



## Media release

For immediate release

24 June 2020

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### **MetService Chief Executive to depart after nine successful years.**

MetService Chief Executive, Peter Lennox is leaving the national weather forecasting agency to take up the Chief Executive role at the Crown Research Institute of Environmental Science and Research, ESR.

Peter Lennox, who has been with MetService for nine years, announced his resignation to the Board of Directors, staff and stakeholders last week.

"I've been honoured to have led MetService since 2011 and to have been New Zealand's designated Permanent Representative with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). MetService is a wonderful place to work, full of smart and innovative people in New Zealand and around the globe. I feel immensely proud of our achievements."

"I leave MetService in good heart, to lead another scientific organisation that also champions social good and safety. It is time to pass the baton to somebody else to continue to take MetService forward," says Peter Lennox.

His last day with MetService is Friday 24 July 2020.

Board Chair Sophie Haslem says Peter has overseen a decade of commercial and scientific innovation that has seen MetService become a world-leading safety and commercial weather service.

"Under Peter's leadership MetService has enhanced and diversified our forecasting products and services, driving consistent improvements in forecast reliability year-on-year and considerably widening our customer base.

"The acquisition of MetOcean Solutions in 2017 also expanded our forecasting expertise to marine weather services, enabling us to lead the ground-breaking work currently underway to improve New Zealand's understanding of the impact of weather on our marine ecosystem through the multi-industry Moana Project."

Recent changes to New Zealand's severe weather warnings, which saw the introduction of a red warning reserved for the most extreme weather events, has also been a key milestone.

With MetService recognised as one of New Zealand's ten most trusted public sector organisations and the recently re-launched Metservice.com among the country's most visited New Zealand-based websites, Peter is leaving the company in a strong position.

"We're excited to see what innovations and enhancements the team come up with next to continue providing Kiwis and our growing international clients with the world-leading data and services they need to plan their days, lives and livelihoods."

The Board has appointed MetService current Chief Financial Officer, Keith Hilligan as Acting Chief Executive.

"I'm very pleased that Keith, who is highly experienced and well versed in all aspects of the MetService organisation, has agreed to take on this role to ensure continued stable leadership in the interim".

The search for a permanent Chief Executive will begin in due course.

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### **About MetService**

MetService is New Zealand's National Meteorological Service and the only authorised provider of Severe Weather Watches and Warnings. 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.