Manager of Macquarie CountryWide Trust

No.1 Martin Place Sydney NSW 2000 GPO Box 4294 Sydney NSW 1164

Telephone (61 2) 8232 3333 Investor Services (61 2) 8232 3737 Facsimile (61 2) 8232 6510 Country Callers 1300 365 585 Internet http://www.macquarie.com.au/propertytrusts

UNIT REGISTRY c/- Link Market Services Level 12, 680 George Street Sydney NSW 2000 Locked Bag A 14 Sydney South NSW 1235 Telephone 1300 303 063

<u>ASX/Media release</u>

MACQUARIE COUNTRYWIDE CONTINUES MOMENTUM TO REALISE ASSET VALUE AND STRATEGICALLY REINVEST CAPITAL

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Macquarie CountryWide Trust (ASX:MCW) is acquiring an interest in a portfolio of 33 grocery anchored shopping centres in the United States for approximately US\$260 million. The Trust has also embarked on an asset sale program of between US\$150 million and US\$300 million which will partly fund the acquisition. The vendor of the properties is the Schnuck family – owner operators of Schnucks Markets, Inc. – a market dominant grocery business of more than 100 stores across United States' mid-west and one of the largest US family-owned and operated retail chains.

The acquisition is being made in conjunction with the Trust's joint venture partner Regency Centers Corporation (Regency). The Schnuck family will retain a 20 per cent stake in the portfolio, with Macquarie CountryWide owning 65 per cent and Regency owning the remaining 15 per cent. The portfolio is expected to generate an initial average yield of 6.5 per cent, reflecting the high quality of the assets.

Steven Sewell, Chief Executive Officer of Macquarie CountryWide said, "The acquisition delivers on the Trust's strategy of redeploying capital into high quality opportunities, acquiring grocery anchored retail assets tenanted by market dominant retailers. We're excited about being able to realise gains for investors and effectively reinvest in quality assets such as the Schnucks portfolio. A higher than average proportion of base rent within the portfolio is secured by leases to the Schnucks grocery business, providing strong projected cash flows to the Trust."

Macquarie CountryWide Management Limited (MCML) is not an authorised deposit-taking institution for the purposes of the Banking Act (Cth) 1959, and MCML's obligations do not represent deposits or other liabilities of Macquarie Bank Limited ABN 46 008 583 542 (MBL). MBL provides a limited \$5 million guarantee to the Australian Securities and Investments Commission in respect of MCML's Corporations Act obligations as a responsible entity of managed investment schemes. MBL does not otherwise provide assurance in respect of the obligations of MCML.



The 33 properties acquired have been progressively developed over the last 20 years by the Schnuck family. Design, construction and property management have historically been undertaken by the DESCO Group, a St Louis based real estate company established by the family, who also represented the Schnuck family in this transaction. As part of this acquisition, the Macquarie CountryWide-Regency joint venture will form a new partnership with the Schnuck family. This partnership will contract DESCO to provide property management services to the assets in tandem with Regency. All three parties will together continue to seek various redevelopment opportunities across the portfolio.

A key feature of the deal is the acquisition of high quality real estate assets directly from the retailer. More than 60 per cent of base income from these properties is secured by Schnucks, with long term leases averaging 14 years across the portfolio. The deal has particular significance given that Schnucks holds a market dominant position exceeding 32 per cent within the metropolitan St Louis area.

A significant number of these properties are located in St Louis, Missouri, with the acquisition being Macquarie CountryWide's first entry into the St Louis area. St Louis is a major city situated in the geographic centre of the United States. It is home to over 2.7 million people with a strong record of economic stability and population growth. Many major US corporations are headquartered locally including Anheuser Busch, Emerson, Monsanto, Enterprise Rent a Car, BJC Healthcare, Boeing and Energizer. Some properties are located in Illinois, Indiana and Tennessee providing opportunities for geographic diversification within the portfolio.

The transaction, expected to settle in early August 2007, is expected to be funded through a combination of Trust borrowings and proceeds from the disposal of 18 non-core assets currently underway. The resulting gearing level is expected to be approximately 51 per cent – well within the Trust's mandated gearing range of 45 to 55 per cent.

Pending the success of the US asset disposal program, proceeds will be used to repay the short term debt on the Schnucks acquisition, reducing the Trust's overall gearing level.

Mr Sewell said, "The Schnucks acquisition is a positive on many fronts for the Trust's US portfolio enhancing geographic and tenant diversification, boosting the average unexpired anchor tenant lease term, and increasing the proportion of income secured by anchor tenants. It also demonstrates our ongoing commitment to growth in the US market and the strength of our joint venture relationship with Regency. These factors have enabled us to opportunistically source potential value adding assets for the portfolio while at the same time forging a new, strategic relationship with a top quality US grocery retailer."

