

Kia ora

First month reflections from our Chief Executive, Alec Tang

You've heard plenty about me over the past few months, so I thought I'd share what I've actually been up to in my first month or so.

Mostly, I've been listening. I have spent my first few weeks' meeting Partners one-on-one and getting to know our small but mighty Circle team and our Guardians better. A lot of those conversations have landed on the same question: how do we make sure The Circle plays to its strengths and delivers on what it was set up to do?

Sir Rob Fenwick co-founded The Circle to enable the restoration of Aotearoa New Zealand's natural capital for future generations, so our prosperity endures. That mission hasn't changed, but our next phase is about how we push forward with action. There are plenty of other organisations already doing great mahi in the broader environment and economy space, which only sharpens the question of what The Circle is specifically best placed to do.

From my perspective our role is to bring shared intent together – across the public and private sectors - and turn it into action that inspires others to move, compounding the systems level change no single organisation can create alone.

A few other highlights from the diary. I recently joined a panel for Chartered Accountants Australia New Zealand on how organisations should report nature-related risks and opportunities. My takeaway: most of us are checking the top blocks of our business's Jenga tower, our customers, our products, while the blocks at the bottom, our actual dependence on nature, go unchecked.

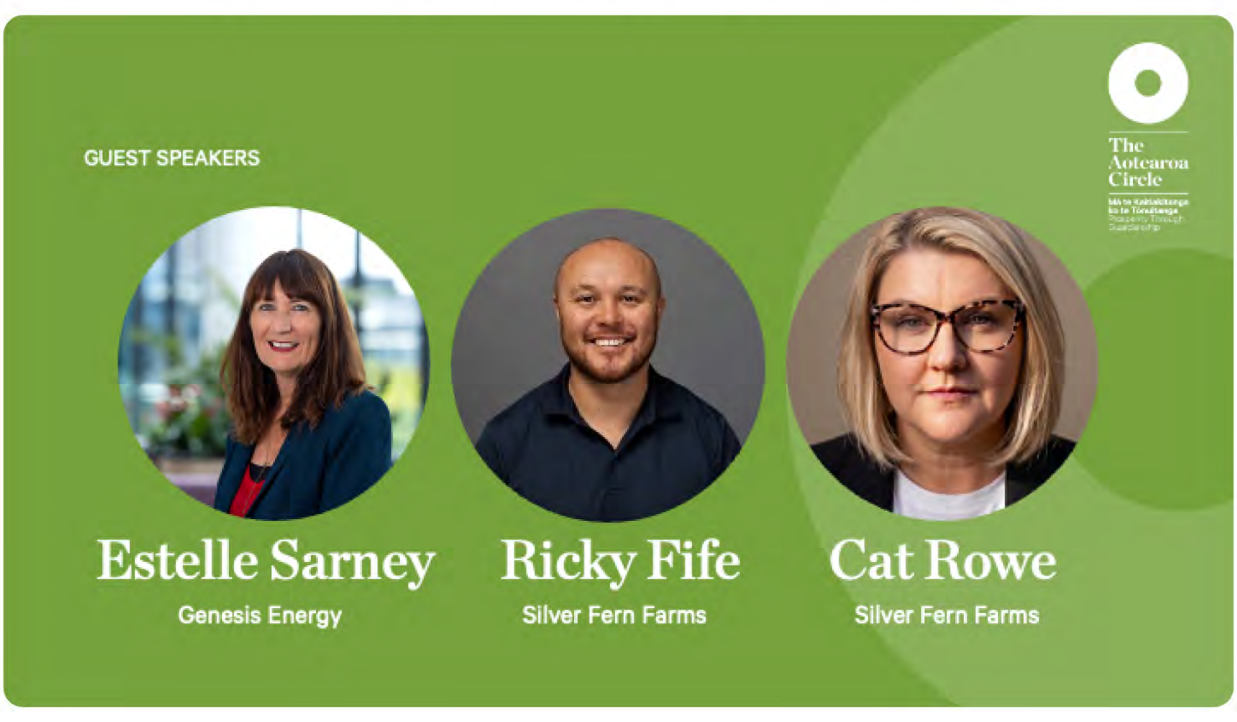
I was also privileged to share the virtual stage with Estelle Sarney (Genesis Energy) and Cat Rowe and Ricky Fife (Silver Fern Farms) at The Circle's first ***Communications Forum*** where a rich conversation took place spanning risk and resilience in communications narratives and the shift from a compliance-led approach towards understanding the state of nature as a strategic indicator.

The team and I are looking forward to continuing conversations with all our Partners as we progress our vision and refresh our strategy (look for more details soon) but, in the meantime, please reach out as always if you have questions or suggestions to info@theaotearoacircle.nz

Ngā mihi nui,
Alec Tang
Chief Executive, The Aotearoa Circle



Speaking the language of nature



How can we make the connection between nature and our economy more visible?

Communication - in all its forms and across all audiences - has a critical role to play. That's why The Circle recently brought communications leaders from across our Partnership together for our first online Communications Forum.

Sparked by Partner feedback, the conversation explored how to make nature's role in business resilience, productivity and prosperity tangible for different audiences.

Estelle Sarney shared how **Genesis** has moved beyond traditional environmental and sustainability language to connect natural systems with business risk, resilience and long-term success. **Ricky Fife** and **Cat Rowe** demonstrated how **Silver Fern Farms** has authentically woven nature into its business narrative, connecting with its people, customers and consumers in a truly special way.

Together, leaders explored how language and storytelling can connect people's care for nature with everyday decisions and practical action. We're looking forward to continuing this important conversation.

If you're interested in our next Communications Forum, contact us at info@theaotearoacircle.nz

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When nature thrives, we all thrive.
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The Aotearoa Circle
Mā te Kaitiakitanga ko te Tōnuitanga
Prosperity Through Guardianship

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