

Community commissioning engagement summary

Round 1 Ngati Porou East Coast Communities

Introduction

This report summarises feedback received through the Round 1 Tairāwhiti Community Commissioning (TCC) engagement hui undertaken with Ngati Porou East Coast (NPEC) communities during March 2026.

The NPEC engagement hui were facilitated by Willie Te Aho and Amohaere Houkamau, following engagement with the TRONPnui Chief Executive, where they advised that they would conduct engagement hui with Ngati Porou in response to invitations and expressions of interest in the TCC EOI proposal received from Ngati Porou and East Coast whānau, hapu, marae, providers and organisations.

At that time, engagement activity had primarily focused on the Turanganui-a-Kiwa area, while discussions continued regarding the participation of Te Runanganui o Ngati Porou (TRONPnui) in the proposal process.

This report reflects the views and perspectives shared by those who attended the engagement hui. Attendance at a hui did not imply support for, or endorsement of, the TCC proposal unless that support or endorsement was specifically offered.

In addition to feedback received during the hui, written feedback received during the engagement process, including email correspondence and letters of support, has been considered in preparing this report.

Purpose

Round 1 engagement introduced the TCC proposal to NPEC communities and sought feedback prior to the preparation and submission of the Expression of Interest (EOI) to the Social Investment Agency.

The purpose of the Round 1 engagement hui was to:

- Introduce the TCC proposal and the Social Investment Agency's Pathway Three community commissioning EOI process.
- Share the key themes and feedback received during Round 1 engagement in Turanganui-a-Kiwa.
- Provide an overview of the TCC Working Group, the development of the proposal, and the proposed direction for community commissioning in Tairāwhiti.
- Provide an opportunity for participants to ask questions, share their views and provide feedback on the proposal.

Who we have engaged with?

Round 1 engagement involved approximately 86 participants across four Ngati Porou rohenga engagement hui, including whanau, hapu representatives, marae representatives, community members, local leaders, and representatives from iwi and hapu organisations, health, housing, education, social service and community organisations.

Attendance at a hui should not be interpreted as participation in, support for, or endorsement of, the TCC proposal. Some attendees chose to attend primarily to receive information, ask questions, or better understand the proposal.

What methods of engagement have we employed?

Round 1 engagement was undertaken through a series of community hui held across the East Coast during March 2026.

Engagement hui were held in:

- Hiruharama Pa - 16 March 2026
- The Bank, Ruatoria - 17 March 2026
- Tolaga Bay Fire Station, Uawa / Tolaga Bay - 18 March 2026
- Te Waha o Rerekohu Area School, Te Araroa / Matakaoa - 19 March 2026

The engagement hui were held at the invitation of local whanau, hapu and community leaders, with some hui organised through the whakapapa and relational connections of members of the TCC Working Group.

What information was presented during Round 1?

Participants were provided with information on the Tairāwhiti Community Commissioning (TCC) proposal and the Social Investment Agency's community commissioning initiative.

Presentations and discussions focused on:

- Community commissioning, including what it is and how it operates.
- The Social Investment Agency, its purpose and function, and the community commissioning process and timeframes.
- The potential benefits and opportunities community commissioning could provide for Tairāwhiti.
- Local decision-making and the opportunity for communities to have greater influence over funding and social service priorities.
- The development of the Tairāwhiti Community Commissioning proposal, including the work undertaken by the TCC Working Group.
- The proposed governance and shareholding arrangements.
- Opportunities for Ngati Porou whanau, hapu, marae, provider organisations and communities to participate in and influence the proposal. What are the key

questions and themes raised by our community? Ngāti Porou Representation and Participation

Ngati Porou Representation and Participation

Participants sought clarification regarding the participation of Te Runanganui o Ngati Porou (TRONPnui) in the TCC proposal and the implications if it chose not to participate.

Discussion focused on the role of TRONPnui as the mandated iwi organisation, how Ngati Porou interests would be represented, and how whanau, hapu, marae and provider organisations could participate in the proposal without the formal involvement of the TRONPnui

Questions were also raised about Ngati Porou representation within the proposed shareholding and governance arrangements. People were concerned about whether there would be an appropriate mix of representatives, and whether the commissioning entity could be considered local if it was based in Turanga but not NPEC.

Governance and Shareholding Arrangements

Participants sought further information on how the proposed community commissioning entity would be established and governed.

Discussion focused on the proposed charitable company structure, Board composition, shareholder categories, decision-making responsibilities, and how funding would be managed and allocated.

Participants also sought clarification regarding the independence of the proposed entity, government oversight, and the role of shareholders in appointing directors and influencing governance arrangements.

Understanding Manaaki Tairawhiti

Participants sought further information about Manaaki Tairawhiti, including its role, membership and work within Ngati Porou communities. Questions focused on who Manaaki Tairawhiti was, what it did, and how it had worked with Ngati Porou communities.

Community Priorities and Local Decision-Making

Participants discussed the opportunity for greater local decision-making and increased community influence over social service funding and priorities.

Discussion included the use of village and community wellbeing plans to identify local priorities, aspirations and service needs, and to help inform future planning and commissioning decisions.

Participants also highlighted the importance of improving wellbeing outcomes through better coordination of services and increasing investment in Tairawhiti communities. Participants supported the EOI expressing a collective aspiration for the TCC entity to

have decision-making authority over the estimated \$1.2–\$1.5 billion invested annually in social, health, education, housing and employment services across Tairāwhiti.

Initial Responses to the Proposal

Participants expressed a range of initial views regarding the Tairāwhiti Community Commissioning proposal.

The majority of participants were positive about the proposal and its focus on greater local decision-making and improving outcomes for whānau. Participants also sought further information regarding governance, representation and the participation of TRONPnui before forming a view.

Facilitators provided full and frank responses to questions and requests for clarification throughout the engagement hui. This was generally well received and contributed to positive responses and an improved outlook on the TCC proposal across the hui.

Overall, the engagement reflected strong interest in the proposal and a desire for ongoing information sharing and engagement as the proposal continued to develop.

Appendix – Engagement Summary Table

Date	Engagement Activity	Attendees
16 March 2026	Hiruharama Pa	17
17 March 2026	Ruatoria	21
18 March 2026	Uawa / Tolaga Bay + written feedback received following the hui	17
19 March 2026	Te Araroa / Matakaoa	31
	Total	86