

2025 Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei Trust Board Elections FAQ

This year, elections will be held to appoint five (5) whānau members to act as Elected Representatives of the Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei Trust (the “Trust”). The elections process and timetable is guided by the requirements set out in the Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei Trust Deed (“Trust Deed”) which you can download [here](#).

Below is some important information in relation to the role of an Elected Representative, the elections process and the eligibility requirements.

If you have any additional questions or would like more information, please email: nwot@ngatiwhatuaorakei.com.



NGĀTI WHĀTUA ŌRĀKEI

FAQS

ELIGIBILITY

What are the eligibility requirements to be a candidate?

The eligibility requirements are outlined in the Second Schedule of the [Trust Deed](#).

To be eligible as a candidate, you must be a registered adult (over 18 years old) member of Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei. A member of Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei is defined in the Trust Deed: "Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei" means the members of the Hapū, being the toto (blood) descendants of their common ancestor Tuperiri.

You must also meet the requirements associated with officer eligibility as outlined on the nominations form, including those in the [Charities Act 2005](#). This includes not being an undischarged bankrupt, and not having recently (within the last 7 years) been convicted of certain crimes.

An Elected Representative must not be an employee of the Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei Group. If you are an employee of the Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei Group and are successfully elected, you must cease your employment before appointment as an Elected Representative.

It is also a requirement that successfully elected candidates complete an introductory course in governance. The Trust will reimburse successful candidates the course fees (fees only – no reimbursement is available for whānau time or disbursements/travel costs). Recommended and approved courses from the Institute of Directors include the Governance Essentials course and any one of the other "Essentials of Directorship" courses. Refer www.iod.org.nz for course options.

ABOUT THE ROLE

If I am elected, what does that mean?

Whānau who are successfully elected are referred to as "Elected Representatives". Each Elected Representative will become a Director and Shareholder of Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei Trustee Ltd along with the other Elected Representatives. Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei Trustee Ltd is a company, registered in accordance with the Companies Act 1993, that acts as the Trustee of the Trust.

So Elected Representatives are not Trustees?

That is correct. Elected Representatives are not "Trustees". The Trust has a corporate trustee - Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei Trustee Limited.

Elected Representatives are each a director of Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei Trustee Limited and together are referred to as the board of directors of Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei Trustee Ltd (the "Board").

What are the responsibilities associated with being an Elected Representative?

Given the size, complexity and diversity of the Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei Group, the responsibility of the Elected Representatives is very significant.

As noted above, the Elected Representatives are directors of Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei Trustee Ltd. As such, individual directors have a broad range of directors' duties, and Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei Trustee Ltd, as corporate trustee, has additional trustee duties. This creates added responsibility for individuals in their role as a director, and for the Board, as governors of the trustee.

Being a director of a company comes with a wide range of duties and obligations, including a fiduciary duty to act in good faith and generally in what they believe to be the best interests of the company. The Directors must ensure that the Group (including subsidiaries Whai Māia and Whai Rawa) is acting in a way that reflects the purposes of the Trust and acts for the benefit of all members.

There is also the need to ensure Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei Trustee Ltd fulfills all its legal and compliance obligations.

Following the recent approval to employ all Trust and Whai Māia kaimahi under one management entity, the Trust's current policy is that each Elected Representative will also serve as a Director of Whai Māia and a Director of the general partner of the new management entity.

STATUS AND OBJECTS OF THE TRUST

"The Trust has the authority to represent Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei in all matters. Subject to the Trustee Act and this Trust Deed the Trustee may do all such things it considers necessary or desirable in its sole discretion to perform or otherwise carry out the Trust's Purposes." (Trust Deed, s. 2.2)

PURPOSES OF THE TRUST

"The purpose of the Trust is to receive, administer, manage, protect and govern the Trust's Assets on trust for the cultural, commercial and social development of Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei for and on behalf of and for the benefit of the Member.

What is the term of the appointments?

Each Elected Representative is elected for a 4-year term and at the end of that 4 years, is eligible for re-election (refer Trust Deed, Second Schedule, clause 4.1).

What support is available for Elected Representatives?

Entering into a new governance role can be daunting at first. The Trust makes available a professional development allowance for each Elected Representative in order to upskill over the course of their term. In addition, the Trust Office provides support to the Board and assists with IT, administration, policies and access to Board papers and other relevant documentation. The Trust continues to refine its formal induction programme for new Elected Representatives. The Trust will ensure Elected Representatives have all appropriate equipment in order to effectively participate in Board activity.

What are the risks of being an Elected Representative?

The office of Elected Representative and Director of Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei Trustee Ltd. comes with certain risks. In certain situations, an Elected Representative could be personally liable for certain decisions and actions taken by the Board.

The policies and standards set by the Board will assist in understanding these risk areas and how they are being managed, however some risk will always exist. The Trust has provided an indemnity and also taken out Directors & Officers insurance to cover the Elected Representatives to some extent. Further information in relation to Director responsibilities, governance risks, and health and safety obligations can be found on the Institute of Directors website here:

[https://www.iod.org.nz/ Governance-Resources/Publications](https://www.iod.org.nz/Governance-Resources/Publications).

What is the time commitment required?

