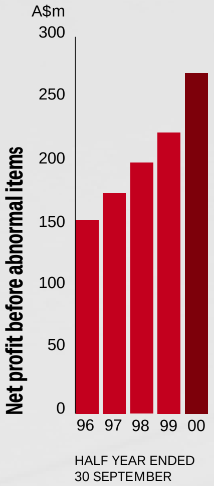
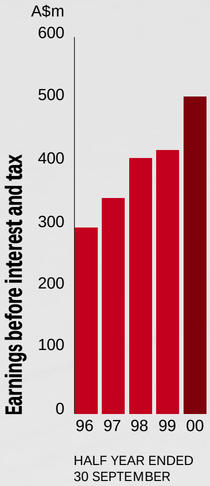
Results Summary

FOR THE HALF YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2000

CSR LIMITED | ABN 90 000 001 276





Net profit after tax was A$271 million for the half year ended 30 September 2000, up 21% on the corresponding period last year.

Earnings before interest and tax (EBIT) were up 20% to A$505 million, on a 3% sales increase to A$3,395 million. *Comparable* sales (that is, adjusted for acquisitions and divestments), increased 10%.

Strong results from CSR America, CSR Building Materials (Australia, New Zealand and Asia) and Aluminium more than offset a weaker performance from CSR Construction Materials (Australia and Asia) and CSR Sugar, and the impact of divestments, which had contributed A$31 million EBIT in the comparable period last year.

The result reflects the enormous changes in CSR over the past three years. Around 80% of CSR Group EBIT now comes from building and construction materials, and over half is from the US. The underlying performance has improved and the company has laid the groundwork for ongoing, value-adding growth.

Importantly, as a building and construction slowdown gets under way in Australia, less than 30% of the group is exposed to this market.

EBIT from CSR America, which now accounts for 53% of group earnings, was up 48% to A$269 million, assisted by a strong US dollar and new acquisitions. In US$, CSR America EBIT was up 31% to US$155 million. Comparable US$ EBIT (adjusted for acquisitions and divestments) rose by 17%.

CSR Building Materials lifted EBIT 12% to A$86 million, on a 5% sales increase. Return on funds employed (ROFE) further improved to 26%, from 22% in the previous corresponding period. CSR Construction Materials' EBIT fell 25% to A$48 million on a 6% sales decrease, due to the slowdown in Australian construction activity and lower concrete pipe sales.

EBIT from the combined international construction and building materials businesses rose 25% to A$403 million. The combined EBITDA (earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation) margin increased from 19% to 20%.

Directors declared an interim dividend of 11 cents a share, 33.3% franked, payable on 18 December 2000.

Net debt increased from A$1,403 million as at September 1999 to A$2,268 million, reflecting recent major acquisitions by CSR America. This is prior to the receipt of funds from the sale of CSR's interest in the Gove alumina and bauxite joint venture, Gove Aluminium Ltd (GAL) (70% CSR), which is subject to a binding offer of US$275 million.

Gearing (net debt / net debt plus equity) rose from 27% to 36% (approximately 30% after the GAL proceeds). Interest cover rose from 7.4 times to 9.4 times.

The on-market buyback commenced in June 2000, with 55 million shares, or 5% of total issued share capital, bought back to date, at an average cost of A$4.21. The buyback is a more tax effective way of returning capital to shareholders than paying unfranked dividends.

Business performance

- CSR AMERICA sales increased 32% to A$1,745 million (US$1,006 million, up 17%). All businesses except Nevada (quarries, concrete and concrete block) strongly increased US$ profit, particularly Quarries and Cement (EBIT up 42%, sales 44%), Materials Florida (concrete and concrete block) with EBIT up 34% and sales up 14%, and Pipe and Concrete Products (EBIT up 31%, sales 28%). EBIT/sales margins increased from 13.7% to 15.4%.
- CSR CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS' performance weakened progressively in the second quarter, with a particularly weak September. Concrete pipe volumes declined sharply, due to the fall off in residential sub-division activity. The Asian operations recorded a small loss. Comparative EBIT was also impacted by the July 1999 sale of the Victorian waste business. Operational improvement reduced costs by a further A$9 million. EBIT margins fell from 12.1% to 9.6%.

