



2023 CANDIDATE INFORMATION HANDBOOK

TARANAKI ELECTRICITY TRUST
ELECTION OF TRUSTEES





Disclaimer: Every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in this booklet is accurate and consistent with the Taranaki Electricity Trust Deed of Trust as at 11 May 2005. Taranaki Electricity Trust takes no responsibility for any errors or omissions. It is recommended that candidates obtain a full copy of the Deed which is available online at www.taranakielelectricitytrust.co.nz/elections or on request from Taranaki Electricity Trust.

March 2023

Contents

Overview	2
About the Trust	3
Standing for election	4
Nominations	5
Voting	7
Campaigning	8
Council Policy on election signs	10
Map	13
Electoral donations and expenses	14
Return of electoral donations and expenses form	

Overview

This handbook provides information which may be of interest to you as a candidate in the 2023 Taranaki Electricity Trust election of trustees.

The Taranaki Electricity Trust area extends to past Uruti in North Taranaki, includes Waitara, Inglewood, Stratford, Eltham and extends as far south as Te Roti. South of the mountain, the west boundary is Awatuna and the eastern boundary extends well inland past Whangamomona (refer map on page 13).

Six trustees are elected to the Trust by electors in the above district:

- three from Ward A; and
- three from Ward B.

An election is held every three years for the six trustee positions, by postal voting.

The election will be conducted under the provisions of the Taranaki Electricity Trust Deed of Trust. Where electoral procedures are silent in the Deed, the procedures contained in the Local Electoral Act 2001 are followed.

Key dates for a candidate

Nominations open	Friday 24 March 2023
Nominations close	noon, Friday 21 April 2023
Delivery of voting packs	from Friday 12 May 2023
Removal of election signs	by midnight, Thursday 15 June 2023
Close of voting	12 noon, Friday 16 June 2023
Vote count commences	from 12 noon, Friday 16 June 2023
Public notice of election results	from Wednesday 21 June 2023
Return of electoral donations & expenses form	by Wednesday 16 August 2023

Contact us

Electoral officer:



Dale Ofoske, Independent Election Services Ltd
Level 2, 198 Federal Street, Auckland 1010
PO Box 5135, Victoria Street West, Auckland 1142
Phone - 0800 922 822
Email - info@electionservices.co.nz
Website - www.electionservices.co.nz

About the Trust



Background

The Taranaki Electricity Trust (TET) is a charitable trust formed in 1993 when New Plymouth Energy merged with the Taranaki Electricity Power Board. It receives investment income which is distributed via grants to suitable applicants from the area previously supplied by the Taranaki Electric Power Board.

Policy of the Trust

Income

The policy of the Trust is to distribute all of its budgeted available net income to suitable applicants by way of discretionary grants. By distributing funds to as wide a range of applicants as possible, it is hoped that the income will be returned to the community which originally built the power company.

Capital

The Trust's policy is not to distribute capital but could in exceptional circumstances in accordance with the Deed of Trust.

Documents

The following documents are available from the Trust's website (www.taranakielelectricitytrust.co.nz):

- (i) Deed of Trust (2005)
- (ii) Annual Plan and Policy on Income Distribution 2023.

Election of Trustees

Six trustees are elected triennially, three from Ward A and three from Ward B. A trustee can only be nominated for the ward in which they are an elector by electors of that ward.

However, if one ward has more than three nominations to fill the vacancies, but the other ward has insufficient nominations, then the three top polling candidates will be duly elected for their ward. The next highest polling candidate(s) will fill the vacancy(ies) in the other ward.

Standing for election

Candidate qualifications

A candidate for the Taranaki Electricity Trust **must** be:

- enrolled as a Parliamentary elector and resident within the respective ward of the Taranaki Electricity Trust district; and
- nominated by two Parliamentary electors of the respective ward of the Taranaki Electricity Trust district.

