

Media enquiries
Matthew Doman
+61 8 8116 5260 / +61 (0) 421 888 858
matthew.doman@santos.com

Investor enquiries
Andrew Nairn
+61 8 8116 5314 / +61 (0) 437 166 497
andrew.nairn@santos.com

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SANTOS ANNOUNCES EQUITY RAISING

Capital to be used to fund PNG LNG Project and FUELS redemption

An opportunity to invest in Santos' LNG growth strategy

PNG LNG project is progressing well; key milestones are being reached

Santos today launched a 2-for-5 accelerated pro-rata non-renounceable entitlement offer at an offer price of A\$12.50 per share to raise a minimum of A\$1.65 billion:

- The institutional component of this entitlement offer has been fully underwritten and will raise a minimum of A\$1.65 billion
- The retail component of the entitlement offer is not underwritten but may raise up to an additional A\$1.35 billion depending on take up

Santos will use A\$1.05 billion of the proceeds of the offer to fund Santos' share of the capital expenditure on the Papua New Guinea LNG project and A\$600 million for the redemption of FUELS. Any additional capital raised will be available to fund Santos' other growth projects, including the GLNG project in Queensland, which is expected to reach Final Investment Decision (FID) in the first half of 2010.

Santos has reiterated its previous 2009 guidance below.

Santos currently intends to maintain its 2009 dividend per share (on the expanded capital base) in line with the 2008 dividend of A\$0.42 per share.

Santos Limited ABN 80 007 550 923
GPO Box 2455, Adelaide SA 5001
Telephone: +61 8 8116 5000 Facsimile: +61 8 8116 5131
www.santos.com

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Santos Chief Executive Officer David Knox said "This is an opportunity to invest in Santos' LNG growth strategy."

"The underwritten proceeds of this raising provide Santos with the capital required to fund its equity share of the PNG LNG project and guarantee its share of the project finance debt while maintaining a strong balance sheet consistent with its BBB+ credit rating. The PNG LNG project is expected to create significant value for Santos and, along with GLNG, is a critical part of our growth strategy."

The PNG LNG operator, ExxonMobil, has made solid progress on the project. The achievement of the most recent milestones, being the agreement of the key terms of a non-binding customer heads of agreement and the imminent approval to spend significant pre-FID capital on early works, gives Santos confidence that the project will reach FID as scheduled before the end of 2009.

Santos recently announced that the joint venture partners for the PNG LNG project have agreed the key terms of a non-binding heads of agreement with a major Asian customer for the purchase of 2 million tonnes per annum (mtpa) of LNG, the execution of which is subject to final Government approval.

"The PNG LNG project is expected to materially enhance Santos' earnings once it is completed, and we are raising equity today to fully participate in the project while maintaining our strong financial position." Mr Knox said.

Mr Knox said Santos continued to respond to the low oil price environment and maintained a very tight focus on costs.

"Santos has implemented across the board cost reduction measures to ensure the company can weather uncertain economic conditions and achieve our strategy to deliver our base business while pursuing growth through LNG and in Asia."

The equity raising is consistent with Santos' objective of maintaining a credit rating from Standard & Poor's of at least BBB+.

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BUSINESS UPDATE

Santos' 2009 guidance is reiterated below:

Item	2009 Guidance
Production	53-56 mmbœ
Production costs	A\$550-A\$570 million
Depreciation, Depletion & Amortisation (DD&A) expense	A\$12.80 per boe
Royalty related taxation expense ¹	A\$80-A\$100 million (after tax)
Capital expenditure (including exploration & evaluation) ²	A\$1,500 million

¹ Royalty related taxation expense guidance assumes oil price of US\$50/bbl and an AUD/USD exchange rate of 0.65, both of which are consistent with analyst consensus forecasts for 2009

² Capital expenditure guidance includes A\$180 million for exploration

ENTITLEMENT OFFER

Santos has launched an accelerated pro-rata non-renounceable entitlement offer (Entitlement Offer) at an offer price of A\$12.50 per share. The Entitlement Offer will be conducted on the basis of 2 new Santos ordinary shares (New Shares) for every 5 existing Santos ordinary shares (Shares) held (Entitlement) at 7.00pm (AEST) on Thursday 14 May 2009 (Record Date).

The offer price of A\$12.50 per New Share represents a 26.9 per cent discount to the closing price of Shares on Friday 8 May 2009 and a 20.8 per cent discount to the theoretical ex-rights price (TERP). New Shares issued under the Entitlement Offer will be entitled to the interim dividend for FY2009.

The Entitlement Offer is comprised of an institutional component that is fully underwritten to raise a minimum of A\$1.65 billion (Institutional Entitlement Offer) and an offer to retail shareholders to participate on the same terms (Retail Entitlement Offer). The Retail Entitlement Offer is not underwritten.

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For the Institutional Entitlement Offer, New Shares equal in number to those not taken up by Santos' eligible institutional shareholders and those which would otherwise have been offered to ineligible institutional shareholders will be offered to eligible institutional investors through an institutional bookbuild process.

Santos expects to announce the outcome of the Institutional Entitlement Offer to the market prior to the start of trading on Wednesday 13 May 2009.

Further details of the Entitlement Offer and the timetable are included in Annexure A to this announcement.

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LNG PROJECTS

PNG LNG

The PNG LNG project proposes to commercialise the undeveloped petroleum resources in the Hides, Angore and Juha fields and the associated gas resources in the currently operating oil fields of Kutubu, Agogo, Gobe and Moran in the Southern Highlands and Western provinces of PNG. The gas will be transported by pipeline to an LNG facility twenty kilometres northwest of Port Moresby on the coast of the Gulf of Papua. The gas will be liquefied, enabling export by ship of approximately 6.3mtpa of LNG.

