



**WEL ENERGY TRUST**  
**Election of Trustees**  
**2026**

**Candidate**  
**Information**  
**Handbook**



Cover Image:  
Recipient Organisation: Raglan Naturally Community Trust  
Whaingaroa Raglan Destination Water Tower Art Restoration Project



Disclaimer: Every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in this handbook is accurate and consistent with the WEL Energy Trust Deed of Trust. WEL Energy 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.welenergytrust.co.nz](http://www.welenergytrust.co.nz)

March 2026

# Candidate Information Handbook

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# Overview

This handbook provides information which may be of interest to you as a candidate in the 2026 WEL Energy Trust election of trustees.

The WEL Energy Trust district incorporates all of the Hamilton City Council area, and parts of the Waikato District Council and the Waipā District Council areas.

Seven trustees are required to be elected. An election is required every three years for these positions, by postal and online voting.

Voting will take place between Tuesday 2 June and Friday 26 June 2026, with the close of voting at 12 noon on Friday 26 June 2026.

The election will be conducted under the provisions of the WEL Energy Trust Deed of Trust, and where electoral procedures are silent in the Deed, the provisions of the Local Electoral Act 2001 will be followed.

## *Key dates for a candidate*

|   |                                      |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| Nominations open                            | Friday 17 April 2026                 |
| Preliminary roll open for inspection        | Friday 17 April 2026                 |
| Nominations close                           | 12 noon, Thursday 14 May 2026        |
| Electoral roll closes                       | Thursday 14 May 2026                 |
| Delivery of voting mailers                  | from Tuesday 2 June 2026             |
| Voting period opens                         | Tuesday 2 June 2026                  |
| Voting closes                               | 12 noon, Friday 26 June 2026         |
| Close of postmarked period for postal votes | Thursday 2 July 2026                 |
| Final result announced                      | Friday 3 July - Saturday 4 July 2026 |

## *Contact us*

### Returning 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](mailto:info@electionservices.co.nz)  
Website - [www.electionservices.co.nz](http://www.electionservices.co.nz)

## *The WEL Energy Trust Story*

WEL Energy Trust was formed in 1993 for the purpose of holding shares in the newly created WEL Energy Group and it generally consists of seven elected trustees.

WEL Energy Trust has a 100% shareholding, on behalf of the community, in WEL Networks Ltd.

WEL Networks Ltd owns the electricity lines and equipment in Hamilton, most of the Waikato District and a small part of the Waipa District (see map on page 24 of this handbook).

There are approximately 150,000 electors in the Trust district.

## *The Role and Responsibilities of WEL Energy Trust*

WEL Energy Trust is a special purpose body and has responsibilities to:

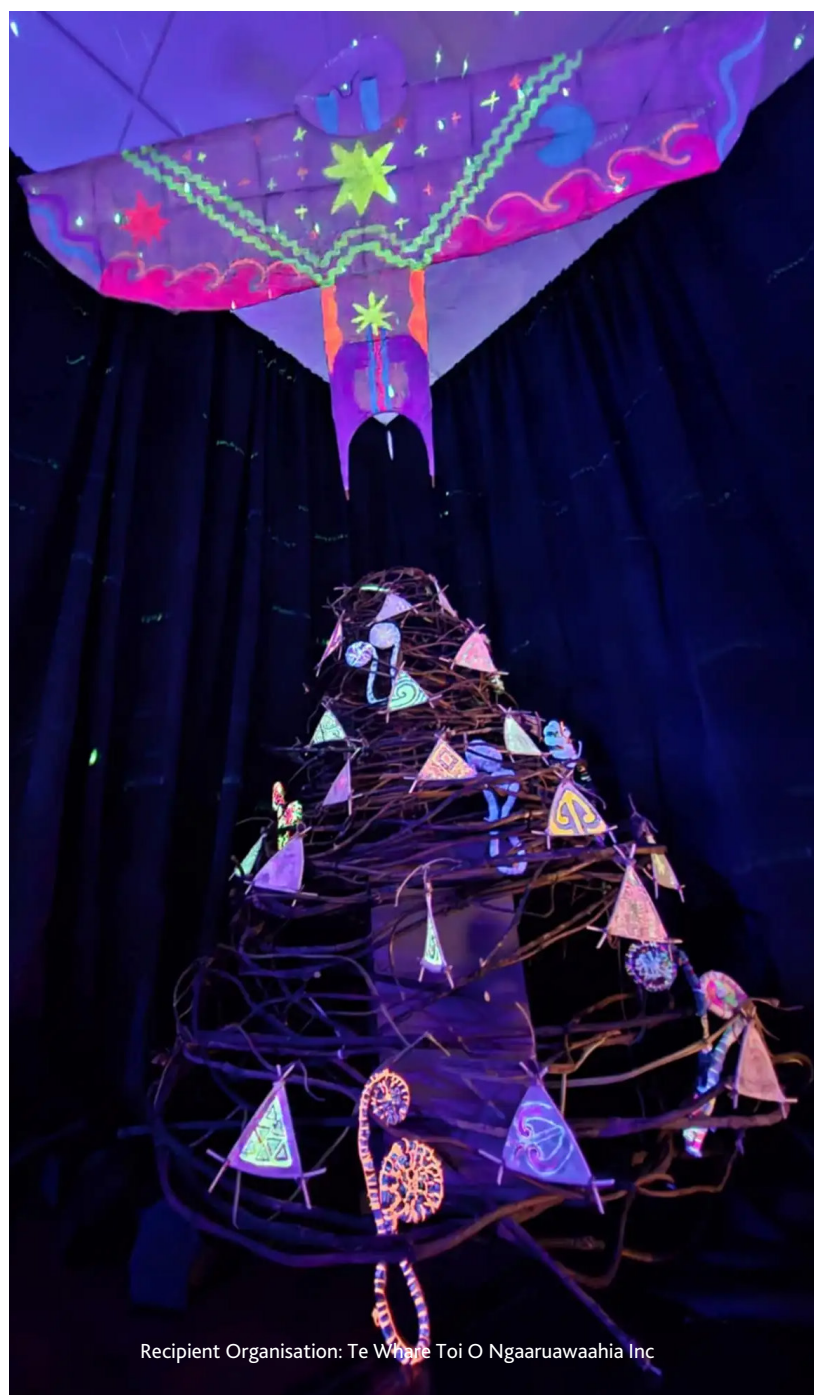
- manage its investment in WEL Networks Ltd (the Company)
- ensure the Company operates as a successful business
- have regard to customer interests in industry matters
- distribute surplus income at its discretion and to be accountable to the community.