- CSR BUILDING MATERIALS' result was enhanced by strong market conditions as the pre-Goods and Services Tax pull-through effect continued into the September quarter. EBIT margins rose from 16.3% to 17.4%. Operational improvement delivered A$6 million in cost savings. The Asian operations recorded a small loss, with a 21% lift in sales – mainly in the China insulation business.
- CSR SUGAR EBIT fell 36% to A$29 million, from A$46 million previously, due to a late start to the sugarcane milling season caused by wet weather. Sugarcane and sugar volumes were 10% below the same period last year. Over 95% of the crop has been milled already – the two Herbert River Valley mills closed earlier than ever previously recorded. The refined sugar joint ventures, established in March 1998, contributed A$11.3 million EBIT (A$11.5 million in the half year ended 31 September 1999).
- ALUMINIUM EBIT rose 56% to a record A$109 million, from A$70 million in the same period last year. GAL's EBIT was A$38 million for the half year, up 71%. The sale of GAL is expected before CSR's current financial year end, March 2001.

Strategy: growth through acquisitions for emerging international building materials group

Following the CSR Group's sale of around A$1.5 billion in assets over the past two years, CSR America invested A$1.2 billion in new acquisitions in the US building materials sector during the half year.

The major acquisitions were:

- American Limestone Corporation (quarry products) for US$211 million/A$353 million
- Wilson & Leppert (pipe and concrete products) for US$84 million/A$139 million
- Florida Crushed Stone (quarry products and cement) for US$348 million/A$597 million.

Although it is very early days with these acquisitions, the company is pleased with their performance to date. CSR America has begun implementing various performance improvement and cost saving opportunities, and expects to achieve at least the level of synergies it originally identified.

The investment of funds by CSR America in concrete pipe and products, and cement and quarry products in the US, is helping to establish the CSR Group as a major international building materials group, with strong market positions and a foundation for future growth.

With operating cash flows of around A$1 billion a year, the group expects to fund a minimum of US$200 million a year in acquisitions in the US over the next few years. In addition, CSR's sound balance sheet and borrowing capacity, together with ongoing business portfolio rationalisation, could fund further major acquisitions – if appropriate value-adding opportunities arise.

Regarding the separation of CSR Sugar, CSR appointed an advisor in early September, and the company has received a reasonable level of interest for a trade sale from both local and overseas buyers. CSR is pursuing a multi-track process to separate this business, and has a number of available options, including retaining the business until fair value can be realised. The company expects to have a view on the way forward within the first few months of 2001.

Outlook for the balance of the year

In the US, economic forecasters are mainly predicting a *soft landing*. Total national construction activity in the six months to September (year to date) is up 1.5% on last year, despite a slowdown in housing approvals. In Florida, where over half CSR America's operations are located, total construction activity in the year to date is up 4.5% on last year.

Despite the slowdown in some areas, CSR America expects to benefit from infrastructure related spending, and to perform solidly in the second half of the year to March 2001, subject to the impact of potential further increases in interest rates and oil prices, and movements in the exchange rate.

In Australia – as expected – housing starts have begun to fall, in line with the steep, post-Goods and Services Tax fall in approvals, down 38% for the year to September compared to the same period in 1999. CSR Building Materials' earnings in the second half of CSR's year to March 2001 will be well below the first half. CSR Construction Materials is similarly affected. Other construction activity to June was flat versus 1998-9, and is expected to decline significantly this year.

Overall however, the restructuring of the CSR Group and CSR America's growth in the US has sharply reduced the group's exposure to the volatility of the Australian domestic building and construction cycles.

