



MEDIA RELEASE

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For immediate release

NEW CEO APPOINTMENT FOR CENTRAL LAKES TRUST

Central Lakes Trust announce acting CEO, Susan Finlay, as the new chief executive.

Ms. Finlay who has worked within the Trust for the past 24 months; the most recent as acting CEO, will transition into the role immediately says Central Lakes Trust Chairperson, Mr Tony Hill.

Former CEO, Paul Allison stepped down from the role on the 4th September 2017, after 10 years with the Trust.

Mr Hill says, Ms Finlay was the outstanding candidate for the role given her experience and significant contribution since her arrival in June 2015.

Christchurch based recruitment company EQI Global managed the extensive recruitment process which saw 29 applicants apply from around the country.

“Susan has been leading the way ever since Paul resigned, and while the other candidates were exemplary, and the process rigorous, we are thrilled to have Susan on board.”

“She will undoubtedly provide strong direction for the Trust as it moves into the future. Her business skills and experience coupled with her genuine passion for the organisation and for delivering the values of the trust for the ultimate benefit of the community is more than evident. I look forward to what the future holds.”

Susan comes to the role with 25 years of experience in top executive roles throughout New Zealand, including a period of time in the energy sector as CFO for The Power Company and PowerNet during the Max Bradford reforms. She also has extensive experience in local government and policy from her time with Central Otago District Council.

Ms Finlay says, “I am truly honoured and privileged to take on the CEO role.”

“It is an interesting time for the Central Lakes community. Such rapid growth in the area puts all sorts of demands on our community resources.”

“My council experience gave me real insight into the issues facing communities within our region. I want to make sure the Trust truly gets involved in addressing those issues. It’s really important that we as a Trust understand the implications of those demands on our community, and its members, and work closely within the community to ensure the support we give has far reaching impact.”

Since its inception in 2000 the Trust has grown its asset base from the \$155m bestowed by the Otago Central Electric Power Board to assets totaling \$360m. It has distributed more than \$85m of grants into a wide range of community projects and services throughout the Central Lakes area.

Susan is based in Cromwell where she lives with her husband Will, and their two children.

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