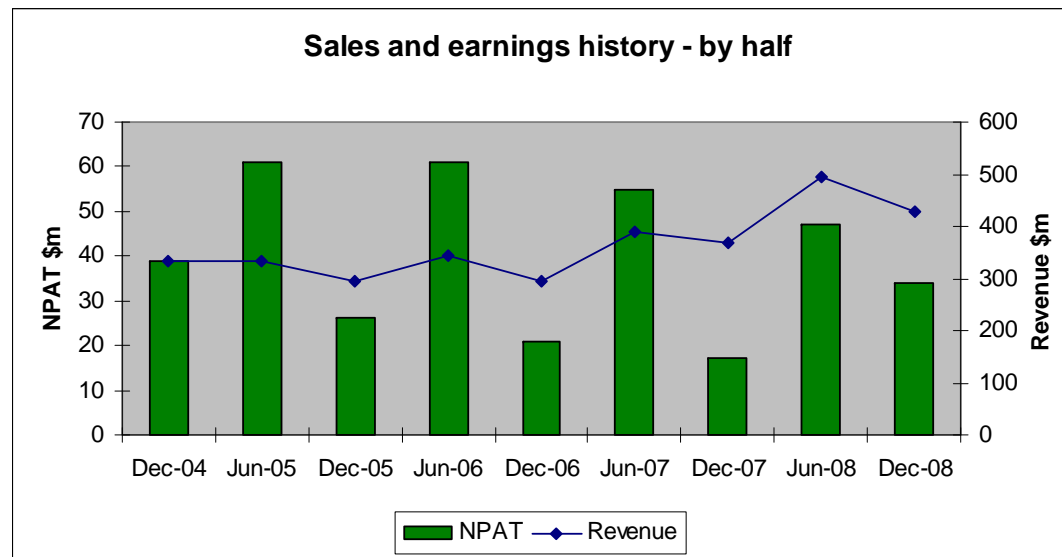
# NTA comparison 2 June 2008 financials.



# PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS

## – Sales and Earnings

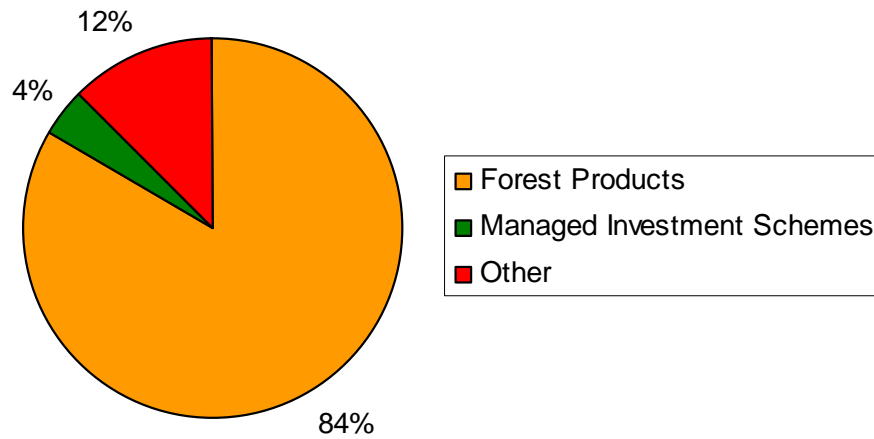
- Forest products EBIT supported by:-
  - Cost management
  - Auspine business contribution for full six month period
- Tasmanian economy continued to perform well
- Mainland sawn timber and wine export markets softened



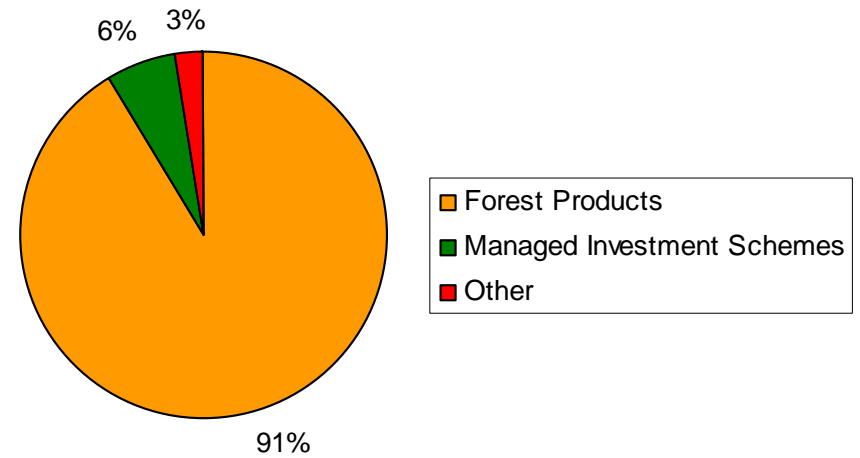
# PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS

