

Community commissioning engagement summary

Round 2 Ngati Porou East Coast Communities

Introduction

This report summarises feedback received through the Round 2 Tairāwhiti Community Commissioning (TCC) engagement hui undertaken with Ngati Porou East Coast (NPEC) communities during May and June 2026.

The NPEC engagement hui were facilitated by Willie Te Aho, Amohaere Houkamau and Moera Brown.

Hui were advertised through marae and hapu Facebook pages, TCC Working Group and partner organisation websites and Facebook pages, and the local iwi radio station. Amohaere Houkamau was also interviewed on Radio Ngati Porou's *Nga Take o Te Wa* programme about community commissioning, the TCC EOI proposal and process, and the NPEC engagement hui, including dates, times and venues. Promotional flyers were provided to marae, community organisations and providers to promote the hui and provide information on the hui agenda.

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, including email correspondence, letters of support and requests for shareholding, was also received during the engagement process and has been considered in preparing this report.

Purpose

Round 2 engagement followed the initial engagement hui with NPEC communities and provided a further opportunity to update participants and seek feedback on the developing TCC proposal.

The purpose of the Round 2 engagement hui was to:

- Report back on feedback received during Round 1 engagement and explain how it had informed the development of the proposal.
- Present the draft TCC EOI and seek feedback prior to submission to the Social Investment Agency.
- Provide an update on the development of the proposal and the Social Investment Agency community commissioning process, including indicative timeframes and next steps.
- Present the proposed governance and shareholding arrangements, including the role of shareholders and the proposed Board of Directors.

- Provide an opportunity for participants to ask questions, share their views and provide feedback on the proposal.

Who we have engaged with?

Round 2 engagement involved approximately 40 participants across four Ngati Porou rohenga, including whanau, hapu and marae representatives, community members, local leaders, and representatives from health, education and social service 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, observe discussions, or better understand the proposal.

What methods of engagement have we employed?

Round 2 engagement was undertaken through a series of hui held across the East Coast between Wharekahika (Hicks Bay) and Uawa.

Engagement hui were held in:

1. Te Puna Ora a Ruataupare, Onepoto Beach Wharekahika – 25 May 2026
2. Tolaga Bay Fire Station, Uawa – 26 May 2026
3. Kariaka Pa, Ruatoria – 27 May 2026
4. Hinemaurea ki Wharekahika Pa, Wharekahika (follow-up hui) – 1 June 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.

Due to tangihanga occurring at the time of the initial Matakaoa engagement hui, a written request was subsequently received from local hapu representatives seeking an additional hui for the Matakaoa community. The request was to hold a further hui in Wharekahika to enable those who were unable to attend the original session to receive information and provide feedback.

The NPEC community engagement facilitators agreed to the request, with the date, time and venue set by the Wharekahika Maori Committee. The hui was held at Hinemaurea Marae, Wharekahika on 1 June 2026.

What information was presented during Round 2?

Participants were provided with information to support their understanding of community commissioning, the TCC Expression of Interest (EOI), and the proposal being developed for Tairāwhiti, along with an update on progress since the first round of engagement.

Presentations and discussions focused on:

- The draft TCC Expression of Interest (EOI) and progress towards submission to the Social Investment Agency.
- Feedback and key themes received through Round 1 engagement and how this had informed the development of the proposal.
- Updates on the SIA community commissioning process, including indicative timeframes and next steps.
- The proposed charitable company structure and governance arrangements.
- Proposed shareholding arrangements and the proposed Board structure.
- The distinction between shareholding and commissioning decisions.
- The proposed approach to local decision-making, community voice and accountability.
- Indicative next steps should the proposal be successful.

What are the key questions and themes raised by our community?

Ngāti Porou Representation and Participation

Participants continued to raise questions regarding the participation of TRONPnui in the TCC proposal and the implications of its decision not to participate in the proposal process.

Discussion focused on whether Ngati Porou whanau, hapu, marae, communities and organisations could continue to engage with, support or participate in the proposal independently of TRONPnui, and whether the proposal could proceed without the formal involvement of the Ngati Porou iwi authority.

Participants also sought clarification regarding public statements made by TRONPnui about any potential impact on the Ngati Porou Treaty Settlement, and whether the proposed entity could be interpreted by the Crown as a Treaty partner or as representing Ngati Porou interests.

Some participants expressed a desire to hear and understand both perspectives before forming a view and discussed the importance of ensuring communities had access to information about the proposal to enable informed decision-making. Participants also reflected that while TRONPnui had expressed concerns regarding the TCC EOI proposal, an alternative had not been offered to Ngati Porou, nor had Ngati Porou whanau, hapu and marae been consulted on the matter.

Governance and Shareholding Arrangements

Participants sought further information on the proposed governance and shareholding arrangements, including the role of shareholders, the proposed Board structure, director appointment and election processes, and measures to ensure Board independence and accountability.

Questions focused on shareholder eligibility, how the shareholding model would operate in practice, and the distinction between shareholding and commissioning

decisions, including assurances that shareholding would not influence future funding decisions or provide preferential access to commissioning opportunities.

Discussion also explored conflicts of interest, potential Memoranda of Understanding with government agencies, and the measures proposed to ensure transparency, accountability and community confidence in the governance of the proposed entity.

Understanding Manaaki Tairāwhiti

Participants continued to seek information about Manaaki Tairāwhiti, particularly its role, membership and work within Ngāti Porou communities.

Community Participation and Influence

Participants emphasised the importance of ensuring Ngāti Porou East Coast whānau, hapu, marae and communities had a strong voice in future decision-making and that local priorities were reflected in commissioning decisions.

Discussion focused on village and community wellbeing plans as a way for whānau and communities to identify their priorities, aspirations and service needs, helping to inform future investment and commissioning decisions.

Participants highlighted the importance of ensuring rural and geographically isolated communities were not overlooked, and that resources, services and service delivery models reflected the needs of communities across the East Coast.

Community Wellbeing Priorities and Service Gaps

Participants identified a range of priorities and service gaps affecting East Coast communities, including access to health services, housing, education, employment, and broader whānau wellbeing.

Discussion also highlighted the challenges of accessing services in rural communities and the importance of ensuring local priorities were reflected in future planning and commissioning decisions.

Support for the Proposal

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

Facilitators provided full and frank responses to questions and requests for clarification throughout the engagement hui. This was generally well received and helped participants gain a clearer understanding of the proposal and the issues raised.

The majority of participants were positive about the proposed direction and the opportunity to strengthen local decision-making and community influence over investment and service priorities. Others continued to seek clarification regarding governance, representation and the participation of TRONPnui before forming a view.

Overall, the engagement reflected continued interest in the proposal and a desire for ongoing information sharing. Participants also emphasised the importance of communities having sufficient information to make informed decisions about their participation.

Appendix – Engagement Summary Table

Date	Location	Attendees
25 May 2026	Matakaoa / Wharekahika	5
26 May 2026	Uawa / Tolaga Bay + written feedback received following the hui	6
27 May 2026	Ruatoria	9
1 June 2026	Wharekahika - Hinemaurea Marae (follow-up hui)	20
	Total	40