



23 March 2016

Australian Securities and Investments Commission  
Mr Oliver Harvey  
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SYDNEY NSW 2000

ASX Market Announcements Office  
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20 Bridge Street  
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#### **CHAIRMAN'S LETTER TO SHAREHOLDERS – ASX INTERIM DIVIDEND**

Attached is a letter from ASX's Chairman, Rick Holliday-Smith, regarding the ASX interim dividend.

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Group General Counsel & Company Secretary

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Dear ASX Shareholder

On 11 February 2016, ASX Limited (ASX) announced its half-year results for the six months to 31 December 2015 (1H16). Results were positive, with activity growth across all major areas. The listings market remained strong, with 77 new companies listing and almost \$55 billion in IPO and secondary capital raised. Equity market activity was also stronger, with on-market value traded on ASX increasing 16.6% to more than \$4 billion per day.

For the six months, profit after tax was \$213.1 million, up 7.3% on the prior corresponding period (1H15). Based on the Group's segment reporting the key items were:

- Revenues \$376.2 million, up 7.9%
- Expenses \$85.1 million, up 4.4%
- Earnings per share 110.2 cents, up 7.3%.

#### **Dividend advice enclosed**

ASX is paying an interim dividend of 99.1 cents per share fully franked, up 7.4%. The Dividend Reinvestment Plan will not operate for the interim dividend.

#### **Investment in our future**

ASX continues to invest in the infrastructure critical to Australia's financial markets, and in products and services that give investors choice and flexibility.

During the period ASX opened an office and established a technology hub in Hong Kong to connect its growing Asian customer base to Australia's financial markets community. ASX now has points of presence in the USA, Europe and Asia.

Earlier this month, T+2 settlement was introduced for sharemarket trades, reducing the settlement period by a day, providing efficiencies for market users and keeping Australia aligned with global best practice. As an investor, you should now be receiving your cash or securities after a transaction one day earlier.

In February 2015, ASX announced that it will upgrade all of its main technology platforms. The first phase is well underway, with new trading and risk systems targeted for delivery in 2016.

The focus of the next phase of the program is on post-trade clearing and settlement services. In January 2016, ASX announced that it will explore developing solutions for Australia's post-trade equity market using distributed ledger – or 'blockchain' – technology. This technology has the potential to lower risk and costs for ASX customers, and speed-up the settlement process for investors.



A decision on the suitability of distributed ledger technology is expected by mid-2017, after the benefits and implications are considered by all relevant stakeholders, including customers, government and regulators.

- Complete 1H16 results are available at: [www.asx.com.au/about/investor-relations.htm](http://www.asx.com.au/about/investor-relations.htm)
- ASX's full-year results for 2016 will be announced on 18 August 2016 and the AGM will be held on 28 September 2016 in Sydney
- Any questions you would like to ask ASX can be emailed to: [company.secretariat@asx.com.au](mailto:company.secretariat@asx.com.au)

Thank you for your support. I look forward to updating you on ASX's full-year performance later this year.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Rick Holliday-Smith', written in a cursive style.

Rick Holliday-Smith  
Chairman