

ASX Code: AEF
Date: 11 August 2009

Ms Anne O'Donnell

Ms O'Donnell will step down from her role as CEO on 11 December 2009.

Australian Ethical Investment Limited and Ms Anne O'Donnell (CEO and Managing Director) have today agreed on arrangements for Ms O'Donnell's departure from the company.

Ms O'Donnell has been with Australian Ethical for nine years and through that time has both grown the company and positioned it well for the next stage of its growth. Under Ms O'Donnell's stewardship, Australian Ethical's funds under management have increased from approximately \$85M to around \$560M, staff numbers have grown substantially and the company completed a successful relocation into its own environmentally exemplary building. Ms O'Donnell has been a director of the company since May 2008.

Chair of the Board, Ms Naomi Edwards, extends her gratitude on behalf of the Board to Ms O'Donnell for her very significant and important contribution to Australian Ethical over many years. Ms Edwards said "One of Anne's many skills has been to build a strong and cohesive executive team around her, and this, combined with Anne's constructive and professional approach to executive renewal, mean that the Board is confident of achieving a smooth and successful transition to a new CEO".

The Board, through its Remuneration and Nominations committee, has commenced the process for the selection and appointment of a new CEO. That process will involve consideration of several strong internal candidates, as well as an evaluation of potential external candidates. The company's preference is to announce an appointment prior to Ms O'Donnell's departure.

Ms O'Donnell has resigned as a director effective today. On the date of Ms O'Donnell's departure, in addition to statutory leave payments, the company will pay to Ms O'Donnell an amount of \$235,000 (less applicable taxation) in recognition of her significant contribution to company growth and profitability over her long tenure.

End/.

Company Background

Australian Ethical is a funds manager that specialises exclusively in ethical funds management. It offers managed investment schemes and corresponding superannuation strategies (for accumulation and pension accounts). The Australian Ethical Charter is the foundation of the investment process. It aims to avoid harmful investments and actively seeks investments that benefit society and the environment. Uniquely, the company's constitution requires that 10% of profit is donated to charitable and conservation initiatives.

For further information contact: Naomi Edwards, Chair

Phone 1800 021 227 **Email** nedwards@australianethical.com.au **Facsimile** 02 6201 1987

Website www.austethical.com.au **Post** GPO Box 2435 Canberra ACT 2601

Australian Ethical Investment Ltd **ABN** 47 003 188 930 **AFSL** 229949

© Registered trademark of Australian Ethical Investment Ltd.