Income beneficiaries are the Company, the community, customers and energy related projects, at the Trust's discretion.

Capital beneficiaries are the Hamilton City Council (63%), Waikato District Council (35%) and Waipā District Council (2%).

## *WEL Energy Trust's 2026 Pre-Election Report to the Public*

Candidates are encouraged to familiarise themselves with WEL Energy Trust's 2026 Pre-Election Report to the Public (March 2026), which is available on the Trust's website at: [www.welenergytrust.co.nz](http://www.welenergytrust.co.nz)



Recipient Organisation: Te Whare Toi O Ngaaruawaahia Inc

# Role of the Trustees

WEL Energy Trust ('Trust') is established by a Trust Deed dated 26 May 1993 which has, from time to time, been varied.

WEL Networks Limited ('Company') is a company wholly owned by the Trust.

Trustees must become familiar with the terms of the Trust Deed and with the Company's Strategic Direction, Targets and Measures and information relating to its current performance, financial and otherwise.

The primary purpose of the Trust is for the Trustees to hold the shares in the Company for the benefit of the persons and objects described in the Trust Deed and for the Trustees to exercise their rights as shareholders in the Company to ensure that the Company operates as a successful business.

The Trustees must act as a diligent shareholder and monitor the performance of the directors of the Company with reference to the Company's Strategic Direction, Targets and Measures.

The Trust Deed imposes the following specific duties on Trustees:

- To enhance their ability to administer the Trust by taking timely and competent advice.
- To assume the rights and responsibilities of the Trust under -
  - those contractual arrangements (if any) in existence as at the 1993 vesting date of the Trust and which may still be in existence; and
  - the present contractual arrangements of the Trust.
- To comply with the Guiding Principles in relation to the Trust and to encourage and facilitate the Directors of the Company to act in accordance with the Guiding Principles as defined in the Trust Deed.
- To appoint as Directors of the Company persons who, in the opinion of the Trustees, are qualified to ensure that the Company operates as a successful business.
- To ensure that full and correct accounts of all the financial transactions of the Trust and its assets and liabilities are kept.

- To appoint an auditor of the Trust at each annual general meeting or as required.
- To ensure that the financial statements are audited every year and at such other times as the Trustees require.
- Immediately upon completion of the audit of the financial statements, to give public notification that the statements are available for public inspection at the office of the Trust.
- To adopt and follow a meeting procedure that complies with the Guiding Principles to the extent of Accountability and Transparency.
- To hold an annual general meeting within five months after the end of each financial year of the Trust, and at that meeting to report on the operation of the Trust during the financial year under review and on the financial statements of the Trust for that same year.
- To prepare an annual "intentions" plan for the public concerning the Trust's plans for the financial year to which it relates, and in general for the following financial year including the Trustees' intentions in respect of distributions from the Trust for the financial year to which the annual "intentions" plan relates. To issue an annual "intentions" plan in draft form and to invite and consider public submissions on the draft before issuing the annual "intentions" plan in final form.
- To prepare an annual performance report to the public assessing the Trust's own performance and stating the results of the Trustees' review of the Trust's involvement in the Company and whether or not there have been any changes to the Trust Deed.
- Review and comment on the Company's compliance with the Company's then current Strategic Direction, Targets and Measures and to consider and comment on any altered Strategic Direction, Targets and Measures intent delivered to the Trustees by the Company and within the time limits referred to in the Trust Deed.

- To maintain appropriate indemnity covers to the extent that insurance against loss or damage is available.
- To provide a pre-election report to the public not earlier than nine months and not later than three months prior to every election and to review the purposes of the Trust and report the results of that review publicly, as if it were an annual performance report. As part of such review to consider whether the rules and policies of the Trust provide adequate protection for customers, and whether the Trust should continue in its existing form or be amended or whether the Trust should be wound up.
- To comply with the standards of conduct under the Trust Deed. Specifically the requirements of Trusteeship protocol dealing with confidentiality and conflicts of interest. The Trust Deed sets out the requirements imposed upon Trustees relating to confidentiality and conflict of interest and the potential for removal from office in the event of non-compliance.

## Trust Meetings

As a general rule, Trust meetings are currently held on the fourth Tuesday of each month, except in the month of December, when it is held on the second Tuesday of the month. There is no Trust meeting in January. Additional meetings are held if the workload requires it, or if there are particular issues that need addressing.

The first meeting for the new Trust will be a special meeting and will likely take place on Tuesday 14 July 2026 (this will be confirmed once the new Trustees are known). The purpose of the special meeting will be to declare the results of the Election and discuss key roles (in the Open session) and to adopt the 2025/26 Annual Report (in the Public Excluded session).

As an indication of the amount of time spent at meetings (excluding reading/preparation), in 2025, 11 ordinary meetings were held, which ranged from between two hours and five hours

in duration. There was also a special meeting that took 20 minutes and an Annual General Meeting that took 45 minutes. From time-to-time there may be workshops, as well as a number of non-compulsory engagements.

Some of the ordinary meetings include briefings from WEL Networks and other updates.

In addition, the Trust's Finance, Audit and Risk Committee, which currently comprises three Trustees, meets one week before the monthly Trust meetings, usually for between one to two hours. The Grants Committee meets after each of the five annual Quick Response rounds, and on occasion after other specific funding rounds (eg, Vital Impact Collaborative Energy) as required. The Grants Committee includes one Trustee at each meeting (on rotation).

Before each meeting, agenda papers and supporting documents are circulated to Trustees.

The 2026 Trust meeting schedule is outlined below -

|                         |         |               |
|-------------------------|---------|---------------|
| Tuesday 24 February     | 2.30pm  | Trust Meeting |
| Tuesday 24 March        | 2.30pm  | Trust Meeting |
| Tuesday 28 April        | 2.30pm  | Trust Meeting |
| Tuesday 26 May          | 2.30pm  | Trust Meeting |
| Tuesday 23 June         | 2.30pm  | Trust Meeting |
| Tuesday 14 July (TBC)   | 10.00am | Special       |
| Tuesday 28 July         | 2.30pm  | Trust Meeting |
| Wednesday 29 July (TBC) | 10.00am | AGM           |
| Tuesday 25 August       | 2.30pm  | Trust Meeting |
| Tuesday 22 September    | 2.30pm  | Trust Meeting |
| Tuesday 27 October      | 2.30pm  | Trust Meeting |
| Tuesday 24 November     | 2.30pm  | Trust Meeting |
| Tuesday 8 December*     | 2.30pm  | Trust Meeting |

\* Two weeks forward due to Christmas closure

# Remuneration

Recipient Organisation: Perry Outdoor Education Trust



## Trustee Remuneration

Trustee remuneration is currently under review, as per Trust policy.