An acquisition summary and map follow.

Macquarie CountryWide Trust is a fully integrated listed property trust investing in retail properties with assets valued over A\$5 billion. More than A\$23 billion of real estate assets are managed by Macquarie Real Estate and its associates, across a portfolio of listed and unlisted property trusts, unlisted development funds and property investment syndicates, globally.

Regency is a leading national owner, operator, and developer focused on grocery-anchored and community retail centres. As at 31 March 2007, the company owned 409 retail properties, including those held in joint ventures, totalling 54 million square feet located in high growth markets throughout the US. Operating as a fully integrated real estate company, Regency is a qualified real estate investment trust.

For further information:

Steven Sewell Chief Executive Officer Macquarie CountryWide Trust Ph: +61 2 8232 7217

Kylie Butcher Head of Investor Relations Macquarie Real Estate Capital Ph: +61 2 8232 8516

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MCML does not receive fees in respect of the general financial product advice it may provide, however it will receive fees for operating MCW which, in accordance with the MCW Constitution, are calculated by reference to the value of the assets and the performance of MCW. Entities within the Macquarie Bank Group may also receive fees for managing the assets of, and providing resources to MCW. For more detail on fees, see our latest annual report. To contact us, call 1300 365 585 (local call cost).

Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance.

Due care and attention has been exercised in the preparation of forecast information, however, forecasts, by their very nature, are subject to uncertainty and contingencies, many of which are outside the control of MCML. Actual results may vary from any forecasts and any variation may be materially positive or negative. All quoted figures are compared to the same period last year and currencies denominated in Australian currency unless otherwise stated.

