



Media Release: MTF Finance

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From legacy to leadership: Sturrock Saunders appointed MTF Finance Chair

MTF Finance has announced the appointment of Sturrock Saunders as Board Chair, effective 1 May 2026, in a full-circle moment for the organisation, with his father having previously served on the Board. The appointment follows the retirement of current Chair Mark Darrow at the end of this month.

Mr Saunders is a highly experienced governance leader with extensive experience across New Zealand’s automotive and training sectors. He is currently President of the Motor Trade Association (MTA), Co-Chair of Dekra NZ (VTNZ), Chair of MITO and Director of Auto Stewardship New Zealand (ASNZ).

Acting Chair Noel Johnston says the appointment reflects a strong alignment with MTF Finance’s heritage and future direction.

“Sturrock brings a deep understanding of our industry, alongside proven governance experience across complex, stakeholder-led organisations,” Mr Johnston says.

“His background in the automotive sector, combined with his ability to bring people together and align around a clear strategic direction, makes him a natural fit for MTF Finance as we move into our next phase of growth.

“There’s also a meaningful connection to our history. With his father having served on the MTF Finance Board, this appointment represents a continuation of that legacy, while bringing fresh perspective and energy to the role.”

Sturrock’s career began in hands-on automotive retail, where he owned and led a multi-franchise dealership, giving him a strong understanding of dealer operations, customer expectations, and franchise economics.

“MTF is a proven leader in the specialist lending sector, and I am extremely proud to join as Chair as the organisation continues its focus on helping New Zealanders, with a diverse range of products and services,” says Mr Saunders.

MTF Finance Chief Executive Chris Lamers says Sturrock’s appointment comes at an important time for the business.

“Sturrock brings a strong understanding of our industry, but more importantly, he understands our model; one that puts people and relationships at the centre. As we build on a very strong foundation, and enter the next phase of growth for MTF, we do with a strong and engaged team across the whole organisation,” Mr Lamers says.



Mr Johnston will continue as Acting Chair until Mr Saunders formally commences in the role next month.

The Board also acknowledged the significant contribution of outgoing Chair Mark Darrow, who retires at the end of April after six years leading the organisation through a period of growth and transformation, and will take up a new role as Chair of Health New Zealand.

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