



MEDIA RELEASE – Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2016

## Cross-Tasman Sister Sanctuaries Partnership

*Wellington, NZ* – This morning Zealandia signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Canberra's Woodlands and Wetlands Trust in a ceremony attended by Wellington Mayor Celia Wade Brown and Minister Mick Gentleman of Australian Capital Territory (ACT).

The agreement, signed by Ms Denise Church, Chair of Karori Sanctuary Trust, and Ms Alison Russell-French, Chair of Woodlands and Wetlands Trust, acknowledges the two nature organisations as 'Sister Sanctuaries', and will help to foster cooperation and collaboration between them.

"We have already learnt a lot from the Zealandia experience and we hope to grow our partnership," said Woodlands and Wetlands Trust GM Jason Cummings.

"We want every Canberran who visits Wellington to visit Zealandia and vice versa."

"It's incredibly important that we all work together, both locally and globally, towards a more sustainable and biodiverse future," said Zealandia CEO Paul Atkins.

"I'm excited to explore new opportunities through this collaboration, and to realise the mutual benefits of working together going forward."

The agreement has been in the planning stages since late 2015 and follows Singapore Airlines' announcement of their 'Capital Express' route, connecting Singapore to Canberra and Wellington.

### **About Zealandia**

ZEALANDIA is a world-first, fully-fenced urban eco-sanctuary located in the heart of Wellington, New Zealand.

With a 500-year vision to restore a Wellington valley's forest and freshwater ecosystems as closely as possible to their pre-human state, the 225 hectare eco-sanctuary is a groundbreaking conservation project that has reintroduced 18 species of native wildlife back into the area, six of which were previously absent from mainland New Zealand for over 100 years.



Little Spotted Kiwi at ZEALANDIA Photo Credit - Simon Woolf



(From Left to Right) Minister Mick Gentleman, Alison Russell-French, Denise Church, Mayor Celia Wade Brown. Photo Credit: Cameron Hayes