

WOOLWORTHS LIMITED

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WOOLWORTHS LIMITED

FIRST QUARTER SALES RESULTS

14 WEEKS TO 2 OCTOBER 2005

SALES \$8.9B IN FIRST QUARTER, UP 14.5% FROM CONTINUING OPERATIONS.

**“Overall an excellent start to the year with solid sales growth across all divisions,”
Roger Corbett, Group Managing Director/CEO**

<u>First Quarter by Division</u>	FY2005	FY2006	Increase
	\$m	\$m	%
Food and Liquor	5,974	6,468	8.3
Petrol	795	1,128	41.9
Supermarket Division	6,769	7,596	12.2
BIG W	711	756	6.3
Consumer Electronics	249	290	16.5
General Merchandise	960	1,046	9.0
Hotels	-	205	-
Continuing Operations	7,729	8,847	14.5
Wholesale Division	37	37	-
Total First Quarter Sales	7,766	8,884	14.4

Woolworths' Group Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer, Roger Corbett, today announced sales growth of 14.5% from continuing operations for the first quarter of the 2005/2006 financial year. "First quarter sales growth for the Group was a solid result, with comparable sales continuing along similar trends to those seen during the fourth quarter last year. However as foreshadowed in our previous sales release the discretionary end of the market has tightened as a result of higher petrol prices," Mr. Corbett noted.

SUPERMARKETS

Food and Liquor (including ALH/MGW/BMG) sales for the quarter increased 8.3% compared to 8.1% for the fourth quarter last year.

Comparable (like-for-like) store sales in Food and Liquor for the quarter were up 3.2% on last year, which is up marginally on the 3.1% comparable growth for last year.

As previously indicated and expected inflation has slightly increased to just under 2%.

Petrol sales for the quarter, including Woolworths/Caltex Alliance sites, increased by 41.9%, with volumes in the closing weeks of the quarter reaching 77 million litres per week. As of today we have 468 sites, including 123 Woolworths/Caltex Alliance sites. We have almost reached our initial target of around 470 canopies, however, as need dictates, this number will increase further.

BIG W

BIG W sales grew by 6.3% during the quarter. Comparable store sales rose 1.2% for the quarter compared with 2.3% for the fourth quarter last year. Sales in the later part of the quarter tightened coinciding with the sharp rise in petrol prices.

We are pleased with the progress of repositioning at BIG W reinforcing its everyday low price offer.

CONSUMER ELECTRONICS

Consumer Electronics has continued to enjoy strong growth with sales for the quarter increasing 16.5% compared to 11.9% for the fourth quarter last year. Comparable store sales increased by 11.2% during the quarter compared with 8.5% for the fourth quarter last year.

The good result was driven by strong sales of innovative technology being particularly strong.

SALES OUTLOOK AND EARNINGS GUIDANCE FOR THE FULL YEAR

“Given the continuance of the trading patterns of the first quarter, and the maintenance of the present business and economic climate, Woolworths expects sales from continuing operations for the full year to grow in the upper single digits, with net profit after tax growing in the lower double digits (excluding Foodland). We therefore maintain our earnings guidance for the Full Year 2005/6 as previously reported,” said Mr. Corbett.

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