For CSR Sugar, the full year result is expected to be well down on last year. However, it is expected that with a more normal sugarcane crop, and prevailing higher world prices, there will be a significant increase in profit in the year ending March 2002.

The loss of earnings from divested businesses – mainly Timber Products but also GAL if sold before 31 March 2001 – would also impact on the second half year profit.

CSR is cautiously optimistic about the group's full year performance and is working to match last year's record trading (EBIT) profit. Net profit after tax will be affected by:

- a higher tax bill because of the one-off tax benefits in last year's result, and higher tax rates due to the greater proportion of US earnings
- a significant abnormal profit expected from the sale of GAL.

The company continues to explore a range of restructuring and growth options to support its objective of creating shareholder value through the business cycle.

PETER KIRBY
Managing director
20 November 2000

Please see page 7 for the Overview – Key Facts table.

Summary of operations

CSR AMERICA

Performance summary

- Trading revenue A$1,745 million, up 32% on the corresponding period last year (US$1,006 million, up 17%).
- Earnings before interest and tax (EBIT) A$269 million, up 48% (US$155 million, up 31%).
- Earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA) A$369 million, up 47% (US$212 million, up 30%).
- Profit margin (EBIT/trading revenue) was 15.4%, up from 13.7%.

Features

- CSR America had a strong half year. US total construction activity increased marginally, mainly driven by strong non-residential spending. Total construction in Florida was up 4.5%, significantly higher than the national average, and included a 29% increase in non-building construction (which includes highways, bridges and tunnels etc, assisted by spending under the US$216 billion federal Transport Equity Act for the 21st Century, TEA-21).
- CSR America continued to grow by making major acquisitions and buying smaller, value-creating, bolt-on businesses – as well as constructing low cost plants either in new locations or replacing older operations.

  – Acquired nine concrete pipe plants, five pre-stressed concrete product plants, two corrugated metal pipe plants, 12 quarries, a sand mine, 14 pre-mixed concrete plants and a dry process cement mill.

  – Constructed two concrete pipe plants, a sand plant, and the Miami cement mill to replace older plants.

Progress against priorities

- Grow in North America through bolt-on acquisitions and possibly major acquisitions; investigate new markets: *Acquired Florida Crushed Stone (US$348 million), American Limestone Company (US$211 million) and a number of smaller businesses.*
- Reduce costs through operational improvement: *Reduced costs by A$39 million.*
- Ensure new cement plant reaches full production capacity on schedule: *The dry process Miami cement mill, which began production in April, is on track.*
- Improve safety and environment performance: *Lost time injuries were at the same low frequency as the equivalent period last year while medical treatment injury frequency rate improved. Environmental incidents fell.*

CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS
Australia and Asia

Performance summary

- Trading revenue A$501 million, down 6%.
- Earnings before interest and tax (EBIT) A$48 million, down 25%.
- Earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA) A$74 million, down 18%.
- Profit margin (EBIT/trading revenue) was 9.6%, down from 12.1%.

Features

- As anticipated, Australian construction activity slowed further in the September half year, with the latter part of the period down sharply on the corresponding period last year due partly to the Olympic Games in Sydney. Most markets are declining, although civil construction in country areas is showing signs of improvement. The pull forward effect of the new Goods and Services Tax, introduced 1 July, impacted heavily on sales of concrete pipes used for residential sub-divisions.
- We have been preparing for the market slowdown, having tightened price management and improved asset utilisation – including strategically sharing production facilities. And we are continuing to consolidate operations, including closing two pre-mixed concrete plants in Australia and one in China, two quarries and a concrete pipe manufacturing line.
- We continue to win major contracts, including the supply of concrete to the auxiliary spillway at Warragamba Dam, New South Wales; a range of high rise apartment projects in Sydney; the Geelong Road, Victoria; the Brisbane Inner City By-pass and the Tarong Power Station, Queensland.

