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MEDIA RELEASE
M+K LAWYERS

MACPHERSON+KELLEY LAWYERS BOOSTS SYDNEY CORPORATE GROUP WITH FIVE STRONG TEAM

Andrew Bristow has joined Macpherson + Kelley's Sydney (M+K) office as a principal in the corporate and commercial group. Joining Andrew Bristow is a team of four, including special counsel Catriona Glover, senior associate Fleur Gibson and two legal secretaries.

M+K has over the last 12 months been on a steep growth trajectory in its Sydney office, building on a strong central core of legal expertise to meet the needs of a fast growing client base, most of which have revenues between \$5 million and \$500 million. The team of five people will substantially increase the firm's ability to service clients throughout NSW, and work closely with M+K's other lawyers based in North Sydney, Melbourne and Dandenong (Vic).

"This team brings additional depth and breadth to an already strong Sydney based legal team," said Andrew Bristow. It also brings to M+K deep specialist expertise in capital raising, corporate governance and mergers and acquisitions.

M+K has always had a focus on the SME sector, particularly the needs of fast growing businesses, Andrew Bristow says that most of his work came from SME's which provided a stimulating range of work for lawyers. "I think this is a very dynamic market. There are a lot more things that you can do. You have to deliver high quality legal skills and work closely with clients as they grow and mature their business models. For a lawyer this is highly engaging work."

"A law firm like M+K is well placed to assist these organisations in that it can bring a broad range of practice areas to bear for the client with a range of services such as help with restructuring, streamlining employment structures, tackling taxation issues, assisting with capital raisings and providing support in negotiations with the banks." said Bristow.

Bristow said that with the first green shoots emerging in the Australia economy the next six months would be particularly important for dynamic SMEs. He said there was already evidence of increased investor appetite for the SME sector which would play out through the first half of 2010.

Coupled with that investor appetite Bristow said "Now we are also seeing more broker support."

However he tempered that enthusiasm with a warning that SMEs should expect some belt-tightening from the Australian banks. Nevertheless Bristow believes that "Those SMEs that are agile will do very well."

The appointment of Andrew Bristow and his team takes the firm to 80 Lawyers including 30 Principals nationally.

NOTE TO EDITORS: M+K Lawyers is a commercial law firm focussed on advising growing corporations around Australia. In business for 104 years and with 80 Lawyers, including 30 Principals, M+K has offices in Melbourne, Dandenong (Vic), Sydney and North Sydney. M+K's international experience is strengthened through its strategic affiliation with Multilaw, a global association of over 70 law firms worldwide providing clients access to Lawyers in the UK, Europe, Asia, USA and the sub-continent.

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