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Chair transition

Sanford Limited (NZX: SAN) today announces a transition in the Chair of its Board.

Sir Rob McLeod has confirmed that he will retire as a director, and therefore as Chair, with effect from the conclusion of Sanford's 2026 Annual Shareholder Meeting, on Wednesday, 16 December 2026.

Sir Rob joined the Board in early 2016, became Deputy Chair in 2018, and Chair in 2019, and is in his 11th year as a director.

His tenure as Chair has spanned one of the most demanding periods in the company's recent history. He led the Board through the Covid-19 pandemic, when border closures, disrupted global freight, and labour shortages placed sustained pressure on Sanford's harvesting, processing and export operations. Over the same period, he has overseen a sharpened focus on operational performance and capital discipline, and the strengthening of Sanford's balance sheet.

Sir Rob said, “After close to eleven years as director, and with a strong Board and leadership team in place, this is a natural point to hand over. Sanford has been part of New Zealand's coastal and commercial life for well over a century and serving it and its people has been a privilege. I want to thank everyone at Sanford, my fellow directors and our shareholders for their support over the years.”

The Board has resolved that Tony Carter will take over as Chair from the close of Sanford’s 2026 Annual Shareholder Meeting, subject to his election as a director by shareholders at that meeting.

Mr Carter, who joined the Sanford Board as an independent director in February 2026, has extensive governance experience. He is currently Chair of Datacom Group, The Skin Institute, The Interiors Group and TR Group, and a director of The Warehouse Group and Ravensdown. He has previously chaired Air New Zealand and Fisher & Paykel Healthcare and served on the boards of Fletcher Building, ANZ Bank New Zealand and Vector, and was Chief Executive and Managing Director of Foodstuffs for a decade. He was appointed a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit in 2020 for services to business governance.

Mr Carter says: “I am honoured to be asked to take on the role, subject to shareholder support at the annual meeting. Sir Rob has chaired Sanford with considerable skill and leaves the company well placed as a result. Sanford is a great New Zealand company with a proud history and a talented team, and I am excited to be working alongside my fellow directors, management and our shareholders in the period ahead. On behalf of the Board, I thank Sir Rob for his service.”

Sir Rob will remain Chair until the conclusion of Sanford's 2026 Annual Shareholder Meeting.

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