Progress against priorities

- Increase rate of improvement in efficiency and cost reduction: *Operational improvement has reduced costs by A$9 million in the half year.*
- Manage expected slowdown in the Australian business cycle: *We have wound down capital expenditure, employee numbers have continued to fall and we are continuing to improve asset utilisation. Price management has been tightened and credit control mechanisms have been improved.*
- Push out autonomy, authority and accountability to business unit managers: *Profit centres are more autonomous, with people at all levels being measured according to how much shareholder value they are adding.*
- Improve safety and environment measures: *Both lost time injury and medical treatment injury frequency rates decreased. Recorded minor environmental incidents increased.*

BUILDING MATERIALS
Australia, New Zealand and Asia

Performance summary

- Trading revenue A$494 million, up 5%.
- Earnings before interest and tax (EBIT) A$86 million, up 12%.
- Earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA) A$105 million, up 9%.
- Profit margin (EBIT/trading revenue) was 17.4%, up from 16.3%.

Features

- The business further improved its return on funds employed (ROFE) to be well ahead of the previous cycle peak in 1995, through improved asset utilisation and higher margins.
- Housing activity was buoyant, particularly in the first quarter, due to pre Goods and Services Tax buying. However, housing approvals have been declining for several months.
- Three small concrete roof tile plants were closed and the Taiwan aerated lightweight cement plant and site were sold.
- We are well advanced with the revamping of our distribution network of Gyprock Trade Centre™ outlets across Australia. Nine have been completed to date.

Progress against priorities

- Strengthen management control over pricing in the profit centres: *Strict pricing controls have been established, with the approvals system clearly understood by the sales force.*
- Reduce manufacturing and overhead costs through continuing operational improvement: *Costs reduced by A$6 million. Improved factory performance and streamlined distribution is reducing costs. Improved purchasing efficiencies have reduced raw material and service costs.*
- Tight control of operating and development capital and of funds tied up in the business as working capital: *Total capital expenditure, which is being closely managed, increased marginally. Working capital increased 13% as stocks were restored to normal levels in some products after a period of demand exceeding capacity. Sales and operations planning is improving inventory management. Debtors levels are being closely managed.*
- Dispose of surplus assets: *Taiwan aerated lightweight concrete assets and site were sold, contracts were exchanged on two roof tile sites.*
- Improve safety and environment measures: *Medical treatment injury frequency rate decreased although lost time injury frequency rate increased. Environmental incidents were held to the same low level as the same period last year.*

SUGAR

Performance summary

- Trading revenue A$388 million, down 9%.
- Earnings before interest and tax (EBIT) A$29 million, down 36%.
- Earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA) A$48 million, down 26%.
- Profit margin (EBIT/trading revenue) was 7.6%, down from 10.7%.

Features

- CSR Limited is investigating a variety of options for separating CSR's substantial sugar operations from its international building materials businesses.
- The industry marketing body, Queensland Sugar Limited, began locking in higher prices and US$ revenue through hedging, which should result in significantly improved returns in the year ending March 2002, subject to a normal crop.
- Consistent earnings from the refined sugar joint ventures and distilleries.
- The sugarcane crop is significantly smaller than forecast as a result of early season wet weather, and fungal disease which affected sugarcane in the Herbert River region and at Plane Creek Mill. Total cane milled and raw sugar produced in the six months both fell 10%, mainly because of the wet weather that delayed the start of the harvest in the Burdekin valley.