The Board meets formally every month (excluding January) with meetings currently set as the first Friday in every month. Formal meetings last a day and require pre-reading and preparation of one additional day. Outside of formal meetings, Elected Representatives will be called upon to meet in relation to strategy, Board culture and to attend/represent the hapū at various events or occasions significant to Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei. There are also Board Committees (e.g. Risk, Assurance, and Audit, Treaty Settlement Protection) and meetings with other iwi, Government or strategic partners that will require Board representation. As Elected Representatives, whānau concerns or queries are also directed to the Board and will require consideration and response. The workload can vary month-to-month but it would be appropriate to ensure you have 3-4 days per month of time available for Elected Representative duties. The time commitment is more significant for the Deputy Chair and the Chair.

What if I live outside of Auckland?

We welcome applications from whānau from outside Tāmaki Makaurau . If you are successful it is expected that you will be able to participate in hui and other board activity. We will provide technology and travel support to enable this participation, however you should expect to spend time each month in Auckland as the majority of our activities are based in and around the city.

Do you get paid to be an Elected Representative?

Yes. The payment for Elected Representatives is set by formal resolution at the AGM. The current annual fee payable for an Elected Representative is \$45,000.00 per year, \$65,000.00 for the Deputy Chair and the Chair is paid \$90,000.00.

As noted above, Elected Representatives also serve as Directors of Whai Māia, and as Directors of the general partner of the new management entity. For Whai Māia, they are paid the level of remuneration approved in the Trust's Fees Policy dated 12 April 2024. This level was confirmed by board resolution and has not changed through the restructure. No additional remuneration is paid for serving as a Director of the general partner, as that responsibility is covered by the Elected Representative fee.

Fees are paid monthly.

What is the role of Whai Māia and Whai Rawa?

The Trust company has two wholly owned subsidiaries – Whai Māia and Whai Rawa. They deliver the whānau services and manage commercial activities for the hapū. Whai Rawa has its own board and management. The Trust has the vital role of providing oversight, direction and support to the subsidiaries.

ELECTIONS PROCESS

Who is running the elections? Is it independent?

Independent servicer provider [Electionz](#) has been contracted to facilitate these elections. They have previously conducted elections for Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei in the past and have a strong understanding of our requirements.

What are the key elections dates?

Nominations open Friday 25 July, 2025

Nominations close Friday 15 August 2025.

A copy of the public notice will be published online via e-pānui, and in the NZ Herald.

Voting packs posted Friday, 12 September 2025 (Outside of Aotearoa) and Friday, 19 September 2025 (Aotearoa based) to all registered adult hapū members (over the age of 18 years) with a valid postal addresses.

Voting will close at 12.00 noon on Friday, 14 November 2025.

The results will be announced at the AGM on Sunday, 23 November 2025.

Why isn't there more time for applications by interested whānau?

The timetable for nominations is specifically outlined in the Trust Deed as 21 days from the date of notice.

What is required for a nomination?

This year, the nomination form was enabled to be submitted in written format, and also via an online form. Requirements on the nomination form include:

- 5 signatures from adult registered members of Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei.
- Completed, signed, and done with the consent of the candidate.
- Include a photograph (passport sized – colour or black and white)
- Include a statement of no more than 250 words in te reo Māori and 150 words in English, or a total of 400 words if a combination of te reo Māori and English languages are used.

Who is eligible to vote?

All adult registered members of Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei over the age of 18 years are eligible to vote.

How do I ensure I get my voting pack and any notices?

All notices and voting papers will be posted to the address held on our membership register. If your address is incorrect or missing, you will not get the information needed to vote. Please check your address details are correct in person at Whai Māia offices (230 Kupe St, Ōrākei), or by contacting us on 0508 NWO Orakei (09) 336 1670, or info@nwo.iwi.nz.

What happens if my voting pack does not arrive?

Please contact Electionz to request a replacement on: 0800 EZ VOTE (0800 666 040 - Free phone NZ), +64 3 377- 3530 (Outside NZ), or email us at vote@electionz.com.

Can I observe the vote counting?

The Elections vote counting will happen on Tuesday, 18 November 2025 . This will take place at Electionz in Christchurch. Dependant on the circumstance the Returning Officer may make a scrutineer count available in Tāmaki/ Auckland. Each candidate of the election may nominate a scrutineer to be present at the vote counting. The Chief Returning Officer must be notified of the appointment of a scrutineer by submitting the relevant form (available on our website) to be received by Monday, 3 November 2025.

Who do I contact about any concerns over the elections process?

The Chief Returning Officer, Warwick Lamp, [Electionz](#)
Phone: 0800 EZ VOTE (0800 666 040 - Free phone NZ), +64 3 377- 3530 (Outside NZ), or email us at vote@electionz.com

What if there is a dispute in relation to the result?

Candidates are able to request a review of the election result as outlined in the Trust Deed. It is important to note that under the Deed an applicant must lodge a reasonable sum to initiate the review. The sum is set at \$1000, the same as it was for the last elections. If unsuccessful, the funds will be used to offset the review costs.

OTHER INFORMATION

It is important that you or your nominee thinks carefully about the role of an Elected Representative and considers the time commitment and legal obligations and duties associated with holding such an important and strategic role. Being an Elected Representative can be stressful but also very rewarding. Please see below some additional resources that can be reviewed as part of the decision-making process:

1. Annual Reports and Financial Statements – refer [here](#)
2. Trust Deed – refer [here](#)
3. Company Constitution – refer [here](#)
4. Strategy Documents – refer [here](#)
5. Information and resources from the Institute of Directors website [here](#)