Candidate restrictions

Under Rule 2.8 of the Schedule of the Deed of Trust, a candidate for the Taranaki Electricity Trust **cannot** be:

- a bankrupt who has not obtained a final order of discharge or whose order of discharge has been suspended for a term not yet expired, or is subject to a condition not yet fulfilled; or
- a person who has been convicted of any offence punishable by a term of imprisonment of 2 or more years; or
- a person who has been convicted of any offence punishable by imprisonment for a term of not less than two years and has been sentenced to imprisonment for that offence; or
- a person to whom an order made under section 383 of the Companies Act 1993 applies; or
- a person who has a mental disorder within the meaning of the Mental Health (Compulsory Assessment and Treatment) Act 1992, or its subsequent amendment Acts; or
- a person who is not an elector for the purposes of the Electoral Act 1993; or a person who is not an Elector provided however it is agreed that the provisions of paragraph (g) did not and do not apply to the signatories to the original Deed during their first term of office or to the signatories of

the original Deed who were re-elected at the 1993 election during the first term of such re-election.

To check if you're eligible:

Copies of the electoral roll will be available for public inspection, from Friday 24 March 2023 at:

- Taranaki Electricity Trust office
84 Rata Street
Inglewood
(Wednesdays and Fridays, 9.30am to 12:30pm)
- New Plymouth District Council
Civic Centre
84 Liardet Street
New Plymouth
- Waitara Library and Service Centre
15 Queen Street
Waitara
- Inglewood Library
46 Rata Street
Inglewood
- Urenui Library
15 Takiroa Street
Urenui
- Stratford District Council
Administration Building
63 Miranda Street
Stratford
- Eltham LibraryPlus
102 King Edward Street
Eltham
- Kaponga LibraryPlus
42 Victoria Street
Kaponga

Alternatively, you can phone the electoral office on 0800 922 822 for assistance.

Nominations

Elections required

Elections will be held for six (6) trustees to the Taranaki Electricity Trust, being:

- three (3) trustees elected from Ward A; and
- three (3) trustees elected from Ward B.

Nominations will open on Friday 24 March 2023 and close at 12 noon on Friday 21 April 2023.

A public notice calling for nominations will appear in the:

- Taranaki Daily News on Wednesday 22 March 2023 and Wednesday 29 March 2023.
- South Taranaki Star on Thursday 23 March 2023.
- North Taranaki Midweek on Wednesday 5 April 2023.
- Stratford Press on Wednesday 5 April 2023.

Each nomination must be made on the appropriate official nomination paper, which is available from Friday 24 March 2023:

- online at www.taranakielelectricitytrust.co.nz;
- by emailing info@electionservices.co.nz;
- by phoning the electoral office on 0800 922 822.

Completion of nomination paper

The candidate must complete and sign the front page of the nomination paper to indicate their consent to stand as a candidate for the Taranaki Electricity Trust election.

Each nomination paper must be completed and signed by two nominators, who meet the eligibility criteria.

A candidate may not nominate themselves for office.

Each nomination paper must be accompanied by the required deposit of \$200 (inclusive of GST). This is refunded if the candidate polls greater than 25% of the lowest successful candidate.

If a candidate is commonly known in the community by a slightly different name (eg Edward Smith is commonly known as Ted Smith) and has been known by this name for at least the last six months (to the satisfaction of the electoral officer), the commonly known name may appear on the voting document. Candidates are not permitted to use official titles or ranks etc as part of their name on the voting document.

The use of degrees or qualifications is also not permitted on the voting document after a candidate's name.

The use of titles or ranks, and qualifications may be included as part of the 150 word candidate profile statement.

Candidates may provide the electoral officer with a candidate profile statement with their nomination. This statement must not exceed 150 words and should contain information about the candidate, their qualifications and skills applicable to the position for which they are standing and their policies/intentions if elected to office. The candidate profile statement must be true and accurate and the electoral officer is not required to verify or investigate any information included in this statement.

Candidates may also provide a passport sized, colour photo with their nomination paper.

The candidate profile statement and colour photo will be included with the voting document sent to each elector.

Return of nomination paper

Nomination papers must be in the hands of the electoral officer or an electoral official not later than 12 noon on Friday 21 April 2023.