Progress against priorities

- Continue to cut costs and improve operations: *Despite problems with seasonal conditions, operational improvements cut costs by A$3 million.*
- Achieve mill efficiencies: *Lower milling rates resulting from the poor crop and sugarcane quality affected factory efficiencies this season.*
- Improve safety and environment performance measures: *Medical treatment injury frequency rate continued to fall, although lost time injury frequency rate rose a little.*

ALUMINIUM

Performance summary

- Trading revenue A$264 million, up 22%.
- Results for the Gove Aluminium companies – Gove Aluminium Ltd (GAL) and Gove Aluminium Finance (GAF), 70% owned by CSR – were:

  – earnings before interest and tax (EBIT) was A$109 million, up 56%

  – earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA) was A$124 million, up 46%

  – profit margin (EBIT/trading revenue) improved to 41.1% from 32.1%.
- CSR's share of the Gove Aluminium companies' net profit after tax was A$50 million, up 58%.

Features

- Aluminium sold in the half year – 81,732 tonnes, up 5% – was a record.
- Half year earnings were also the highest ever.
- The world aluminium price averaged US$1,544, up 10% on the same period last year.
- A binding offer was received from Billiton in July to purchase the Gove alumina and bauxite operations (GAL) for US$275 million.
- GAL EBIT was A$37.6 million, up 70.9%.

Progress against priorities

- Successful completion of the sale of CSR's interest in the Gove alumina and bauxite joint venture (GAL): *The sale is expected to be completed by the end of the year to March 2001, to either Billiton or to Alcan/algroup (which has pre-emptive rights to buy CSR's stake on the same terms as offered by Billiton).*
- Test the market for the sale of CSR's aluminium smelter investment (GAF) for a fair price: *We have not sold the investment and will not do so unless we receive fair value.*
- Continue to take advantage of opportunities to hedge the world market aluminium price and US dollar revenue: *We have taken advantage of higher aluminium prices and the weakness of the A$ relative to the US$, to hedge the majority of our aluminium production and US$ revenue for the next two to three years, providing a base level of earnings and reducing earnings volatility.*

Information for shareholders

Share registrar – change of name

Please note that CSR's share registrar has changed its name from National Registry Services to BT Registries. Contact details are unchanged – see outside back cover.

Inquiries about your shareholding

Please contact our share registrar, BT Registries, on (02) 9320 8881 if you have a question about your shareholding, dividends, share transfers and monthly holding statements.

Shareholders can access both details about their shareholding and standard forms via the Investor Online service on CSR's internet site at **www.csr.com.au/invest/share_registrar.html**

Inquiries about CSR

Call the Manager Investor Services or visit CSR's internet site. For contact details please see outside back cover.

Stock exchange listings

CSR's shares are listed on the Australian and London stock exchanges.

Changed your address?

If you change your address, please promptly notify the share registrar in writing – quoting your shareholder number and your old address as security checks. Change of address advice forms can be downloaded from the internet using the Investor Online service.

Direct deposit into bank accounts

Dividends can be paid directly into a bank, building society or credit union account in Australia on the dividend payment date. Deposit details will be confirmed by an advice mailed to you on that date. Application forms are available from our share registrar.

If you subsequently change your bank account, please promptly notify the share registrar in writing, quoting your old bank account number as an added security check.

Uncertificated share register

CSR's share register is wholly uncertificated. Shareholding statements are issued to you within five business days after the end of any month in which transactions alter the balance of your holding.

American Depositary Receipts

In the USA, CSR's shares are traded on the over-the-counter market in the form of sponsored American Depositary Receipts. Each ADR represents four CSR ordinary fully paid shares. Holders receive all information sent to shareholders and receive their dividends in US dollars. Inquiries:

J P Morgan Service Center
150 Royall Street
Mail Stop 45-02-54
Canton, MA 02021
United States of America.
Phone USA (781) 575 4328
Fax USA (781) 575 4082.

Do we have your tax file number (TFN)?

All shareholders, including children, may choose to have their tax file number (or details of any tax exemption) noted by our share registrar. This will avoid unnecessary tax deductions from any CSR unfranked dividend payments. Tax file number forms are available from our share registrar.

It is not compulsory for shareholders to provide a tax file number. But if they do not, we must deduct tax at the top marginal rate plus levies from the unfranked part of dividends paid. Australian shareholders living abroad should advise our share registrar of their resident status as limited exemptions to tax deductions may apply.

