

## Media Release 7 March 2018

### Former Mayor elected Chair of Women on Boards NZ

**Julie Hardaker, former Mayor of Hamilton, has been unanimously elected the new Chair of Women on Boards.**

Ms Hardaker, who is a lawyer, is a Fellow of Governance New Zealand and has been an Executive Committee member since 2017. She replaces outgoing Chair Joy Tracey.

Ms Hardaker acknowledged Ms Tracey's leadership in the past several years, "Joy has made an outstanding contribution to the Committee, most notably leading the development of the new strategic plan and reviewing the Women in Governance Awards. We are all going to miss her contribution."

Ms Hardaker says it is a privilege to have received the support of the Committee members for the appointment. She says, "Gender issues, including workplace behaviour and culture is very topical at the moment, and governance is at the forefront of that. Women still have a long way to go to achieve the equality in governance and leadership we want to see, and which is essential for well-functioning governance. I am pleased to be involved in working to achieve this through the work and advocacy Women on Boards does."

Ms Hardaker is a director of her own legal firm in Hamilton. She has held many board positions in the business and not-for-profit sector and has a strong interest in women and leadership, recently completing her master's degree with research into gender stereotypes and workplace conflict.

#### Information:

- **Women on Boards** is a membership organisation and a business unit of [Governance New Zealand](#).
- **Women on Boards** has a mission to "Educate, develop, connect and support women in their governance and leadership journey". [View more information...](#)
- Nominations are open for the **2018 Women in Governance Awards** which will be presented at a gala dinner on 10 May 2018. [View more information...](#)
- This year's **Women on Boards Annual Conference** is being held on 10 May 2018 at the Pullman Hotel in Auckland with the theme *Moving up the Ladder: Mapping your governance journey*. [View more information...](#)

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