



## **Emma Less**

- General Manager People, Safety and Communications at A S Wilcox & Sons Ltd (potato, onion and carrot operation)
- Future Director, HortNZ (2022 to 2023)
- HortNZ Leadership Programme Advisory Group Chair

I've been involved with horticulture for nearly 10 years in total, starting out as a research scientist at Plant & Food NZ followed by Syngenta UK. I then moved out of horticultural R&D and into Human Resources, working with large science research and education organisations in the UK, before returning to NZ in 2015 and finding my way back into horticulture via AS Wilcox & Sons in Pukekohe.

In 2022, I was selected as Future Director for HortNZ, where I gained exposure to the many challenges and opportunities in the horticulture industry. In 2023, I completed the Institute of Directors, Company Directors Course which honed my understanding of good governance.

I believe that people are the vegetable industries' greatest asset, and that their development is critical to the future success of the industry. Ensuring there is a strong pipeline of people with the right skills and experience will enable sustained innovation and industry success over the long term.

I would be looking to support Vegetables NZ to advocate for growers and to look for ways for the industry to continually adapt to the myriad of future challenges and opportunities.

**Nominated by:** Pukekohe Vegetable Growers Association, and seconded by Kirit Makan

### **Declarations of interest (company, role)**

A S Wilcox & Sons Ltd: General Manager People, Safety & Communications

Ends