

## **IT'S TIME TO JUST GET ON WITH IT SAYS NEW DEVELOPMENT CHRISTCHURCH CHIEF**

Christchurch City Council's new development arm Development Christchurch is ready to ramp up operations with the appointment of Cantabrian Rob Hall as its Chief Executive.

Development Christchurch Ltd (DCL) chairman Bill Dwyer today announced Hall, a chartered surveyor, environmental manager, and former Lieutenant Commander in the Royal New Zealand Navy, to the critical leadership role.

"The clear message that we're getting from the Christchurch community is 'get on with it' and Rob has the credentials and the experience to do just that," Dwyer said.

"There is a very strong feeling out in some suburbs of Christchurch that they've been neglected. The success of Development Christchurch will be measured by the responses to our work by the people who live there and operate businesses, as well as the community representatives who are typically those consulted with most."

Hall says he wants to communicate effectively with all stakeholders, including more face-to-face engagement with individuals, community groups, developers and investors as well as using social media to keep people informed of DCL's work.

"I want to make sure people can see that DCL has listened and will and can achieve results," Hall said.

Hall will lead in taking Development Christchurch's implementation plans to the next level. Part of that will be ensuring already announced and new projects are completed efficiently.

DCL has been involved with development plans around New Brighton, the Peterborough Quarter and the recently announced Lichfield St carpark. There will be further projects announced in the coming months.

"Things are not going to stop and start once we go ahead with our implementation plan. The DCL plan will be sequencing things that need to be done and communicating with the local community, especially with people and businesses in New Brighton," Hall said.

He is looking forward to working with a team of 15 staff, most of whom will have specialties in capital investment, development, project management and, most importantly, Hall said, implementation and completion. Most of the staff should be in place by the end of June.

Bill Dwyer confirmed that there would be further details on the appointment of DCL board directors later this month.

"As a Cantabrian I came home following the earthquakes to help where I could and make Christchurch even better than it was before. We are still New Zealand's second largest city and have a huge amount to offer investors and tourists," Rob Hall said.

"But first we've got to look after the people who live here. For the Council and everyone involved in regenerating our city, there's still an immense amount of work to do."

Hall has seen this list first hand, having worked for Christchurch City Council (CCC) for the past seven months leading the review of the city's Long Term Plan. This work included details around the capital works programme.

Dwyer says DCL will have a long-term life to fit in with the city's need for reconstruction from the damaging 2011 earthquakes to take place over 15 years or more.

"DCL is also working on developing a framework for an 'investor-ready city' aimed at attracting capital into and from within the City. While DCL will be a potential entry point for investors, care is needed to get the right sort of investment," Dwyer said.

DCL has already reviewed CCC's suburban masterplans and car parking strategies and worked alongside the developers of the Canterbury Adventure Park towards the establishment of mountain-bike routes and a chairlift on the Port Hills.

The first stage of the adventure park is due to open by the end of the year.

DCL was announced by the Christchurch City Council last year and is a Council Controlled Trading Organisation (CCTO) with the city's infrastructure arm, Christchurch City Holdings Ltd, the sole shareholder.

### ***Background information on Rob Hall***

The son of a policeman, Hall was born in Christchurch in 1970 and attended Papanui High School. He is a chartered surveyor and chartered water and environment manager with a post graduate diploma in surveying.

He returned to the City in 2012 with his wife, Lisa, and two children, William and Chanel, who were born in the United Kingdom.

While in the UK he directed a number of global capital projects from concept to completion. In 2011 Rob led his department to win the UK Construction Awards for outstanding client organisation.

Prior to working in the development sector, Rob served in the Royal New Zealand Navy where he reached the rank of Lieutenant Commander in 2001, including serving as commanding officer of HMNZS TAKAPAU. He participated in peace support operations in Bougainville in 1990 and helped in Western Samoa recovery efforts in late 1991 after Cyclone Val.

He was also part of a multinational team surveying in Antarctica to improve knowledge of the region and the effects of climate change.

Rob spent three years serving as a trustee on the Board of the Art's Centre of Christchurch after the earthquakes. He is currently the vice chair of SPCA Canterbury and a board member at St Andrews College. He most recently served in management roles with both Heritage New Zealand and the Christchurch City Council.