

**Kylie Leonard, Taupō**



M: [027 257 7338](tel:0272577338)

E: [kylieleonard1@gmail.com](mailto:kylieleonard1@gmail.com)

**Candidate statement**

I am honoured to stand for DairyNZ. I have extensive governance experience, deep agricultural roots, and am a hands-on farmer.

My governance roles include Chair of the Connection Committee on the Fonterra Cooperative Council, where I have worked tirelessly to ensure that dairy farmers are actively engaged in shaping the cooperative's future. As a Taupo District Councilor, I have been a strong advocate for rural communities and sustainable development.

I am a firm believer in the principle that "farmers need to be at the table, not on the menu," I bring a farmer's perspective to every decision-making process. This commitment was reflected in my leadership of the Lake Taupo Protection Project Joint Committee, where I had to balance environmental sustainability with agricultural viability, ensuring that farming voices were integral to the conversation.

As a Director of Vetora, I contribute to the strategic direction of this essential veterinary service provider. I also have a passion for community extended to the board of Hillary Outdoors, supporting outdoor education initiatives that inspire the next generation as well as a trustee of Taupo-Nui-A-Tia College.

Contributions to the dairy sector and broader community has earned awards including being named a Nuffield Scholar, an Emerging Governance Leader award from Governance NZ, a finalist for the Woman of Influence award, and a Community Hero from Kiwibank. Additionally, I was recognised as the Waikato University Alumni CELF Leader in 2022.

As a hands-on farmer with a deep understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing the dairy industry, I am appropriately positioned to represent farmers on the DairyNZ Board. My commitment to ensuring that farmers are central to decision-making processes makes me an invaluable asset to the board.

I seek and appreciate your support.

**Interest statement**

To the best of my knowledge and belief, I have no conflicts of interest with DairyNZ at the date of my notice of consent to being nominated as a candidate for the Board of Directors and I do not believe that any such conflicts of interest are likely to arise.