

Market Release

8 June 2016

SPARK NEW ZEALAND APPOINTS NEW DIRECTOR

Spark New Zealand has today announced it is appointing Alison Barrass as an independent non-executive director to the board, effective 1 September 2016.

Spark New Zealand Chairman, Mark Verbiest, said “We are pleased to be able to bring Alison onto our Board of Directors. In undertaking a comprehensive domestic and international search for our new Director, we were looking for relevant skills and experience that would complement the diverse perspectives we already have around the table. Alison brings with her a strong background in marketing-led innovation and brand development.

“Alison’s appointment is another step for Spark as we continue to tackle the challenges and opportunities of the digital era and seek to make more of a contribution to New Zealand’s digital future. This is part of an ongoing board succession programme that has seen the arrival of Silicon Valley-based digital entrepreneur Ido Leffler in 2014, more recently the appointment of Alison Gerry, and now, the appointment of Alison Barrass.

Mrs Barrass says she is excited about joining the Board, “Spark is a company that is very much at the centre of much of the ongoing technology revolution we are experiencing, and is in a position to make a significant difference to New Zealanders and New Zealand businesses. After hearing the vision of the leadership and board members, I realized this was an opportunity I had to accept.”

In accordance with the Company’s constitution, Mrs Barrass will retire and offer herself for election at the annual meeting of shareholders to be held in November 2016.

Currently Chief Executive of Griffins Foods Limited, Alison has indicated she is stepping down from the role later this year to focus on her professional directorships.

Following this change, the Spark New Zealand Board will be back to eight directors, the same number it comprised up until February 2015. Once Alison’s appointment becomes effective, the Board will consist of: Mark Verbiest, Alison Barrass, Paul Berriman, Alison Gerry, Ido Leffler, Charles Sitch, Justine Smyth and Simon Moutter.

-ENDS-

Bio for Alison Barrass

Currently Chief Executive of Griffins Foods Limited, one of New Zealand's largest branded food companies, and on the board of plumbing hardware manufacturer Methven and Callaghan Innovation, Alison has considerable experience in the fast-moving consumer goods sector and in governance, leadership and marketing-led innovation.

With over 20 years experience at major international FMCG companies including PepsiCo, Kimberley Clark, Watties and Goodman Fielder, Alison brings a broad range of skills to the Board, including an extensive marketing career and the execution of a number of significant business transformation projects in privately owned and publicly-listed organisations.

Alison was also Chairperson of the Breast Cancer Research Trust for three years and was on the board of the New Zealand Food and Grocery Council.

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