

Council Economic Development Head, Mark Rawson, Joins EROS Capital Ltd

Rotorua district will not lose the services of Mark Rawson, currently general manager of Destination Rotorua Economic Development, when he leaves Rotorua District Council to pursue a career in the private sector later this month.



Mr Rawson will join EROS Capital Ltd, as general manager. EROS is a company recently formed by Phil and Marty Verry, who control Waipa Mill and its operating company, Red Stag Timber Ltd.

EROS Capital Ltd will have merchant banking and new project development and management roles, for projects that are unrelated to the core business of Waipa Mill. These include tourism sector projects that are under evaluation, for both New Zealand and overseas. The new company will be headquartered in separate premises, adjacent to the Waipa Mill offices.

"I have learned a lot during my employment with Rotorua District Council, which has been a valuable experience. I now want a career move to a role where I can utilize that experience to take personal hands-on responsibility for economic development projects", says Mr Rawson.

"I had been contemplating that I may have to shift from Rotorua, so this chance to work with and learn from experienced respected and successful businessmen was opportune. I greatly look forward to the new challenges ahead."

Rotorua District Council chief executive, Peter Guerin, said while he is disappointed Mark is leaving, he is pleased he will remain in Rotorua and continue to make a contribution to the Rotorua economy.

"Mark has been responsible for a number of very successful economic development initiatives. He has made a valuable contribution to the work of the Council and it would have been disappointing to have lost him to another region".

"We wish Mark well for his future career in the private sector".

Chairman of the Bright Economy Advisory Board, Bryce Heard, said Mark had worked well with the board and leaves with their best wishes and genuine appreciation for what he's achieved.

"His will be big shoes to fill. However we're already working with RDC on a comprehensive recruitment plan to fill the position he leaves. In the meantime we'll be putting in place action to ensure the many economic strategies we have in place will continue to progress without losing traction.

Phil Verry says EROS has several interesting projects in prospect, some large, but a new specialized skills set is needed to professionally take them forward.

"The appointment of Mark Rawson is the start of that team building. We expect to make other executive appointments as the business of EROS Capital Ltd develops. We hope EROS will be able to make a significant contribution to the development of the Rotorua economy, in particular", says Phil Verry.

"We look forward to Mark Rawson joining us".

The initial board of directors of EROS Capital Ltd consists of:

Phil Verry, executive chairman of Waipa Corporation Ltd, Red Stag Timber Ltd and EROS Capital Ltd. He was a former senior partner in the Wellington office of the business services firm now known as PriceWaterhouse Coopers and was the inaugural chairman of NZ Wood Innovations (Asia) Inc. He has extensive professional and commercial experience.

Marty Verry, co-founder and managing director of iStart Ltd, Auckland, New Zealand's business portal on the internet, and director of Waipa Corporation Ltd and Red Stag Timber Ltd.

Marcus Macdonald, a former senior partner of Phillips Fox, Auckland, a major international law firm, chairman of Five Star Consumer Finance Ltd and a director of EROS Capital Ltd.

Each director will provide executive support to EROS Capital Ltd, as needed. Phil Verry says further board appointments will be made as the business develops.

Mark Rawson's appointment with EROS Capital Ltd commences on 26 February 2007.