The total remuneration pool for the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025 was \$246,000.00 (annually).

As a guide, the Trustee remuneration for the 2024-2025 period is outlined below, with the Trust Chair and Finance, Audit and Risk Committee Chair receiving more to reflect their additional workload.

| <b>Role</b>                        | <b>Annual Remuneration</b><br>(1 July 2024 - 30 June 2025)* |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Trust Chair                        | \$46,789.85   |
| Finance & Risk Sub-Committee Chair | \$34,789.85   |
| Trustee                            | \$31,789.86   |

\* The new Trustees will decide how the pool will be allocated going forward, effective from 1 July 2026.

# Candidate Eligibility

## Candidate Qualifications

A candidate for the WEL Energy Trust election must be:

- ✓ enrolled as a parliamentary elector within the WEL Energy Trust district; and
- ✓ resident within the WEL Energy Trust district; and
- ✓ a customer of WEL Networks Limited; and
- ✓ nominated by two people who are on the parliamentary roll at an address within the WEL Energy Trust district.

## Candidate Restrictions

The following persons are not eligible for election or appointment as a Trustee and may not hold office as a Trustee (under Rule 2.2, Schedule, Deed of Trust):

- ✗ Bankrupt: a bankrupt (who has not obtained a final order of discharge), has been suspended for a term not yet expired, or is subject to a condition not yet fulfilled or to any order under section 299 of the Insolvency Act 2006;
- ✗ Conviction: a person who has been sentenced to imprisonment for any offence unless that person has obtained a pardon or has served the sentence;
- ✗ Imprisonment: a person sentenced to imprisonment for any offence unless pardoned or served the sentence;
- ✗ Prohibition Order: a person to whom an order made under sections 382, 383 or 385 of the Companies Act 1993 applies;
- ✗ Mentally Disordered: a person who is mentally disordered within the meaning of the Mental Health (Compulsory Assessment and Treatment) Act 1992;
- ✗ Property Order: a person who is subject to a property order under section 30 or section 31 of the Protection of Personal and Property Rights Act 1988;

- ✗ Parliamentary Elector: a person who is not a parliamentary elector for the purposes of the Electoral Act 1993;
- ✗ Director or Employee of Company or any other Electricity Distribution or Supply Company: a person who currently holds office as a Director of, or is employed by, the COMPANY or any other electricity distribution or supply company;
- ✗ Substantial Shareholder or Officer or Employee: a person who holds or has a relevant interest in more than 5% of the voting equity securities issued by the COMPANY or any other energy company who is an office holder, or is employed by, a shareholder who holds such an interest. For the purpose of this paragraph 'relevant interest' has the meaning given to it by section 5 of the Securities Markets Act 1988;
- ✗ Not a Resident and Customer: a person who is not both a RESIDENT within the DISTRICT and a CUSTOMER.

## WEL Energy Trust - Diversity and Inclusion Policy

WEL Energy Trust seeks to ensure it has an appropriate mix of diversity, skills, experience and expertise to enable its Trustees to discharge their responsibilities effectively.

Accordingly, the Trust has adopted a Diversity and Inclusion Policy.

Candidates are encouraged to familiarise themselves with this document and the skills and attributes outlined therein.

A copy of this policy is available from the Trust's website at: [www.welenergytrust.co.nz](http://www.welenergytrust.co.nz).

# Nominations

## Nomination key dates

Nominations open on Friday 17 April 2026 and close at 12 noon on Thursday 14 May 2026.

A public notice calling for nominations will appear in the following publications:

- Waikato Times on Wednesday 15 April 2026;
- North Waikato News on Wednesday 15 April 2026;
- Hamilton Press on Wednesday 15 April 2026;
- Hamilton News on Thursday 16 April 2026;
- Raglan Chronicle on Thursday 16 April 2026.

**Please do not leave lodging your nomination to the last minute.**

Should a nomination form 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 form could be invalidated.

## Availability of nomination papers

Each nomination must be made on the appropriate official nomination form or via the nomination portal, both of which are available from Friday 17 April 2026:

To complete and submit your nomination online, go to [esp.electionservices.co.nz/wel2026](https://esp.electionservices.co.nz/wel2026).

Printed nomination forms will also be available:

- by downloading printable or interactive form from: [www.welenergytrust.co.nz/election/](https://www.welenergytrust.co.nz/election/)
- by emailing the returning office on [nominations@electionservices.co.nz](mailto:nominations@electionservices.co.nz);
- by phoning the returning office on 0800 922 822 to have one posted or emailed to you.

## Completing and submitting your nomination online

Candidates using the online nominations portal at [esp.electionservices.co.nz/wel2026](https://esp.electionservices.co.nz/wel2026) will be required to create an account (username and password) before selecting and starting their nomination.

This allows candidates to progressively complete their nomination. Any progress can be saved and accessed again at a later date before nominations close.

Candidates will be required to enter details of their two nominators directly into the portal including their full name, residential address (as they appear on the parliamentary roll) and email address.

An email will be sent to both nominators, requesting confirmation that they support the candidate's nomination.

The nominators will be required to follow the link contained within the email, confirm their details and consent to nominate, and electronically sign their name.

If completing and submitting a nomination paper online, candidates will need to provide (and upload to the portal):

- passport-sized colour photo;
- candidate profile statement of up to 150 words;
- letter endorsing affiliation (if applicable).

A candidate will only be able to submit their nomination once they have completed all required fields and their two nominators have completed their parts, confirming that they support the candidate's nomination.

If submitting a nomination online, it is recommended that candidates are prepared with this information and start the process early.

## *Completion of hard-copy nomination form*

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The candidate must complete and sign the front page of the nomination form to indicate their consent to stand as a candidate for the WEL Energy Trust election.

Each nomination form must be completed and signed by two nominators, who are on the parliamentary Electoral Roll at an address within the WEL Energy Trust district.

A candidate may not nominate themselves for office.

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 returning officer), the commonly known name may appear on the voting document.

Candidates are not permitted to use official titles or ranks as part of their name on the voting document.

The use of degrees or qualifications are not permitted on the voting document before or 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 do not have to pay a nomination deposit for the WEL Energy Trust election.