Completed nomination papers can be emailed to:

- nominations@electionservices.co.nz (provided nomination deposit is paid by bank transfer and evidence of this is included with other nomination materials)

or posted to:

- Independent Election Services Ltd
PO Box 5135
Victoria Street West
Auckland 1142

All nomination materials (nomination paper, candidate profile statement, photo and nomination deposit) should be lodged together.

A receipt will be issued to acknowledge that a nomination has been received. This receipt does not constitute acknowledgement that the nomination paper is in order.

Once lodged, nomination papers are checked to ensure the candidate and nominators are eligible and that all sections of the nomination paper have been completed correctly.

The lodgement of nomination materials should not be left to the last minute. Should a nomination paper be lodged late on the morning nominations close, and be incorrectly completed or ineligible nominators are provided, there may be insufficient time to correct the situation and the nomination paper could be invalidated.

After the close of nominations

Once nominations have closed, a list of all candidates will be provided to the Taranaki Electricity Trust and media.

A public notice advising of the candidate names will be published in the Taranaki Daily News and Stratford Press from Wednesday 26 April 2023.



Key message

The voting period is Friday 12 May to noon Friday 16 June 2023. Voting packs are posted to electors from Friday 12 May 2023, with special votes available to those who have not received an ordinary vote during the voting period.

Voting period

Those eligible to vote in the Taranaki Electricity Trust elections are all residents on the parliamentary roll within the Trust district.

The election is being conducted by postal vote.

Voting documents are posted to all electors whose names appear on the final electoral roll, with delivery commencing Friday 12 May 2023.

Each elector, after receiving their voting document, can complete it, seal it in the return postage-paid envelope, and post.

A ballot box will be available at Taranaki Electricity Trust office, 84 Rata Street, Inglewood, Taranaki from 9:30am to 12:30pm on Wednesdays and Fridays during the voting period.

When posting voting documents back, it is recommended that these be posted by 5pm, Monday 12 June 2023.

To be counted, all completed voting documents must be in the hands of the electoral officer by 12 noon on Friday 16 June 2023. The preliminary result will be known early afternoon.

Voting documents cannot be collected by candidates or their assistants.

Special voting

Special votes are available to electors:

- who do not receive a voting document previously posted to them; or
- who have spoilt or damaged a voting document previously sent to them.

Special voting documents are available from Friday 12 May 2023 to 12 noon Friday 16 June 2023:

- by phoning the Electoral Office on 0800 922 822, for one to be posted out; or
- from the Taranaki Electricity Trust office
84 Rata Street
Inglewood
Wednesdays and Fridays, 9.30am to 12.30pm

Special votes cannot be collected by candidates or their assistants for distribution to electors.

Key message

Election campaigning can commence anytime and may continue up to and including election day. However there are certain constraints candidates need to be aware of.

The locations and periods of display of election signs depend on the territorial authority you are campaigning in.

All signs must be erected in a stable fashion, not being a hazard to public or traffic safety. Council policies on election signs are detailed on page 10-12 of this handbook.

Campaigning

Election material cannot contain:

- any untrue statement defamatory of any candidate (e.g. under the Defamation Act 1992);
- an imitation voting document which has the names of the candidates with any direction or indication as to the candidate a person should vote for, or in any way contains such direction or indication likely to influence the voter.

Voting documents should not be collected from electors by candidates or their assistants. Each elector should post or deliver their own voting document to the electoral officer. This also applies to rest homes and hospitals - voting documents should not be collected from elderly or infirm electors by candidates or their assistants.

Social media

Social media can be a useful tool for candidates for campaigning purposes and electioneering. The Trust's social media channels are Trust resources and must remain politically neutral at all times. The Trust can promote elections and the importance of voting but will not associate these posts with any candidates.

The Trust's social media accounts will not follow any candidates. This may result in your account being unfollowed.

The Trust's social media accounts are not permitted to be used as a communications channel by anyone (candidates or members of the public) for promotion, electioneering or campaigning.

