

FAQs

**Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Takoto
Trust Deed Review 2025**



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How has this review come about?

- The Rūnanga commissioned a Trust Deed Review, to be conducted by Mihiarangi Piripi (Whāia Legal). The preliminary desktop review included an assessment of trustee composition and election processes. Initial findings were reported back to iwi members at the Hui-a-Iwi on 19 October 2024, where governance models were included for discussion.
- This review is a first step in a broader conversation about how we continue to uphold our responsibilities while allowing for representation that reflects our growing and evolving iwi.

Why is Te Rūnanga o NgāiTakoto reviewing its governance representation model?

- Te Rūnanga o NgāiTakoto (TRoNT) operates under a marae-based governance model, where each of our four marae appoints up to 2 (two) representatives to the Board of Trustees. As part of our ongoing commitment to strengthening our governance, we are reviewing whether this model remains fit for purpose and best serves the needs of our iwi into the future.
- Feedback from whānau at past AGMs and hui-a-iwi has highlighted the need to assess our representation structure to ensure it supports strong decision-making, is inclusive, and allows for sustained succession. This review is part of our broader commitment to good governance and future-proofing our PSGE.

Why does our governance model need to evolve?

- We live and work in a rapidly changing environment. Our governance model must be resilient, inclusive, and adaptive to ensure we are making the best possible decisions for our whānau. Some key reasons for this review include:
 - Ensuring **effective representation** for all NgāiTakoto whānau, both those living within and outside the rohe.
 - Supporting **succession planning** to ensure fresh leadership while retaining institutional knowledge.
 - Improving **efficiency and governance effectiveness** while maintaining accountability to whānau.
 - Aligning with **best practice** observed in other PSGEs while maintaining the uniqueness of NgāiTakoto.

The current marae-based model has served us well since our establishment in 2013, and now it is timely to consider whether adjustments are needed.

What governance models are being considered?

The following governance models have been identified for discussion:

1. Retain the Current Marae-Based Model

- Each marae continues to appoint up to two (2) trustees.
- Ensures direct marae representation but may limit participation from whānau outside the rohe.

What governance models are being considered?

2. Hybrid Model

A potential scenario, just to give an idea –

- each marae appoints one (1) trustee (total of four (4) trustees).
- An additional three (3) trustees are elected through a general election open to all registered beneficiaries.
- This model balances marae representation with broader iwi participation, allowing for whānau who live outside the rohe to be involved.

3. General Election Model

- Trustees are elected entirely through a general election.
- Variations could include:
 - Ensuring a minimum representation from different marae.
 - Requiring some trustees to reside within the rohe.
 - Establishing reserved seats (e.g., for kaumātua representation).
- This model simplifies elections but could reduce direct marae representation.

Each model presents different strengths, risks, and implications, and we encourage whānau input to help shape the final recommendation.

How is the Chairperson appointed? Why do we have Co-Chairs?

- Currently, trustees appoint the Chairperson.
- Some feedback suggests exploring an iwi-appointed Chairperson process.
- TRoNT adopted a Co-Chair model post-COVID, ensuring leadership was always available for iwi or government engagements. Some organisations require a Chair (not a Vice-Chair or trustee) for representation.
- If iwi members wish to continue with Co-Chairs, this would need to be formally included in the Trust Deed.

The **Corporate Trustee** Model is also being considered as a shift to streamline structures and processes.

- A company is established to act as the trustee, with Directors.
- Strengthens financial and legal protections while keeping trustee elections unchanged.
- Already used by some iwi for streamlined governance and reduced individual liability.

What about trustee terms and succession planning?

To improve governance continuity, we are considering:

- **Term Limits** – e.g., a maximum of three terms of three years each.
- **Rotational Elections** – to prevent all trustees being replaced at once.
- **Co-opting Trustees** – allowing temporary appointments if numbers fall below a set threshold.

When will any changes take effect?

If approved, changes will be implemented in the next election cycle.

How will the final decisions be made?

- This is an iwi beneficiary-centred process, and no decision will be made without full consultation. The steps include:
 - Beneficiary engagement – through hui, online discussions, and direct feedback.
 - Refining options – based on iwi input.
 - Circulating the Draft - seeking your additional feedback.
 - Special General Meeting (SGM) – where iwi members will vote on the final Trust Deed.

How can I have my say?

We encourage all whānau to participate. You can:

- Attend hui – Dates will be advertised via our [website](#) and pānui.
- Submit feedback – Email feedback@ngaitakotoiwi.co.nz or use our online form.
- Follow updates – On our website and [Facebook page](#).

Where can I get more information?

Resources will be available at kanohi-ki-te-kanohi hui and online. If you have further pātai, contact feedback@ngaitakotoiwi.co.nz.

Final Note

This review is an important step for NgāiTakoto's future. We encourage all whānau to take part in shaping a governance model that honours our past, serves our present, and strengthens our future.

