

Media Release 9 August 2022

Waitaki Power Trust Election Short Circuited

Trustee elections for the Waitaki Power Trust are currently underway with four candidates standing for three Trustee positions. The Waitaki Power Trust holds the shares in Network Waitaki on behalf of local electricity consumers.

Local consumers who hold a power account on the Network Waitaki electricity network will have received voting papers for the upcoming Trustee election in the mail this week, however some people may have received unexpected voting papers.

The Trust have been made aware of issues with the voting papers sent out, which have included duplicate voting papers, ineligible voters, papers addressed to previous occupants, and in some cases people who are deceased.

The Trust election is run on behalf of the Trust by an independent electoral services company, who compiles the mailing list and sends out the voting papers.

A Waitaki Power Trust spokesperson apologised for the confusion and the distress this may have caused some people and said work was underway to rectify the situation.

The Trust has been in communication with the electoral services company, and they are working through a solution to this problem. “Unfortunately, with so many incorrect papers sent out, it does compromise the integrity of the election and so we will have to void this election and send out new papers to eligible voter” the Trust spokesperson said. “At this time, we expect new papers to be sent out in the next week or so, and the timeline for the election process will be extended”. The new voting papers will be easily distinguished from the old papers to minimise confusion.

The Trust will be seeking resolution of this issue at no cost to local consumers.

The Trust would like to thank those people who have already voted, and who will need to vote again on new papers once issued. “This voting paper issue is a nuisance we have to work through. “

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