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Committee Wellington Regional Strategy  
Author Sir John Anderson, Chairman, Wellington Regional Strategy Committee

## Regional EDA Board Appointments

### 1. Purpose

To seek the Committee's approval for the appointment of eight directors to the Board of Regional EDA Limited (the Company). The approved nominees are to be recommended to Greater Wellington Regional Council (Greater Wellington) as shareholder. In addition, to seek the Committee's approval to recommend to Greater Wellington to increase the maximum number of directors for the Company from seven to eight.

### 2. Significance of the decision

The matters for decision in this report **do not** trigger the significance policy of the Council or otherwise trigger section 76(3)(b) of the Local Government Act 2002.

### 3. Exclusion of the public

Grounds for exclusion of the public under section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 are:

*The information contained in this report contains information relating to the appointment of directors to the region's economic development agency as it would disclose the fact that they are being considered for appointment. Release of this information would prejudice their privacy by disclosing the fact that they are being considered as directors of the region's economic development agency. Greater Wellington has not been able to identify a public interest favouring disclosure of this particular information in public proceedings of the meeting that would override his privacy.*

### 4. Background

A paper outlining the Board establishment process was circulated earlier last week, inviting Committee members to contact me by 4 May on any issues or matters they would like to discuss regarding the make up of the Board or the candidates.

Following feed back from several Committee members, I now outline the recommendations for the Committee to approve for submission to Greater Wellington for approval.

## **5. Background Notes**

### **5.1 Recommended Board Appointees**

The following seven people are recommended for appointment.

- B Albiston - CEO major export company of services and products.
- M Bain - Positively Wellington Business transition - financial skills.
- V Beck - Younger CEO with commercial and management expertise.
- J Lumsden - Wellington Chamber of Commerce – commercial skills.
- M McCaw - Forum transition – financial and commercial skills.
- J McFadzean - Farming and business expertise.
- Tan Pham - Commercial and exporting expertise, particularly in Asia

#### **B Albiston:**

Brent Albiston is Managing Director of Radiola Aerospace.

Radiola Corporation is an unusual mix-consumer electronics distribution and high-tech contracting. While much of its business is in distribution of domestic electronics, a growing part of the business is communications, radio and navigation organisations and world wide. Radiola, whose current turnover exceeds \$60 million, has operated and exported their services to 17 countries.

#### **Murray Bain:**

Recently appointed as FRST CEO. Former senior management roles in banking and health insurance. Strong finance, banking, commercial background and knowledge of Crown sector. Governances roles in IT and related start up companies. Former Board member, Environmental Science & Research (ESR) Director, Total Metering Limited 1998 – present (high technology, high growth metering and services company).

Director, Oryx Technologies Limited 2001 – present (web development company)

Director, Institute of Environmental Science & Research Ltd 2002 – 2004 (CRI)

#### **Viv Beck:**

March 2001 Chief Executive, Communication Arts (CommArts). Currently Board Member of Wellington Museums Trust. Held positions as General Manager Communications, New Zealand Post (1996-2001), Member of senior management team, New Zealand Post (1997-2001), General Manager Stamps, New Zealand Post (1999-2001).

**John Lumsden:**

President of the Wellington Chamber of Commerce. From 1992 to 2007 he was the enthusiastic Chief Executive of MetService which provides national weather forecast services. MetService is now a successful commercial exporter to the global energy and TV industries and has a major contract with the BBC.

John currently runs Growlypaw Limited which he has established to provide help to growing enterprises.

**Murray McCaw:** Transition Board Chair – known to all the Territorial Authorities.

**John McFadzean:**

Farmer and businessman who has extensive farm holdings in the Wairarapa.

**Tan Pham:**

Executive Director of AC Consulting Group, a privately owned, independent, multi-disciplinary engineering design and project management consultancy.

Based in Wellington, New Zealand, with offices in Auckland, Christchurch and Melbourne, the company operates throughout New Zealand, Australia and the South Pacific, and in parts of Asia and Europe. Worked in Vietnam, New Zealand, USA, UK, Switzerland, Philippines, Fiji, Laos, Cook Islands and Australia.

Council Member of the Asian Studies Institute of Victoria.

**5.2 Chair of Positively Wellington Tourism**

I am recommending that the Chair of Positively Wellington Tourism (currently Glenys Coughlan) be appointed as a Director to the Board of the Company. It is important that Positively Wellington Tourism and the Economic Development Agency (EDA) work together co-operatively on the development of tourism for the region.

**5.3 Chairman**

I am recommending Murray McCaw be appointed Chair of the Board for an initial three year term. Murray brings to the Board significant knowledge of the Wellington Regional Strategy (WRS) and it is important that the momentum Murray has started in his role as Chair of the WRS Forum be maintained.

**5.4 Directors' Terms**

The initial term of Board appointment is suggested as being three years, at which stage three Directors will come up for re-appointment, and thereafter two Directors, by rotation will come up for re-appointment in the following years.

## **5.5 Board Make-Up**

The recommended Board includes candidates that have had extensive experience and success in business, and have a range of financial and commercial skills.

This is appropriate in the initial start-up phase, however when the re-appointment process commences:

- The introduction of some younger (circa 40) proven business leaders should be sought.
- It is important there is a balance of gender. The list of potential nominees from which the recommendations were made, was rather short in gender equality. With the appointment of the Positively Wellington Tourism Chair, there is some better representation of female Directors, however, this can look to be expanded in three years time.

## **5.6 Board's initial role**

The Board's initial role is to conduct a professional process for the employment of the Chief Executive of the EDA.

## **5.7 Education**

The WRS currently includes some wide ranging and far reaching aims in regard to the tertiary sector. In considering the Board appointment contribution required in relation to the sector as a whole, and the strategy itself, the tertiary sector initiatives should rather be managed by a pro-bono Advisory Board including members from the tertiary cluster, and the wider tertiary sector. Initial discussions have been held with Linda Sissons in identifying some suitable candidates.

It is envisaged the new Chief Executive would chair this Board, reporting back, in detail, to the EDA Board.

## **6. Constitution of the Company**

Currently the Constitution of the Company limits the maximum number of the Directors to seven. I am recommending that this be increased to eight, which can be done by special resolution of the shareholder, Greater Wellington.

## **7. Communication**

A press release will be prepared for release after consideration of the appointments by Greater Wellington.

## 8. Recommendations

*That the Committee recommends that Council:*

1. ***Receives*** the report.
2. ***Notes*** the content of the report.
3. ***Recommends*** that the maximum number of Directors of the Company be increased from seven to eight.
4. ***Recommends*** the following candidates be appointed as Directors to the Board of the Company:

*B Albiston*

*M Bain*

*V Beck*

*J Lumsden*

*M McCaw*

*J McFadzean*

*Tan Pham*

*G Coughlan (Chair of Positively Wellington Tourism)*

5. ***Recommends*** that Mr McCaw be appointed Chairman of the Company for an initial three year term.
6. ***Notes*** the recommendation that an Education Advisory Board be formed by the Chief Executive of the EDA to ensure the wider tertiary sector is included in developing and implementing a co-ordinated wider regional strategy.

Report prepared by:



**Sir John Anderson**  
Chairman, Wellington  
Regional Strategy Committee