



MARKET RELEASE – Tuesday 18 August 2026

Spark appoints Vince Hawksworth as Chair

Spark New Zealand (Spark) today announced the appointment of Non-Executive Director Vince Hawksworth as Chair of the Spark Board.

The appointment follows the Board's previously announced succession process. Justine Smyth will remain Chair until the conclusion of the Board meeting on 5 November 2026, marking the completion of her tenure and enabling Vince Hawksworth to commence as Chair by leading Spark's FY26 AGM on 6 November 2026.

Mr Hawksworth joined the Spark Board in October 2025 following an accomplished executive career spanning more than 18 years of Chief Executive roles within regulated utility and infrastructure businesses across New Zealand and Australia. Most recently Chief Executive of Mercury Energy, and previously Trustpower New Zealand, he brings deep expertise in infrastructure investment and managing large-scale customer businesses, with a track record of creating shareholder value.

Outgoing Chair Justine Smyth said, "Vince's deep experience running large-scale businesses with significant workforces, customer bases, and capital investment profiles will be a valuable asset as Spark continues to execute its strategy and deliver value for shareholders."

Incoming Chair Vince Hawksworth said he was honoured to be appointed. "Spark has a proud history, talented people, and a clear strategy focused on delivering long-term value for customers and shareholders.

"I look forward to working alongside the Board and management team as we continue to improve performance and deliver stronger returns for shareholders over time."

Justine Smyth joined the Spark Board in December 2011 and became Chair in November 2017. The Board and Management would like to thank Justine for her stewardship through a significant period in Spark's evolution, spanning the transformation of Telecom into Spark, sustained market leadership, and the company's continued role in enabling New Zealand's progress through sustained network and technology investment.

Justine continued, "It has been a privilege to serve on the Spark Board. During my tenure Spark has played a significant role in the development of New Zealand's digital infrastructure, brought new technologies to our shores, and enabled households, communities, and businesses to win big in a digital world.

"I leave with confidence that our SPK-30 strategy sets a clear path to strengthen performance and deliver better outcomes, and with a deep appreciation of Spark's people, my fellow directors, and shareholders for their support during my tenure."

#Ends

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