

Embargo: Wednesday 16th November 2011

COLES OPENS 150TH SUPERMARKET IN QUEENSLAND

-More than \$200 million invested in Queensland stores

-Queensland suppliers benefit from over \$1 billion worth of Coles orders

-4000 new jobs to be created as expansion continues

Coles today celebrated the opening of its 150th supermarket in Queensland cementing the retailer's commitment to the State where it has served customers since 1932 and now employs more than 15,000 team members. Coles also announced that its continued expansion in Queensland would create 4000 new jobs over the next few years.

Coles has invested more than \$200 million over the last two years providing new look stores for Queensland customers and will invest a similar amount this year. In addition Coles now sources more than \$1 billion worth of products from Queensland based suppliers in a further significant boost to the State's economy.

State General Manager for Queensland, Mark Scates said today was a proud day for the Coles team in Queensland: "It's been a tough year for Queensland as communities, including some of our stores and many of our customers and team members, recovered from the devastation caused by cyclone Yasi. It's great to end the year on a more positive note by opening our newest store in MacKay – the 150th in the State – and demonstrating our support for our 350 Queensland suppliers who together now benefit from more than \$1 billion worth of orders from Coles each year.

"I'm really proud of the way our team members in Queensland pulled together to help the worst hit communities and I've been delighted to be a part of the rebuilding and refurbishment of our stores in flood affected areas and further afield. Coles has invested more than \$200 million in renovating or opening new stores across the State over the last two years and will spend hundreds of millions more as we continue to provide our Queensland customers with a fresh new shopping experience.

"Investing in new stores not only provides our customers with a better shopping trip but also provides jobs for hundreds of local people. In the last five years alone we have created almost 1000 new positions in our stores and a further 200 in the building industry working on our new developments. As our expansion in Queensland continues we expect to create a further 4000 jobs over the next few years."

The 150th store is located in Caneland Central, corner Victoria Street and Mangrove Road, Mackay. Opening today (16th November) the new look Coles features hundreds of locally sourced products from Queensland, an in store bakery, open butchers counter, large delicatessen offering more than 150 specialty cheeses and fresh produce sold on ice for maximum freshness. The store will also be convenient for customers with new self serve checkouts and access to a five-storey car park.

Coles Caneland will be managed by local store manager Robert Simpson and has created more than 150 new jobs for the local community.

Case studies of Coles suppliers in Queensland and details of recent store openings are available.

For further information or to arrange an interview with Mark Scates please contact Jon Church at Coles on 03 9829 4008 or 0419 748653.