## – Sales and Earnings

Revenue - July to December 2008



EBIT - July to December 2008



# STRENGTHENING THE BALANCE SHEET

## – Debt Reduction

- Raised \$336 million of equity to repay debt
- Sale of 33,000 hectares of softwood plantation for \$173 million used to repay debt
- Reducing stock across the Company to repay debt
  - Target 30 June 2009 inventory of \$150 million (down \$20 million from 31 December 2008)
- Bank senior debt reduction for the period reduced from \$790 million to \$400 million
- Gearing at 38% 31 December 2008 (net debt/debt plus equity)
  - Approximately 32% following tree sale transaction



## OPERATING CASH FLOW 2009

- Net cash outflow from operating activities \$4.5 million
- Excludes net proceeds of MIS loan securitisation \$19.1 million (PYCP \$6.2 million)
- H2 cash flow improvement
  - Inventory reduction
  - Borrowing costs reduced
  - Operating cost reductions



# SUSTAINABILITY

- Ongoing business review to ensure best practice sustainability
- Appointment of independent advisor to provide strategic advice to Gunns Board on ongoing sustainability of Gunns operations
- Commissioned independent review of Gunns operations to ensure continuous improvement in sustainability
- Managing a carbon bank of over 275,000 hectares which should ensure at least a carbon neutral position for the Group
- Focus on increased stakeholder communication detailing the Company's sustainability



# BUSINESS PRIORITIES

- Management focus on cost control
- Ensuring underlying asset base strong and well positioned to take advantage of opportunities
- Bell Bay Mill Project in ready status – “care and maintenance” and not requiring significant management time



# Operational Review



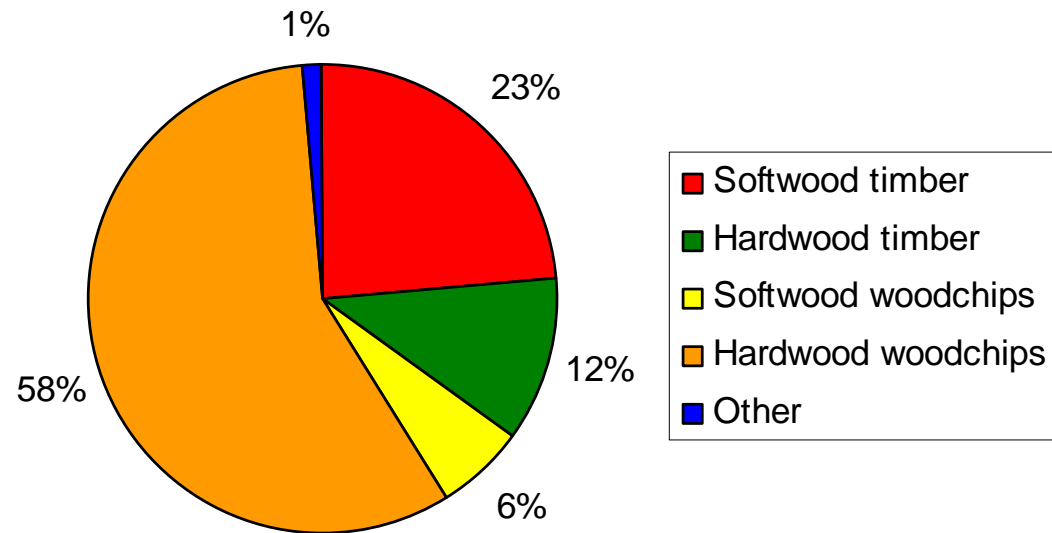
# FOREST PRODUCTS

- Hardwood chip volume stable in first half
- Margin improvement on prior half achieved through cost reductions and selling price increase
- Operating cost reductions through the period largely driven by:-
  - Overhead cost control
  - Fuel price
- Forest revaluation for the period \$19.8 million. Value of wood harvested \$23.5 million (prior year period comparatives \$17.5 million revaluation and \$17.8 million harvest)
- Sawn timber market has remained relatively stable through the half



# FOREST PRODUCTS

Forest Products Revenue - December 2008



# AUSPINE PURCHASE AND INTEGRATION

- Auspine integration substantially progressed. To be completed by 30 June 2009
- Full integration will deliver annual cost savings of \$7.5 million per annum to the Group:-
  - Seamless administration network for all timber products saving 50 full time equivalent positions
  - Single timber distribution unit, with a reduction in operating sites in mainland Australia
  - Rationalisation of production facilities
  - Integration of plantation, nursery and resource management operations
  - Increased contracted wood supply in South Australia
- Secured additional resource to keep one mill at Scottsdale Tasmania in operation, with potential for further expansion in Tasmania under review
- Ongoing evaluation of further business growth opportunities in the Green Triangle region



