

JOHN FAIRFAX HOLDINGS LIMITED ANNOUNCES FAIRFAX SPS MARGIN

SYDNEY, 21 March 2006: – On 13 March 2006, John Fairfax Holdings Limited [ASX: FXJ] lodged a prospectus with the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (“ASIC”) for the Fairfax SPS offer to raise \$250 million with the right to accept over-subscriptions of up to a further \$50 million.

Following completion of the bookbuild on 20 March 2006, the Initial Margin used to determine the Distribution Rate on Fairfax SPS for each Distribution Period up to (but not including) 30 April 2011 has been set at 1.55% per annum. A supplementary prospectus dated 21 March 2006 containing the Initial Margin as determined in the bookbuild was lodged with ASIC today.

Fairfax also wishes to advise, that as a result of the strong demand for the offer, it has decided to accept over-subscriptions of \$50 million and therefore the total of \$300m of Fairfax SPS will be issued.

Fairfax SPS are expected to commence trading on ASX on a conditional and deferred settlement basis at 12 noon, Wednesday 22 March 2006 and be transferred to successful applicants on Thursday 23 March 2006. Fairfax will advise the market of the Distribution Rate for the first distribution period prior to the commencement of trading on ASX.

The Lead Manager and Participating Brokers will advise successful applicants of their allocation of Fairfax SPS. However, it is the responsibility of each applicant to confirm their holding before trading in Fairfax SPS. Applicants who sell Fairfax SPS before they receive an initial statement of holding do so at their own risk. Fairfax and the Lead Manager disclaim all liability, whether in negligence or otherwise, to persons who sell Fairfax SPS before receiving their initial statement of holding, on the basis of a confirmation of allocation provided by any of them.

Full details of the Fairfax SPS offer are contained in the prospectus which is available from the Fairfax website at www.fxj.com.au.

Important Notice:

The offer of Fairfax SPS is only open to professional and sophisticated investors in Australia and selected other foreign jurisdictions. The offer of Fairfax SPS will be made in the prospectus that has been lodged with the Australian Securities and Investment Commission. Any professional or sophisticated investor wishing to acquire Fairfax SPS will need to complete the application form in or accompanying the prospectus in accordance with instructions from the Lead Manager or a Participating Broker.

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