

MEDIA RELEASE
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For immediate release



New CEO appointed for Desert Knowledge Australia

The Board of Desert Knowledge Australia (DKA) is pleased to announce the appointment of a new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) following a nationwide recruitment process.

DKA Chair Mr Chris Fry said that DKA has been active since 2003 in creating opportunities to increase the sustainability of regional and remote desert communities through aligning public, private and not-for-profit interests in industries and areas that are central to growth in much of Australia.

“I am delighted to announce that Ms Lauren Ganley has accepted the appointment as the new CEO. Ms Ganley joins DKA following a distinguished career at Telstra and brings extensive experience in commercial and cultural strategies, policy and program development, and community stakeholder engagement,” Mr Fry said.

“Ms Ganley’s experience in senior roles in the Northern Territory and South Australia, and more recently as Head of Telstra’s National Indigenous Directorate, brings a strong understanding of working across community, business, corporate and political environments.”

In 2014 Ms Ganley was recognised as one of Australia’s most influential women, winning a place in The Australian Financial Review and Westpac 100 Women of Influence Awards.

Ms Ganley sits on a range of National Boards including as Chair of Telstra’s Indigenous Advisory Committee, Board Director of Kakadu Tourism, and as an Ambassador for Indigenous Community Volunteers.

Mr Fry said that Ms Ganley will be working closely with the new Board of DKA, appointed in July 2016, to continue the strategic alignment and growth of DKA in 2017.

“I would like to sincerely thank Dr Ken Johnson AM and the interim Board (2014-2016) for their dedication and leadership in developing the new strategic plan for DKA during a difficult period for the organisation, and leaving the organisation in a strong position to carry forward.

“The diversity of the new Board along with the new CEO will complement the diversity of DKA’s business and strengthen its position as a source of development for remote Australia.”

In addition to Mr Fry’s extensive experience with a number of regional boards and as CEO of Indigenous Business Australia from 2011 to 2016, eight other Directors bring a range of skills and experience to the task of developing DKA.

Deputy Chair Ms Leeanne Caton is Executive Director of the NT Office of Aboriginal Affairs. Ms Caton, a Kalkadoon woman who grew up in Darwin, brings over 30 years’ experience in Aboriginal health, education, employment, social justice, housing and economic development.

Additional Board Directors include:

1. Mr Paul Ngala Ah Chee, Director of the Alice Springs Desert Park
2. Mr Jimmy Cocking, Director of the Arid Lands Environment Centre, Alice Springs
3. Mr Rede Ogden, owner and director of Ogden Power, Alice Springs
4. Mr Dave Batic, General Manager, Alice Springs Airport

5. Mr Steve Brouwer, Alice Springs businessman, member of the Business Advisory Council and Chair of the Alice Springs Regional Economic Development Committee
6. Mr Raymond Pratt, CEO and Director of Allgrid Energy and DICE Australia, based in Darwin
7. Mr Jason Quin, social enterprise specialist and active community board member in business, the environment and the arts in Alice Springs.

Ms Ganley will take up the position on 30 January 2017.

END OF RELEASE

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