



13 December 2002

### **Retirement of Chairman**

Mr Harry Perkins AO, Chairman of the company since 1986, has retired from the board of Wesfarmers Limited.

“At the Annual General Meeting last month I indicated that I would be leaving the board sometime in the course of the next year,” said Mr Perkins.

“Over the past few weeks my health has deteriorated and I have decided to bring forward my retirement for that reason.”

Mr Perkins said it had been an immense privilege to be part of the success of Wesfarmers since joining the board of the Westralian Farmers Cooperative in 1975.

“The progress from these humble beginnings to our present standing as a major Australian corporation reflects great credit on the employees, successive boards of directors and the shareholders who had confidence in them.

“It is particularly satisfying for me to have seen through the ownership restructure last year and the Howard Smith takeover and business integration process. The company is very well positioned for the future with an invigorated board, a first class management team and a sound balance sheet.”

The board will meet next week to consider the appointment of a new Chairman.

The Managing Director of Wesfarmers, Mr Michael Chaney, said it was impossible to overstate the contribution made by Mr Perkins to Wesfarmers and the Western Australian community generally.

“The breadth of that contribution is remarkable, encompassing as it does business, farming, education and medical research,” he said.

“His long term as Chairman is marked by the teamwork and harmony he was able to create and maintain. The united board which he led has been a critical factor in the company’s success.

“Harry’s involvement outside Wesfarmers included distinguished service as Chancellor of Curtin University for the past six years and the almost single-handed creation of the Western Australian Institute of Medical Research aimed at coordinating and expanding research into adult health issues.

“Wesfarmers and the community are greatly indebted to Harry Perkins. All present and former employees, and the innumerable others with whom he has come into contact, will join me in conveying thanks and best wishes to Harry, his wife Margaret and their family.”

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