

**STRICTLY EMBARGOED UNTIL 12:30PM, FRIDAY 27 SEPTEMBER 2024**

## **Auckland Airport Executive Mark Thomson named as National Chair of Property Council New Zealand**

AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND: In a seamless leadership transition, Mark Thomson, Chief Commercial Officer at Auckland Airport, has been elected as the new National Chair of Property Council New Zealand. Thomson takes the helm from Scott Pritchard, Chief Executive Officer of Precinct Properties, who has led the council through a pivotal period since 2020.

With over 30 years of experience in real estate management and development, Thomson's influence spans key sectors, including transport and logistics, retail, and consumer businesses. At Auckland Airport, he oversees a portfolio encompassing investment property, hotels, duty-free retail, parking and valet services, and e-commerce. His strategic oversight extends to Auckland Airport's hotel joint venture with Tainui Group Holdings, and he serves as a Director at Queenstown Airport Corporation.

Thomson's deep-rooted connection with Property Council began over a decade ago, including governance roles as a National Councillor and member of the Executive Committee. His continued involvement on the National Board over the past several years has positioned him to steer the council as it navigates critical regulatory changes and market dynamics.

"I'm deeply honoured to take on this role in the footsteps of Scott Pritchard, who has led with exceptional skill, especially during the challenging times of the pandemic, when the industry faced immense pressure," Thomson said. "I look forward to ensuring the Property Council remains a constructive and collaborative voice for our industry, advocating on behalf of our members and driving initiatives that will shape the future of property in New Zealand."

Before joining Auckland Airport in 2014, Thomson was Director of Strategy Execution and Property (Asia) for Toll Global Logistics, managing real estate across 12 countries, including China, Singapore, and India. He holds a Bachelor of Commerce from Lincoln University and has completed the prestigious Advanced Management Program at Harvard Business School.

Property Council Chief Executive Leonie Freeman expressed her support for Thomson's appointment, citing his deep industry knowledge and proven leadership. "Mark brings a wealth of experience and a pragmatic, solutions-focused approach. He's a passionate advocate for the property sector, and we're fortunate to have him lead us at a time when the sector faces significant change," said Freeman.

Thomson steps into his new role at a pivotal time for New Zealand's commercial property landscape. The council is poised to impact key legislative reforms, including upcoming changes in resource management, urban development policies, and infrastructure investment. "It's an exciting moment for our industry, with critical regulatory reforms on the horizon. Property Council is committed to engage with our members and stakeholders as we navigate these changes, to continue to champion the interests of our industry," Thomson remarked.

**ENDS**

For further comment please contact:

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## NOTES TO THE EDITOR

The Property Council New Zealand National Board acts as Property Council New Zealand's governing body, guiding the organisation's strategic direction, in close consultation with members. Made up of industry leaders, influencers and decision makers, National Board members lend their considerable expertise and insight to champion the interests of the property industry.

Elected members from 1 November 2024:

- Mark Thomson, Chief Commercial Officer, Auckland Airport (Chair)
- Scott Pritchard, Chief Executive Officer, Precinct Properties
- Paula Ormandy, Partner, Buddle Findlay
- Simon Woodhams, Chief Executive Officer, Property for Industry (PFI)
- Kerin Russell-Smith, Director, Russell Group
- Patrick Dougherty, General Manager Construction and Innovation, Kāinga Ora - Homes and Communities
- Natasha Sarkar, Director, Structured Transactions and Advisory Services, CBRE (Board Intern)

## About Property Council New Zealand

*Property Council is the leading advocate for Aotearoa New Zealand's largest industry – property.*

Property Council New Zealand is the one organisation that collectively champions property. We bring together members from all corners of the property ecosystem to advocate for reduced red tape that enables development, encourages investment, and supports our communities to thrive.

Property is New Zealand's largest industry, making up 15% of economic activity. As a sector, we employ 10% of New Zealand's workforce and contribute over \$50.2 billion to GDP.

A not-for-profit organisation, the Property Council connects over 10,000 property professionals, championing the interests of over 550 member companies.

Our membership is broad and includes some of the largest commercial and residential property owners and developers in New Zealand. The property industry comes together at our local, national and online events, which offer professional development, exceptional networking and access to industry-leading research.

Our members shape the cities and spaces where New Zealanders live, work, play and shop.

[www.propertynz.co.nz](http://www.propertynz.co.nz)

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