



**Media release**  
**25 February 2009**

## **S&P assigns four star ratings for Bennelong's Australian equities**

S&P today announced the four star 'new' ratings for Bennelong Funds Management's (BFM's):

- Bennelong Australian Equities Fund; and
- the Bennelong Concentrated Australian Equities Fund.

BFM's Australian equities investment team, Bennelong Australian Equity Partners, consists of five investment professionals who have a long history of successfully managing Australian equities portfolios, and an average industry experience of over 15 years each.

According to S&P, BAEP is well-resourced by boutique standards, with plenty of experience within its ranks. All five founding members worked together previously at ING Investment Management, and have an equity stake in the business. BAEP's co-head structure reflects the complementary skill sets of Paul Cuddy (who oversees the investment process) and Mark East (who is responsible for stock selection and portfolio construction).

The BAEP team employs a core style with a quality bias. The investment process incorporates a fundamental bottom-up active discipline supported by proprietary quantitative techniques.

The funds were launched in October 2008 and have outperformed the S&P/ASX 300 Accumulation Index by more than eight per cent over the five months period ended 28<sup>th</sup> February 2009.

### **Strong foundations for success**

According to S&P Fund Services analyst, James Gunn, "The team's tie-up with Bennelong is considered by S&P to be one of the better boutique arrangements, which also bodes well for future stability."

Paul Cuddy, Chief Executive Officer of BAEP said "Bennelong was our partner of choice because it successfully combines a highly professional and entrepreneurial outlook, with a genuine philanthropic agenda."

Bennelong Funds Management is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Bennelong Group, a privately owned funds management and private equity business. While the Group owns and manages significant businesses globally, it also measures its success through contributing to positive and lasting change in the wider community via the Bennelong Foundation. Since its establishment in 2002/03, the Bennelong Foundation has made grants totalling approximately \$3.4 million.

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**About Bennelong Funds Management**

Established in 2001, Bennelong Funds Management is a boutique funds management business. It currently has investment management capabilities in: Australian equities, Australian long short and property.

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Visit [.bennfundsmanagement.com.au](http://bennfundsmanagement.com.au) for more information.