

Taranaki Electricity Trust
Chairman's Report
For the financial year 01/07/2019 – 30/06/2020

It is with pleasure that I report on the main activities of the Taranaki Electricity Trust for the year 2019/20.

Firstly, I would like to acknowledge past trustee Ken Bedford for his dedicated and energetic service to the trust. It was a shock to all of us when Ken suddenly passed away in January this year as a result of a tragic accident. Ken was passionate about the trust, he loved people and wanted to make improvements in people's lives. There wasn't much he didn't know about Waitara, the people and projects there.

A decision was made not to fill the vacant position in ward A, due to the approaching trustee elections. Although we were not to know it at that time, restrictions due to COVID-19 would have made appointing a (potentially short term) trustee for Ward A, difficult in the circumstances.

Election Services independently carried out the TET trustee elections in June this year. Andrew Wood, Mike Davey and I were returned as Trustees, and Melissa Kay, Tony Bedford & Jono Erwood join as new Trustees. I would like to acknowledge and thank Karen Schumacher and Rick Coplestone for their valuable service as Trustees.

The new Trustee board is settling down to work and all trustees have had an opportunity to share their aspirations for the Trust and our community.

New trustees are not the only change this year. COVID-19 has challenged us to work in new ways, while remaining consistent with our trust deed and relevant to our communities. At the end of June this year the situation was looking bleak. But, under the surface there was kindness, good will and unprecedented collaboration.

As chairman I was in regular contact with Maria from the TSB Community Trust, Taranaki Funders forum, Taranaki Regional Sport and Recreation facility group, and Sandy Smith from Te Karaka Foundation. It was useful to have this network as we all grappled with COVID-19 challenges and impacts and how best to respond. I recommend continuing this contact because it allows us to see the big picture of need and resource in Taranaki. However, we must remain vigilant and continue our very clear message that TET funds are available for those inside the TET area. As I stated in my previous Chair report, organisations outside the area, especially regional organisations, are making strong demands to be included. Having clear and united Trustees on this topic has been essential.

Our community has benefitted by more than \$2.6million from TET funds. A few of the larger grants are:

Taranaki Community Stadium Trust (TET Stadium Inglewood)	\$218,715
St. Johns - Stratford	\$300,000
Tutaki Youth Trust	\$200,000
Waitara Alive	\$ 99,993
Stratford Business Association	\$ 99,000
Stratford District Council	\$101,000
Taranaki Masters Games	\$ 57,000

Wise consideration, robust and respectful debate has decided these grants. Often there is background research to do and discussions with organisation representatives to truly understand the project and what is being requested. I thank all the trustees who have been part of decision-making processes this past financial year. Your dedication to the trust and the huge work load you do to prepare for meeting decisions is greatly appreciated.

Thank you to Grant Hassell and Jacqui Wood. Your work at the front end of our trust is greatly appreciated.

The longstanding and protracted financial dispute with NTSRI involving GST, accountants, alterations to agreed building plans, and changes to key position holders has progressed through this financial year. I am happy to report that the matter was finally resolved in August and a refund has been received by the Trust.

I firmly believe that we must remain relevant to our community, while abiding by our constitution. We have continued to workshop key areas of our performance, including a review of our scholarship strategy. I have great faith in our current trustees and firmly believe that the trust will continue to make robust decisions for the benefit of our community. Going forward, I would like us to explore a social media presence as a way of informing our community about the positive impact of the TET Trust in our community.

Alan Jamieson
Chairman