

PGG Wrightson Finance Investors approve Heartland transaction

PGG Wrightson Finance (PWF) has confirmed that the transaction for the sale of the business to Heartland was approved by PWF investors at three investor group special meetings held today (15 August 2011).

This is part of the overall approval process which now just requires the completion of Heartland's capital raising and approval by New Zealand Treasury for the Crown, to be finalised. The expected date for completion for all approvals remains 31 August 2011.

The voting received mostly via proxy required a 75% vote to pass and received overwhelming 95.83% support by Bondholders, 99.03% support by Secured Depositors, and 88.52% support by Unsecured Depositors for the resolutions.

CEO for PWF Mark Darrow said the strong investor support is very pleasing and mirrors that received earlier from the PGG Wrightson shareholders. "Based on the deal being confirmed in two weeks, the PGG Wrightson and Heartland relationship takes on two new dimensions; both with the signing of a Distribution agreement whereby Heartland will provide finance to PGG Wrightson clients and PGG Wrightson taking a \$10m shareholding in Heartland.

"Heartland is passionate about the agriculture sector and we will see a continuation and expansion of the services currently offered by the rural finance provider under Heartland ownership, but with greater impetus, particularly in their ability to provide lending to more PGG Wrightson clients."

For further information, please contact:

Mark Darrow
CEO, PGG Wrightson Finance
Tel: +64 21 888 858