



For immediate release

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MetService welcomes 'Future Director' Kim Dirks to the table

MetService Chair Ant Howard has welcomed the inclusion of Kim Dirks on the MetService Board, as part of the Institute of Director's Future Directors' programme.

The aim of the Future Directors' programme is to help develop the next generation of directors, allowing candidates to gain valuable experience by sitting at the board table of a New Zealand company for a 12-month period.

The University of Auckland academic joins the board for the coming 12-months and will receive mentoring from those already on the Board. While participating in all Board activities and discussions, future directors are not involved in decision making and have no voting rights.

Ant Howard says it is important to support the growth and development of people with an interest in governance.

"What better way is there to learn, than by getting hands-on and participating in real-world scenarios," he says.

"I'm extremely pleased to be able to offer a place on the MetService Board for someone with an interest in governance.

"MetService is a State-owned enterprise, with a commitment to safety, science and the social, cultural, environmental and economic wellbeing of all New Zealanders. As such, being on the Board will certainly provide Kim with a range of new ideas and challenges to stimulate her thinking and broaden her skill set."

Kim Dirks is currently the Head of Department for Epidemiology and Biostatistics at the Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences. She has particular interest in air pollution, environmental noise and urban design. She has had a keen interest in meteorology since childhood and subsequently went on to complete an undergraduate degree in meteorology at McGill University before redirecting her career more towards health.

"I certainly feel very fortunate to be invited into this role," says Kim. "This is a wonderful opportunity for me to develop leadership and governance skills beyond academia and to contribute to the field of meteorology in a very different capacity to what is normally the case for an academic. I am really looking forward to working with the MetService Board and taking up all of the opportunities on offer through the Institute of Director's Future Director's programme."

The Institute of Directors' Future Directors' programme was founded by Sir Stephen Tindall (The Warehouse/Tindall Foundation), Michael Stiassny (Vector/Korda Mentha/IOD) and Des Hunt (NZ Shareholders Association) on 20 March 2013. It was extended to State Sector boards in June 2016 and Kim is the 41st future director to be appointed.

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About MetService

MetService is New Zealand's National Meteorological Service. As a State-Owned Enterprise its core purpose is to protect the safety of life and property in New Zealand while operating as a commercial business. MetService recently emerged as one of the highest rated agencies in Colmar Brunton's annual survey of reputation in the public sector. <http://www.colmarbrunton.co.nz/opinion-does-our-public-sector-measure-up/>

Contact

Deborah Gray, Communications Manager: deborah.gray@metservice.com

Ph: 021 624 170

MetService Forecast Room Media Shift: metcomms@metservice.com

Ph: 04 4700 848