## *Candidate profile statement and photo*

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Candidates must provide the returning 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. The candidate

profile statement must be true and accurate and the returning officer is not required to verify or investigate any information included in this statement.

Candidates must also provide a passport sized, colour photo with their nomination. Please do not send a photocopied photograph. Photos sent electronically should be sent as an attachment and not embedded in the message of an email or in a Word document.

The candidate profile statement and colour photo will be available on WEL Energy Trust's website and included with the voting documentation sent to each elector.

## *Affiliation*

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The nomination form provides for a candidate to have an affiliation.

An affiliation may be described as 'an endorsement by any organisation or group (whether incorporated or unincorporated).'

Individual candidates, not part of an organisation or group, may wish to nominate their affiliation as 'Independent' or leave as blank (if left blank, nothing will show alongside the name on the voting document).

A candidate claiming a specific affiliation must supply with their nomination paper an authority to adopt the affiliation for the organisation or group concerned (i.e. letter of consent to use the affiliation from the organisation or group). This is a safety measure to avoid any illegal adoption of affiliations.

Affiliations that will not be accepted are ones:

- that might cause offence; or
- are likely to confuse or mislead electors; or
- are election slogans rather than the name of an organisation or group.

## *Return of nomination form*

Nomination forms must be in the hands of the returning officer or an electoral official not later than **12 noon on Thursday 14 May 2026**.

Late nominations will not be accepted.

Completed nomination forms can be scanned and emailed to:

[nominations@electionservices.co.nz](mailto:nominations@electionservices.co.nz)

or posted to:

The Electoral Officer  
WEL Energy Trust  
PO Box 5135, Victoria Street West  
Auckland 1142

in time to be received no later than 12 noon, Thursday 14 May 2026.

All nomination materials (nomination form, candidate profile statement and photo) 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 forms 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 form 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 valid candidates will be provided to the WEL Energy Trust.

A public notice advising of the valid candidate names will be published in the aforementioned newspapers (refer page 8) from Wednesday 20 May 2026 – Friday 22 May 2026.

A candidate can withdraw from the election at any time. However, if a candidate withdraws from the election after the close of nominations, it may not be possible to remove their name from the official voting materials (voting document and candidate statements). Any votes received for a candidate who has withdrawn but whose name still appears on the voting document will be disregarded.



Recipient Organisation: Opus Orchestra Trust

# Campaigning

## *Key message*

Election campaigning can commence any time and may continue up to and including election day.

This includes election advertising on posters, advertisements, signs/hoardings, vehicle signage, websites, social media posts.

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

Each Council in the Trust area has different requirements, bylaws and policies for the display of election signs and if erecting election signs, candidates are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the relevant council rules.

All signs must be erected in a stable fashion, and not be a hazard to public or traffic safety. Council policy on election signs is detailed in this handbook (refer pages 13 – 19).

### **Election advertising, using any media (including social media), must identify:**

- the **true name and contact details** of the person authorising them. [Section 113 (2)(b) Local Electoral Act 2001]
- These details may be of the candidate or their agent, and may be included on a profile picture, or within the bio section of a page.

Contact details means one or more of the following:

- (a) a residential or business address;
- (b) an email address;
- (c) a post office box number;
- (d) a phone number;
- (e) a link to a page on an Internet site, if the page contains one or more of the contact details specified in (a) to (d).

For example: 'All content/images contained on this social media page/channel are authorised by [name], [contact details]'.

Campaign advertisements are subject to the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) Code, which is accessible at [www.asa.co.nz/codes/codes/advertising-standards-code/](http://www.asa.co.nz/codes/codes/advertising-standards-code/)

## *Campaigning*

No election material can contain any untrue statement defamatory of any candidate (for example under the Defamation Act 1992) and calculated to influence the vote of any elector.

No election material may contain 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.

Candidates are not permitted to use the Trust's logos or branding on any campaigning material.

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 returning officer. This also applies to resthomes and hospitals - voting documents should not be collected from elderly or infirm electors by candidates or their assistants.

Candidates should be aware that it is an offence (carrying a fine of up to \$5,000, if convicted) to interfere in any way with an elector with the intention of influencing or advising that elector as to how they should vote. Candidates and their assistants should be mindful of this particularly if campaigning occurs in rest homes or hospitals.

## Social media

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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 may 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 Trust's social media channels in your own posts or comments.



# Election Signs & Hoardings

## *Election signs and hoardings – Council policies*

Election signs can be referred to as hoardings, posters, signs or other similar types of promotion that are used to display information relating to the election of a candidate(s) or choice of political party or promotions of issues relating to a referendum.

Each Council in the Trust area has different requirements, bylaws and policies for the erection of election hoardings.

Candidates must comply with the relevant Council rules when erecting election signs, as outlined on the following pages.

## *Signs on State Highways*

Refer page 18 for more information.

## *Best practice guidelines for election signs*

For public safety reasons, the following recommendations should also be complied with:

- Signs should be securely braced from the ground up to carry wind loads for the duration of their erection.
- Signs should not be affixed to any tree;
- Signs should not be placed under the drip line of protected trees;
- The grassed area damaged by the hoardings/signs i.e. support holes, should be reinstated;
- Candidates should check for underground services before digging.
- Candidates should regularly (daily if possible), monitor all their election signs with the view to reinstating any vandalised or storm damaged signs.

## *Who to contact*

If there is any uncertainty around the specific rules, it is recommended that candidates contact the relevant Council's signs compliance team to discuss further -

|   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| Hamilton City Council area                        | <a href="http://www.hamilton.govt.nz">www.hamilton.govt.nz</a>               | Phone: (07) 838 6699   |
| Waikato District Council area                     | <a href="http://www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz">www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz</a> | Phone: (0800) 492 452  |
| Waipā District Council area                       | <a href="http://www.waipadc.govt.nz">www.waipadc.govt.nz</a>                 | Phone: (0800) 924 723  |
| Waka Kotahi / NZTA<br>for signs on State Highways | <a href="http://www.nzta.govt.nz">www.nzta.govt.nz</a>                       | Email:<br><a href="mailto:environmentalplanning@nzta.govt.nz">environmentalplanning@nzta.govt.nz</a> |

Contact the Electoral Officer **only in** regards to the content of a sign.

## HAMILTON CITY COUNCIL AREA Council policy on election signs

### Billboard signs

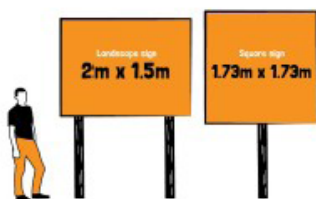
There is a number of existing billboard signs in Hamilton that have already been granted resource consent for the structure when it was installed.

