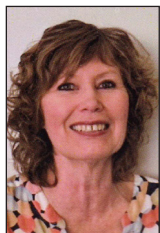


WAITAKI POWER TRUST 2025 ELECTION OF TRUSTEES. CANDIDATE STATEMENTS.



Helen FORTUNE

About me – Helen Fortune

I'm a Certified Practicing Accountant with CPA with a public practicing certificate, am very fortunate to have been working in the accounting profession for the past 20 plus years and over this time I have a passion for planning, efficiency,

technology, process design and helping people and organisations achieve their goals.

I have worked alongside boards in both an advisor capacity, participating in board meetings to provide insight into their financial performance and ensuring that this was in alignment with their vision and purpose. As well as holding board positions and I enjoy working with others to shape organisations for future sustainability.

I have diverse experience across different market sectors and organisation in terms of size, organisation structures, complexity, location and cultures.



Gary KIRCHER

I'm standing for the Waitaki Power Trust because I believe local consumers deserve a strong voice in how Network Waitaki is run. As the company faces big infrastructure upgrades and rising costs, my focus will be on keeping power reliable, affordable, and fair for all 13,000 households and businesses it serves.

I've spent many years working for our community in a range of roles, both paid and as a volunteer. I have experience making decisions on major infrastructure projects, setting expectations for company boards, and making sure public organisations deliver good value.

As a Trustee, I'll bring a practical, people-first approach which ensures that consumers continue to benefit from keeping the company in community ownership. I'll work to make sure Network Waitaki is well-governed, future-focused, and always puts consumers first – protecting the value of this important community-owned asset now and for the future.



George KELCHER

Governorship History. BOT Awamoa/Fenwick School during amalgamation. 2002-2008 Industry Training Board EXITO. Executive Institute of Quarrying NZ – President 2007-2009. Honorary Fellow Award 2019. Director Whitestone Contracting 2000 – current.

Career History. Apprenticeship – A Grade Mechanic 1970 -1975. Started North Otago Road Metals, 1975 to current. Various roles including General Manager 1994 to Christmas 2019. Major Company growth during this period.

I have always lived locally and am firmly committed to the future of the Waitaki District. What can I bring to the Trust? Business experience, balanced practical views, a can-do attitude. I don't dwell on problems, I find and implement solutions. I am a team player, listen to all views before making balance decisions. I believe in the positive future of Network Waitaki under the current ownership model and I will positively contribute towards looking after the interests of the power consumers in the Waitaki District.



Thomas KOENTGES

Strong for tomorrow: Dr Thomas Koentges is an Oamaru-based data scientist and business owner. Building on positions at New Zealand and international institutions, including Harvard University, he has grown a business that develops robust Artificial Intelligence applications, helps

to train new data scientists, tackles pay discrimination with clear evidence, and supports penguin preservation through better data. Thomas wants to support Network Waitaki backing its own people: giving households, farmers, and businesses the opportunity to generate and store more of their own clean power, instead of being held back by out-dated limits. He'll push for commonsense, flexible settings that help to grow local power generation. He will also support investment in robust poles, lines and switching so storms and other shocks (like a too-inquisitive possum) don't knock us out. Thomas offers forward-looking and evidence-based stewardship: enabling more local participation that keeps the lights on for the future.

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WAITAKI POWER TRUST

2025 ELECTION OF TRUSTEES.

CANDIDATE STATEMENTS (cont...)



Ferdie KRUGER

With 35 years of experience in the electricity supply industry, with me specifically active in asset management, planning and pricing, with a passion to find low-cost long-term solutions to support strategic management initiatives, I am now ready to use my abilities as a custodian of the collectively owned distribution network in Waitaki. If you can trust and support me to become your representative in the trust, I will passionately use my knowledge and experience to inspire initiatives based on analysis and the facts in support of the dual objectives of affordability and continuous long-term quality of supply. My more than two decades of exposure to the regulatory impact on distribution companies provides me with knowledge to think strategically about the requirements for a successful electricity distribution business for the benefit of its owners – us. Oamaru is my home and I recently retired to enjoy North Otago to the full.



Brian TANNER

My wife and I have resided in the Waitaki district for 20 years. After selling our business in Christchurch we moved to Oamaru, where we pursued careers in local government and business management. Now retired we are still very active in volunteering and giving back to the community. We both volunteer for the NZ Motor Caravan Association and the Department of Conservation as Visitor hosts. For the past 3 years I have been a volunteer emergency medical assistant for St John in Oamaru, Waimate and Timaru stations. My experience I would bring to the role would be my time as a board member of the Waitaki Safer Communities, Oxford Crescent School and 4 years as Secretary of the Kaik Fishing Village Inc, along with 30 years in senior management. I am confident I have the necessary experience and enthusiasm to be an effective board member of the Waitaki Power Trust.



Sven THELNING

I bring a strong background in governance, community advocacy, and digital systems to the role of Trustee. With experience serving on local boards and community groups, I am committed to ensuring that the Trust remains future-focused and firmly accountable to its consumer-owners. My professional expertise spans IT infrastructure, health and safety systems, and environmental planning which are increasingly relevant skills. I have a deep interest in ensuring that consumers continue to benefit from fair and equitable electricity discounts, while the Trust upholds its duty to safeguard long-term ownership and investment in local energy assets.



Cara TIPPING SMITH

As founder and co-director of The Business Hive and Waitaki App, I have a record for local innovation, community building and strategic leadership. I've served as a trustee or committee member for Waitaki Community Gardens, Janet Frame Eden Street Trust, Oamaru Business Collective and Stronger Waitaki's Stewardship Group. My qualifications include post-graduate degrees in industrial/organisation psychology and leadership for change. I'm a certified Strategic Doing™ practitioner and experienced facilitator – effective in helping groups make sound decisions, quickly and collaboratively. My approach is shaped by 30+ years of untangling complex challenges, from high-stakes tender-and-technical writing to tackling 'wicked' community-based problems. I'm a quick study and constructive communicator – essential for any newly incoming trustee. If elected, I'll bring governance experience, strategic insight and a driving passion to see our community thrive. I will work hard to ensure Network Waitaki continues to operate efficiently, transparently and in the best interests of beneficiaries.

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