

\$1 million to make a difference for Australians affected by bushfires and drought

19 November 2019

Wilson Asset Management today announced plans to raise up to \$1 million for Australians affected by bushfires and drought*.

Speaking at Wilson Asset Management's Sydney Shareholder Presentation, Chairman and Chief Investment Officer Geoff Wilson AO said the investment manager would match funds raised by shareholders and supporters of the six listed investment companies it manages.

"After we travelled to Toowoomba and then drove cross country to the Gold Coast at the beginning of our nationwide Shareholder Presentations last week, the reality of the devastation that is currently gripping rural and regional Australia became very real to us. The sunburnt grass and smoky haze presented a painful image of the suffering that so many Australians are currently enduring," Mr Wilson said.

"Many of our more than 80,000 shareholders live and work in areas affected by these natural disasters or they are worried for their friends and family members. Together, let's raise \$1 million and try to make a difference to people's lives," he said.

Wilson Asset Management will match shareholders and supporters' tax-deductible gifts to the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR) Disaster Resilience and Recovery Fund.

FRRR CEO Natalie Egleton welcomed the announcement.

"We are delighted to see Wilson Asset Management's leadership and welcome the meaningful contribution from the investment manager, shareholders and supporters that we will ensure reaches the communities most in need," Ms Egleton said.

"Every donation to the Disaster Resilience and Recovery Fund will have a long-term impact on the affected communities. The Fund ensures that relevant, accessible and flexible support exists for rural, regional and remote communities in preparing for and recovering from disasters.

"The effect of bushfires and drought will not be the same in any two communities, so it's critical that when the time is right, local leaders can access funds for whatever is most important to their community," she said.

Wilson Asset Management Chief Executive Officer Kate Thorley said shareholders' stories about the natural disasters had resonated deeply with the team.

"When we saw and heard how our shareholders and their communities were affected by bushfires and drought, including my own hometown of Toowoomba, we wanted to make a real difference," Ms Thorley said.

Donations made at <https://frrr.org.au/wam> will be matched by Wilson Asset Management.

*All donations will be made by the investment manager, not the listed investment companies it manages on behalf of shareholders.

About Wilson Asset Management

Wilson Asset Management invests more than \$3 billion on behalf of over 80,000 shareholders of six listed investment companies. Wilson Asset Management makes a difference in the community, primarily as an advocate for retail investors and as the creator and lead supporter of the Future Generation companies.

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About the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal (FRRR)

The Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal (FRRR) was established in 2000 to support the renewal of rural, regional and remote communities in Australia through partnerships with the private sector, philanthropy and governments. Since inception, FRRR has managed the distribution of nearly \$100 million in donations and provided substantial capacity-building support to community organisations across the nation.

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