



11 February 2003

### WESFARMERS ANNOUNCES PROPOSED SHARE BUYBACK AND

### SUSPENSION OF DIVIDEND INVESTMENT PLAN

The directors of Wesfarmers Limited today announced two balance sheet management initiatives in response to the company's low level of debt and the strong cash flows being generated from its businesses.

The first is the suspension for the time being, of the Wesfarmers Dividend Investment Plan. The company will continue to pay 100 per cent of operating profits as dividends while it has sufficient franking credits available; the Plan will be reinstated when the directors consider that gearing has risen to appropriate levels.

The second initiative involves a share buyback. The directors have resolved that the company may, from time to time, repurchase up to five per cent of its own shares on-market during the next twelve months. Relevant documentation to give the company the capacity to implement this initiative during the next 12 months is attached.

For further information contact:

Mr Michael Chaney, Managing Director (08) 9327 4203

Appendix 3C

Rule 3.8A

## Announcement of buy-back (*except* minimum holding buy-back)

*Information and documents given to ASX become ASX's property and may be made public.* Introduced 1/9/99. Origin: Appendix 7B. Amended 13/3/2000, 30/9/2001.

Name of entity	ABN
WESFARMERS LIMITED	008 984 049

We (the entity) give ASX the following information.

### **Information about buy-back**

1	Type of buy-back	On market within 10/12 limit
2	<sup>+</sup> Class of shares which is the subject of the buy-back ( <i>eg</i> , <i>ordinary/preference</i> )	Ordinary
3	Voting rights (eg, one for one)	One for one
4	Fully paid/partly paid (and if partly paid, details of how much has been paid and how much is outstanding)	Fully paid
5	Number of shares in the <sup>+</sup> class on issue	380,630,562
6	Whether shareholder approval is required for buy-back	No
7	Reason for buy-back	To replace equity with debt funding thereby reducing the group's weighted average cost of capital

8	Any other information material to a shareholder's decision whether to accept the offer ( <i>eg, details of any proposed takeover bid</i> )	Nil		
On-market buy-back				
9	Name of broker who will act on the company's behalf	JBWere & Son ABN AMRO		
10	Deleted 30/9/2001.			
11	If the company intends to buy back a maximum number of shares - that number Note: This requires a figure to be included, not a percentage.	19,000,000		
12	If the company intends to buy back shares within a period of time - that period of time; if the company intends that the buy-back be of unlimited duration - that intention	From 26.02.2003 to 25.02.2004		
13	If the company intends to buy back shares if conditions are met - those conditions	Nil		

# Employee share scheme buy-back

14	Number of shares proposed to be bought back	
15	Price to be offered for shares	

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>+</sup> See chapter 19 for defined terms.

#### **Selective buy-back**

- 16 Name of person or description of class of person whose shares are proposed to be bought back
- 17 Number of shares proposed to be bought back

18 Price to be offered for shares

#### Equal access scheme

- 19 Percentage of shares proposed to be bought back
- 20 Total number of shares proposed to be bought back if all offers are accepted
- 21 Price to be offered for shares
- 22 <sup>+</sup>Record date for participation in offer

Cross reference: Appendix 7A, clause 9.

# **Compliance statement**

- 1. The company is in compliance with all Corporations Act requirements relevant to this buy-back.
- 2. There is no information that the listing rules require to be disclosed that has not already been disclosed, or is not contained in, or attached to, this form.

Sign here:

(Director/Company secretary)

Date: 11.02.2003

Print name: LI

LINDA JAYNE KENYON

 $<sup>^{\</sup>rm +}$  See chapter 19 for defined terms.