Election signs on these billboards may be displayed up to three months before an election. Election signage must be removed before election day (before midnight Thursday 25 June 2026).

Please ensure consent is obtained from the billboard owner.

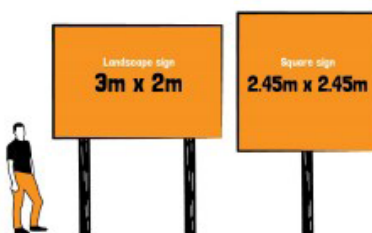
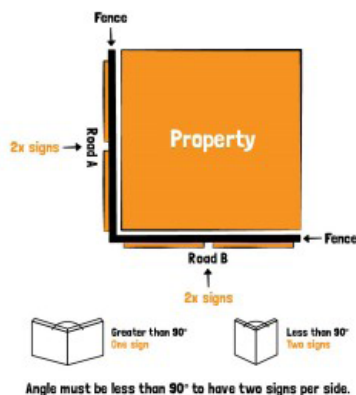
New billboards will require a resource consent if the billboard will be permanent or does not utilise an existing billboard structure.

### Maximum size allowed



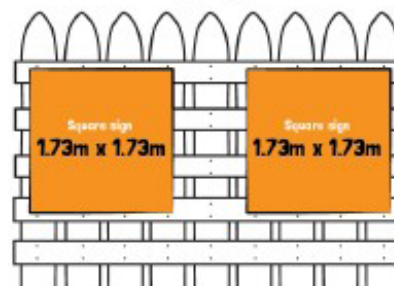
3m<sup>2</sup> sign examples

#### Signs on corner properties



6m<sup>2</sup> sign examples

#### Front Signage View



Each sign must comply with maximum area requirements for the zone.

### District Plan Rules

Hamilton City Council's District Plan allows for temporary election signs to be displayed for no more than three months before election day (from 26 March 2026) however they must be removed by **midnight, Thursday 25 June 2026**.

All signs must be on private property.

There are different rules for the size and height of your election signs, depending on the zone you put them.

If you are unsure on which District Plan Zone applies, you can search by address online at: <https://hamilton.isoplan.co.nz/eplan/#/Property/0>

Once you have the address, expand the legend tool bar on the right and scroll down to see which zone the property is in.

If you want to put up a sign that breaches the district plan rules, you must get resource consent and pay a fee. You must apply for resource consent before installing the sign. The timeframe to process a resource consent is 20 working days. **Further information** - Please contact us on (07) 838 6699 or email us at [info@hcc.govt.nz](mailto:info@hcc.govt.nz)

## HAMILTON CITY COUNCIL, CONTINUED

### *Guidelines for signs on private property*

Please ensure the consent of the person responsible for the property has been obtained before installing signs on private property.

The maximum number of signs permitted is on a 'per site' basis, not for each candidate. Two signs are permitted per site, or two signs per frontage in the case of a corner site. Please ensure alternative sites are used if the maximum number of signs per site (including other non-election temporary signs) has already been met.

Where signs on private property are found to exceed the size or quantity limits outlined in the district plan, these must be reduced in size or excess signage removed within 24 hours following notification.

Please note should any non-complying signage on private property not be removed as requested it can result in the issuing of a \$300 infringement notice. Continuing non-compliance can result in subsequent infringement notices being issued for each day the offence continues.

Hamilton City Parks, Domains and Reserves Bylaw 2012, Hamilton City Public Places Bylaw 2016, Hamilton Traffic Bylaw 2015 and Public Places Policy

No election signs are permitted on any council property including road reserve, parks or public places controlled by the council.

35.2 No sign for an election of referendum shall be placed on any reserve or public place except those specially approved by the council.

35.3 No temporary sign for an election or a referendum shall be erected earlier than two months before polling day and shall be removed the day before polling day.

35.4 No sign shall be placed or be allowed

35.5 Nothing in this bylaw purports to authorise any matters which are prohibited or otherwise controlled by legislation governing an election or referendum.

Candidates will be asked to remove any non-complying or unsafe signs within 24 hours following notification.

If the council is required to remove signs, the cost incurred in removing the sign will be recovered from the owner of the sign.

| ZONE OR SPECIFIC SITE  | MAXIMUM AREA PER SIGN | MAXIMUM HEIGHT FROM GROUND LEVEL   | MAXIMUM NUMBER OF SIGNS  |
|--|-----------------------|--|--|
| Residential,<br>Special Character<br>Future Urban<br>Community Facilities  | 3m <sup>2</sup>       | 2.5m   | Two signs per site, or two signs per frontage in the case of a corner site |
| Business 1-7<br>Central City<br><br>Industrial<br>Ruakura Logistics<br>Ruakura Industrial Park<br>Knowledge Open Space<br>Major Facilities Zones | 6m <sup>2</sup>       | The height from ground level for signs depends on the zone.<br><br>Contact Council to confirm restrictions in different zones. | Two signs per site, or two signs per frontage in the case of a corner site |

## HAMILTON CITY COUNCIL, CONTINUED

Any sign recovered by the council will be returned to the owner once payment has been received by council to remove and store the signs.

Any sign that remains unclaimed or not returned within one month may be disposed of by the council.

### *Sign recovery*

Any sign on public property that poses an immediate safety risk will be removed and the candidate informed.

Where other non-complying signage occurs on public property, the candidate will be contacted and advised to remove the signs within 24 hours.

Where a candidate has been contacted previously about non-complying signage on public property, any subsequent signs will be removed without further notification.

Any signs recovered by council staff can be collected at Hamilton City Council's Duke St Depot (44 Duke St) during normal business hours. Signs must be collected within one month or they will be disposed of.

### *Further information*

Please contact us on 838 6699 or email us at [info@hcc.govt.nz](mailto:info@hcc.govt.nz)



## WAIKATO DISTRICT COUNCIL AREA Council policy on election signs

### *Key Message*

Council has a policy around election signs and candidates should familiarise themselves with this. Election signs are not permitted on property owned by, or under the control and management of, the council. Election signage may be displayed on private property but must be removed by midnight 25 June 2026.

The following gives guidance on some of the criteria in council's Public Places Bylaw 2023 concerning election signs.

