

WEL Energy Trust change maker CEOs departure “a great loss to the region”

WEL Energy Trust chief executive Raewyn Jones is leaving her role at the end of July to take up full-time study at University College London (UCL).

Mrs Jones has headed the Trust for nearly seven years and in that time has overseen significant changes in the organisation.

Trust Chair Michael West says Mrs Jones made a big contribution to stability within the Trust by putting systems in place that provide a robust framework for Trustees to follow and a template for good decision-making.

Former chair Mark Ingle worked with Mrs Jones for six years and has nothing but praise for her contribution to the Trust. “Raewyn led local and national initiatives, pioneered new ways of thinking, and challenged the status quo. She fully embraced and expanded on the opportunities her role provided. It was a pleasure working with such a free thinker, thorough researcher and skilled practitioner. She is a change maker. She will be a great loss to the region, but I’m also convinced her positive influence will endure.”

On Mrs Jones’ watch the Trust took a systems approach to problem solving and community investment, and she says they were always mindful to keep people at the heart of things.

“My team and I have worked together to support our trustees in their vision for a forward thinking vibrant and connected community, while at the same time achieving the Trust’s purpose of ensuring WEL Networks Ltd operates as a successful business. What we do is special and unique,” she says.

The Trust has also adopted a community investment strategy where both grants and investments work together to achieve Trust targets based on the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

‘Here for the Community’

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“Our mission is to make a positive difference to our communities. In alignment with this, we have started our journey to ensure all of our investments are having a positive impact.” Mrs Jones was active in supporting the development of impact investment in the Waikato, and nationally as an inaugural member of the National Advisory Board for Impact Investment and helping initiate the Impact Investment Network (IIN) in New Zealand.

She was also co-founder and co-chair of a cross-sector regional project to localise the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for the Waikato region, the Waikato Wellbeing Project.

Mr West says the work Mrs Jones did on this project was hugely significant. “I’m sure she’ll be remembered for her contribution to the wellbeing project, and for her work around aligning the Trust’s grants and investments with targets based on the SDGs.” He says the framework she has put in place that allows Trustees to regularly review and make informed decisions on these and other Trust matters is significant.

“Raewyn’s hard work and dedication has ultimately left behind an environment of clarity, which to her credit should make it easy for her successor to also perform to a high standard,” Mr West says.

Mrs Jones will be moving to the UK in August to study Global Governance and Ethics for a masters degree at UCL. “There’s a lot of cross-sector collaboration involved in the chief executive’s job so the right applicant would need to be comfortable connecting with people from all sectors of the community. I’ll be sorry to go, but at the same time it offers an opportunity for someone keen to take on a unique leadership role to shine.”

ENDS

For further information on the role please contact:

Senga Allen, Everest: senga@everestpeople.co.nz

Or on line: <https://vacancies.everestpeople.co.nz/jobs>

Applications close 30 June 2021

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