



ASX/MEDIA RELEASE

WHSP Declares Special Dividend Following Robust Full Year Profit Results

	2010	Change	2009	2008
Revenue (\$000)	823,307	6.2%	774,953	681,640
Profit after tax before non-regular items (\$000)	181,555	(19.2%)	224,685	113,146
Profit after tax and non-regular items (\$000)	218,327	(80.4%)	1,112,652	90,828
Earnings per share before non-regular items (cents)	76.1	(19.2%)	94.2	47.4
Final dividend (cents)	20	5.3%	19	18
Special dividend (cents)	12.5		25	-

Thursday, 23 September 2010: Diversified investment company, Washington H. Soul Pattinson and Company Limited (WHSP, ASX: SOL), today announced a Group profit **after tax before non-regular items** (attributable to shareholders) for the full year ended 31 July 2010 of \$181.6 million, down 19.2% on the previous corresponding period. The decrease was primarily due to lower contributions from New Hope Corporation Limited (New Hope) and Pitt Capital Partners following their particularly strong results last year.

The profit of the Group, **after tax and non-regular items**, was \$218.3 million, a decrease of \$894.3 million from the previous corresponding period. Last year's result included the Group's \$1.03 billion share of the profit on the sale of New Hope's Saraji coal project

Mr Robert Millner, Chairman of WHSP said: "The Board is pleased to again deliver a robust profit result to our shareholders, allowing us to reward them with an increased dividend of 5.3% to 20 cents per share. We have no borrowings from financial institutions, which helped contribute to this outcome.

"We have also declared a special dividend of 12.5 cents, the eighth special dividend we have paid in the last ten years. This is in recognition of the Group's share of the non-regular profit on New Hope's disposal of its holding in Arrow Energy Limited in August 2010," added Mr Millner.

Dividends

Directors have declared a fully franked final dividend of 20 cents per share in respect of the full year ended 31 July 2010, an increase of 5.3% over last year's final dividend of 19 cents per share. Directors have also recommended the payment of a fully franked special dividend of 12.5 cents per share.

The dividends are to be approved by shareholders at the Company's Annual General Meeting and will be payable on 6 December 2010. The record date for the dividends is 22 November 2010.

Investments – Holding Company

The market value of WHSP's listed investment portfolio, which includes controlled entities and associates, was \$4.07 billion as at 31 July 2010, compared to \$4.04 billion as at 31 July 2009. Excluding controlled entities and associates, the market value of the listed investment portfolio as at 31 July 2010 was \$459 million, an increase of 15.9% when compared to \$396 million at 31 July 2009.

During the year \$110.8 million was invested in listed equities, with purchases including Australian Pharmaceutical Industries Limited, Commonwealth Bank of Australia, Quickstep Holdings Limited, Telstra Corporation Limited and TPG Telecom Limited. Purchases of shares in controlled entities and associates totalled \$43 million.

Major controlled entities' contributions:

- New Hope (59.9% held*) - contributed a net profit of \$110.7 million to the Group for the year (2009: \$1.2 billion net profit, 60.7% holding).
- Pitt Capital Partners Limited (78.3% held*) - contributed a net loss of \$0.3 million to the Group (2009: \$13 million net profit).

Major associated entities' contributions:

- Australian Pharmaceutical Industries Limited (24.6% held*) – contributed a net profit of \$5.5 million to the Group (2009: \$3.9 million net profit). WHSP has equity accounted API's result for the 12 months to February 2010.
- Brickworks Limited (44.6% held*) – contributed a \$17.5 million regular profit to the Group (2009: \$17.2 million regular profit, holding 49.4%).
- Clover Corporation Limited (28.6% held*) – contributed a regular profit of \$1.2 million to the Group (2009: \$0.9 million regular profit).
- Ruralco Holdings Limited (23.5% held*) – contributed a net profit of \$2.7 million to the Group (2009: \$2.6 million net profit). WHSP has equity accounted Ruralco's result for the 12 months to March 2010.
- TPG Telecom Limited (formerly SP Telemedia) (26.6% held*) – contributed a net profit of \$15.4 million to the Group (2009: \$4.9 million net profit, 28.5% holding).

* Percentage of the issued capital of the company held by the WHSP Group as at 31 July 2010

Results briefing:

Robert Millner, Chairman of WHSP, will be presenting the results with a Q&A session afterwards today at the Citigroup Centre, Level 39, 2 Park Street, Sydney - 12.15pm, for 12.30pm start.

Please note that Brickworks (ASX: BKW) will be presenting at 12.30pm, prior to WHSP.

About Washington H. Soul Pattinson & Company Limited

Washington H. Soul Pattinson & Company Limited (WHSP) is Australia's second oldest listed company. Beginning as a chemist shop in Pitt Street, Sydney in 1872, the company listed on the Australian Securities Exchange 30 years later. Over the 108 years since listing, WHSP has paid a dividend every year, including throughout the depression of the 1930s. Today WHSP is a diversified investor in basic commodities such as building products, coal, equities, telecommunications, financial services and pharmaceuticals.

WASHINGTON H. SOUL PATTINSON AND COMPANY LIMITED (ASX CODE: SOL) www.whsp.com.au

For further information contact:

Investors

Robert Millner, Chairman - 02 9232 7166

Media

Rebecca Piercy, Kreab Gavin Anderson - 0422 916 422