

**PRESS RELEASE**

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2001

**STRONG FIRST HALF FOR PAPERLINX**

PaperlinX has today released an interim profit of \$52.1m, 9.7% ahead of the same period last year. "We are very pleased to have achieved this excellent result", said Mr Ian Wightwick, Managing Director of PaperlinX. "This result puts us in a strong position to achieve our target prospectus results for the full year".

"We have seen strong earnings from most business areas reflecting continuous improvements occurring from the focus on cost reductions, higher sales volumes in Australia and New Zealand and higher selling prices offset by the increased cost of imported pulp", added Mr Wightwick. "The results reflect our strong position as Australia's leading integrated distributor and manufacturer of communication and packaging papers, a position strengthened by our recent merger with Spicers Paper".

PaperlinX has declared a fully franked dividend of 13 cps, payable on 12 April 2001.

**ENDS**

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