# FOREST PRODUCTS

## - Outlook

- Hardwood price 2009 under negotiation with current position expected to be maintained or improved
- Customer inventory reductions commenced in December 2008. Expect stabilisation of existing woodchip markets from the end of the first quarter
- Access to new woodchip markets assisted by falling A\$ and favourable freight comparison to major competitors
- Stimulus for new housing development providing an improved outlook for timber products



# MANAGED INVESTMENT SCHEMES

- Strategic objective of MIS achieved with sustainable long term target of over 200,000 hectares of plantations under management
- Development under MIS will be continued as a component of our resource establishment program
- Wood and Walnut projects on offer for 2009. Targeted sales of \$75 million (Woodlots \$60 million and Walnuts \$15 million)
- A reduction in competition within the sector expected in 2009
- Margins in period affected by increased development costs



# MERCHANDISING AND CONSTRUCTION

- Tasmanian economy currently stable with some softening expected during 2009
- Business profits maintained in current environment
- Construction holding a strong forward order book
  - Federal stimulus package expected to have a direct positive impact
- Completion of Launceston store redevelopment by end June 2009
  - Increased focus on trade centre expected to increase turnover
  - Lower operating cost structure
  - Improved retail customer facilities



# WINE

- Business is focused on the cool climate product segment
- Business continues to be profitable
- Australian market still strong for cool climate wines:-
  - Award winning Sauvignon Blanc in 2008 London Wine Show
  - Major international airline supply contract renewed
- 2009 vintage reduced yield with high quality
- Export market growth limited in current economic conditions (North America and Europe)
- Limited capital expenditure required to increase volume and revenue



# PULP MILL SUMMARY

- Pulp Mill project is developed to a project ready status
- The project is now in a “care and maintenance” phase, with \$200k per month required to keep project in a fully ready state (environmental monitoring and engineering)
- Minor management focus required to keep project in ready status
- On target to select a Joint Venture partner by April 2009. Benefits of joint venture approach:-
  - Introduce construction and operational experience
  - Provide marketing support and expertise
- Leading European bank appointed to arrange debt finance for the project
- Full construction related approvals achieved with operational conditions of Federal and State permits to be finalised progressively



# COMPANY WIDE COST REDUCTION PROGRAM

- Operating cost review process initiated September 2008 to maintain margins in current trading environment
- Integration of corporate and administration functions (Gunns and Auspine)
- Sale of surplus assets:-
  - Land and buildings
  - Machinery
  - Closure of duplicate sites and offices across the Group
- Review of operational overheads
- Stock reductions



## 2009 GUIDANCE UPDATE

- Previous 2009 EBIT guidance of \$200 million unlikely to be achieved
- Main factors influencing 2009 outlook are:-
  - Pricing for hardwood woodchips
    - Under negotiation with current position expected to be maintained or improved
  - Sales volume of hardwood chips for 2H09 expected to reduce by 15% compared to 1H09. Expect progressive volume recovery through 2009 calendar year
  - MIS sales and development still in line with expectations and dependant on market conditions
  - Maintaining activity levels in sawn timber business will be assisted by the Federal stimulus package



# Financials



# FINANCE EXPENSE

- Interest rate trending down
- 94% of debt unhedged
- Impact of reduction in principle outstanding

\$ million	H2 2009 Forecast	H1 2009 Actual	H2 2008 Actual	H1 2008 Actual	H2 2007 Actual	H1 2007 Actual
<b>INTEREST EXPENSE (Exc. MIS)</b>	19	34	43	29	22	17
<b>MIS INTEREST REVENUE</b>	12	12	9	10	4	4
<b>MIS INTEREST EXPENSE</b>	5	5	4	3	2	2



# BORROWINGS

<b>BANK DEBT</b>	<b>\$M</b>
- Senior Debt (no refinancing required until 2012)	400
- Working Capital (ongoing)	50
<b>BANK DEBT TOTAL</b>	<b>450</b>
MIS LOAN SECURITISATION	100
LEASED ASSETS	80



