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The Eden Park Trust issues statement on CEO Nick Sautner

The Eden Park Trust wishes to communicate the full backing of its Chief Executive following an article published today by a New Zealand news outlet which is not new information.

Former Australian AFL player Nick Sautner began employment at Eden Park in 2016 as General Manager – Commercial.

Before commencing at the stadium, previous Chief Executive Guy Ngata informed The Eden Park Trust's Chairman Doug McKay of the Australian court case Sautner was involved in with a previous employer, arising from his redundancy in 2013. Ngata made significant enquiries and advised the Trust's Board that there was no reason to question an appointment.

Once Sautner began his role at Eden Park, it became clear to the Board that he was the model of propriety and had the ability to lead the team after spending 13 years working at Etihad Stadium in Melbourne.

When considering appointing him to CEO, The Eden Park Trust's Board agreed on an additional full round of due diligence on Sautner. It was mandated that McKay personally contacted the referees who knew Sautner during that period of his life to understand the situation firsthand.

These referees included some of Australia's leading businessmen, sports and stadia industry experts as well as the head of the Competition Integrity Department at the Australian Football League (AFL). These individuals were supportive of Sautner and believe he has been unfairly tarnished.

The details of Sautner's court case proceedings in Australia are complicated however it has been agreed the allegations do not have any bearing on his role at Eden Park and there was no subsequent action taken in respect of any of these findings, which are a repetition of claims made by his previous employer.

The Eden Park Trust's Chairman Doug McKay says "Since starting with us, both the Board and I have been delighted with Nick's drive, work ethic and high integrity. Nick's ever-growing ability to lead our team has been impressive to date.

"It has been especially pleasing to see the community engagement and local relationships Nick has fostered over the last few years.

"There hasn't been a single incident which has given me cause to doubt him and unless he proves me wrong Nick Sautner has our full support."

Sautner and the Eden Park team remain committed to ensuring the stadium is utilised for not only cricket and rugby but all other recreational, musical and cultural events for the benefit of the public of the region.

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MEDIA RELEASE

About Eden Park

Eden Park is New Zealand's national stadium and a globally-iconic arena, located in central Auckland.

Its rich history and profile is unmatched by any other stadium in the country. From its beginnings as a cricket ground in 1903, Eden Park became the primary venue for major summer and winter sport in Auckland when in 1913, the owner, Auckland Cricket, leased winter use of the ground to Auckland Rugby.

A Deed of Trust establishing Auckland Cricket and Auckland Rugby as the beneficial owners of Eden Park was signed in 1926 and has since been enshrined in legislation. Most notably remembered for hosting the 1987 and 2011 Rugby World Cup Finals, Eden Park remains the home of both Auckland Cricket and Auckland Rugby as it has been for more than a century.

Eden Park Trust operates as a statutory not-for-profit body corporate, registered as a charitable trust with the Charities Commission. Its objectives are to promote, operate and develop Eden Park as a high quality multi-purpose stadium for the use and benefit of rugby and cricket as well as other sporting codes and other recreational, musical, and cultural events for the benefit of the public of the Auckland region.

Each year, more than half a million sports and entertainment fans from around the world visit Eden Park. The stadium successfully hosts sell-out crowds of up to 50,000 on match days and hosts more than 1,000 non-match day functions per year.