The project is operated by ExxonMobil and is currently in the Front End Engineering and Design (FEED) stage. FEED activities, including engineering and environmental studies, marketing and financing activities continue to progress well and culminated in April in the PNG LNG Project reaching agreement on key terms for a non-binding Heads of Agreement (HoA) with a major Asian customer, the execution of which is subject to final Government approval. The Hides gas/condensate field will underpin the gas volumes required. Santos has a 31% interest in the license containing the bulk of the Hides field. FEED is expected to conclude with FID in 4Q 2009.

During FEED, various shareholdings of parties in PNG LNG are approximately:

- ExxonMobil (Esso Highlands Limited as Operator) 41.5%
- Oil Search 34.0%
- Santos 17.7%
- Nippon Oil 5.4%
- MRDC/State 1.4%

Santos expects to have a participating interest of approximately 13.7% after the PNG Government back-in to the project. Santos' participating interest is subject to an equity determination process which will take place before FID.

Based on ExxonMobil's pre-FEED estimates, the project capital costs for PNG LNG are currently estimated to be approximately US\$12.5 billion (nominal) from FID until first LNG cargo (expected late 2013/early 2014).

This cost estimate does not include:

- Financing costs, including capitalised interest and borrowing costs, currently estimated at approximately US\$2.6 billion;

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- Debt service reserve and start up cash flow of approximately US\$1.4 billion; and
- Estimated cost of LNG tanker ships, which is subject to marketing outcomes.

As noted above, the project is currently in FEED. Project costs will be revised at the completion of FEED and prior to FID.

Equity funding from participants from FID to first LNG cargo is currently estimated at US\$5 billion (Santos share US\$0.7 billion nominal).

Non-recourse project finance (post completion) is currently estimated at US\$11.5 billion (nominal). Prior to completion, Santos is required to guarantee its share (US\$1.6 billion nominal).

Strong interest has been received from Export Credit Agencies, with the remaining balance to be financed by banks and other funding sources.

Santos expects PNG LNG to reach binding sales agreements for the full 6.3mtpa prior to FID.

GLNG

The Gladstone LNG project (GLNG) is a transformational project for Santos and involves the production of LNG using coal seam gas (CSG) sourced from the Santos/PETRONAS CSG fields in the Surat and Bowen basins in south-east Queensland. PETRONAS, Asia's largest LNG producer, took a 40% interest in GLNG in May 2008 for US\$2.5 billion. The initial phase of the project is on track for production of approximately 3.5mtpa of LNG, with first cargoes in 2014.

Progress during 1Q 2009 included:

- A draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) being submitted to the Queensland State Government on 30 March 2009;
- The Fairview to Gladstone pipeline FEED contract being awarded to GHD. The pipeline will be 435km in length and will be used to deliver CSG from the Santos/PETRONAS CSG fields to the liquefaction plant on Curtis Island, off Gladstone in central Queensland; and
- Marketing discussions continue with a range of Asian LNG buyers. These discussions are at a reasonably advanced stage. Santos may, in combination with an offtake agreement, sell a further minority interest in the project.

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Santos and PETRONAS are involved in exploratory discussions with other parties regarding opportunities to rationalise substantial capital expenditure through shared infrastructure and operating synergies.

The project is currently in downstream FEED and is yet to enter upstream FEED. It is through the FEED process that Santos will be able to develop reasonable engineering estimates of project cost. Santos will announce updated capital expenditure estimates following completion of upstream FEED.

FUELS UPDATE

The FUELS are a hybrid security issued by Santos in 2004 and are listed on the ASX. On 30 September 2009 Santos has the option to convert or redeem FUELS or step-up the margin on FUELS. Santos intends to redeem FUELS for cash utilising part of the proceeds of the Entitlement Offer and considers this option to be in the best interests of both its ordinary shareholders and FUELS holders. FUELS are treated as debt by Standard & Poor's and replacing the FUELS with ordinary equity will strengthen Santos' credit metrics. A notice informing FUELS holders of Santos' final decision will be sent to holders prior to 1 September 2009.

CORPORATE UPDATE

Santos is in the early stages of participating in a bid process to acquire an operating asset in a region where Santos already has production operations which Santos currently believes has an indicative value in the order of US\$200 million.

On 10 May 2009, a subsidiary of Santos executed a conditional agreement to sell its 9% interest in the Kakap Indonesian joint venture to a third party. The total purchase price may be adjusted after completion. However, it is likely that the sale price will be less than book value of the Kakap interest by approximately US\$25 million. Santos expects to write down the asset value to that extent. The Kakap block is located in the West Natuna Basin 1,000 kilometres north of Jakarta. Santos' 9% non operated interest is not material or strategic to Santos' operations and was acquired in 2004 as part of a broader acquisition of assets located in Australia, the US and Indonesia. Santos' share of Kakap production in 2008 was 323,900 boe. Santos' 2009 production guidance of 53-56 mboe is unchanged following the sale of Kakap.

Santos has begun a process for monetising certain of its non-producing Timor sea gas assets.

SHAREHOLDER ENQUIRIES

Retail shareholders who have questions regarding the Retail Entitlement Offer should call the Santos Shareholder Information Line on 1300 727 634 (local call cost within Australia) or +61 3 9946 4447 (from outside Australia) at any time from 8.30am to 5.30pm (AEST) Monday to Friday or go to Santos' website at www.santos.com.

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This news release does not constitute an offer to sell, or the solicitation of an offer to buy, any securities in the United States, or to any person that is or is acting for the account or benefit of any U.S. person (as defined in Regulation S under the United States Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act")) ("U.S. Person"), or in any other jurisdiction. The securities in the proposed offering have not been, and will not be, registered under the Securities Act or the securities laws of any state or other jurisdiction of the United States, and may not be offered or sold in the United States or to or for the account or benefit of U.S. Persons except in a transaction exempt from, or not subject to, the registration requirements of the U.S. Securities Act and applicable securities laws of any state or other jurisdiction of the United States.

