



**To: The Manager
Australian Securities Exchange
20 Bridge Street
Sydney NSW 2000**

Company Name:	ST.GEORGE BANK LIMITED
ABN:	92 055 513 070
Pages (Includes this page):	1
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Subject:	Trading Halt Request
Date Sent:	12 May 2008

- **St.George Bank Limited (ASX: SGB)**
- **SAINTS (ASX: SGBPA)**
- **Step-up Preference Shares (ASX: SGBPC)**
- **Converting Preference Shares (ASX: SGBPD)**
- **Converting Preference Shares II (ASX: SGBPE)**
- **Fixed Rate Transferable Deposits due 8 April 2011 (ASX: SGBHA)**
- **Floating Rate Transferable Deposits due 8 April 2011 (ASX: SGBHB)**
- **Fixed Rate Transferable Deposits due 28 November 2011 (ASX: SGBHC)**
- **Floating Rate Transferable Deposits due 28 November 2011 (ASX: SGBHD)**
- **Floating Rate Transferable Deposits due August 2009 (ASX: SGBHE)**
- **Floating Rate Transferable Deposits due March 2009 (ASX: SGBHF)**

St.George Bank Limited (**St.George**) requests a trading halt for 24 hours with respect to SGB, SGBPA, SGBPC, SGBPD, SGBPE, SGBHA, SGBHB, SGBHC, SGBHD, SGBHE and SGBHF to permit confidential merger discussions to occur between St.George and Westpac Banking Corporation (**Westpac**), following an approach to St.George by Westpac after close of trading on 9 May 2008.

St.George requests that the trading halt remain in place until St.George is in a position to make a further announcement to the market. St.George expects that a further announcement will be made prior to the commencement of trading on Tuesday 13 May 2008.

St.George confirms that it is not aware of any reason why the trading halt should not be granted.

Yours sincerely

Michael Bowan
General Counsel and Secretary