coles

MEDIA RELEASE

15 January 2009

Coles appoints General Manager Corporate Affairs

Coles' Managing Director, Ian McLeod, today announced that Mr Robert Hadler will be joining the Coles executive team as General Manager Corporate Affairs.

Mr Hadler is a highly experienced corporate affairs practitioner, having worked in a number of senior roles with major Australian companies over more than a decade.

Mr Hadler will take up the position at Coles on February 16.

Mr McLeod said he was delighted that Mr Hadler was joining the Coles team, particularly given his depth of experience and expertise in managing corporate affairs functions for companies undergoing major change.

"Rob's appointment reflects the high priority I've placed on maintaining and enhancing effective and timely communications to all our stakeholders as the turnaround of Coles proceeds," Mr McLeod said.

"His background and abilities will contribute significantly to both the executive team and the business as a whole and play an integral role in co-ordinating and advancing our total communications effort."

Mr Hadler joins Coles from AWB Limited where he has worked as General Manager, Corporate Affairs, since 2006.

Prior to that, he headed the Corporate Affairs functions at National Australia Bank and Goodman Fielder.

Mr Hadler also has an extensive background in public policy, government relations and media.

His previous appointments include Deputy Director of the National Farmers Federation, Government Relations Manager for the ANZ Bank and as a Policy Adviser in the Prime Minister's Department.

Mr Hadler was also economics writer for *The Australian* for five years as well as *The Australian's* London correspondent.

Mr Hadler's appointment is the latest addition to the Coles executive team which includes a number of new senior appointments across the business since May last year when Mr McLeod took over as Managing Director.

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