Caution regarding forward-looking statements

This news release contains forward-looking statements, which can usually be identified by the use of words such as "may", "will", "expect", "intend", "plan", "estimate", "anticipate", "believe", "continue", "objectives", "outlook", "guidance" or words of similar effect. Indications of, and guidance on, future earnings and financial position and performance are also forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements are not guarantees or predictions of future performance, and involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors, many of which are beyond our control, and which may cause actual results to differ materially from those expressed in the statements contained in this news release. Some of these risks are set out in Annexure B "Risk disclosure". You should not place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements are based on information available to us as of the date of this news release. Except as required by law or regulation (including the ASX Listing Rules) we undertake no obligation to update these forward-looking statements.

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ANNEXURE A – ENTITLEMENT OFFER DETAILS

OFFER SUMMARY

Santos has requested that its shares be subject to a trading halt on the ASX pending the outcome of the Institutional Entitlement Offer. Santos shares are expected to re-commence trading on Wednesday 13 May 2009.

Entitlement ratio	2 New Shares for every 5 existing Santos ordinary shares
Offer price	A\$12.50 per New Share
Record date	Thursday 14 May 2009 (7:00pm AEST)

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OFFER TIMETABLE

Event	Date
Institutional Entitlement Offer opens	8:30am Monday 11 May 2009
Shareholder Declaration Form to be returned (Australia and Asia)	4:00pm Monday 11 May 2009
Shareholder Declaration Form to be returned (U.S. and Europe)	6.00am Tuesday 12 May 2009
Institutional Entitlement Offer closes (Australia and Asia)	4:00pm Tuesday 12 May 2009
Institutional Entitlement Offer closes (U.S. and Europe)	10:00pm Tuesday 12 May 2009
Trading recommences	Wednesday 13 May 2009
Record Date for the Entitlement Offer	7.00pm Thursday 14 May 2009
Retail Entitlement Offer opens	Friday 15 May 2009
Despatch of Retail Entitlement and Acceptance Form to Retail Shareholders commences	Monday 18 May 2009
Settlement of the Institutional Entitlement Offer	Thursday 21 May 2009
Allotment and commencement of normal trading of New Shares issued under the Institutional Entitlement Offer	Friday 22 May 2009
Retail Entitlement Offer closes	Friday 5 June 2009
Retail Entitlement Offer settlement	Monday 15 June 2009
Issue of New Shares under the Retail Entitlement Offer	Tuesday 16 June 2009
New Shares commence trading / dispatch of holding statements	Wednesday 17 June 2009

Dates and times are indicative only and subject to change. All times and dates refer to AEST.

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OFFER STRUCTURE

The Entitlement Offer is structured as an accelerated pro-rata non-renounceable entitlement offer consisting of an Institutional Entitlement Offer and a Retail Entitlement Offer. Entitlements cannot be traded on the ASX nor otherwise transferred.

Institutional Entitlement Offer

Eligible Institutional Shareholders will be invited to participate in the Institutional Entitlement Offer between Monday 11 May 2009 and Tuesday 12 May 2009.

Eligible Institutional Shareholders can choose to take up or not take up all or part of their Entitlements. Elections in regard to Entitlements need to be advised prior to 4:00pm (AEST) Tuesday 12 May 2009 (for Australia and Asia) and 10:00pm (AEST) Tuesday 12 May 2009 (for US and Europe). New Shares equal in number to those not taken up by Eligible Institutional Shareholders and those which would otherwise have been offered to Ineligible Institutional Shareholders will be offered for subscription to qualifying institutions and non shareholders at the offer price of A\$12.50 per New Share.

Retail Entitlement Offer

Eligible Retail Shareholders will be invited to participate in the Retail Entitlement Offer on the same terms as the Institutional Entitlement Offer. The Retail Entitlement Offer will open on Friday 15 May 2009 and close at 5.00pm (AEST) on Friday 5 June 2009.

The Entitlement Offer is non-renounceable. This means that Santos shareholders who do not take up their entitlement to participate in the offer will not receive any value for those entitlements, and their equity interest in Santos will be diluted.

ELIGIBLE RETAIL SHAREHOLDERS

Eligible Retail Shareholders are those holders of Shares who:

- Are registered as a holder of Shares as at 7.00pm (AEST) on Thursday 14 May 2009 (Record Date);
- Have a registered address in Australia or New Zealand;
- Are not in the United States and are not, and are not acting for the account or benefit of, any U.S. Person;
- Are not an Institutional Shareholder or Ineligible Retail Shareholder; and

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- Are eligible under all applicable securities laws to receive an offer under the Retail Offer.

The Retail Entitlement Offer is not being extended to any retail Shareholder outside Australia and New Zealand.

STOCK LENDING

Eligible shareholders will be entitled to apply for 2 New Shares for every 5 Shares held as at 7.00pm (AEST) on the Record Date, Thursday 14 May 2009. In the event a Santos shareholder has Santos ordinary shares out on loan, the borrower will be regarded as the shareholder for the purposes of determining the Entitlement (provided that those borrowed shares have not been on-sold).

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ANNEXURE B – RISK DISCLOSURE

1 Introduction

A number of risks and uncertainties, which are both specific to Santos and of a more general nature, may affect the future operating and financial performance of Santos and the value of Santos shares. You should carefully consider the following risk factors, as well as the other information provided to you by Santos in connection with the Entitlement Offer, and consult your financial and legal advisers before deciding whether to invest in the New Shares. The risks and uncertainties described below are not the only ones facing Santos. Additional risks and uncertainties that Santos is unaware of, or that it currently considers to be immaterial, may also become important factors that adversely affect Santos' operating and financial performance.

2 Operational risks

(a) Oil and gas market risks

Santos' business relies primarily on the production and sale of oil & gas products (including LNG) to a variety of buyers under a range of short-term and long-term contracts. Fluctuations in the global oil & gas market may materially affect Santos' financial performance.

(b) Crude oil price

Demand for and pricing of LNG remains sensitive to external economic and political factors, including crude oil prices and buyer preferences as between LNG and oil.

