



NZX Release

Heartland Bank appoints Ellie Comerford to its board

22 December 2016

Heartland Bank Ltd (**Heartland**) (NZX: HBL) announces the appointment of Ellie Comerford as an independent director, effective from 1 January 2017.

Ellie is based in Australia, where Heartland's business continues to grow. As well as joining the Heartland Bank board, Ellie will chair the boards of Heartland's key Australian subsidiaries.

Ellie brings to Heartland more than 30 years' of experience in the financial services industry, both in executive management and in governance, as well as a strong reputation in the Australian market and with the Australian regulators.

Most recently, Ellie served as CEO and Managing Director of *Genworth Mortgage Insurance Australia* (an ASX top 200 listed company), which she led to IPO in 2014.

Before joining Genworth, Ellie was with leading global title and specialty insurance company *First American Financial Corporation* – first as CEO and Managing Director of its operations in Australia and New Zealand, and then as Chief Operating Officer of its International division. Before that, Ellie was with Citigroup for more than 14 years.

Ellie is committed to promoting diversity, in particular gender diversity, and is a member of Chief Executive Women, an Australian organisation focused on increasing women's representation in senior leadership. Under her leadership, Genworth received a citation as WGEA's 2015 Employer of Choice for gender equality.

As a passionate advocate of corporate social responsibility, Ellie has also been committed to championing social initiatives, including initiatives addressing disability and homelessness, and providing opportunities to low socio-economic schools and disadvantaged students.

Heartland's chairman, Geoff Ricketts, said: "Ellie brings outstanding strategic and management experience, as well as a strong track record with Australian regulators, and we are delighted to welcome her to the Heartland Bank Board."

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