

For Release: 12 June 2026

ANZ NZ CEO & ANZ Group Executive Antonia Watson to retire – replaced by Chief Risk Officer Ben Kelleher

ANZ Bank New Zealand (ANZ NZ) CEO and ANZ Bank Group Executive Antonia Watson will be retiring at the end of FY26.

Ms Watson, who has been at ANZ NZ since 2009 and been its CEO and a Group Executive since 2019, will officially finish on 30 September 2026.

She will be replaced as ANZ NZ CEO and Group Executive by ANZ NZ Chief Risk Officer Ben Kelleher.

Mr Kelleher has been ANZ NZ's Chief Risk Officer for more than two years and before that Managing Director, Personal Banking for five. He has also led ANZ NZ's Private Banking and Strategy teams. Before ANZ NZ, he worked in New Zealand and the UK in strategy, analyst and project management roles. He has a Master's in Management, Finance and Economics with distinction and a Bachelor's degree with first class honours from the University of Waikato.

Mr Kelleher's appointment is subject to Reserve Bank of New Zealand non-objection and other regulatory engagement.

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