

Sydney, 10 March 2010

## **Board Changes – Board Renewal Programme**

Aristocrat Leisure Ltd (ASX: ALL) today provided an update on its Board succession planning and renewal programme and announced the impending retirement of 3 long standing directors.

Mr David Simpson has indicated that after 6 years in the role he will step down as Chairman of the Company upon the appointment of a successor, and at that time he also wishes to retire as a director. Planning for the selection of a new Chairman has already commenced and the Board expects to announce Mr Simpson's successor towards the end of 2010. The Board is also in the early stages of a search to identify an additional director to fill the casual Board vacancy which will be created by Mr Simpson's impending retirement.

Mr Simpson was nominated to join the Board in July 2003 and received the necessary regulatory approvals in February 2004. Mr Simpson has served as Chairman since July 2004. Mr Simpson will stand for re-election as a Director of the Company at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting in April 2010 (AGM). However, as indicated, he does not expect to serve a full term as Chairman.

Mrs Penny Morris AM has also indicated that she will retire from the Board at the conclusion of the AGM in order to focus on her other board responsibilities. Mrs Morris was nominated to join the Board in August 2003 and received the necessary regulatory approvals in February 2004. Mrs Morris has served on various Board committees with distinction during her long tenure, most notably as Chair of the Audit Committee.

Mr Bill Baker has also indicated that after almost 12 years service he wishes to retire from the Board this year. The precise timing of Mr Baker's retirement has not yet been determined. Mr Baker was nominated to join the Board in August 1998 and received the necessary regulatory approvals in May 1999. Mr Baker has served on various Board committees with distinction during his long tenure, most notably as Chair of the Regulatory and Compliance Committee.

As part of the ongoing process of Board renewal, Dr ID Blackburne and Mr SW Morro were recently nominated as directors' elect. Their appointments are subject to certain pending regulatory pre-approvals. Each of them will stand for election as directors at the AGM subject to regulatory approval.

"My decision to step down later this year along with Mrs Morris and Mr Baker's retirements are consistent with the Company's interests in ensuring appropriate Board renewal" said Chairman David Simpson.

Mr Simpson continued: "On behalf of the Board, I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to Penny Morris and Bill Baker. Both have provided meritorious service to the Company over an extended period of time. We wish them both well and thank them for their significant contributions."

"The Board considers that these retirements, and the anticipated new appointments, will allow us to continue to refresh the Board by bringing additional experiences and new perspectives especially in respect of the critical US market. These changes are particularly important as we guide the Company through its critical 3-5 year turnaround programme" said Mr Simpson.

## Enquiries

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Aristocrat Leisure Limited (ASX: ALL) is a leading global provider of gaming. The Company is licensed by over two hundred regulators and its products and services are available in over ninety countries around the world. Aristocrat offers a diverse range of products and services including electronic gaming machines, interactive video terminal systems, electronic tables and casino management systems. For further information visit the Group's website at <u>www.aristocratgaming.com</u>.