Candidates should not post on the Trust's social media channels, nor should they comment on, share or otherwise use the Trust's social media channels for electioneering. You may not rate, review, check-in or tag the the Trust's social media channels in your own posts or comments.

Election Advertising:

Election advertising, using any media, must show an authorisation statement. This statement must include:

- the true name of the person under whose authority they have been produced;

and one or more of the following:

- a residential or business address;
- an email address
- a PO (post office) box number
- a phone number
- a link to a page on an internet site, if the page contains one or more of the contact details specified above. [Section 113, Local Electoral Act].

This includes election advertising on signs, in newspapers, on flyers and posters, on a vehicle and on election websites.

Relevant criteria as contained in the Local Electoral Act 2001 are:

113 Advertisements for candidates

- (1) No person may publish or cause to be published in any newspaper, periodical, notice, poster, pamphlet, handbill, billboard, or card, or broadcast or permit to be broadcast over any radio or television station, any advertisement that is used or appears to be used to promote or procure the election of a candidate at an election, unless subsection (2) or subsection (4) applies.
- (2) A person may publish or cause or permit to be published an advertisement of the kind described in subsection (1) if -
 - a. the publication of that advertisement is authorised in writing by the candidate or the candidate's agent or, in the case of an advertisement relating to more than 1 candidate, the candidates or an agent acting for all of those candidates; and
 - b. the advertisement contains a statement setting out the true name and contact details of the person or persons for whom or at whose direction it is published.
- (3) A candidate is not responsible for an act committed by an agent without the consent or connivance of the candidate.
- (4) A person may publish or cause to be published an advertisement of the kind described in subsection (1) if -
 - a. the publication of the advertisement is endorsed by an organisation or body representing residents or ratepayers in the community or district in which the advertisement is published; and
 - b. the advertisement contains a statement setting out -
 - i. the true name and contact details of the person or persons for whom or at whose direction it is published; and
 - ii. the true name of the organisation or body that has endorsed the publication of the advertisement and the address of the place of business of that organisation or body.
- (5) This section does not restrict the publication of any news or comments relating to an election in a newspaper or other periodical, or on the Internet, or in any other medium of electronic communication accessible by the public, or in a radio or television broadcast made by a broadcaster within the meaning of section 2 of the Broadcasting Act 1989.
- (6) A person who willfully contravenes subsection (1) commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$1,000.

Council policy on election signs

New Plymouth District Council area



Te Kaunihera-ā-Rohe o Ngāmotu

**New Plymouth
District Council**

Council has a policy around election signs and candidates should familiarise themselves with this. Election signs are permitted 12 months before election day on private property only and must be removed seven days after the election (by Saturday 24 June 2023).

Election signs

There are some limitations on the erection and placement of election signage.

No election signage is permitted in or above public areas. This includes reserves, roads, footpaths, berms and state highways. Election signage cannot be fixed to utility poles or other structures on public land, including vehicles and trailers.

Infringement fines may apply for non-compliance.

The following requirements are set out in the District Plan:

Duration of display

(Note: different rules apply for Parliamentary General Elections.)

Maximum of 12 months display. Must be removed within seven days of the election date (by Saturday 24 June 2023).