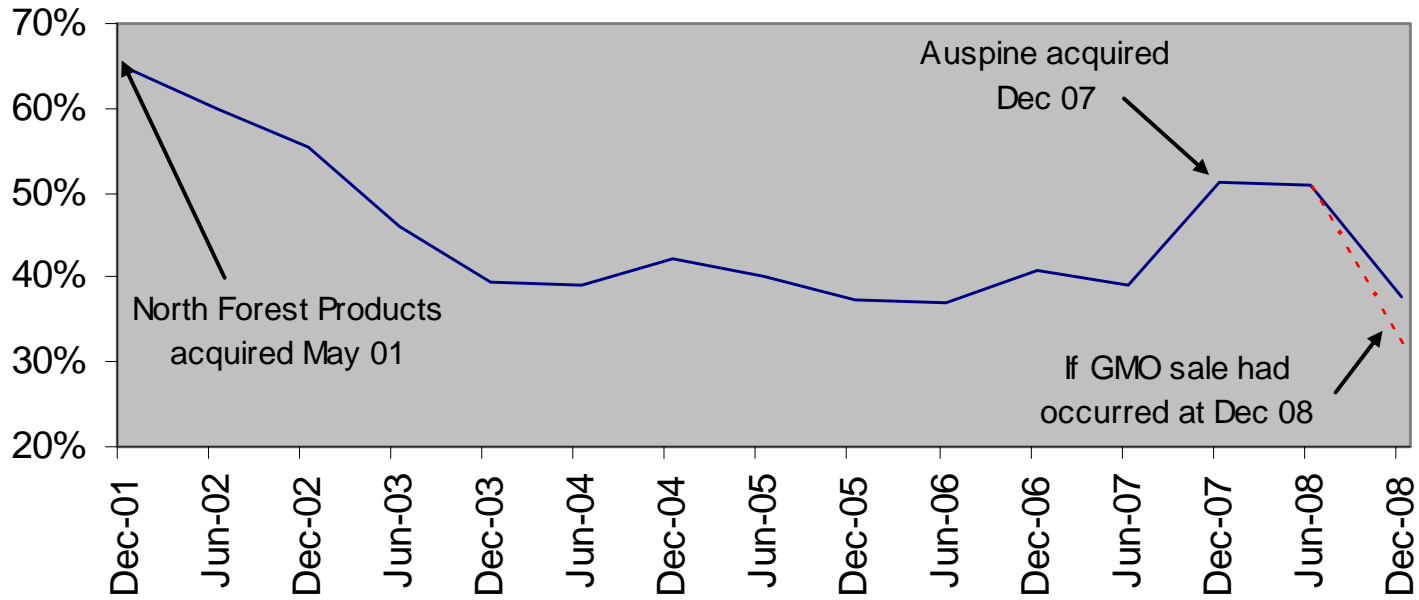
# GEARING

- Current gearing level of 38%
- Gearing post Auspine plantation sale at approximately 32%
- Dividend Reinvestment Plan not active
- FORESTS securities:-
  - Cash cost is 90 day bill rate + 5% margin after tax
  - Conversion sub-optimal in current market
  - Redemption or repurchase to be reviewed once markets improve



# GEARING

### Gearing % by half



# GUNNS BORROWING COVENANTS

- Single suite of financial covenants:-
  - Interest cover (EBITDA / net interest expense)
  - Total debt to EBITDA
  - Gearing
- Carve outs for MIS and lease financing facilities
- No market capitalisation based covenants
- Senior debt facility matures January 2012
- Significant covenant headroom



# GUNNS ASSETS

- Over 275,000 hectares of land valued on the books at an average of \$3,000 per hectare
- Plantation valued at over \$250 million
- Total assets \$2,535 million
- Asset backing \$1.82 per share



# BALANCE SHEET

## - Summary of Assets

	CURRENT \$M	NON-CURRENT \$M
<b>RECEIVABLES</b>		
Trade and Sundry	97	
Loans	55	201
Future wood sale proceeds		128
<b>INVENTORY</b>	158	14
<b>STANDING TIMBER</b>	38	465
<b>HORTICULTURAL</b>		35
<b>LAND</b>		
Forest		805
Commercial		50
Agricultural		17
<b>BUILDINGS (WDV)</b>		78
<b>ROADS (WDV)</b>		73
<b>PLANT (WDV)</b>		
Woodchip mills		40
Sawmills		68
Other		67
<b>PULP MILL DEVELOPMENT</b>		126
<b>INVESTMENTS</b>		20
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>348</b>	<b>2,187</b>



# Business Strategy



# GUNNS COMPETITIVE POSITION

- Global demand for wood based products continues to grow
  - Asia is the highest growth region
- Reduction in resource availability from traditional local sources
  - Sustainability and regulatory requirements
- Proximity to Asian market
- Gunns forest operations are efficient on a world scale
- Quality of fibre in Tasmania
- Integrated business yields highest value return



# GUNNS VERTICAL INTEGRATION STRATEGY

- Business strategy based on capturing full value from managed forest resource from “seed to store”
- Business built on a quality resource achieved by ownership or management:-
  - Ensuring resource grown for highest value product
  - Efficiencies in forest management
  - Manage quality in product chain through detailed understanding of markets
- Access to quality resource is the single most important limiting factor for growth in the global market



# SUMMARY

- Continuing focus on managing operational business:-
  - Operating costs
  - Cash flow
- Maintaining a strong asset base
- Achieved debt reduction targets
- Delivered a cost reduction program to maximise profitability
- Well positioned to take advantage of industry opportunities