Crude oil prices are affected by numerous factors beyond Santos' control, including worldwide oil supply and demand, the level of economic activity in the markets Santos serves, regional political developments and military conflicts in oil-producing countries and regions (in particular, the Middle East), the weather, the ability of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries ("OPEC") and other producing nations to influence global production levels and prices, the price and availability of new technology and the availability and cost of alternative sources of energy. The international price for crude oil has historically been volatile. Accordingly, it is impossible to predict future crude oil price movements with certainty. Although crude oil prices had risen over the past several years, the second half of 2008 saw a dramatic and sudden decline in the oil price.

Sustained low crude oil prices or further declines in the price of crude oil, and, as a result, natural gas prices, will adversely affect Santos' business, results of operations and financial condition, liquidity and its ability to finance planned capital expenditures, including development projects.

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(c) LNG supply contracts and profits

Santos' share of LNG supply contracts and profits may be adversely affected by the introduction of new LNG facilities and the expansion of existing LNG facilities (competition) in the global LNG market, which could increase the global supply of LNG and thereby potentially lower prices.

(d) Replacement of existing reserves

Future long-term results are directly related to the success of efforts to replace existing oil & gas reserves as they are produced, either through exploration or acquisition. Santos' aim is to continue to replace its produced reserves but given that exploration is a high risk endeavour and there is no certainty that acquisitions will continue to be made, no assurance can be given that this will continue to occur.

(e) Project developments

Project developments in which Santos is, or may become, involved are subject to risks, including technical risk. Changes in reserves, liquids and gas prices, exchange rates, construction costs, design requirements and delays in construction may adversely affect the commerciality and economics of project development.

In addition, there are specific risks associated with the PNG LNG and GLNG projects, as set out in Section 3 below.

(f) Acquisition and divestment activities

Santos from time to time evaluates acquisition and divestment opportunities across its range of assets and businesses. Any acquisitions or disposals would lead to a change in the sources of Santos' earnings and result in variability on earnings over time. They may also give rise to liabilities. Integration of new businesses into the Santos group may be costly and may occupy a large amount of management's time.

(g) Other operational risks

In addition, industrial disputes, work stoppages and accidents, drilling and production results, reserve estimates, and other factors all contribute towards operational risk which may have an adverse effect on Santos' profitability and share price.

3 LNG projects risks

Santos is investing a significant amount of capital in the PNG LNG and GLNG projects. These projects may be delayed or be unsuccessful for many reasons, including unanticipated financial,

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operational or political events, cost overruns, decline in LNG prices and demand, equipment and labour shortages, technical concerns including possible reserves and deliverability difficulties, environmental and water disposal impacts, increases in operating cost structures, contractual issues associated with GLNG upstream joint venture alignment, community or industrial actions or other circumstances which may result in the delay, suspension or termination of Santos' capital projects, the total or partial loss of the investment and a material adverse effect on Santos' results of operations and financial condition.

In addition, sales contracts with various counterparties are expected to be entered into in relation to the PNG LNG and GLNG projects. The ability of the counterparties to meet their commitments under such an arrangement may impact on Santos' investment in these projects.

As noted in Section 2(c) above, Santos' share of LNG supply contracts and profits may be adversely affected by the introduction of new LNG facilities and competition in the global LNG market.

4 Credit and market risks

(a) Market risk

Santos is exposed to foreign exchange rate fluctuations in the Australian dollar value of foreign currency denominated revenues and expenses. Accordingly, a change in the value of the Australian dollar relative to the US dollar may have an effect on the net asset value of Santos in Australian dollars.

Santos borrows money domestically and internationally and is subject to interest rates which are fixed and floating. A rise in the interest rates, either domestically or internationally, would adversely affect Santos' profit. Santos, from time to time, hedges some of its commodity price, exchange rate and interest rate risks in order to moderate the risks described above. While such hedging activities may provide downside risk protection for Santos, it is also possible such activities may limit Santos' upside benefit potential.

(b) Credit rating

There is also a risk that the credit rating of Santos may change as a result of changes in Santos' operating performance of capital structure. Any change may impact on the liquidity and market price of Santos' shares.

(c) Counterparty risk

As part of its ongoing commercial activities, Santos enters into sales contracts with various third parties for the supply of petroleum, LNG and other products. The ability of counterparties to meet their commitments under such an arrangement may impact on Santos' business and financial condition.

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(d) Access to capital risk

Santos' business and, in particular, development of large scale projects, relies on access to debt and equity financing. There is a risk that Santos may not be able to access capital from these markets which would impact the ability to develop these projects.

5 Regulatory and environmental risks

(a) General regulatory risks

Santos' business is subject, in each of the countries in which Santos operates, to various national and local laws and regulations relating to the development, production, marketing, pricing, transportation and storage of Santos' products. A change in the laws which apply to Santos' business or the way in which it is regulated could have a material adverse effect on Santos' business and financial condition. Other changes in the regulatory environment (including applicable accounting standards) may have a material adverse effect on the carrying value of material assets or otherwise have a material adverse effect on Santos' business and financial condition.

(b) Environmental risks

Oil and gas exploration and production is an environmentally hazardous activity which may give rise to substantial costs for environmental rehabilitation, damage control and losses.

With increasingly heightened government and public sensitivity to environmental sustainability, environmental regulation is becoming more stringent, and Santos could be subject to increasing environmental responsibility and liability, including laws and regulations dealing with air quality, water and noise pollution and other discharges of materials into the environment, plant and wildlife protection, the reclamation and restoration of certain of its properties, greenhouse gas emissions, the storage, treatment and disposal of wastes and the effects of its business on the water table and groundwater quality.

Sanctions for non-compliance with these laws and regulations may include administrative, civil and criminal penalties, revocation of permits and corrective action orders. These laws sometimes apply retroactively. In addition, a party can be liable for environmental damage without regard to that party's negligence or fault.

(c) Carbon emissions

There is growing recognition that energy consumption is a contributor to global warming, greenhouse effects and potentially climate change. A number of governments or governmental bodies, including those in Australia, have introduced or are contemplating regulatory change in response to the potential impacts of climate change and greenhouse gas emissions.