### *Control of electoral signage*

#### **Waikato District Council Public Places Bylaw 2023 - Part 4:**

35 Restrictions applying to electoral advertising

35.1 No signs advertising candidates for an election or referendum shall exceed 3m<sup>2</sup> in

area. No sign shall be placed or be allowed to remain where in the opinion of an authorised officer (or New Zealand Land Transport Authority) that sign would:

- a. Obstruct or be likely to obstruct the view of any corner, bend, intersection, vehicle crossing, traffic sign or traffic signal;
- b. Distract unduly or be likely to distract unduly the attention of road users;
- c. Resemble or likely to be confused with any traffic sign or signal;
- d. Give rise to excessive levels of glare, use flashing or revolving lights or use reflective material that may interfere with a road users vision;
- e. Constitute or be likely to constitute in any way, a danger to road users.



## WAIPĀ DISTRICT COUNCIL AREA Council policy on election signs

In Waipā District, election signs are controlled under the Public Places Bylaw 2023, the Operative District Plan and the Local Electoral Act 2001.

In this section, Election Signs include hoardings, posters and signs used to display information relating to the election of candidates and/or choice of political party and/or the promotion of issues relating to a referendum or poll. These rules apply to Local Elections and polls, including the WEL Energy Trust elections and polls.

Election signs are permitted not more than 90 days before election day (from Friday 27 March 2026) and must be removed within three days of the conclusion of the election ie: by midday, Wednesday 29 June 2026.

### *Signs on Council Property*

No election signs will be permitted on any Council property or Council road reserve, footpath, park, public carpark or any public place controlled by Council.

### *Signs on Vehicles*

The Public Places Bylaw 2023 permits an election sign on a vehicle in the district, only where the vehicle is not primarily used for the purpose of exhibiting the sign, and the sign does not protrude in any way from the vehicle:

### *Signs on Private Property*

Any election hoarding/sign erected on a private property must have the relevant property owner's consent and must comply with the

Waipā District Council - Operative District Plan Rules for Election Signs.. Please note that this is not a comprehensive list of all zones and all requirements.

Election signs are not permitted on Council's road reserve/carriageways. Therefore signs on private property may be fastened to boundary fences of private property provided no part of the sign or support encroaches onto or over the road reserve. Signs may not be attached to stock underpass rails or any other fencing encroaching into the road reserve.

### *Signs on State Highways*

Refer page 18 for more information.

### *District Plan & Signage Rules*

The Waipa District Plan contains rules for the display of election signs in the district. These include the following requirements:

- a. election signs may only be displayed no more than 90 days before and three days after the election
- b. election signs shall be setback at least 15 m from any major or minor arterial road, and
- c. the size of election signs must be no more than 3m<sup>2</sup> in total area, (eg: 1.2 m x 2.4 m), and
- d. all signs shall NOT be internally illuminated, flashing, incorporate fluorescent or moving materials such as flags or be painted in colours that are used on traffic signals; and
- e. all signs shall be placed so that, where attached to a building, no part protrudes above the eaves or parapet, or where attached to a fence or wall, no part protrudes above the top of the fence or wall; and
- f. A freestanding sign shall be placed so that no part is more than 2 m above ground level, except for the Airport Business Zone and the Mystery Creek Events Zone where freestanding signs shall be placed so that no part is more than 4 m above ground level.

- g. all signs shall be placed so that they do not block sight distances at entranceways and shall be no closer than 20 m to a road intersection, and
- h. the relevant zone based or district wide rules shall apply where they are more restrictive.

Any sign that does NOT comply with the Rules of the District Plan will require a resource consent for a discretionary activity.

- A Landuse Consent will be required for non-compliant signage. An application, along with

the appropriate fee, must be made to Council prior to the sign being erected on site. You should allow 20 working days for the landuse consent to be processed once an application has been lodged.

- Any signs considered to be a traffic hazard by an enforcement officer may be required to be re-sited
- If you are unsure whether the placement of your sign complies, please refer to the District Plan on Council's website, or contact Council's Planning Department.



## NZ TRANSPORT AGENCY WAKA KOTAHI (NZTA)

### *Guidelines for election signs on State Highways*

The guideline objectives are to minimise the potential for road crashes arising from drivers being distracted by indiscriminate installation of electioneering signs and to ensure consistency of application of NZTA policy on such for road crashes arising from drivers being distracted by indiscriminate installation of electioneering signs and to ensure consistency of application of NZTA policy on such signs with minimal involvement by NZTA.

There are some fundamental considerations to make when erecting electioneering signs adjacent to or visible from state highways. These are:

In **rural** areas (where speed limits are 70km/h or above):

- signs should be located off the highway reserve. You will, of course, need to consult with property owners and the appropriate local authority to gain any necessary consent.
- signs must not be reflectorised or erected in such a location that will create an obvious

conflict with existing road signs.

- Signs must not imitate or be of a form similar to any traffic signs. (This is a legal requirement in terms of the Land Transport Act 2003.)
- The location of signs must consider visibility and other traffic safety aspects.
- Signs must be located at least 100m from intersections, bends in the highway and from other regulatory signs
- Signs are not permitted on or adjacent to motorways.
- For the above noted safety reasons, vehicle mounted signs situated on State Highways are not permitted.

In **urban** areas (where speed limits are 70 km/h or less):

- you should seek the local authority's approval for erection of signs within or adjoining the road reserve.

Signs erected on rural State Highways in a location or manner likely to

cause distraction or danger to road users may be removed by NZTA or its agents without prior notice.

Where a sign is removed the party will then be advised of the action taken and where the sign can be collected. There may be a charge to cover NZTA's costs.

If you have any further queries, please contact: Alan Catchpole on 0274 350 410.

### *Content on Signs*

The Local Electoral Act 2001 [Sec 113] requires that any advertisement (including signs) should contain a statement setting out the true name of the person(s) authorising the advertisement. It must also contain at least one method of contacting that person, ie: phone, email, PO Box, etc.

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 the publication of that sign or advertisement is authorised in writing by the candidate or the candidate's agent. A person who wilfully contravenes this requirement commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$1,000.

Any sign content must NOT contain anything that could be seen as defamatory, or which uses obscene language. If you are unsure whether your sign complies with content regulations, please check with the Electoral Officer or Deputy Electoral Officer.



Recipient Organisation: Huntly Mining and Cultural Museum Society Inc

# Electoral Rolls

## *Key message*

Those eligible to vote in the WEL Energy Trust elections are electors who appear to reside (and whose names are on the Parliamentary Roll) at an address within the Trust District and who are a customer of WEL Energy Networks.

