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New leader brings new alliances to bioresource processing

The Bioresource Processing Alliance has appointed Anna Yallop as general manager. Ms Yallop started in this role earlier this week and comes from a background in technology transfer and business development.

Garth Carnaby, chairman of the Bioresource Processing Alliance Board, says Anna's background will help advance the Alliance's expansion of New Zealand's export opportunities by adding value to biological resources.

"We are delighted to have Anna on board," says Dr Carnaby. "Anna has a strong background in business development and brings to the role an extensive network from within universities, private companies and Crown Research Institutes.

"Her experience in building relationships and business facilitation in the technical and industrial fields has provided her with sound commercial skills that will be of great benefit to the Alliance."

The BPA is an alliance between four of the country's national research providers – AgResearch, Callaghan Innovation, Plant & Food Research and Scion - that aims to expand New Zealand's export opportunities for high value products derived from biological resources. Many of these resources are low value secondary by-products and waste streams from primary industries.

Ms Yallop moved to the BPA from a large international pharmaceutical company where her positions as Research Partnership Manager and Technology Transfer Manager have involved her working internationally to facilitate the commercialisation of intellectual property, and the transfer of laboratory-scale products to internal and external manufacturers.

Previously, Ms Yallop worked as a Business Manager for the Faculty of Science at The University of Auckland, acting as a conduit between the scientists and industry and prior to that she worked for The Foundation for Research, Science and Technology, now Callaghan Innovation. The latter role involved working with companies in the TechNZ space, then helping establish, and later running the Global Expert programme for the northern half of the North Island to address challenges faced by New Zealand technology companies.

"This is a really great opportunity for us to work closely with New Zealand companies and organisations to maximise potentially underutilised resources and help create new revenue streams," says Ms Yallop. "By pooling capabilities, ideas and expertise, we intend to drive new benefit to the country."

"To get started, it's as simple as a conversation. Our aim is to be approachable and work jointly with parties to get some great results. I'm really looking forward to hearing from anyone interested in exploring options to capitalise on available bioresources."

The Bioresource Processing Alliance is supported by the Ministry for Business, Innovation and Employment, and is able to provide co-funded research capacity for technical and industry development.

To find out more about the Bioresource Processing Alliance, visit: www.bioresourceprocessing.co.nz.

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