

December 9, 2011

Commonwealth Bank of Australia
Recent Developments

The information set forth below is not complete and should be read in conjunction with the information contained on the “Supplemental Information” page of the U.S. investor website of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia (the “Group”) at <http://www.commbank.com.au/about-us/shareholders/us-investors/supplemental-information.htm> (the “U.S. Investor Website”). This “Recent Developments” release supplements and, to the extent inconsistent with any information on the U.S. Investor Website, amends and supersedes such information.

Commonwealth Bank of Australia notes recent announcement by Standard and Poor’s (S&P) on the ratings of major Australian banks.

The Commonwealth Bank’s long-term senior unsecured rating has been lowered from AA to AA- by S&P. The short term rating of A-1+ remains unchanged. S&P has also lowered the subordinated debt rating of CBA to A- from AA- . The ratings outlook is stable.

The ratings change is the result of a review to S&P’s global bank rating methodology. As part of the review S&P updated its assessment of the Banking Industry Country Risk Assessment (“BICRA”) for Australia and lowered the BICRA rating to “2” from “1”, which has contributed to the lowering of the bank’s senior unsecured rating. S&P has not specifically identified a change in the performance of CBA or its businesses as part of its review and subsequent ratings change. At the same time, the other three major Australian banks have also been lowered to AA-.

The long term senior unsecured ratings of both Bankwest and ASB have been lowered to AA- reflecting their position as core subsidiaries of the Group.

A security rating is not a recommendation to buy, sell or hold securities and may be subject to suspension, reduction or withdrawal at any time by an assigning rating agency and any rating should be evaluated independently of any other information.