



Jason Franklin

PowerNet Chief Executive

Prior to joining PowerNet in 2012 as Chief Executive, Jason worked in a variety of senior roles for Rio Tinto and the Electricity Corporation of New Zealand (ECNZ).

While with Rio Tinto, he held a number of commercial roles in New Zealand, Australia and the United Kingdom. These roles included the management of the energy arrangements for Rio Tinto in those countries.

Returning to New Zealand in 2008 with Rio Tinto, he spent four years as Commercial manager with New Zealand Aluminium Smelters at Tiwai Point.

His experience within the electricity generation sector with ECNZ, followed by 14 years' experience in the industry as a major electricity user with Rio Tinto, led to his appointment as Chief executive for PowerNet.

Jason has held a number of industry positions — board member of the Major Electricity Users Group and a member of the Wholesale Advisory Group for the New Zealand Electricity Authority. Currently he is a Director of SmartCo Limited, Director Invercargill Airport and Chair of Rugby Southland.

Born and raised in Southland, is married to Thérèse and they have three children. He has a Bachelor of Commerce (Accounting & Finance) and a Post Graduate Diploma (Economics and Marketing).

Jason's vision for PowerNet is for the Company to continue to build upon its success and to be the leading provider of electricity network management and related services.



Don Nicolson PowerNet Chair

Don joined the board of PowerNet in 2015 after being appointed a director of The Power Company Ltd. He is also one of The Power Company Ltd nominees on the OtagoNet Joint Venture governing committee and formerly Chaired the PowerNet Audit and Risk committee.

From 1999 until 2011, Don was a trustee on the Southland Electric Power Supply Consumer Trust, the entity who appoints directors to The Power Company Ltd.

Earlier he worked as a laboratory technician, then for the Department of Agriculture until the outdoors beckoned and he set up a successful mobile sawmilling business.

After selling the sawmilling business, in 1982 he bought his first farm at Waimatua just prior to the Labour Government reforms of 1984.

Challenged by the threat of losing everything and supported by his Banker, he leased additional land in his local area and increased his sheep and deer numbers by a factor of five.

Living through the backwash and hardship of that period made Don aware that excessive government interference in business was undesirable and so he felt a need to become involved in primary sector advocacy and tell that story locally and internationally.

In 2008, Don was elected the 27th National president of Federated Farmers of New Zealand - the first from Southland.