

# Ngātiwai Trust Board



## Chairman's Address

to the

Special General Meeting - Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> of February 2015

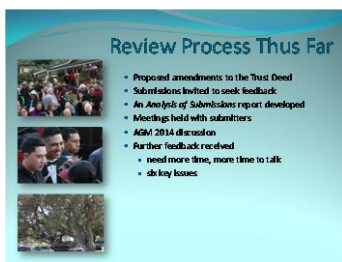


### Welcome

1. It is my pleasure to welcome you here today. We won't be proposing any resolutions to put to the vote but instead we wanted to talk to you about the key issues that have arisen out of the Trust Deed Review process.
2. Despite the Board having a clear opinion we received feedback from you that there needed to be more time and more discussion and we've taken that on board and agree ourselves. Therefore, today we want to take a step back and make this meeting a starting point for that discussion to take place.
3. So the purpose of this hui now is firstly to develop a process or forum for further discussions to take place, and secondly to set a date to come back and address the Trust Deed resolutions.



4. But before we get to the meat in the sandwich though, I'd like to set the scene, just so we can build a context for where and how the review came about.
5. My feeling is that's when this is done we will be in a better place to talk about where the Trust Deed is now presently and where we are hoping to go with it.
6. Let's acknowledge past leadership firstly. In particular those people who were in place on the Ngātiwai Trust Board since its inception. These are the people who had a hand in it's development, some of whom are not with us today.
7. Secondly, I want to give a special mention to those who have sat in the position of Chair before me, those who led this organisation through many troubled waters. And of course we can't forget past trustees, responsible for putting the iwi organisation in place, and positioning it as a recognised iwi organisation on both Maori and Crown terms.
8. As varied as the people who passed through the doors of Ngātiwai Trust Board are, so too the Trust Deed evolved it's many versions and changes. In my mind they would have attracted the same level of interest and debate we are currently experiencing now. I myself think it's healthy.
9. This legacy we have inherited has been looked over by this current generation of Trustees, and we think it can be improved. Mostly it needs to be modernised and tidied up to reflect an organisation on the move.



10. We made an attempt to review the Trust Deed in 2012. Some of you here will recall that this process failed, for various reasons, to deliver the desired outcome that we are working towards today.

11. Then in December 2013 at a hui held at Tūparehuia Marae the issue of the Trust Deed came up again. That hui was the catalyst for the current review process.

12. Of interest one key issue kept bubbling to the top during this time, and that was the matter of *whether the process of marae nominations for trustee elections to the Board was flawed*. Amongst other issues of course, but on this matter in particular, we would like to hear your views as it seems to be a most controversial one.

13. So here is an outline of where we are to date:

1. A draft set of amendments to the Trust Deed was made available
2. Then submissions were called for
3. *An Analysis of Submissions* was undertaken and the findings made available
4. Then meetings were organised with submitters to discuss their concerns
5. Finally at the AGM last year we failed to scratch the surface of the Review before the meeting came to an end.

14. Since then however we were provided with some very useful feedback, mainly, that you wanted “*more time and more discussions*” to be able to understand and digest the Review and to be able to respond.



15. We’ve summarised the six main issues that came back from your submissions to us:

**1. Nominations to the Board**

What process should we use to allow marae nominations for election of trustees to the Board? Could the current process of endorsement of nominations by a marae chair for example be seen in some instances to be too much of a responsibility for one person?

**2. Roopu Kaumātua**

What is the purpose and the role for kaumātua provided for in the Trust Deed. What jobs do they do, what authority do they have and what kind of relationship do they have with the Ngātiwai Trust Board?

**3. Definition of Whāngai**

How should we define whāngai in our Trust Deed in relation to children who have been adopted by Ngātiwai parents? What is the definition of tikanga in relation to whāngai?

**4. Suspension of Trustees**

Should the Board consult or engage with the marae before suspending a trustee?

**5. Appointment of Alternates**

What process should be used to appoint alternates if not by the current runner-up system that we use?

**6. Marae Elections**

Does it need to be clarified further that the Ngātiwai Trust Board runs the election of trustees not the marae or is it already sufficiently clear that is the case?

16. Could you please hold fire on questions because shortly I am going to open the floor for discussion to take place.



groups or other type of hui

17. And so where to now? As I have already mentioned – there will be no resolutions put to the floor today. Rather, when we have come to a point where there is a level of comfort with the matters discussed we will look at how you want to proceed next.

18. My expectation however, is that we will leave here today with a process or forum for structured discussions to take place – such as focus

19. Secondly we set a date to come back and address the Trust Deed Review with you.

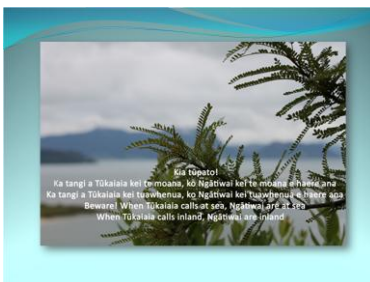
20. When this part of the process is complete then we will make sure you are notified with plenty of time to be able to consider the resolutions you had a hand in crafting and come to the meeting ready to vote for or against.

21. If you don't vote for them then the matter will be settled and we will stay with the current wording in the Trust Deed until such time as another review is needed.

22. Is everyone happy with this approach?

23. I now invite your feedback and questions for discussion.

## CLOSING



24. Thank you all for participating so openly in this hui.

25. Shortly we will break for lunch but I wanted to wrap up our hui with this comment before we hand it back to our kaumātua to close .

26. It is my hope that by putting all these matters on the table we will be able to work our way through them and fix them – it won't happen today and it may not happen next week but it is my hope that we will be able to bring some solid resolutions back to the iwi to vote on and that the majority of you will be happy about it because you helped resolve it.

27. Thank you and I now hand the floor over to our kaumātua to close our hui