An elector is a person who is on, or is eligible to be on, the Parliamentary electoral roll at an address within the WEL Energy Trust district.

A customer means a person determined by the Trustees to be connected to the electricity lines network of WEL Networks Ltd within the WEL Energy Trust district.

Any alterations to the electoral roll should be made:

- online at the Electoral Commission's website - <https://vote.nz>; or
- by phoning 0800 36 76 56.

Copies of the Preliminary Electoral Roll (for the whole Trust district) will be available for purchase (in hard-copy only).

To purchase a copy or for more information, please contact the Electoral Office on 0800 922 822.

## *Final Electoral Roll:*

The Final Electoral Roll will be produced once the Preliminary Electoral Roll closes on Thursday 14 May 2026. The Final Electoral Roll contains the details used for issuing voting documents.

Any person who enrolls after Thursday 14 May 2026 (when the roll closes) will need to request a special vote for the WEL Energy Trust election (refer section on Voting and Special Voting).

## *To check if you are on the roll:*

Copies of the Preliminary Electoral Roll will be available for public inspection, from Monday 17 April 2026 until Thursday 14 May 2026 at:

- Hamilton City Council  
Municipal Buildings  
Garden Place  
Hamilton
- Waikato District Council  
15 Galileo Street  
Ngāruawāhia
- Raglan Library  
7 Bow Street  
Raglan

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



Recipient Organisation: Raglan Surf Life Saving Club Inc

# Voting and Special Voting

## Key message

The voting period is from Tuesday 2 June 2026 to 12 noon, Friday 26 June 2026, with postal votes able to be accepted up until 12 noon on Thursday 2 July 2026 provided they are postmarked on or before noon on 26 June 2026.

Voting packs are posted to electors from Tuesday 2 June 2026, with special votes available to those who have not received an ordinary vote during the voting period.

## Voting period

The WEL Energy Trust election is being conducted by postal and online vote.

Voting packs are posted to all electors whose names appear on the final electoral roll, with delivery commencing Tuesday 2 June 2026.

Each voting document will include a set of unique online voting credentials and a URL for the purpose of online voting.

Each elector, after receiving their voting document, can either complete it, seal it in the return reply-paid envelope, and post or deliver it to the returning office, or follow the instructions to cast their vote online.

A ballot box will be available from Tuesday 2 June 2026 until 12 noon on Friday 26 June 2026 (during normal office hours) for the hand-delivery of voting documents at the WEL Energy Trust office, Mezzanine Floor, 127 Alexandria Street, Hamilton.

The opening hours of the WEL Energy Trust office can be found on their website: [www.welenergytrust.co.nz](http://www.welenergytrust.co.nz)

Voting documents cannot be collected by candidates or their assistants.

## Special Voting

Special votes are available to electors:

- whose names do not appear on the Final Electoral Roll, but who qualify as electors (e.g. who has just turned 18 years of age);
- who do not receive a voting document previously posted to them;
- who have spoiled or damaged a voting document previously posted to them;
- who are on the unpublished roll.

Special voting documents are available from Tuesday 2 June 2026 until 12 noon, Friday 26 June 2026:

- by emailing the electoral office on: [info@electionservices.co.nz](mailto:info@electionservices.co.nz); or
- by phoning the Electoral Office on 0800 922 822, for one to be posted out.

Special votes require the completion of a statutory declaration. This is a legal requirement and a protection for electors against possible duplicate voting.

If an elector requests a special vote and is not on the Parliamentary Roll (e.g. just turned 18 years of age), the person must enrol by Thursday 25 June 2026 (the day before the close of voting).

After voting closes, special vote declarations are forwarded to the Electoral Commission for verification that the elector is eligible and has enrolled as a Parliamentary elector.

Special votes that are not accompanied by a declaration, or where the declaration is not fully completed will not be counted.

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

# Early Processing & Scrutineers

## *Processing of returned votes*

The processing of returned votes will be carried out at the returning office (Independent Election Services Ltd) in Auckland.

Under the WEL Energy Trust Deed of Trust, returned votes are able to be opened and processed during all or part of the voting period prior to the close of voting. The early processing of votes involves the following functions:

- opening of envelopes
- extracting of votes
- electronic capture of all valid votes (twice)

No tallying of votes is undertaken until after the close of voting (12 noon, Friday 26 June 2026).

The early processing functions are undertaken with strict security measures. A Justice of the Peace will observe all early processing functions, and sign a statement at the end of the processing that all functions were undertaken correctly and confirmed with the requirements of the WEL Energy Trust Deed of Trust.

## *Scrutineers*

Candidates may appoint scrutineers to oversee various functions of the election. These functions are:

- the scrutiny of the roll;
- the preliminary count (after the close of voting).

Each candidate may appoint one or more scrutineers for each of the above functions, but only one scrutineer for each candidate may be present at any one time.

A scrutineer cannot be:

- a candidate;
- a member or employee of the Trust; or
- under the age of 18 years.

Each scrutineer must be appointed by a candidate, such appointment to be in writing to the Electoral Officer.

For a person to be appointed as a scrutineer, the letter of appointment must be received by the returning officer no later than Tuesday 26 May 2026 (i.e. no later than 7 days before the commencement of the voting period for the election).

Each appointed scrutineer must report initially to the returning officer, where a declaration pledging not to disclose any information coming to their knowledge, will need to be signed and a name tag issued. When departing the premises, scrutineers are to return their name tag to the returning officer.

The role of the scrutineers is to ensure that election procedures are undertaken correctly and that the counting of votes is done fairly and reasonably.

Mobile phones are prohibited within the secure area where the count will take place.

# Results

## *Preliminary Result*

The counting of votes will commence from 12 noon, Friday 26 June 2026 at the returning office, Level 2, 198 Federal Street, Auckland Central 1010.

Preliminary results will be available once all votes that are hand-delivered to the Trust office have been received and processed. This is expected to be late in the afternoon on Friday 26 June 2026.

The results will be available:

- on the Trust's website: [www.welenergytrust.co.nz/election/](http://www.welenergytrust.co.nz/election/)
- by telephoning the returning office on 0800 922 822

Where email addresses have been provided, candidates will be emailed the preliminary results, once available.

## *Postmarked allowance*

For votes returned by post, voting documents can be accepted up until Thursday 2 July 2026, provided the envelopes are postmarked on/ before 12 noon, Friday 26 June 2026.

## *Final Result*

Once the postmarked period has closed, and after special vote eligibility has been validated by the Electoral Commission, a final result is able to be announced.

