

Tairawhiti Community Commissioning

Community Engagement Overview and Summary

November 2025 – June 2026

Overview

Between November 2025 and June 2026, the Tairawhiti Community Commissioning (TCC) Working Group undertook a series of engagement hui and related engagement activities across Turanganui-a-Kiwa/Gisborne and Ngati Porou communities.

The engagement process provided information on the community commissioning opportunity and the establishment of the Tairawhiti Community Commissioning Working Group (the organisations that came together to collaborate and develop a community-led commissioning proposal for Tairawhiti), and shared the developing proposal and its progression towards a regional Expression of Interest (EOI) to the Social Investment Agency's (SIA) community commissioning pathway.

Engagement activities sought to gather feedback to inform and refine the EOI as it developed, and to seek in-principle support from community members, social service providers, iwi, hapu, sector groups and stakeholders.

Engagement Activity Summary

Engagement activities included public hui and engagement hui with whanau and community members, marae representatives, hapu and iwi representatives, local leaders, social service providers, health sector organisations, schools and tertiary education providers, church and faith-based organisations, philanthropic and funding organisations, the Pacific community, local government, and participants in the Manaaki Tairawhiti Evidence and Insights Forum.

Period	Round	Area	Engagement Activities	Attendance
Nov–Dec 2025	R1	Turanganui-a-Kiwa / Tairawhiti-wide	16 engagement activities, including public hui, the Manaaki Tairawhiti Evidence & Insights Forum, and engagement with health, education and tertiary sectors, social service providers and networks, rangatahi, churches/hahi, iwi, philanthropic organisations, the business sector and local government.	Approximately 200
Mar 2026	R1	Ngāti Porou Rohenga	4 rohenga engagement activities + written feedback	86
Mar–Apr 2026	R2	Turanganui-a-Kiwa/Gisborne	7 engagement activities, including two public hui (Gisborne District Council and Te Poho o Rawiri).	48
May–Jun 2026	R2	Ngati Porou Rohenga	4 rohenga engagement hui + written feedback	40
May–Jun 2026	R3	Turanganui-a-Kiwa/Gisborne	4 engagement hui + written feedback	43
		Total	35 engagement activities (plus written feedback received during relevant engagement rounds).	Approximately 417 participants

Attendance should not be interpreted as participation in, support for, or endorsement of the proposal unless specifically stated.

Key Themes Raised Across Engagement

While each round focused on different stages of the proposal's development, a number of common themes emerged throughout the engagement process:

- The importance of local decision-making and strengthening whanau and community voices.
- Broad support for a community-led commissioning approach and improving outcomes for whanau.
- Participation and support from iwi, hapu, marae, and community groups across Tairāwhiti, alongside questions regarding the participation of Te Runanganui o Ngāti Porou in the proposal process.
- Governance, trust, accountability and representation.
- Participation of iwi, hapu, marae, whanau and communities and providers in the proposed model.
- Shareholding, ownership and governance structures.
- The potential impacts on future commissioning, funding and service delivery arrangements.
- Access to services and improving coordination across the social sector.
- Whanau and community wellbeing priorities and aspirations.

Overall Observations

Overall, engagement reflected broad support for the Tairāwhiti Community Commissioning proposal and its focus on enabling greater local commissioning decision-making and improving outcomes for whanau.

Across all engagement rounds, participants consistently expressed a desire for whanau and communities to have a stronger role in shaping local priorities, identifying their own aspirations, and influencing decisions affecting their wellbeing.

While participants sought further information and expressed different views on governance and implementation arrangements, they consistently highlighted the importance of Tairāwhiti having a coordinated regional voice and a collective approach to shaping local priorities and decision-making.

Engagement Reports

The following reports provide a detailed summary of the engagement activities undertaken, feedback received, and key themes raised throughout the engagement process:

1. What We Heard Round 1 - Tūranganui-a-Kiwa / Gisborne Engagment
2. What We Heard Round 1 - Ngāti Porou East Coast Engagment
3. What We Heard Round 2 - Tūranganui-a-Kiwa / Gisborne Engagment

4. What We Heard Round 2 - Ngati Porou East Coast Engagment
5. What We Heard Round 3 - Turanganui-a-Kiwa / Gisborne Engagment