

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

**Date:** Monday 9<sup>th</sup> June, 2025

**Location:** Ngāwha Innovation Park

### Trustees in attendance:

Mane Tahere – Chair	Ngāpuhi ki te Hauāuru
Iti Joyce – Deputy Chair	Te Takiwā o Ngāpuhi ki te Tonga o Tāmaki Makaurau
Te Rau Allen	Taiāmai ki te Marangai
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	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
Moana Tuwhare	Tumu Whakarae - General Manager
Kelly Yakas	Governance and Strategic Compliance & ACC Kaupapa Lead
Edith Tahere	Niho Whakarae - Strategic Manager
Hinerangi Himiona ( <i>Online</i> )	Special Projects

**Purpose:** The intent of this summary is to provide an overview of the key discussions and decisions made at Te Rūnanga-Ā-Iwi-Ō-Ngāpuhi (TRAION) board meeting. This is to ensure that key messages are being delivered across the organisation and out to Takiwā representatives and their respective whānau, hapū and marae.

### Strategic priorities and representation

Work continues on the development of a revised representation model to strengthen hapū engagement and decision-making within TRAION. Trustees considered how best to support hapū with strategic back-office infrastructure, acknowledging that while structural change is important, practical support is equally critical. Engagement with taitamariki, Takiwā, and kaumātua kūia has been central to shaping the emerging options. Two potential models are being drafted and will be taken back out for consultation. The goal is to have changes ready for ratification at the AGM later this year.

A key theme from the kōrero was the importance of ensuring the final model is flexible enough to accommodate the diversity of our hapū and marae realities. Trustees noted the need to move away from a one-size-fits-all approach and towards a model that recognises hapū autonomy and promotes accountability mechanisms.

### **Treaty settlement and hapū support**

TRAION reaffirmed its commitment to supporting hapū who wish to engage in Treaty settlement processes. With funding available from Te Tari Whakatau (TTW), there was agreement that TRAION could act as a coordinating conduit between hapū and the Crown. This aligns with the organisations five-year plan, which outlines a clear role in supporting hapū to navigate these complex processes. A funding proposal to TTW was approved, aimed at securing additional pūtea to assist hapū with data development and engagement.

### **Operations and funding**

The operations team was acknowledged for their work during a period of significant pressure, with three staff currently on leave. The team reported the successful completion of the Mangakāhia Road project, with payment now received. Trustees are considering how best to allocate the surplus funds, including the potential to invest in long-term initiatives such as a policy unit to support hapū advocacy.

Funding continues to play a major role in enabling TRAION's work. The Tupu Tonu Fund was received, and new criteria for the \$40K hapū development fund have been implemented to ensure better impact from limited resources. Additionally, a \$150K grant from TTW is being used to clean and upgrade the TRAION database, with a view of submitting another tono for continued development. Trustees noted that quality data will be critical across several initiatives.

TRAION also successfully secured \$74K from Te Mātāwai to deliver a Kura Reo, supporting the revitalisation of te reo Māori among our people. Meanwhile, the Kākahu unit has officially opened its store on Broadway, with work now underway to scope manufacturing

options offshore. Trustees stressed the importance of protecting TRAION's designs and trademarks as the brand grows.

### **Audit and Risk Committee (ARC)**

The audit and risk committee (ARC) reported on preparations for the upcoming audit. A new valuer, Jozia Bloom of Northland Valuers has been engaged. Elena Trout was confirmed as a new member of ARC for a one-year term, bringing additional financial and governance expertise. Trustees discussed the importance of ensuring all committee members receive governance training, with costs to be covered by their respective entities. There was also consideration of whether committee representation should be adjusted to increase technical expertise, while still maintaining Ngāpuhi values and identity. This remains under review.

### **Ngāti Hine withdrawal and constitutional planning**

Progress was reported on Ngāti Hine's withdrawal, with updated terms of reference approved. The withdrawal process has been divided into three funding phases and will involve compiling detailed data to support negotiation positions. TRAION accepted TTW's financial contribution of \$150K to support this work and reaffirmed its commitment to transparent, structured engagement throughout the process.

### **Financial overview and budget decisions**

The April financial report showed a loss of \$110,000, which remains within forecasted expectations. A delayed dividend has since been received, and spending has reduced in several areas. The Board approved the proposed FY26 budget and confirmed \$1.5M would be maintained as financial reserves.

A significant decision was made to invest in a feasibility study for the creation of a TRAION policy unit. A \$20,000 budget was allocated to scope this initiative, which would enhance hapū advocacy, strategic submissions, and iwi-wide policy development.

Additionally, proceeds from the Mangakāhia Road project will be placed in a three-month term deposit while longer-term decisions are made.

### **Fisheries Amendment Act and governance restructuring**

Fisheries law reform is required by 30<sup>th</sup> June 2026, which prompted discussions around the board about TRAION transitioning into a Māori Authority to unlock tax benefits and

increase investment flexibility. The Board has endorsed a dual work programme for 2025 that advances both Māori Fisheries Act 2004 (MFAA) compliance and Ngāti Hine negotiations. This approach ensures that Ngāpuhi meets its legal obligations while progressing discussions that support Ngāti Hine's fisheries aspirations.

A Fisheries Amendment Working Group will be established which will include the TRAION Chair and Chief Executive, and the NAHC Chair and Chief Executive, providing coordinated leadership across the settlement entities. Ongoing engagement with Ngāti Hine will continue in a transparent and structured manner, with regular updates to be provided to the Board throughout the process.

### **Te Roopū Kaumātua Kūia o Te Whare Tapu Ō Ngāpuhi**

The Kaumātua Kuia (KK) rūpū shared reflections on recent hui, noting the need for clearer definitions of their role and more inclusive engagement, particularly for those living outside Te Tai Tokerau. Most expenses to date have been covered through koha, and there is a desire to improve transparency and develop a stronger budgeting system.

The KK rūpū highlighted the importance of maintaining kotahitanga and acknowledged recent momentum across different kaupapa, including treaty settlements and intergenerational dialogue.

### **Closing comments**

Trustees concluded the meeting by confirming support for various operational, strategic and financial resolutions. A recurring message throughout the day was the importance of strengthening hapū autonomy and capacity, building internal systems to support collective development, and maintaining transparency and accountability as Ngāpuhi moves into a pivotal period of transition.