Lettering size on signs

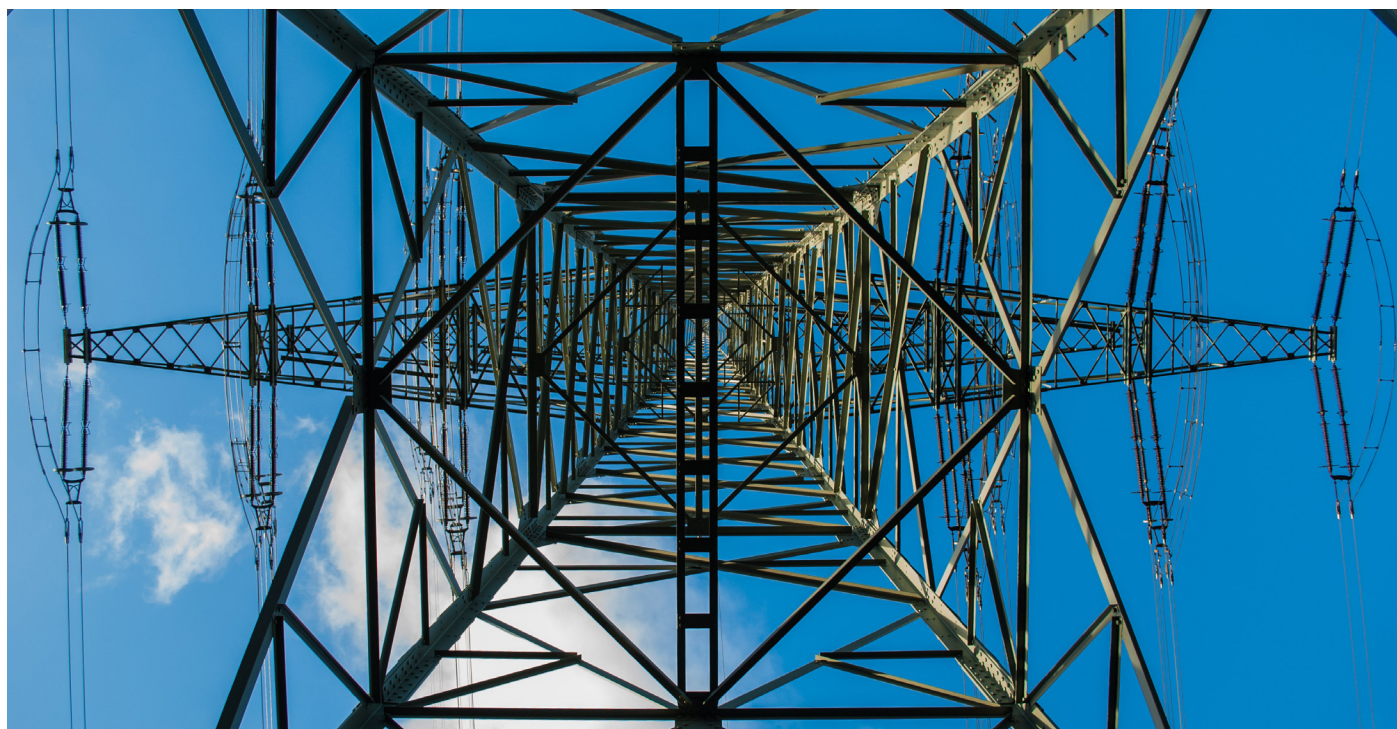
In areas where speed limits are:

- less than 70kph: 120mm or greater;
- 70kph or greater: 160mm or greater.

Proximity of signs

In areas where speed limits are:

- less than 70kph: no rules apply;
- 70kph or greater: must be placed at least 0.6m X the posted speed limit away from each other;
- must not restrict views for at least 180 metres.



Lighting/moving parts

There are limitations on flashing, blinking and moving lights and mechanical movement of any part of the sign. Signs shall not be internally or externally illuminated by means of flashing, blinking or moving lights.

Building consent

Usually required if the sign structure exceeds:

- 3 metres (in height); or 6m² (in area).

Mounted signs on vehicles including trailers

You cannot mount signs on vehicles (including trailers) and then leave them parked up on roads or public places unless the vehicle is being used primarily for transport purposes.

What election signs must contain

A statement of the person(s) who have approved the sign providing contact details.

The statement(s) must comply with the lettering sizes stated on the previous page.

What election signs can't contain

You cannot copy the form, colours, shape or messages of any official signs.

Other matters

Other district plan rules may apply. Please contact the council if you have queries not covered by the matters above.

Stratford District Council area:



Council has a policy around election signs and candidates should familiarise themselves with this. Election signs are permitted three months before election day (from 15 March 2023) but must be removed by midnight 15 June 2023.

