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LEIGH AUTON

Leigh Auton is founding Director of Auton & Associates Ltd, Chair of the Ngapuhi Asset Holding Company (NAHC), Director of Ngapuhi Service Station Ltd (NSSL), Ngapuhi Books and Stationery Ltd (NBSL) and Chair of Northland Deepwater GP Ltd. Leigh retires by rotation from these positions on 15th September 2017 having completed nine years on the Ngapuhi Boards. He is a Trustee of Sistema Aotearoa and Trustee of the Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra. In November 2016 he became a Trustee of the Pulman Park Trust, and in December 2016 he joined the Board of Habitat for Humanity Greater Auckland. Leigh is the Inaugural Chair of the Papakura Kootuitui Trust, a position he commenced in December 2015. Leigh was a Director of Auckland Council Property Ltd (ACPL) until its amalgamation with Waterfront Auckland to form Panuku Development Auckland in September 2015. He was Chair of the Recovery Solutions Group Trust prior to their merger with Richmond NZ and was a Trustee of the new entity Emerge Aotearoa for one year, completing his term on 30th June 2016. Leigh was a Trustee of More Than a Roof New Zealand until September 2016, and was a member of the Local Government Commission from August 2015 until April 2017.



Auton & Associates Ltd is a company established to provide leadership and direction in areas of governance, strategic thinking and environmental planning. The company has clients in both the public and private sectors. Assignments include strategic reviews and plans, governance and leadership facilitation, project facilitation and advice, and planning services.

Leigh was the Chief Executive of Manukau City Council, a position that terminated with the formation of the new Auckland Council on 1 November 2010.

He was appointed by the Central Government to the Board of Inquiry for the proposed Men's Prison at Wiri in 2011, and the Review Panel for Kaipara District Council in 2012.

Leigh was appointed Interim CEO at Tauranga City Council, following the unexpected death of the incumbent CEO in June 2012. He led a Council restructure programme, including a review of Council Controlled Organisations and assisted with the appointment of the new Chief Executive. This appointment finished in April 2013.

Leigh has extensive local government experience with a particular background in planning, infrastructure and transport. He has been involved in issues at national, regional and local levels in New Zealand. Leigh has had significant engagement with Iwi over a number of decades.

He is a former President and Inaugural Fellow of the NZ Planning Institute and, in November 2009, he received a Distinguished Service Award for his significant contribution over many years to the image and practice of planning. He received a 50th Jubilee Award from the Eastern Regional Organisation for Planning and Human Settlements (EAROPH) in October 2010, for his contribution to Planning and Human Settlements in NZ.

Leigh is a Chartered Member of the Institute of Directors.

He has lived in Counties Manukau for nearly 40 years and is involved in his community through Rotary International (Manukau City Sunrise Club). He is a Paul Harris Fellow. Leigh holds a Master of Arts (Hons) in Geography and a Master of Town Planning (Hons) degree.