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The Australian Federal Government has proposed a national emissions trading scheme. While it is currently proposed that the scheme will be implemented by 2011, there is no certainty it will occur in this timeframe. The Government released its White Paper on the proposed scheme (the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme ("CPRS")) on 15 December 2008. The White Paper outlines the proposed design of the CPRS, including an emissions trading mechanism which requires certain carbon emitters to purchase permits which reflect their emissions volume, subject to price caps.

If the CPRS is introduced in the form currently proposed by the Government (which is not certain), Santos may be exposed to additional operating costs which will have an adverse impact on its financial performance. However, until the CPRS is finalised, the impact of the CPRS on Santos' business and financial condition is uncertain.

Although the precise terms of any potential legislation are unclear, from a medium- and long-term perspective, the regulation of greenhouse gas emissions is likely to become more stringent and there are likely to be changes in the returns on Santos' greenhouse gas-intensive assets and energy-intensive assets as a result of regulatory impacts on the industry in which Santos operates. Until the CPRS is finalised, the impact of the CPRS on Santos' business and financial condition is uncertain. It will depend on, among other things, energy efficiency, the development of low emissions technology and the carbon price.

However, depending on its final form, it presents both risks and opportunities for Santos. An emissions trading scheme, such as the draft CPRS, will place a cost on carbon, which even under the proposed modest cap would in all likelihood drive a shift in the energy mix in the direction of cleaner base load power generation. Carbon emissions from gas fired power generation are up to 70% lower than traditional coal fired power generation sources in Australia. A gas fired power generation plant also uses a fraction of the water of an equivalent plant fuelled by coal.

(d) Government actions

Santos' operations could be affected by government actions in Australia, PNG and other countries or jurisdictions in which it has interests. These actions include government legislation, guidelines and regulations in relation to the environment, the petroleum and gas industries, competition policy, native title and cultural heritage. Such actions could impact on land access, the granting of licenses and other petroleum and gas interests, the approval of developments and freedom to conduct operations.

The possible extent of introduction of additional legislation, regulations, guidelines or amendments to existing legislation that might affect Santos' business is difficult to predict. Any such government action may require increased capital or operating expenditures and could prevent or delay certain operations by Santos, which could have a material adverse effect on Santos' business and financial condition.

Santos' business and financial condition is also subject to tax risks, as set out in Section 6 below.

Santos Limited ABN 80 007 550 923
GPO Box 2455, Adelaide SA 5001
Telephone: +61 8 8116 5000 Facsimile: +61 8 8116 5131
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6 Tax risks

Future changes in taxation laws in Australia, including changes in interpretation or application of existing laws by the courts or taxation authorities in Australia, may affect taxation treatment of Santos securities or the holding or disposal of those securities.

In addition to the normal level of income tax imposed on all industries, companies in the petroleum and gas industries are required to pay government royalties, direct and indirect taxes and other imposts. The profitability of companies in these industries can be affected by changes in government taxation and royalty policies or in the interpretation or application of such policies. Santos is subject to taxation and other imposts in Australia, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, India, Bangladesh, Vietnam, Papua New Guinea, the Timor Gap and Egypt.

7 Political risks

Santos is subject to a risk that it may not be able to carry out its overseas operations as it intends to and ensure the security of its assets located outside Australia, and is subject to risks of, among other things, loss of revenue, property and equipment as a result of hazards such as expropriation, war, insurrection and acts of terrorism and other political risks and increases in taxes and government royalties. Santos has operations in Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, India, Bangladesh, Vietnam, Papua New Guinea, the Timor Gap and Egypt.

The PNG LNG project is located in Papua New Guinea and is therefore subject to political risk in that country. Santos' interest in PNG LNG is therefore subject to political, economic, social and other uncertainties, including the risk of civil rebellion, expropriation, nationalisation, landownership disputes, renegotiation or termination of existing contracts, licenses and permits or other agreements, changes in laws or taxation policies, currency exchange restrictions and changing political conditions. The effects of these factors are difficult to predict and any combination of one or other of the above may have a material adverse effect on the operation or development of the PNG LNG project and even render it uneconomic.

8 Native title risk

A number of Australian interests of Santos are located within areas which are the subject of one or more claims or applications for native title determinations. Whatever the outcome of those claims or applications, it is not believed that they will significantly impact on Santos' asset base.

Native title decisions have the potential to introduce delay in the grant of mineral and petroleum tenements and other licenses and consequently to impact generally on the timing of exploration, development and productions operations.

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9 Dividends

Santos' future dividend levels will be determined by the board of Santos having regard to operating results and the financial position of Santos. There is no guarantee that any dividend will be paid or, if paid, that they will be paid at previous levels.

Santos currently intends to maintain its 2009 dividend per share (on the expanded capital base following the Equity Raising) in line with the 2008 dividend of A\$0.42 per share.

10 Risks relating to equity investments and markets

Investors should be aware that there are risks associated with any investment listed on ASX. The value of Santos shares may rise above or fall below the Offer Price, depending on the financial condition and operating performance of Santos. Further, the price at which Santos shares trade on ASX may be affected by a number of factors unrelated to the financial and operating performance of Santos and over which Santos and its directors have no control. These external factors include:

- Economic conditions in Australia and overseas;
- Investor sentiment in the local and international stock markets;
- Changes in fiscal, monetary, regulatory and other government policies; and
- Geo-political conditions such as acts or threats of terrorism or military conflicts

Investors should note that the historic share price performance of Santos shares provides no guidance as to its future share price performance.

11 Banjar-Panji Mudflow Incident

Santos' 18% non operating interest in the Brantas PSC was transferred to Minarak Labuan Co (L) Ltd ("Minarak"), with approval from the relevant Indonesian regulator, in December 2008. The transaction also included a release from Minarak and Santos' former PSC partners from all liability (if any) to them in relation to the PSC and the Banjar-Panji mudflow incident. The transaction does not release Santos from liability to third parties. Santos is confident that it will be able to successfully defend any third party claims. There are currently no such claims pending.