Election signs

Control of Advertising Signs Bylaw 2020

Size:

- The maximum permitted size of an election sign on private property is:
 - residential Zone: 1m² per site
 - rural/residential zone: 2m² per site
 - rural zone: 3m² per site
 - business zone: 4m² per site
 - protected area zone: (Stratford Urban area only): 4m² per site.
 - commercial zone 4m² per site.

Placement:

1. Signs advertising a candidate standing for election are treated as temporary signs and cannot be a danger to the public or obstructing traffic, driver view etc.
2. Signs must only be located on private property with landowner permission.
3. Signs are not permitted on council roads, state highways, heritage sites, council reserves or any other council property.
4. Signs must not obstruct driver visibility along the road, at intersections or driveways, or at a railway crossing.
5. Signs must not be placed within 15 metres of a traffic safety or directional sign.
6. Signs located next to a state highway must have a minimum lettering height 120mm where the speed limit is less than 70km/h, and 160mm where the speed limit is 70km/h or greater.

7. Signs must not be rotating, flashing, reflective, illuminated or poorly maintained.

For further information relating to council's Control of Advertising Signs Bylaw 2020 refer to

<https://www.stratford.govt.nz>

South Taranaki District Council area:



Council has a policy around election signs and candidates should familiarise themselves with this. Election signs are permitted two months before election day (from 16 April 2023) but must be removed by midnight 15 June 2023.

Timing and size

The Electoral Act 1993 allows for election signs up to three square metres in size to be put up in the two months before election day.

This provision overrides any more restrictive local authority rules about size and timing of the display of signs.

Any local authority rules about things like application procedures and the location and density of signs still apply.

It is an offence under the Electoral Act to display election signs on election day. There is no other restriction in the Act on when electoral signs may be displayed.

