

HOSTED BY WHANGAROA PAPA HAPŪ

Purpose and Summary

The purpose of the hui was to gather whakaaro on representation and governance as part of the ongoing development of the Draft Mandate Strategy for Whangaroa.

This summary captures the key themes, questions, and whakaaro shared during the hui. No decisions were made. The hui provided an opportunity for whānau to explore what good representation and good governance could look like and to share their whakaaro on what would give ngā uri o Whangaroa confidence in those arrangements. The discussion formed part of the ongoing engagement process, with feedback helping to inform the continued development of the Draft Mandate Strategy.

Throughout the hui, discussion was guided by the following pātai:

- *What characteristics make someone a good representative?*
- *What is the fairest basis for representation?*
- *How do we ensure every hapū genuinely has a voice?*
- *What builds confidence in governance?*
- *Once representatives are chosen, how should they remain accountable?*

Key Themes

Representation should be hapū-led

A consistent theme throughout the hui was that representation should remain grounded in hapū. Participants expressed the view that each hapū should determine who represents them and how those representatives are selected.

There was recognition that every hapū has its own tikanga, leadership structures, and decision-making processes. For this reason, many felt that discussions about selecting representatives are best held within individual hapū rather than through a central process.

Questions were also raised about how representatives would be appointed and whether appointments should be formally endorsed by each hapū.

ONLINE HUI

Representation & Governance

Sunday 28 June, 2026

3:00-5:00PM

Peak attendance: 20 people

Governance Structure

The hui explored the proposed governance framework outlined in the Draft Mandate Strategy and Ngā Takenga Mai, including the relationship between Ngā Hapū o Whangaroa, Te Wakaminenga, and Taumata Hakahāere.

It was explained that the proposal provides for hapū-appointed representatives to form the governance and decision-making body, while Taumata Hakahāere would provide administrative and operational support to the mandated entity.

Participants discussed several aspects of the proposed arrangements, including representative terms, whether term limits should be flexible, whether hapū could appoint more than one representative while maintaining one vote per hapū, and how appointments to supporting groups might occur.

The proposed name Te Wakaminenga was also discussed, with suggestions that alternative names could be considered. Whānau were encouraged to continue submitting ideas together with the whakaaro behind them.

What makes a good representative?

Participants discussed the qualities they believe are important in those representing their hapū.

Common themes included representatives who:

- are trusted by their hapū
- understand the history and claims of Whangaroa
- communicate openly and regularly
- act with integrity
- have the time and commitment to fulfil the role
- remain accountable to those they represent

There was support for developing guidance describing the desired qualities of representatives, while recognising that each hapū should retain the right to choose who best represents them.

Building confidence in governance

Discussion highlighted that confidence in governance is built through transparency, accountability, and ongoing communication. Participants spoke about the importance of governance arrangements that are open, fair, and responsive to the hapū they serve.

There was strong support for representatives remaining connected to those they represent by reporting back regularly, communicating openly, and explaining the decisions made on behalf of their hapū. Participants noted that accountability is not simply about being appointed to a role, but about maintaining the trust and confidence of their hapū throughout the journey.

Discussion also highlighted the importance of clear governance processes, including transparent decision-making, clearly defined roles and responsibilities, and ensuring representatives continue to act in accordance with the expectations of those who appointed them.

Questions were also raised about Crown expectations for recognised representation and governance arrangements. Participants supported making this information more readily available to assist hapū discussions and informed decision-making.

Closing Summary

Representation and governance are fundamental to how Whangaroa chooses to move forward. While a range of perspectives were shared during the hui, participants consistently emphasised the importance of ensuring that representation remains grounded in hapū, that governance is transparent and accountable, and that whānau continue to have opportunities to participate throughout the mandate process.

This hui was one step in an ongoing conversation. The whakaaro shared will continue to help shape the Draft Mandate Strategy as engagement across Whangaroa continues.

Ngā mihi nui to everyone who contributed their time, whakaaro, and commitment to this kaupapa.