Media Release

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James Hay appointed as EECA's Chief Executive

EECA (Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority) has announced James Hay as the Crown Entity's new Chief Executive.

Hay comes to the role with over 25 years' senior leadership and governance experience in energy, infrastructure and transport, on both sides of the Tasman.

EECA Board Chair, Wayne Eagleson, said of the appointment, "We are delighted to have someone of James' calibre leading EECA through its next chapter.

"He has strong energy sector expertise and a track record of delivering programmes that balance commercial outcomes with public and community interests."

Hay's career has canvased strategy, policy development, delivery of renewable energy projects and regulated utilities, and consumer focused targeted investment.

"It's fantastic to be joining EECA at such an important time for the energy sector," said Hay.

"EECA has made a huge and highly credible contribution over a long time. I look forward to building from that powerful base and leading the team to deliver practical and real-world energy solutions for Kiwi homes and businesses."

Most recently, Hay held the role of National Manager Infrastructure Delivery, Waka Kotahi New Zealand Transport Agency, with responsibility for the delivery phase of the agency's capital works programme.

Prior to this he served as Chief Executive at the Energy Corporation of New South Wales (EnergyCo) and Deputy Secretary, Energy Climate Change & Sustainability for the New South Wales Government.

"James is well known to EECA and was close to joining us previously, but the timing wasn't quite right, so this is a great outcome," said Eagleson.

"His international experience, people leadership and strong industry relationships will be an asset as EECA supports Government priorities."

Hay will begin at EECA on the 7th of December 2026.

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