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ANNEXURE C – IMPORTANT INFORMATION

This press release and the accompanying information have been prepared by Santos.

FOREIGN JURISDICTIONS

United States

The securities in the proposed offering have not been and will not be registered under the U.S. Securities Act, or under the securities laws of any state or other jurisdiction of the United States. Accordingly, the securities in the proposed offering may not be offered, or sold, directly or indirectly, within the United States or to, or for the account or benefit of, U.S. Persons, except in a transaction exempt from, or not subject to, the registration requirements of the U.S. Securities Act and applicable securities laws of any state or other jurisdiction of the United States.

This release does not constitute an offer, invitation or recommendation to subscribe for or purchase any security and neither this release nor anything contained in it shall form the basis of any contract or commitment. In particular, this release does not constitute an offer to sell, or a solicitation of an offer to buy, securities in the United States or to any U.S. person. This document may not be distributed or released in the United States or to, or for the account or benefit of, any U.S. Person.

New Zealand

The information in this announcement is not a New Zealand prospectus or an investment statement and has not been registered, filed with or approved by any New Zealand regulatory authority under or in accordance with the Securities Act 1978 (or any other relevant New Zealand law). This announcement may not contain all the information that an investment statement or prospectus under New Zealand law is required to contain. The New Shares will be offered to the public of New Zealand under the Retail Entitlement Offer Booklet in reliance on the Securities Act (Overseas Companies) Exemption Notice 2002 (New Zealand).

Canada

The New Shares may only be offered in Canada or to residents thereof to "accredited investors" as defined in National Instrument 45-106 Prospectus and Registration Exemptions.

Denmark

The information in this announcement does not constitute a prospectus under any Danish laws or regulations and have not been filed with or approved by the Danish Financial Supervisory Authority or any other Danish regulatory authority as the information has not been prepared in the context of a public offering of securities in Denmark within the meaning of the Danish Securities Trading Act or any Executive Orders issued in connection thereto. The new Shares have not been offered or sold and will not be offered, sold or delivered directly or indirectly in Denmark by way of a public offering, except to (i) qualified investors as defined in Section 2 of the Executive Order No. 1232 of 22 October 2007 on Prospectuses for Securities Admitted for Listing or Trade on a

Santos Limited ABN 80 007 550 923
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Regulated Market, and on the First Public Offer of Securities exceeding EUR 2,500,000 and/or to (ii) less than 100 individuals or legal entities, who are not qualified investors or otherwise in circumstances which will not result in the offer of the New Shares being subject to the Danish Prospectus requirements of preparing and filing a prospectus pursuant to Chapter 6 of the Danish Securities Trading Act No. 848 of 19 August 2008 and Executive Order No. 1232 of 22 October 2007 on Prospectuses for Securities Admitted for Listing or Trade on a Regulated Market, and on the First Public Offer of Securities exceeding EUR 2,500,000.

Dubai International Financial Centre

The New Shares have not been and will not be offered, sold or publicly promoted or advertised by it in the Dubai International Financial Centre other than in compliance with laws applicable in the Dubai International Financial Centre, governing the issue, offering or the sale of securities.

European Economic Area (which includes Belgium, Sweden, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Germany)

The information in this announcement has been prepared on the basis that all offers of New Shares will be made pursuant to an exemption under the Directive 2003/71/EC ("Prospectus Directive"), as implemented in Member States of the European Economic Area ("EEA"), from the requirement to produce a prospectus for offers of securities. Accordingly any person making or intending to make any offer within the EEA of New Shares which are subject to the placement contemplated in the information should only do so in circumstances in which no obligation arises for Santos or the underwriters to produce a prospectus for such offer. Neither Santos nor the underwriters have authorised, nor do they authorise the making of any offer of New Shares through any financial intermediary, other than offers made by the underwriters which constitute the final placement of New Shares contemplated in the information in this announcement.

In relation to each Member State of the EEA which has implemented the Prospectus Directive (each, a "Relevant Member State") an offer to the public of any New Shares may not be made in that Relevant Member State except that an offer to the public in that Relevant Member State of any New Shares may be made at any time under the following exemptions under the Prospectus Directive, if they have been implemented in that Relevant Member State:

- (a) to legal entities which are authorised or regulated to operate in the financial markets or, if not so authorised or regulated, whose corporate purpose is solely to invest in securities;
- (b) to any legal entity which has two or more of (1) an average of at least 250 employees during the last financial year or in Sweden, each of last two financial years; (2) a total balance sheet of more than €43,000,000 and (3) an annual net turnover of more than €50,000,000, as shown in its last annual or consolidated accounts; or
- (c) to fewer than 100 natural or legal persons (other than defined as qualified investors in the Prospective Directive) subject to obtaining the prior consent of Santos and the underwriters for any such offer; or
- (d) in any other circumstances falling within Article 3(2) of the Prospective Directive, provided that no such offer of New Shares shall result in a requirement for the publication by Santos of a prospectus pursuant to Article 3 of the Prospective Directive.

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For the purposes of this provision, the expression an "offer to the public" in relation to any New Shares in any Relevant Member State means the communication in any form and by any means of sufficient information on the terms of the offer and any New Shares to be offered so as to enable an investor to decide to purchase any New Shares, as the same may be varied in that Relevant Member State by any measure implementing the Prospective Directive in that Relevant Member State and the expression "Prospectus Directive" means Directive 2003/71/EC and includes any relevant implementing measure in each Relevant Member State.

Each subscriber for or purchaser of New Shares in the offering located within a Relevant Member State will be deemed to have represented, acknowledged and agreed that it is a qualified investor within the meaning of the local law of the Relevant Member State implementing Article 2(1)(e) of the Prospectus Directive ("Qualified Investor") or, if such implementation has not taken place, within the meaning of Article 2(1)(e) of the Prospectus Directive respectively. In the case of any New Shares being offered to a financial intermediary as that term is used in Article 3(2) of the Prospectus Directive, such financial intermediary will also be deemed to have represented, warranted to and agreed with the underwriters and Santos that: (i) the New Shares acquired by it have not been acquired on behalf of, nor have they been acquired with a view to their offer or resale to, persons in any Relevant Member State other than Qualified Investors, as that term is defined by the local law of the Relevant Member State or as defined in the Prospectus Directive respectively, or in circumstances in which the prior consent of the underwriters has been obtained to each such proposed offer or resale.

