

Te Rūnanga-Ā-Iwi-Ō-Ngāpuhi Board Meeting Summary

Date: Monday 28th July, 2025

Location: Ngāwha Innovation Park

Trustees in attendance:

Mane Tahere – Chair	Ngāpuhi ki te Hauāuru
Tasha Hohaia - Trustee	Te Takiwā o Ngāpuhi ki te Tonga o Tāmaki Makaurau
Chester Fong – Proxy Trustee	Ngāpuhi ki te Hauāuru
Te Ringakaha Tia-Ward (<i>Online</i>)	Te Rōpū Takiwā o Mangakahia
Janelle Beazley (<i>Online</i>)	Te Takiwā o Ngāpuhi ki Whangārei
Mori Rapana (<i>Online</i>)	Ngāpuhi ki Hokianga ki te Raki
Nicole Anderson	Ngā Ngaru o Hokianga
Brent Reihana	Ngāpuhi ki te Waitematā

Other attendees:

Dr Roseanna Henare-Solomona	Co-Chair - Te Rōpū Kaumātua Kuia o Te Whare Tapu Ō Ngāpuhi
Robin Joy Bedggood	Secretary - Te Rōpū Kaumātua Kuia o Te Whare Tapu Ō Ngāpuhi
Hammond Ngaropo	Te Rōpū Kaumātua Kuia o Te Whare Tapu Ō Ngāpuhi
Joe Bristowe	Te Rūnanga o Taumarere ki Rakaumangamanga
Huia Azinui	Secretary - Te Rūnanga o Taumarere ki Rakaumangamanga
Norma Hetaraka	Chairperson - Ngāpuhi ki Waitematā
Moana Tuwhare	Tumu Whakarae – General Manager
Kelly Yakas	Governance and Strategic Compliance & ACC Kaupapa Lead
Lorin Waetford	Board Secretary & minute taker

Purpose: This summary provides an overview of the key discussions from the Te Rūnanga-Ā-iwi-Ō Ngāpuhi (TRAION) Board meeting, ensuring key messages are communicated across the organisation, to Takiwā representatives, and to whānau, hapū and marae.

Governance and appointments

Board appointment: Chester Fong appointed to the Te Hau Ora o Ngāpuhi Board for a two-year term, effective 19th June, 2025.

Trustee appointment: Tasha Hohaia appointed as a new TRAION trustee on 21st June, 2025.

Strategic projects and initiatives

Ngāpuhi Festival: Proposal to stage the next festival in 2027, potentially Auckland Anniversary weekend. A planning committee will be formed to review previous plans and develop updated recommendations for kaupapa, themes, dates, events and funding.

Ka Tātai Hono: Moving into the design phase of the new representation model, translating feedback into options for consultation. Aim to meet project timeframes ahead of AGM ratification.

Kaikohe Town Activator: Agreement in principle to establish a sub-committee (TRAION, hapū, community, FNDC, taitamariki) to plan and fund a dedicated coordinator role, and to consider 65–67 Broadway for a permanent farmers market, subject to further planning.

Operations and funding

Audit update: Audit process on track, with last year's queries addressed.

Property valuations: New valuer engaged, report pending.

Annual report and AGM: Preparations progressing, theme suggested: *Dynamic Evolution – Orokohanga Hihiri*.

Marae Resilience Pilot: Next rohe likely to be Southern Hokianga, with rollout planned every 3–6 months across Ngāpuhi.

Kākahu business: Offshore manufacturer sourcing trip successful, potential savings of 60–70%. Marketing, distribution, and strategy under review.

Cross-group relationships

ACC: Need to formalise commitments in writing to safeguard relationship integrity and funding agreements.

Letter of Expectations: Board reaffirmed the importance of coordination when hosting ministers and dignitaries, with common courtesy to inform iwi leadership.

Environmental and community projects

Hokianga Harbour Remediation: TRAION and Te Rarawa to jointly apply for NRC funding to develop a business case, with Hokianga Takiwā involvement.

Caulerpa threat: Advocacy and funding support for remediation efforts led by the Conquer Caulerpa Trust, which seeks \$1M to continue operations.

Financial overview

FY25 revenue: \$2.203M vs \$2.479M budgeted (main variance: DIA revenue not recognised due to workplan delays).

Operating loss: \$302K vs \$319K budgeted (improvement of \$16K).

Largest workstream variance: Kākahu (\$144K loss, including \$40K stock write-down).

Board approved updated Financial Delegations Policy (including increased expenditure limits) and MSD contract to fund a Meth Taskforce coordinator role.

Governance restructure - Māori Fisheries Amendment Act

Chapman Tripp outlined legislative changes requiring iwi to consider AHC restructure.

Recommended model: Dual trust structure – retaining the charitable trust while creating a non-charitable trust (MIO for fisheries), with shared governance and AGMs.

Benefits: Increased investment flexibility, retention of charitable arm, tax efficiency.

Ngāti Hine considerations: Options to form own MIO, contract NAHC for quota management, or seek legislative exemption to retain shareholding. Possible ex officio observer role offered.

Board confirmed support for the recommended option in principle.

Takiwā updates

Highlights included community safety initiatives in Mangkāhia, population research in Tāmaki, insurance challenges across Takiwā, and concerns around data integrity in member registration.

Takiwā elections: Elections for Ngāpuhi Hokianga ki te Raki, Ngāpuhi ki te Hauāuru and Ngā Ngaru o Hokianga have been delayed due to privacy and data alignment issues between paper and digital forms, with risk of breaching Trust Deed if held without resolution.

General business

Te Rūnanga o Taumarere ki Rakaumangamanga expressed interest in returning to the TRAION board – process is to be clarified but supported. The Deputy Chair role is to be considered, with nominations to be circulated by email.

Closing comments

The meeting reinforced the importance of strengthening hapū autonomy, ensuring robust governance systems, maintain transparent engagement with Ngāti Hine, and advancing key strategic projects such as the representation model, Ngāpuhi Festival, and Kaikohe economic development initiatives.