



MARKET RELEASE

23 May 2005

Metcash Limited

TRADING HALT

The securities of Metcash Limited (the "Company") will be placed in pre-open at the request of the Company, pending the release of an announcement by the Company. Unless ASX decides otherwise, the securities will remain in pre-open until the earlier of the commencement of normal trading on Wednesday, 25 May 2005 or when the announcement is released to the market.

Security Code: MTS

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Hajzuk'.

Richard Hajzuk
Senior Companies Adviser



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23 May 2005

The Manager
Company Announcements Office
Australian Stock Exchange Limited
Level 4, 20 Bridge Street,
Sydney NSW 2000

**Metcash - Takeover bid for Foodland Associated Limited (ASX: FOA)
Request for trading halt**

Metcash Limited and Metcash Trading Limited (collectively Metcash) each request a trading halt in all their listed securities from the open of trading on Monday 23 May 2005.

The discussions referred to in our announcement of 20 May have now progressed to a stage where Metcash considers it appropriate to request a trading halt. The event which will end the trading halt is the making of an announcement.

Metcash requests that the trading halt remain in place until the earlier of the making of that announcement and open of trading on Wednesday 25 May.

Metcash is not aware of any reason why the trading halt should not be granted.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Randall".

John Randall
Company Secretary