France

Neither the information in this announcement, nor any other offering material relating to the New Shares described in this announcement has been prepared in the context of a public offer of securities in the Republic of France within the meaning of article L.411-1 of the French Code monétaire et financier and articles 211-1 et seq. of the General Regulations of the Autorité des marchés financiers nor have been or will be submitted to the applicable clearance procedures of the Autorité des marchés financiers. The New Shares have not been and will not be offered or sold or otherwise transferred, directly or indirectly, to the public in the Republic of France and any offer, sale or other transfer of the New Shares in the Republic of France will and may be made strictly in accordance with articles L.411-1, L.411-2, L.412-1 and L.621-8 to L621-8-3 of the French Code monétaire et financier, and only to qualified investors acting for their own account, all as defined in and in accordance with articles L.411-2, D.411-1 to D.411-4, D.734-1, D744-1, D.754-1 and D.764-1 of the French Code monétaire et financier.

Hong Kong

The contents of this announcement have not been reviewed or approved by any regulatory authority in Hong Kong.

The information in this announcement has not been, and will not be, registered as a prospectus in Hong Kong under the Companies Ordinance (Cap 32)("CO") nor has it been authorized by the Securities and Futures Commission ("SFC") in Hong Kong pursuant to the Securities and Futures Ordinance (Cap 571) of the Laws of Hong Kong (the "SFO"). Accordingly, the information must not be issued, circulated or distributed in Hong Kong other than:

- to "professional investors" within the meaning of SFO and any rules made under that ordinance ("Professional Investors"); or

Santos Limited ABN 80 007 550 923
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- in other circumstances which do not result in the information in this announcement being a "prospectus" as defined in the CO nor constitute an offer to the public which requires authorisation by the SFC under the SFO.

Unless permitted by the securities laws of Hong Kong, no person may issue or have in its possession for issue, whether in Hong Kong or elsewhere, any advertisement, invitation or document relating to the shares, which is directed at, or the content of which is likely to be accessed or read by, the public of Hong Kong other than with respect to shares which are or are intended to be disposed of only to persons outside Hong Kong or only to Professional Investors. No person allotted New Shares may sell, or offer to sell, such Shares to the public in Hong Kong within six months following the date of issue of such New Shares.

This offering is not an offer for sale to the public in Hong Kong and it is not the intention of Santos that the New Shares be offered for sale to the public in Hong Kong.

Ireland

The information in this announcement does not constitute a prospectus under any Irish laws or regulations and have not been filed with or approved by the Irish Financial Services Regulatory Authority or any other Irish regulatory authority as the information has not been prepared in the context of a public offering of securities in Ireland within the meaning of the Irish Prospectus (Directive 2003/71/EC) Regulations 2005 (the "Prospectus Regulations"). The new Shares have not been offered or sold and will not be offered, sold or delivered directly or indirectly in Ireland by way of a public offering, except to (i) qualified investors as defined in Section 2(j) of the Prospectus Regulations and/or to (ii) less than 100 individuals or legal entities, who are not qualified investors

Italy

This announcement and any other materials in connection with the offer of the New Shares relating to Italy are for distribution, in compliance with any applicable law and regulation, only to qualified investors in Italy pursuant to Article 100(a) of Legislative Decree No. 58 of February 24, 1998 (the "**Unified Financial Act**") and the implementing regulation issued by *Commissione Nazionale per le Società e la Borsa* ("**CONSOB**") and Article 2.1(e) of the Prospectus Directive (the "**Qualified Investors**"), all as amended. The distribution of this announcement and of any other materials in connection with the offer of the New Shares relating to Italy does not constitute and it is not intended to be an "offer to the public" within the meaning of Article 1.1(t) of the Unified Financial Act. In no circumstances should these documents circulate among, or be distributed in Italy to, individuals or entities falling outside the definition of Qualified Investors. New Shares may not be offered or sold, directly or indirectly, in Italy or to a resident of Italy, other than to a Qualified Investor and in compliance with the forms and procedures set forth in any applicable law and regulation. Any such offer or any distribution of this announcement and any other materials in connection with the offer of the New Shares relating to Italy within Italy must be conducted either by banks, investment firms (as defined in the Unified Financial Act) or financial intermediaries enrolled in the special register provided for by Article 107 of Legislative Decree No 385 of September 1 1993, as amended, to the extent such entities are duly authorised to perform the service of subscription and/or placement with firm underwriting commitment or standby commitments to issuers and/or placement without firm or standby commitment to issuers in Italy in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Unified Financial Act and in compliance with any applicable notification requirement or limitation imposed upon the offer of shares by CONSOB or the Bank of Italy. Any investor purchasing New Shares is solely responsible for ensuring that any offer or resale of such New Shares occurs in compliance with applicable laws and regulations. This announcement and any other materials in connection with the offer of the New Shares

Santos Limited ABN 80 007 550 923
GPO Box 2455, Adelaide SA 5001
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relating to Italy are intended for the use of the identified recipient only and are not to be distributed for any reason to any third party resident or located in Italy. No person resident or located in Italy other than the original recipients of this Information and any other materials in connection with the offer of the New Shares may rely on this announcement and any other such materials.

This announcement and any other materials in connection with the offer of the New Shares relating to Italy have not been and will not be registered with CONSOB pursuant to Italian securities legislation and accordingly may not be distributed to the public in Italy or used in connection with any offer to purchase or sell any rights or shares to the public in Italy.

