

## HOSTED BY WHANGAROA PAPA HAPŪ

### Purpose

The purpose of the hui was to gather whakaaro on voting and participation as part of the draft mandate strategy for Whangaroa.

This summary seeks to capture the key themes, questions, and whakaaro raised during the hui. No decisions were made.

The hui considered four pātai and invited whanau to share their views on what a fair, accessible, transparent, and trusted voting process could look like.

Written feedback received from participants has been woven into this summary.

### ONLINE HUI

#### Voting & Participation

Tuesday 9 June, 2026

6:30PM-8:30PM

28 participants at peak

### PĀTAI 1: What would a fair process look like?

Participants discussed the need for clear and transparent rules so everyone understands the process before any vote takes place.

A fair process would clearly explain:

- What is being voted on and why
- Who is eligible to participate and how eligibility is determined
- Voting timeframes, key dates, and reminders
- What level of support is required for a decision to pass
- How concerns, disputes, or errors will be managed
- How results will be communicated

Kōrero suggested that participation begins well before any voting takes place, and that further groundwork may be needed to ensure whānau understand the mandate journey, where the process has come from, what the Crown requires, what choices exist, and why any future decision matters.

One reflection shared was: *If someone was asked to explain what this process is and why it matters, could they?*

## **PĀTAI 2: Who should participate?**

This pātai generated discussion around eligibility, whakapapa, hapū authority, registration, and individual participation.

Participants considered whether:

- Participation should be based on whakapapa to Whangaroa hapū
- Registration should be required and, if so, how it should operate
- Participation should be based on individual registration, hapū affiliation, or another approach
- How people connected to multiple hapū should participate
- Rangatahi should have a voice and what age eligibility should apply (noting the Crown's current eligibility age is 18 years)
- Rohe or claim boundaries should guide eligibility
- How contact details would be maintained and privacy protected

Some participants emphasised that hapū must retain authority over their own processes. Others highlighted the importance of ensuring uri living outside the rohe, including overseas, are able to participate.

Registration was suggested as a practical way to support trust, communication, and transparency. However, there was also caution that registration must not undermine hapū rangatiratanga or imply consent beyond what whānau understand and agree to.

## **PĀTAI 3: How do we make participation accessible?**

This pātai focused on practical ways to ensure whānau can participate regardless of location, technology access, or confidence in the process.

Suggestions included:

- Providing electronic and hard-copy information and forms
- Offering multiple participation options, including online, postal, phone, marae-based, and mobile methods
- Using bilingual communications and clear support pathways
- Creating opportunities for questions, discussion, and clarification
- Removing barriers for disabled people and those needing additional support
- Using both digital and non-digital channels, including social media, printed information, marae, community events, clinics, shops, and local networks
- Considering tools such as discussion boards, breakout sessions, and interactive online platforms

The process should not simply expect whānau to come to it; rather, the process should go to where whānau, hapū, and marae are already engaging.

## **PĀTAI 4: What would help people trust the result?**

This pātai explored what would be needed for people to have confidence in any process and trust in its outcome.

Trust would be supported by:

- A process that people understand and can genuinely participate in
- Clear registration wording and privacy protections
- Transparent vote counting and verification processes
- Independent oversight, facilitation, or scrutineers
- Public reporting throughout the process
- Consistent application of rules
- Open acknowledgement and management of concerns and complaints

There was concern that presenting only one resolution or option could create division. There was kōrero that differing views should be properly understood and reflected, rather than simply recorded as opposition.

*A further pātai : How do we create a process that hapū will stand behind, regardless of the result?*

## **Additional Matters Raised**

Some matters raised fell outside the immediate focus of Voting and Participation and were noted for follow-up including registration wording and whether it may imply consent to representation; whether more explanation is needed regarding the wider mandate journey; expressions of support or readiness to engage in the mandate process by some hapu; and whether the process is being shaped by Crown requirements or Whangaroa readiness.

## **Overall Reflections**

The kōrero pointed toward a process that is well explained, grounded in tikanga, accessible to whānau, respectful of hapū rangatiratanga, and transparent from beginning to end.

While views differed, there was a shared view that any process must be fair, trusted, and recognisable to Whangaroa, and that meaningful participation should begin well before any vote takes place.

The whakaaro gathered will help inform how voting and participation may sit within the draft mandate journey.

## **Next Steps**

- Continue providing information and explanations about the mandate journey and why a voting process may be required.
- Explore how hapū may wish to shape participation approaches.
- Continue communication and engagement across multiple platforms.