



News release

For immediate use

FirstMac to deliver over \$500 million of mortgage relief to Australians

Brisbane, Australia (31 October 2008) – Australian owned, mortgage finance lender FirstMac is pleased to be awarded the investment of \$500 million in its Residential Mortgage Backed Security (RMBS) program, as part of the \$8 billion of investment by the Australian Federal Government – the biggest boost to mortgage markets in recent times.

FirstMac Chief Financial Officer James Austin said the investment, one of two selected from a field of 12 proposals, demonstrates recognition by the Australian Office of Financial Management (AOFM) of the Company's commitment to the Australian mortgage market.

"FirstMac is a leading Australian-owned residential mortgage lender with almost 30 years experience and has played an integral part in the evolution of the mortgage market into a more competitive environment, especially since the late 1990s," Mr Austin said.

"We will be seeking to match the Government's investment with up to an additional \$200 million dollars of investments from other parties by the time of the proposed issue," he said.

"The flow-on effect from this investment to the average Australian in the housing market should be very positive and felt in the near-term."

The Australian and New Zealand Banking Group, HSBC and Macquarie Bank will be joint lead managers for the issue which is expected to be priced by mid-November 2008.

This comes a fortnight after FirstMac successfully refinanced its \$173 million '2-2007 RMBS' transaction.

"FirstMac remains committed to providing a competitive and quality alternative to the traditional banks in the residential mortgage sector," Mr Austin said.

"These two transactions – coupled with our plans for the immediate future - are testament to the success of our substantial infrastructure investment and conservative treasury management policy."

Standard & Poor's re-affirmed FirstMac's "Above Average" Servicer Rating with "Stable" Outlook on 06 October 2008.

-- ends --

About FirstMac Limited

FirstMac Limited is a leading Australian owned mortgage finance lender with almost 30 years experience. It delivers a comprehensive range of loan funding, loan servicing and portfolio management services. FirstMac initially originated and managed home loans through major third party providers, but in 2002 entered the securitisation market and began self-funding its own loan business, by issuing AAA-rated bonds on global capital markets.

FirstMac's presence has grown through the provision of wholesale funding via a national distribution network of mortgage originators and brokers. FirstMac has an above average Standard & Poor's servicer rating.

For more information:

James Austin
Chief Financial Officer
FirstMac Limited
(07) 3017 8883
james.austin@firstmac.com.au

Media:

Anna O'Gorman
Principal Consultant - Three Plus
(07) 3503 5700
0423 463 548
annao@threeplus.com.au

FirstMac Limited ABN: 59 094 145 963 (AFSL 290 600)
Level 40 Riverside Centre
123 Eagle Street
Brisbane QLD 4000 Australia

Telephone: 1300 34 77 86
Email: enquiries@firstmac.com.au
Web: www.firstmac.com.au