Japan

The New Shares have not been and will not be registered under Article 4, paragraph 1 of the Financial Instruments and Exchange Law of Japan (Law No. 25 of 1948, as amended (the "FIEL") pursuant to an exemption from the registration requirements applicable to a private placement of securities to Qualified Institutional Investors as set forth in Article 2, paragraph 3, item 2(a) of the FIEL. Accordingly, the New Shares may not be offered or sold, directly or indirectly, in Japan or to, or for the benefit of, any resident of Japan other than Qualified Institutional Investors, or to others for reoffering for resale, directly or indirectly, in Japan or to, or for the benefit of, any resident of Japan other than Qualified Institutional Investors. The term "qualified Institutional Investors" is defined in Article 2, paragraph 3, item 1 of the FIEL and the regulations promulgated thereunder. Any Qualified Institutional Investor who acquired the New Shares may not resell them to any person that is not a Qualified Institutional Investor, and acquisition by any such Qualified Institutional Investor of the New Shares is conditional upon the execution of the agreement to that effect.

Norway

The information in this announcement has not been approved by, or registered with, any Norwegian securities regulators pursuant to the Norwegian Securities Trading Act of 29 June 2007, as amended. Accordingly, neither the information in this announcement nor any other offering material relating to the New Shares constitutes, or shall be deemed to constitute, an offer to the public in Norway within the meaning of the Norwegian Securities Trading Act of 2007. The New Shares may not be offered or sold, directly or indirectly, in Norway except:

- (a) in respect of an offer of New Shares addressed to investors subject to a minimum purchase of New Shares for a total consideration of not less than €50,000 per investor;
- (b) to "professional investors" as defined in the Norwegian Securities Regulation of 29 June 2007 no. 876, being:
 - (i) legal entities which are authorized or regulated to operate in the financial markets or, if not so authorized or regulated, whose corporate purpose is solely to invest in securities;
 - (ii) any legal entity which is registered as a professional investor with the Oslo Stock Exchange (in Norwegian: Oslo Børs) and which has two or more of
 - (1) an average of at least 250 employees during the last financial year;
 - (2) a total balance sheet of more than €43,000,000; and

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- (3) an annual net turnover of more than €50,000,000, as shown in its last annual or consolidated accounts;
- (c) any natural person which is registered as a professional investor with the Oslo Stock Exchange (No. Oslo Børs) and which has two or more of
 - a. an average execution of at least ten – 10 – transactions in securities of significant volume per quarter for the last four quarters;
 - b. a portfolio of securities with a market value of at least €500,000 and
 - c. worked or works, for at least one year, within the financial markets in a position which presuppose knowledge of investing in securities;
- (d) to fewer than 100 natural or legal persons (other than “professional investors” as defined in the Norwegian Securities Regulation of 29 June 2007 no. 876);
- (e) in any other circumstances provided that no such offer of New Shares shall result in a requirement for the registration, or the publication by Company or the underwriters, of a prospectus pursuant to the Norwegian Securities Trading Act of 29 June 2007.

Singapore

The offer of New Shares by Santos is made only to and directed at, and the New Shares are only available to, persons in Singapore who are existing holders of the Shares previously issued by Santos.

The information in this announcement has not been registered as a prospectus with the Monetary Authority of Singapore. Accordingly, the information and any other document or material in connection with the offer or sale, or invitation for subscription or purchase, of the New Shares may not be circulated or distributed, nor may the New Shares be offered or sold, or be made the subject of an invitation for subscription or purchase, whether directly or indirectly, to persons in Singapore other than (i) to an existing holder of Shares pursuant to Section 273(1)(cd)(i) of the Securities and Futures Act, Chapter 289 of Singapore (the “SFA”) or (ii) pursuant to, and in accordance with, the conditions of an exemption under any provision of Subdivision (4) of Division 1 of Part XIII of the SFA.

Switzerland

The New Shares may not and will not be publicly offered, sold, advertised, distributed or re-distributed, directly or indirectly, in or from Switzerland, and no solicitation for investments in the New Shares may be communicated, distributed or otherwise made available in Switzerland in any way that could constitute a public offering within the meaning of article 652a of the Swiss Code of Obligations (“CO”) or of article 3 of the Swiss Federal Act on Collective Investment Schemes (“CISA”).

New Shares may only be offered to qualified investors such as banks, securities dealers, insurance institutions, fund management companies and high net worth individuals in circumstances such that there is no public offering.

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The information in this announcement does not constitute a public offering prospectus within the meaning of article 652a and may not comply with the information standards required thereunder. Santos has not applied for a listing of the New Shares on the SIX Swiss Exchange or any other regulated securities market in Switzerland, and consequently, the information presented in this announcement does not necessarily comply with the information standards set out in the listing rules of the SIX Swiss Exchange.

United Arab Emirates

The New Shares may not be, have not been and are not being offered, sold, subscribed for, transferred or delivered in the United Arab Emirates other than in compliance with the laws of the United Arab Emirates governing the offering, sale, subscription for, transfer and delivery of securities.

United Kingdom

Neither the information in this announcement nor any accompanying other document has been delivered for approval to the Financial Services Authority in the United Kingdom and no prospectus (within the meaning of section 85 of FSMA) has been published or is intended to be published in respect of the New Shares.

Each of Santos and the underwriters have:

- (a) complied and will comply with all applicable provisions of Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 of the United Kingdom (the "FSMA") with respect to anything done by it in relation to the New Shares in, from or otherwise involving the United Kingdom; and
- (b) only communicated or caused to be communicated and will only communicate or cause to be communicated in the United Kingdom any invitation or inducement to engage in investment activity (within the meaning of Section 21 of FSMA) received by it in connection with the issue or sale of the New Shares in circumstances in which Section 21(1) of FSMA does not apply to Santos.

Other jurisdictions

The New Shares may not be offered or sold in any other jurisdiction under the Offer, except to persons to whom such offer, sale or distribution is permitted under applicable law.

Ends

Santos stock symbols: STO (Australian Securities Exchange), STOSY (NASDAQ ADR), Ref #82-34 (Securities Exchange Commission)

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