

**ASX**

AUSTRALIAN SECURITIES EXCHANGE

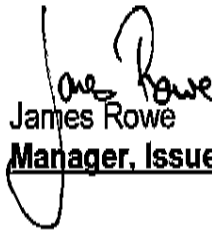
MARKET RELEASE

22 January 2009

Wesfarmers Limited**TRADING HALT**

The securities of Wesfarmers Limited (the "Company") will be placed in pre-open at the request of the Company, pending the release of an announcement by the Company. Unless ASX decides otherwise, the securities will remain in pre-open until the earlier of the commencement of normal trading on Tuesday 27 January, 2009 or when the announcement is released to the market.

Security Code: WES
 WESN


James Rowe
Manager, Issuers Perth

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Wesfarmers Limited

ABN 25 008 984 048

22 January 2009

Mr James Rowe
State Manager (WA)
Manager, Issuers (Perth)
ASX Limited
Exchange Plaza
2 The Esplanade
PERTH WA 6000

By fax: (08) 9221 2020

Dear Mr Rowe,

Request for Trading Halt

I request a trading halt in both the ordinary shares (ASX Code: WES) and partially protected ordinary shares (ASX Code: WESN) of Wesfarmers Limited ("Wesfarmers") from the commencement of trading on 22 January 2009.

The trading halt is requested pursuant to an announcement to be made by Wesfarmers before the commencement of trading on 27 January 2009.

For the purposes of Listing Rule 17.1, Wesfarmers provides the following information:

- the trading halt is necessary as Wesfarmers expects to make an announcement to the market in relation to a capital raising involving retail and institutional investors;
- Wesfarmers requests that the trading halt remain in place until the commencement of trading on 27 January 2009, unless, before that time, Wesfarmers makes an announcement concerning the outcome of the capital raising or requests that the trading halt be lifted; and
- Wesfarmers is not aware of any reason why the trading halt should not be granted.

Yours sincerely,

L J KENYON
COMPANY SECRETARY