

Community commissioning engagement summary

Round 2 Turanganui a Kiwa / Gisborne

Introduction

This report summarises feedback received through the Round 2 Tairāwhiti Community Commissioning (TCC) engagement hui undertaken within Turanganui-a-Kiwa/Gisborne during March and April 2026.

Round 2 engagement provided an update on the development of the TCC proposal following Round 1 engagement and sought further feedback from community members, providers and sector representatives.

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.

Purpose

Round 2 engagement followed the initial community engagement undertaken in late 2025 and focused on reporting back on feedback received during Round 1, providing an update on the development of the TCC proposal, and seeking further feedback prior to the submission of the Expression of Interest (EOI) to the Social Investment Agency.

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 TCC EOI Summary and provide an update on progress towards submission of the Expression of Interest (EOI).
- Present the proposed governance, shareholding and community-owned charitable company model.
- 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 48 participants across seven engagement activities, including community members, social service providers, health sector representatives, education and tertiary education providers, and representatives of iwi 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 2 engagement was undertaken through a series of targeted engagement hui with community members, social service providers and sector representatives across Turanganui-a-Kiwa during March and April 2026.

Engagement activities included:

1. Public community hui – Te Poho o Rawiri (23 March 2026)
2. Whiti Ora Governance Board (24 March 2026)
3. Health sector engagement hui (25 March 2026)
4. Tairāwhiti Community Voice (TCV) and Violence Free Tairāwhiti Network (VFTN) provider hui (9 April 2026)
5. Tertiary sector engagement hui (16 April 2026)
6. Education sector engagement hui (23 April 2026)

The engagement activities provided an opportunity to present updates on the proposal, discuss the proposed governance and shareholding arrangements, and seek further feedback to inform the development of the Expression of Interest (EOI).

What information was presented during Round 2?

Participants were provided with an update on the development of the TCC proposal and the progress made since Round 1 engagement.

Presentations and discussions focused on:

- The TCC EOI Summary and progress towards submission of the Expression of Interest (EOI) to the Social Investment Agency.
- Feedback received during Round 1 engagement and how it had informed the development of the proposal.
- The proposed community-owned charitable company structure.
- The proposed shareholding and governance arrangements.
- The distinction between shareholding and commissioning decisions.
- The proposed approach to local decision-making through community commissioning.
- Indicative timeframes, next steps and opportunities for further feedback prior to submission of the EOI.

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

Governance and Shareholding

Participants sought further information on the proposed governance and shareholding arrangements.

Discussion focused on the proposed Board structure, shareholder representation, voting arrangements, Board independence, conflicts of interest, and accountability to communities. Participants also sought assurance that the proposed model would provide fair representation and not concentrate decision-making power within a small number of organisations.

Questions were also raised about how smaller organisations would be represented, the role of non-shareholders, and how governance arrangements would support transparency and community confidence.

Impact on Existing Providers and Services

Participants sought clarification about what community commissioning could mean for existing providers, funding arrangements and service delivery.

Discussion focused on how commissioning decisions would be made, the opportunities available to both large and small providers, and how the proposed model would ensure smaller organisations were not disadvantaged or overshadowed by larger providers.

Facilitators clarified that commissioning decisions would ultimately be based on prioritised whanau and community service needs and the ability of providers to meet those needs, including accessibility, quality of service provision and culturally appropriate delivery models.

Participants also discussed opportunities for greater collaboration between organisations to reduce duplication, improve coordination, and make better use of resources across Tairāwhiti.

Education and Whanau Wellbeing

Education emerged as a recurring topic during Round 2 engagement, particularly in relation to student attendance. Education sector representatives identified a range of interconnected factors influencing attendance, including family circumstances, financial pressures, adverse weather events, transport challenges, device use, contradictory education policies, i.e., proposed bus policy which would result in reduced access to transport for students, and competing demands on whanau.

Participants noted that attendance issues could not be viewed in isolation and reflected broader social and economic challenges affecting whanau and communities. Discussion highlighted the importance of taking a whole-of-whanau approach to supporting tamariki and improving education outcomes

Feedback on the Proposal

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

The majority of participants were positive about the proposed direction of the TCC proposal and the opportunity for Tairāwhiti to have a greater role in shaping local priorities and decision-making. Participants also sought further clarification on aspects

of the proposed governance, shareholding and commissioning model, particularly how these arrangements would operate in practice.

Overall, participants welcomed the opportunity to provide feedback and contribute to the ongoing development of the proposal prior to submission of the Expression of Interest (EOI).

Appendix – Round 2 Engagement Activity

Date	Engagement Activity	Attendance
23 March 2026	Public hui – Te Poho o Rawiri	3
24 March 2026	Public hui – Gisborne District Council offices	0
24 March 2026	Whiti Ora Governance Board	10
25 March 2026	Health sector engagement	5
9 April 2026	Tairāwhiti Community Voice (TCV) and Violence Free Tairāwhiti Network (VFTN)	21
16 April 2026	Tertiary sector engagement	4
23 April 2026	Education sector engagement	5
	Total	48

Note: The public hui at the Gisborne District Council offices proceeded as scheduled; however, no attendees were recorded.