



## **Minutes of Annual General Meeting 2023 - 2024**

**Date:** 28 November 2024

**Time:** 5pm

**Place:** Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō. Levin

### **Horowhenua New Zealand Trust Trustees present:**

Antony Young (Chair)  
Ron Turk  
Joanna Mason  
Stuart Pescini  
Rebecca Kilbsy-Halliday

**Apologies:** Troy Hobson (Trustee); Tim Costley (MP for Ōtaki electorate); Larry Ellison

**In attendance:** Sandy Chan (Secretary – HNZT), Catriona Finau McKay (CE, The Horowhenua Company Limited), CR. David Allan, CR. Sam Jennings, CR. Clint Grimstone, Justine Street from ColbertCooper - the Trust's accountants, Doug Rowan from CS Law (the Trust's lawyers); staff from The Horowhenua Company Limited, Brendan Duffy (Chair, The Horowhenua Company Limited), Ron Parkin- (settlor of the HNZT) and members of the public.

### **Annual General Meeting opened at: 5:03pm**

Opening karakia: Hendrix Warren, The Horowhenua Company Limited.

### **Chairperson's report by Antony Young**

A formal welcome and opening remarks were made by Horowhenua New Zealand Trust chair, Antony Young. The Chair welcomed council members and trustees. Acknowledgement was made to retired Trustees, Te-Aroha Jennings who was present at the meeting, and Larry Ellison who was an apology.

### **Introduction of Trustees**

Trustees each introduced themselves and outlined why they became Trustees.

### **HNZT Strategy and highlights**

In May 2023, HNZT became registered as a Charity which allows more funding to be returned to the community. This has also enabled more transparency of what the Trust is involved in.

Acknowledgement to former Trustee, Te-Aroha Jennings for the work she did in preparing for the move to achieving charitable status for taxation purposes.

Presentation of the HNZT Strategy and highlights which aligned to the Trust's strategy was made.

- Advocacy

The Trust continued its long standing advocacy for the Ō2NL (Ōtaki to North Levin) road to be built, by taking an active role in the Environment Court resource consent process. The Trust has

also been active in advocating to progress the re-zoning of land for commercial use and development.

- Distributions update

The Trust had made a grant towards the Children's Emergency Room of the Emergency Department at Palmerston North Hospital which has now been built.

- Promote

The Trust sponsored the Business Hall of Fame Award Board of the Business Kapiti-Horowhenua (BKH) Business Awards which is now located in the main foyer of the HDC building.

### **The Horowhenua Company Limited (THCL) and Horowhenua Development Limited (HDL)**

Chief Executive, Catriona Finau McKay, of THCL presented on the highlights and developments from THCL and HDL.

Some of the highlights include:

- Networking and Business Information events. 750 people have attended the Business After 5 (BA5) events.
- Have organised MP visits. Minister of Infrastructure, Chris Bishop, was invited to speak to the local Construction sector in the Horowhenua. Inward investment promotion. A video was presented on Enterprise Drive, an example of inward investment. Catriona followed up with key points on how a collaborative community effort enabled this initiative. 7 new businesses are now at Enterprise Drive.
- Money made from developments is then re-invested into the community in other business projects. The Health and Wellbeing Hub is an example of that.

### **New Distributions mentioned:**

- Horowhenua Events Centre
- Foxton Beach Community and Health Shuttle
- Levin Community Health Shuttle

More distribution announcements to follow.

### **Q and A session**

Some questions were sent prior to the AGM.

**Q1)** Does the trust apply the Charities Services conflict of interest guide at all?

**Answer:** Yes. We have a conflict register. This is on the agenda. Trustees can disclose. If there are times where trustees may have a conflict over a grant application, we recuse from voting.

**Q2)** There is also the question of what affect having trustees, that may have business acumen, but who have limited to no experience in the charitable sector - apart from their involvement in HNZN. Surely that should be a consideration when trustees are appointed?

**Answer:** Trustees at the meeting today introduced themselves and their credentials. The Trust does receive advice. The Trust also learns a lot from community organisations.

**Q3)** Why does the Trust not call elections for Trustees?

**Answer:** Anyone who would like to apply to be a Trustee can put their application in. This is the process of the Trust.

**Q4)** When is the Trust going to put forward community housing projects?

**Answer:** In terms of priorities the Trust takes both a strategic approach to what is required, but also considers who else is undertaking work to fill gaps. Council and the private sector driving housing initiatives can free up the Trust to work on other business priorities. The Trust has recognised that access to health care is a high priority for many of the residents of Horowhenua and has made that a priority over the past couple of years. Priorities will change as the needs of the community change over time.

**Q5)** A question was asked about whether HNZN could confirm that it had not been gifted any assets from Council.

**Answer:** The Chair confirmed that Council had not gifted the Trust (or its subsidiaries) anything, and that the 2 land acquisitions it has made were purchased from Council in an open market tender, or at agreed market rates.

**Q6)** Who takes care of maintenance of the roading in Enterprise Drive?

**Answer:** That is now under Horowhenua District Council.

A member of public thanked Trust for more information that is happening with activities.

**Q7)** A questions was asked if it was true that the Council had agreed to a deferred settlement of the purchase price on the land purchased for the Enterprise Drive development.

**Answer:** Catriona Finau McKay confirmed this was the case, and that HDL was able to pay the funds earlier than planned due to its early completion.

**Q8)** A question was raised about the role of the Trust in the Levin Town Centre Transformation Project.

**Answer:** Catriona and Antony confirmed that this was an HDC project and THCL/HDL's involvement was contained to helping facilitate local businesses to input into the plan. Antony further confirmed that the Trust had no role in the project.

**Q9)** A question was asked about the economic dashboard for Horowhenua which is on the THCL website. Does the Trust use the stats from the economic data to inform the projects it does? Are there plans to get involved in community housing?

**Answer:** The Trust considers a range of information in setting its strategy. As noted before, Community Housing is not currently a priority for HNZN.

**Q10)** A question was asked regarding changes to the 2023 Charitable Status Act and how this would affect HNZN.

**Answer:** This was answered by the Trust's lawyer who was able to confirm HNZN was compliant with the changes.

**Q11)** A question was asked about a drop of car registrations reflected in the economic dashboard To 30 September 2024. Catriona advised that this may be in part due to the cost of living, but also may be linked to the removal of electric vehicle rebates.

**Q12)** A question was asked about whether a potential project for the Trust to look into was the loss of the local newspaper, The Chronicle and the implications for the community. This suggestion was noted.

**End of Q and A session. The Chair thanked members of the public for their questions.**

### **Apologies**

Apologies were received from: Tim Costley (local MP), Troy Hobson (Trustee), Larry Ellison (Former Trustee)

RESOLUTION: That the apologies to The Horowhenua New Zealand Trust 2023-2024 Annual General Meeting be accepted.

Moved: Jo Mason

Second: Ron Turk

**Carried**

### **Minutes of the 2022-2023 Annual General Meeting**

The draft minutes of the 2022-2023 Annual General were made available for review prior to the Annual General Meeting.

RESOLUTION: That the minutes of the AGM dated 23 November 2023 be accepted as a true and accurate record.

Moved: Ron Turk

Second: Ron Parkin

**Carried**

### **Closing remarks**

Antony thanked the Trustees and the public for attending and invited those attending to stay for a few minutes for refreshments.

The meeting was closed with karakia by Hendrix Warren from THCL.

*Annual General Meeting closed at 5.55pm.*

DRAFT