CSR communications

Our internet site **www.csr.com.au** provides information about the CSR Group's entire Australian range of building materials. Also, the site offers shareholder publications, news releases and announcements to ASX, financial presentations, facts about CSR, and the company newsletter, *What's new*.

The new internet site **www.csra.com** offers information about CSR America's operations and product range.

CSR printed communications for shareholders include the *Annual Report*, this *Results Summary* and the *Report on the AGM*, which is sent to shareholders who request it.

Combining multiple shareholdings

If you have multiple shareholding accounts that you want to consolidate into a single account, please advise our share registrar, in writing.

RECENT CSR DIVIDENDS

DATE PAID	TYPE	A CENTS PER SHARE	FRANKING % / RATE IN DOLLAR
July 1998	final	11	33 1⁄3% / 36 cents
December 1998	interim	11	33 1⁄3% / 36 cents
July 1999	final	12	33 1⁄3% / 36 cents
December 1999	interim	11	33 1⁄3% / 36 cents
July 2000	final	12	33 1⁄3% / 34 cents
December 2000	interim	11	33 1⁄3% / 34 cents

SHAREHOLDERS' TIMETABLE 2001

31 March	Year end
22 May	Profit and final dividend announced
1 June	Shares begin trading ex dividend
7 June	Record date for determining shareholders' entitlement to final dividend payment
20 June	Annual report released and Notice of Meeting and Proxy Form mailed
To be announced	Final dividend paid
17 July	Proxy returns close (10.00 am Sydney)
19 July	Annual general meeting
30 September	Half year end

OVERVIEW – KEY FACTS

YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER — A$ MILLION UNLESS STATED	2000	1999	% CHANGE
Operating results			
Trading revenue	3,394.6	3,291.0	3
Earnings before abnormal items, interest and tax [EBIT]	505.1	420.6	20
Net profit before/after abnormal items [no abnormal items]	271.1	224.2	21
Net cash from operating activities	414.7	375.7	10
Capital investment	1,424.1	242.6	487
Key data per share			
Earnings before/after abnormals [A cents]	26.4	21.6	22
Dividend [A cents]	11.0	11.0	
Key measures			
Earnings before abnormal items, interest and tax: trading revenue [%]	14.9	12.8	
Return on funds employed before abnormal items (last 12 months) [%]	13.9	13.5	
Return on shareholders' funds before abnormal items (last 12 months) [%]	13.6	10.6	
Interest cover [times]	9.4	7.4	
Gearing at 30 September			
Net debt: equity plus net debt [%]	36.2	27.5	
Net debt: equity [%]	56.8	37.9	
CSR's people			% IMPROVEMENT
Safety – medical treatment injury frequency rate	39.6	42.6	7
Safety – lost time injuries per million work hours	4.0	4.5	11

CSR Limited

ABN 90 000 001 276

Level 1, 9 Help Street
Chatswood NSW 2067
Australia

Locked bag 6
Chatswood NSW 2057
Australia

Telephone: (02) 9235 8000
International: + 61 2 9235 8000
Facsimile: (02) 9235 8044
International: + 61 2 9235 8044

Share registry inquiries

BT Registries

The Chifley Tower
2 Chifley Square
Sydney NSW 2000
Australia

GPO Box 4063
Sydney NSW 2001
Australia

Telephone: (02) 9320 8881
International: + 61 2 9320 8881
Facsimile: (02) 9259 9100
International: + 61 2 9259 9100

Email: btregistries@btfinancialgroup.com

Investor and analyst inquiries

Manager Investor Services
CSR Corporate Affairs and
Investor Relations Group

Telephone: (02) 9235 8172
International: + 61 2 9235 8172
Facsimile: (02) 9235 8140
International: + 61 2 9235 8140

Email: investorrelations@csr.com.au

CSR internet site

www.csr.com.au