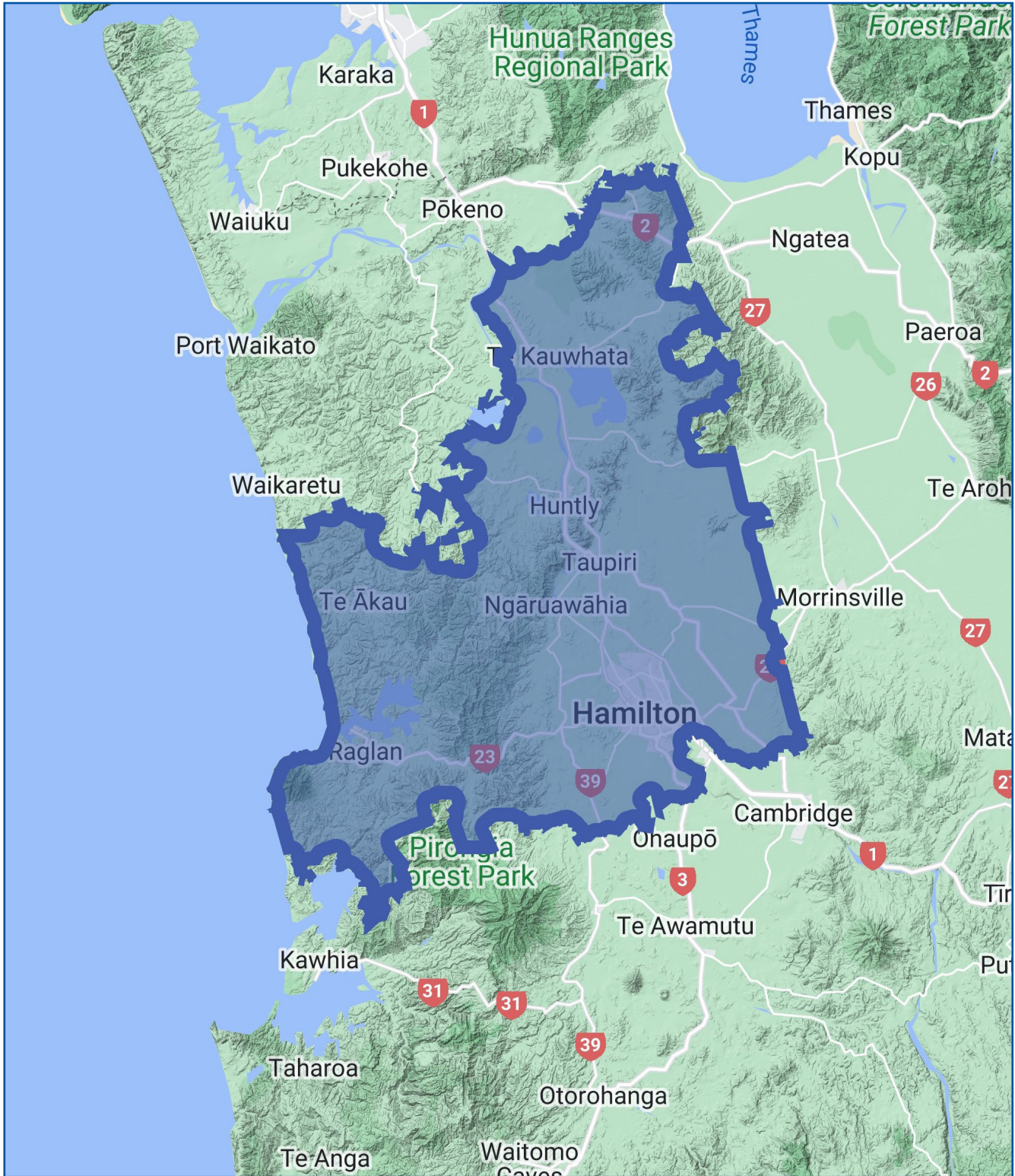
A final result is expected mid-morning on Friday 3 July 2026.

A public notice (declaration of results) will appear in the Waikato Times on Saturday 4 July 2026 or Monday 6 July 2026 and in other regional publications across the following week.

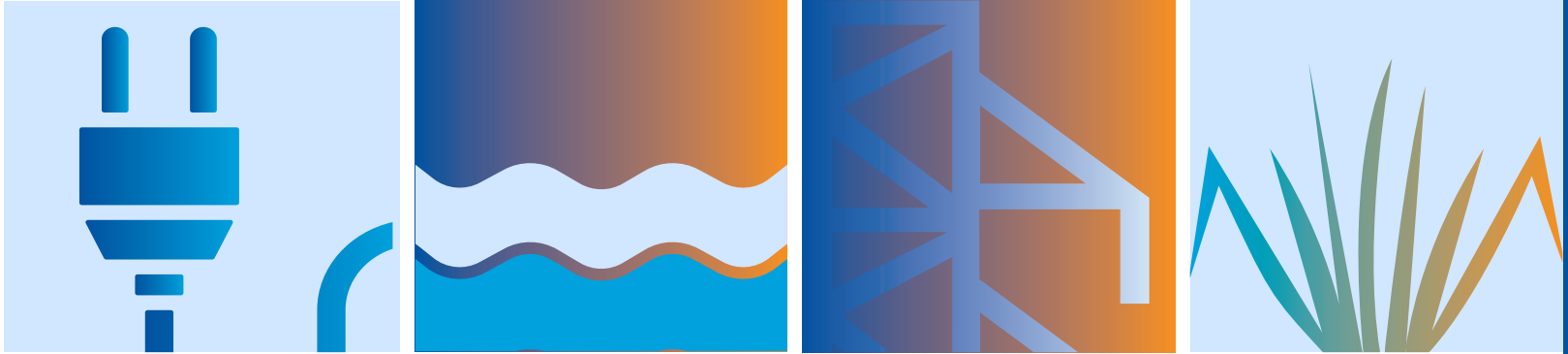


# WEL Energy Trust Map

WEL Energy Trust Area 2026







*'Here for the Community'*

Mezzanine Floor, 127 Alexandra Street, Hamilton | PO Box 1336, Hamilton 3240  
07 838 0093 | [admin@welenergytrust.co.nz](mailto:admin@welenergytrust.co.nz)  
[www.welenergytrust.co.nz](http://www.welenergytrust.co.nz) | [www.facebook.com/WelEnergyTrust](https://www.facebook.com/WelEnergyTrust)