Public places bylaw

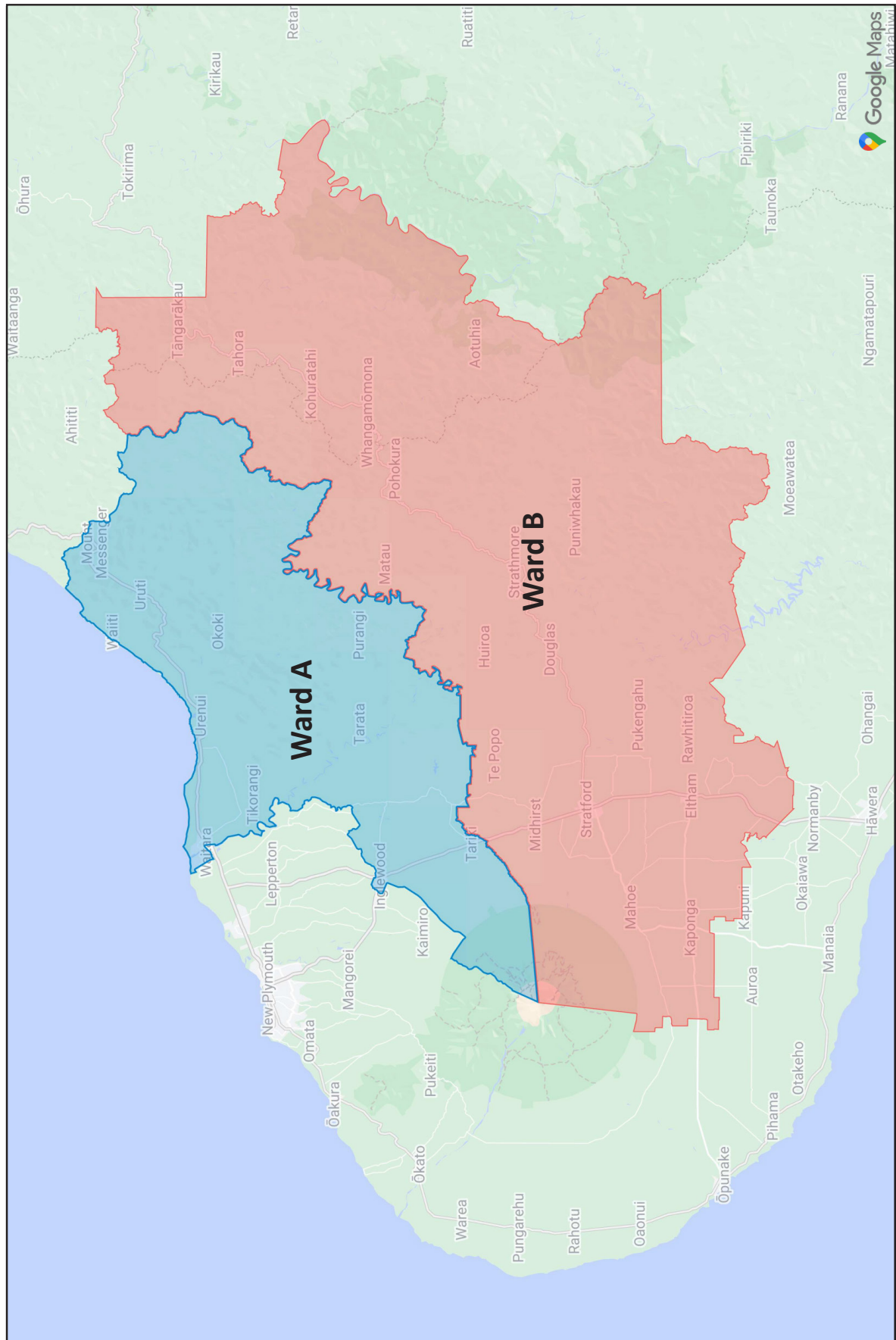
23.4 Election signs

- 23.4.1 No person may display an election sign on any land, including public places, without the written consent of the owner or occupier of that land.

23.5 Breaches of this section

- 23.5.1 Council reserves the right to remove any sign or flag located in a public place which is in breach of this bylaw, without notice to the owner of that sign or flag.
- 23.5.2 All costs involved in the removal, storage and return of property will be at the expense of the sign or flag owner.

It is recommended that any candidate wishing to place election signs on council land contact the council directly on 0800 111 323 or 06 278 0555 to discuss.



Electoral donations and expenses

Key message

Candidates need to be aware to keep a record of all donations received and expenses incurred in their election campaign. Election expenditure limits will apply these depending on the population size of the election the candidate is standing for.

Campaign expenditure limit

Electoral expenses are defined as relating to electoral activity which can comprise advertising, broadcasting or communicating material to the public (electronically or otherwise). These electoral expenses are generally funded by the candidate and not reimbursable from the organisation the candidate is standing for.

Expenditure limits are based on population figures in a given area.

The estimated expenditure limit for candidates for Ward A of the Taranaki Electricity Trust is \$14,000 (including GST), and for Ward B is \$7,000 (including GST).

The period for which campaign expenditure limits apply is three months before election day (ie 15 March 2023 to 15 June 2023). However legislation further specifies that all expenses incurred before the three month period for campaign expenditure and used during the three month period, must be fairly apportioned and included in the Return of Electoral Donations and Expenses.

Where an electoral expense relates to more than one candidate, an equitable apportionment between candidates is required.

Nomination deposits are not an electoral expense and therefore should not be included in the Return of Electoral Donations and Expenses.

Return of electoral donations and expenses

Every candidate - whether successful or not - is required to submit a Return of Electoral Donations and Expenses recording donations and expenditure incurred in their campaign (even if it is a NIL return).

This must be supplied to the electoral officer within 55 days of the official declaration (estimated to be by 16 August 2023). This can be supplied to the electoral officer within 76 days after the official declaration if a candidate is overseas when the successful candidates are declared elected.

A copy of the form is included in this handbook, attached to all nomination papers and is available on request, by phoning the Electoral Office on 0800 922 822.

This is a requirement under section 112 of the Local Electoral Act 2001.

Candidates are advised to retain all invoices and receipts relating to electoral expenses should these be required in the event of a challenge. They should not be submitted with the return.

Those candidates who are eligible for the refund of their \$200 nomination deposit, will receive their refund once their Return of Electoral Donations and Expenses form has been received by the Electoral Office.

