



## MEDIA RELEASE

**EMBARGOED UNTIL 2:00pm EST**

### **GE Money ceases offering home loans through third party mortgages, motor finance and small business finance in Australia and New Zealand**

**24 October 2008**

**MELBOURNE:** GE Money has announced today it will cease offering home loans through third parties (brokers, mortgage managers and other originators except Wizard), motor finance and small business finance in Australia and New Zealand. This is a result of the extreme volatility and greatly increasing cost of funds on the global and local wholesale markets.

Of GE Money's 4,500 employees, approximately 335 positions will become redundant at various times over 12 months. About 110 of these redundancies will be in four weeks, with the balance occurring over the following year.

There is no impact on GE Money's retail store finance, credit cards, personal loans and insurance businesses.

As many employees of the affected businesses as possible will be redeployed into other areas of the business. In addition, customer service roles will be retained to service existing loans. Redundancies will be minimised by redeployment opportunities that will arise in other areas whilst the existing book is run off over a period of some years.

CEO & President GE Money Australia & New Zealand, Mike Cutter, said the unprecedented conditions meant that GE Money has to be more selective in its allocation of capital and needs to ensure it gets a reasonable return on investment.

"Home lending and motor finance are capital-intensive businesses and we have had to accept that the returns at present no longer justify the cost of funding those products," Mr Cutter said.

"This was a very difficult decision to take. However we will now be able to better focus on those parts of the business that are our core strengths and in which we have scale.

"GE Money's strong presence in Australia and New Zealand is in retail store finance, credit cards, personal loans and insurance sold through our retail partners branches and online direct channels. There are great growth opportunities here and we are committed to continuing to provide services to our partners and our more than three million customers."



<b>Breakdown of positions by geography</b>	<b>Staff affected</b>
New South Wales (over three sites)	78
Queensland (over two sites)	25
South Australia (one site)	5
Victoria HQ (one site)	136
Western Australia (one site)	8
New Zealand (over two sites)	80
<b>Total:</b>	<b>335 approx</b>

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#### About GE Money

GE Money Australia and New Zealand is part of the global GE Money business, which operates in 55 countries around the world. GE Money offers a broad range of innovative finance products – personal loans, credit cards and interest-free promotional offers. GE Money also owns the Australian Financial Investments Group (including Wizard Home Loans) and is proud to be Money Magazine's Finance Company of the Year, 2005 and 2006. More information can be found online at [www.gemoney.com.au](http://www.gemoney.com.au)

With \$163 billion in assets globally, GE Money is a unit of General Electric Company (NYSE:GE) -- a diversified technology, media and financial services company focused on solving some of the world's toughest problems. With products and services ranging from aircraft engines, power generation, water processing and security technology to medical imaging, business and consumer financing, media content and advanced materials, GE serves customers in more than 100 countries and employs more than 300,000 people worldwide. For more information, visit the company's website at [www.ge.com](http://www.ge.com)