Acquisition summary

| <u>Map</u> number | <u>Property</u> | City, State | <u>Year Built/</u> Refurbished | <u>GLA (SF)</u> | <u>Main</u> anchor | Main anchor <u>% of GLA</u> | Specialty % of GLA | Other tenants | <u>Main anchor</u> lease expiry |
|----------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| 1 | Plaza 94 | St Peters, MO | 1983/2005 | 66,555 | Schnucks | 74% | 27% | Enterprise Rent-a-Car, Edward Jones, GNC, Custom Cuts | Sept - 2030 |
| 2 | Crestwood Commons | Crestwood, MO | 1994 | 67,285 | Schnucks | 100% | 0% | N/A, Best Buy (NAP), Gordon's (NAP) | Mar - 2022 |
| 3 | Evansville West Center | Evansville, IN | 1989 | 79,885 | Schnucks | 78% | 22% | H&R Block, Cingular Wireless, Edward Jones, Hallmark | Dec - 2049 |
| 4 | City Plaza | St Louis, MO | 1998 | 80,149 | Schnucks | 78% | 22% | Foot Locker, Ashley Stewart, Simply Fashions Store | Dec - 2015 |
| 5 | Sierra Vista Plaza | St Louis, MO | 1974/1993 | 74,710 | Schnucks | 75% | 25% | Nu Fashion Beauty, K.T. Sports Bar, Jackson Hewitt | Feb - 2022 |
| 6 | Washington Crossing | Washington, MO | 1999 | 117,591 | Schnucks | 48% | 52% | Michaels, Altmueller Jewelry, Fashion Bug, Dollar Tree | Apr - 2019 |
| 7 | Wildwood Crossing | Wildwood, MO | 1997 | 108,200 | Schnucks | 57% | 43% | St. Louis Bread Co., Hallmark Store, Custom Cuts | Aug - 2017 |
| 8 | Twin Oaks | Twin Oaks, MO | 2007 | 81,600 | Schnucks | 77% | 23% | N/A (currently in lease-up) | Feb - 2027 |
| 9 | Dardenne Crossing | O Fallon, MO | 1996 | 67,430 | Schnucks | 94% | 6% | Mail Depot, Great Clips, Papa Murphy's Pizza | Dec - 2022 |
| 1 | Zumbehl Commons | St Charles, MO | 1990 | 116,692 | Schnucks | 64% | 36% | Wells Fargo Financial, Radio Shack, Edward Jones | Dec -2020 |
| 1 | Richardson Crossing | Arnold, MO | 2000 | 82,994 | Schnucks | 74% | 26% | GNC, Radio Shack, Custom Cuts, Cato Fashions | Jul - 2020 |
| 1 | O'Fallon Centre | O Fallon, MO | 1984 | 71,300 | Schnucks | 77% | 23% | H&R Block, State Farm Insurance, GNC, Great Clips | Sept - 2030 |
| 1 | Bridgeton | Bridgeton, MO | 2005 | 70,762 | Schnucks | 90% | 10% | Home Depot (NAP), Great Clips, China House | Dec - 2022 |
| 1 | Country Club Plaza | Belleville, IL | 1976/2001 | 86,866 | Schnucks | 63% | 37% | The Dress Barn, Radio Shack, Edward Jones, Custom Cuts | Dec - 2010 |
| 1 | Wentzville Commons | Wentzville, MO | 2000 | 74,205 | Schnucks | 83% | 17% | Home Depot (NAP) H&R Block, Quiznos, Radio Shack | Oct - 2025 |
| 1 | Collierville Crossing | Collierville, TN | 2004 | 86,130 | Schnucks | 73% | 27% | Weight Watchers, Quiznos, Cato Fashions, Sports Clips | Jun - 2011 |
| 1 | Hampton Village | St Louis, MO | 1993/2002 | 64,561 | Schnucks | 100% | 0% | N/A | Aug - 2023 |
| 1 | Granite City | Granite City, IL | 1985/2004 | 46,237 | Schnucks | 100% | 0% | N/A | Feb - 2022 |
| 1 | Bellerive Plaza | Creve Couer, MO | 1976/2000 | 115,208 | Schnucks | 59% | 41% | Radio Shack, Firestone Tire, H&R Block | Dec - 2010 |
| 2 | Urbana Crossing | Urbana, IL | 1997 | 83,272 | Schnucks | 75% | 25% | H&R Block, Quiznos, Radio Shack, Starbucks | Aug - 2017 |
| 2 | Brentwood Plaza | Brentwood, MO | 1987/2002 | 60,452 | Schnucks | 86% | 14% | Edward Jones, Custom Cuts, Mr. Goodcents | Dec - 2007 |
| 2 | Butler Hill Centre | St Louis, MO | 1987 | 90,889 | Schnucks | 70% | 30% | Edward Jones, American General Finance, Frailey's Pub | Apr - 2012 |
| 2 | Swansea Plaza | Belleville, IL | 1988 | 118,892 | Schnucks | 59% | 41% | GNC, Subway, Edward Jones, Cingular Wireless | Aug - 2017 |
| 2 | Carbondale Center | Carbondale, IL | 1997 | 59,726 | Schnucks | 95% | 5% | Check Into Cash, Great Clips | Dec- 2020 |
| 2 | Champaign Commons | Champaign, IL | 1990 | 88,104 | Schnucks | 82% | 18% | H&R Block, Four Seasons Restaurant, Custom Cuts | Dec - 2034 |
| 2 | Shackelford Center | Florissant, MO | 1981/2006 | 49,635 | Schnucks | 93% | 7% | Edward Jones, Subway | Feb - 2022 |
| 2 | Lake St. Louis | Lake St Louis, MO | 2004 | 75,643 | Schnucks | 84% | 17% | UPS Store, Custom Cuts, H&R Block, Paesano Pizza | Jun - 2021 |
| 2 | Dorsett Village | Maryland Heights, MO | 1976/1998 | 101,080 | Schnucks | 59% | 41% | Walgreens, Quiznos, Kumon USA, Steak n Shake | Dec - 2010 |
| 2 | University City Square | University City, MO | 1997 | 79,280 | Schnucks | 78% | 22% | H&R Block, Edward Jones, Dollar Tree, Ashley Stewart | Sept - 2030 |
| 3 | Montvale Commons | Springfield, IL | 1996 | 73,937 | Schnucks | 85% | 16% | Custom Cuts, Monical's Pizza, Heartland Dental | Feb - 2022 |
| 3 | Affton Plaza | Affton, MO | 1981/2000 | 67,760 | Schnucks | 90% | 10% | Edward Jones, Shelter Mutual Insurance Company | Aug - 2017 |
| 3 | Kirkwood Commons | Kirkwood, MO | 2000 | 209,703 | Wal-Mart | 65% | 35% | Lowe's (NAP), Target (NAP), Wal-Mart, TJ Maxx | May - 2020 |
| 3 | Capital Crossing | Jefferson City, MO | 2002 | 85,149 | Schnucks | 74% | 26% | Radio Shack, Quiznos Subs, Movie Gallery, H&R Block | Jul - 2035 |
| | TOTALS | | | 2,801,882 | | 74% | 26% | | |

Map of acquired properties

