

Bio Dorien Vermaas

Economic Development Portfolio Manager
Mgr Marlborough Screen Office
Marlborough District Council since August 2020

Board member Angel Investors Marlborough
Startup mentor and investor
Master of Technological Futures - AcademyEX

Prior to my role at MDC I served WellingtonNZ for
6 years in a capacity of
Team Manager Sector Development & Business
Attraction for the Wellington region.



I have a solid understanding of economic development as delivered by local government from a city perspective as well as from a regional perspective. Before my roles in the public I spent over half of my career in the private sector running my own Marlborough-based Wine Company with 20 export markets and in marketing & sales roles for large corporates such as Apple and Philips.

My strengths are in innovation, strategy and building innovation communities. Building eco-systems for change and adaptation of technology in sectors and the collaboration between government agencies, business sectors, investors, research institutes and other stakeholders.

I'm committed supporting the growth of the Māori economy and I bring specific experience in the transformation from traditional sectors such as agriculture, viticulture, manufacturing, the ocean-economy through technology. Innovation, achieving wellbeing-goals and lowering carbon-emissions are high on my agenda.

I'm a strong advocate for promoting diversity, acknowledging identity and telling the authentic stories of New Zealand –pivotal for a thriving future for economic, social and cultural wellbeing.

My working life is balanced with walking, biking, sculpting & painting. I've just finished the pilgrimage of the Camino the Santiago through Portugal & Spain – unique experience the Te Araroa trail is next!

Should I get elected on the board of EDNZ I will strongly focus on the implementation of technology and innovation programmes, supporting the start-up eco-system and linking the economic outcomes to environmental, social & cultural wellbeing outcomes for Aotearoa.

Ngā mihi nui,

Dorien Vermaas

Nominator:

Neil Henry

Manager Strategy and Economic Development, Marlborough District Council

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