More information relating to Electoral Donations and Expenses can be found in Part 5 of the Local Electoral Act, 2001. This can be accessed online at: www.legislation.govt.nz





RETURN OF ELECTORAL DONATIONS AND EXPENSES

(Under section 112A of the Local Electoral Act 2001)

I, a candidate for

at the election held on 16 June 2023, make the following declaration:

PART A: RETURN OF ELECTORAL DONATIONS (inclusive of GST)

I, make the following return of all electoral donations received by me that exceed \$1,500:

Set out the following details in respect of every **electoral donation** received (other than an anonymous electoral donation) that, either on its own or when aggregated with all other donations made by or on behalf of the same donor for use in the same campaign, exceeds \$1,500 in sum or value:

- the name of the donor;
- the address of the donor;
- the amount of the donation or, in the case of aggregated donations, the total amount of the donations;
- the date the donation was received or, in the case of aggregated donations, the date that each donation was received.

NB: Section 103A Local Electoral Act 2001 defines "donation" as money or the equivalent of money or of goods or services or of a combination of those things used in the candidate's election campaign over \$300 in value. It excludes labour and goods and services that are provided free of charge reasonably valued at \$300 or less.

NAME and ADDRESS of DONOR	DESCRIPTION (include goods or services)*	DONATION	
		<i>Date received</i>	<i>Amount</i>
* set out here if the donation is funded from contributions			Total

Set out the following details in respect of every **anonymous electoral donation** received that exceeds \$1,500:

- the date the donation was received;
- the amount of the donation;
- the specific election campaign to which the donation was designated (see top of page);
- the amount paid to the electoral officer and the date the payment was made.

NB: Section 103A Local Electoral Act 2001 defines "anonymous" as a donation made in such a way that the candidate who receives the donation does not know the identity of the donor, and could not, in the circumstances, reasonably be expected to know the identity of the donor.

ANONYMOUS DONATION		DESCRIPTION (include goods or services)	PAID TO ELECTORAL OFFICER	
<i>Date received</i>	<i>Amount</i>		<i>Date paid</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Please turn page for more Electoral Donations, Electoral Expenses and Declaration			Total	

In the case of any **electoral donation funded from contributions**, set out the following details in respect of each contribution that, either on it's own or when aggregated with other contributions made by the same contributor to the donation, exceeds \$1,500 in sum or value:

- the name of the contributor;
- the address of the contributor;
- the total amount of the contributor's contributions made in relation to the donation.

NB: Section 103A Local Electoral Act 2001 defines "contributions" as money or goods or services that have been given to a donor to fund, be applied to, or included in an electoral donation (for example, contributions to trust funds or a fundraising collection).

NAME and ADDRESS of CONTRIBUTOR	DESCRIPTION (include goods or services)*	DONATION <i>Date received</i>	CONTRIBUTION <i>Amount</i>
* set out here the electoral donation this contribution applies to.		Total	

PART B: RETURN OF ELECTORAL EXPENSES (inclusive of GST)

I make the following return of all electoral expenses incurred by me:

Set out the following details in respect of every electoral expense incurred by or on behalf of the candidate at the election in respect of any electoral activity:

- the name and description of every person or body of persons to whom any sum was paid;
- the reason that sum was paid.

Sums paid for radio broadcasting, television broadcasting, newspaper advertising, posters, pamphlets etc must be set out separately and under separate headings.

NAME and DESCRIPTION	REASON for EXPENSES	EXPENSES PAID
Total		

Dated at this day of 2023.

Signature

THIS FORM IS REQUIRED TO BE COMPLETED (**EVEN IF IT IS A NIL RETURN**) AND EITHER POSTED TO THE ELECTORAL OFFICE, PO BOX 5135, VICTORIA STREET WEST, AUCKLAND 1142, OR EMAILED TO info@electionservices.co.nz **BY 16 AUGUST 2023.**

NOTE: RECEIPTS ARE **NOT** REQUIRED TO BE RETURNED WITH THIS FORM. PLEASE RETAIN THESE FOR YOUR RECORDS.

