

**CARDNO INCREASES ENVIRONMENTAL SECTOR CAPACITY**

Global infrastructure services consultancy, Cardno Limited, today announced the acquisition of specialist Sydney-based marine and freshwater ecology consultants, The Ecology Lab.

The Ecology Lab will add revenues of around \$2.8 million per annum.

The acquisition of The Ecology Lab, to be known as Cardno Ecology Lab, will extend Cardno's environmental services capability in New South Wales to around 40 people – increasing Cardno's capacity to secure significant environmental projects and expand the service range to clients.

Andrew Buckley, Managing Director of Cardno Limited said the acquisition would complement Cardno's already strong position in this market and lead to cross selling opportunities with its Australian and internationally-based business units.

"Teams from Cardno have already worked with The Ecology Lab across Australia and New Zealand on a number of projects. We've demonstrated our capacity to work together and now The Ecology Lab is part of the Cardno group, I look forward to offering broader environmental services to our clients," said Mr Buckley.

Established in 1985, The Ecology Lab has developed a wide client base working for all levels of government and major Australian corporations in relation to ecological assessments of marine, coastal and freshwater ecosystems.

Mr Buckley said he expected Cardno Ecology Lab will make a sound contribution to Cardno's profitability in 2009, as specialist skills in environmental services and ecology were in high demand.

"The Ecology Lab offers biological and ecological surveys of marine, coastal and freshwater ecosystems as well as Environmental Impact Assessments including matters related to Threatened Aquatic Species – a skill set we haven't previously been able to directly offer our clients," said Mr Buckley.

Marcus Lincoln Smith, the business' founder will be retained in the new business as Business Unit Manager.

"The Ecology Lab team have recently worked on the expansion of the Port Botany port facilities for Sydney Ports Corporation, the environmental assessment and monitoring of coastal ecosystems for the Illawarra Waste Water Strategy of Sydney Water and the ecological effects of mine water discharges into freshwater streams for the Australian Coal Association Research Panel," Dr Lincoln Smith said.

"Now that we are formally part of the group I am keen to be able to offer our specialist skills to a broader range of Cardno clients," Dr Lincoln Smith added.

The acquisition has been funded with a mix of cash, from available funds, and shares.

**ENDS.**

**For further information:**

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**About Cardno:** Cardno is an integrated professional services provider, locally delivering the specialist advice necessary to create or improve the physical and social infrastructure that underpins communities around the world. Our team comprises leading advisers who plan, design and deliver sustainable projects or community programs. We are an international company, listed on the Australian Securities Exchange [ASX: CDD]. [www.cardno.com](http://www.cardno.com)