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Aura Group Closes Fifth Special Purpose Fund To Invest In Lannock Strata Finance

Aura Group is pleased to announce that it has finalised a \$5.5m investment in Lannock Strata Finance (Lannock), a leading lender to strata corporations in Australia. The investment was made through Aura Special Opportunities Fund V, the fifth special opportunities fund raised by Aura Group.

Lannock provides debt funding to strata corporations (owner corporations and bodies corporate) to enable them to repair and maintain their common property. This is an alternative, more efficient and timely funding solution for strata owners to using a sinking fund or imposing a special levy.

Established in 2004 by former banking executive Paul Morton, Lannock has quickly secured a strong position in the strata lending market.

Several key trends have emerged to help drive demand for strata lending, including ageing buildings, a shift towards high density urban developments and the desire to increase property value through capital works on the common property.

The investment in Lannock reflects Aura's investment philosophy in gaining exposure to fast growing businesses that are uniquely positioned within niche sectors. Moreover, it is anticipated that material synergies will be realised through Aura Group's network of portfolio companies, including Finsure - the fastest growing finance aggregator in Australia which was recently ranked #2 in BRW Fast Starters 2015.

Commenting on the transaction, Lannock CEO Paul Morton said "I am delighted to form a partnership with Aura and be able to expand the company's product offering and increase its impact in this growing market."

"Lannock is a true leader in an infant and niche market. Its lending products have the potential to truly disrupt the way strata corporations fund capital and extraordinary expenses in the future. Many property owners have experienced the pain of being hit with expensive special levies in the past and were never offered an alternative funding option. We are excited to work with Lannock and assist them with their growth plans." said Aura Group Managing Director Eric Chan.

Following the transaction, Aura Group has secured a material shareholding in Lannock alongside existing investors, including Wally Patterson, well-known in the strata industry through his development of Dynamic Property Services. A principal from Aura Group will also be joining the board alongside Paul Morton and David Morris, former chairman of AMP Bank Limited.

ASOF V is the latest fund in a series of highly successful special opportunity funds, including DSOF I and DSOF II.

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About Aura Group

Aura Group is a global financial services business specialising in corporate advisory, funds management and principal investments with offices in Sydney, Melbourne and Singapore.

Aura Group is led by a team of professionals possessing a wealth of experience across investment banking, funds management, equities research, law, accounting, taxation and business advisory.

The group's activities are organized into three operating divisions: corporate advisory, funds management, principal investments. Its suite of invested portfolio companies are predominantly within the financial services, technology and professional services sectors.