

HBPCT newsletter – June 2024

100-year celebration for Hawke's Bay Electric Power Board

The Hawke's Bay Power Consumers' Trust is very proud to mark the 100th anniversary of the Hawke's Bay Electric Power Board. Those who have been following the photos and memories being shared through social media and the Unison website will be aware of this event.

Throughout its history, the Hawke's Bay Electric Power Board as a publicly owned asset built by the people of Hawke's Bay, has served its community well. The move to a Trust ownership model was part of the overall electricity reforms of the 1990's.

The Faraday Museum in Napier will be featuring a special exhibition in June to celebrate this anniversary, and we encourage as many of you as possible to go along. Normal entry fees apply.

Modernising the Trust Deed

Trustees have commenced the process of reviewing and modernising the Trust Deed. This review will ensure the deed is up to date with current legislation and make the document easier to read compared to the formal legal-speak of the time. Many of the changes will be administrative, however Trustees will keep you informed if there are any significant changes proposed that will require public consultation.

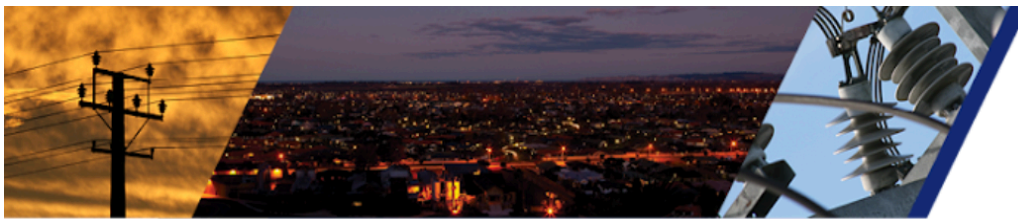
New Directors appointed

One of the key tasks of HBPCT is to appoint Unison's board of directors. We are very pleased to announce two new high calibre directors for the Unison Networks Board. They are Wendie Harvey and Jon Nichols. [Click here for more information.](#)

The new directors will take up their roles in August, and will replace current directors, Lucy Elwood and Phil Hocquard who retire by rotation following Unison's annual meeting at the end of July.

Trust elections

The Trustee elections will be held later this year. Nominations are open from 1 – 31 July, with voting commencing 10 September. Election day is 1 October. The election process is managed by Election Services and voting will be available by both postal and online services. Details will be available on the trust website: www.hbpct.co.nz closer to the time.



ETNZ conference

Trustees Barbara Arnott and Diana Kirton attended the Energy Trusts of New Zealand conference in Wellington earlier this month. Energy Minister Hon. Simeon Brown spoke in support of energy trusts who he described as having “stood the test of time”.

HBPCT introduced the topic of the role of ownership reviews for trusts, particularly regarding the restrictions Trust Deeds impose for any changes to the review process that may be considered. We emphasised that our recent experience highlighted that any changes would likely require an application to the High Court. This is an expensive and onerous task for individual trusts.

ETNZ is considering ways to address this situation through a change of legislation for all lines trusts. This recognises that trusts across the country are here to stay, a point made by the Minister Simeon Brown and backed over decades by the consumers and communities served by trusts.

Winter tips

Colder weather is upon us, enhance your home’s energy efficiency with these simple yet impactful tips! Switching to LED lighting, ensuring your home is well-insulated, and using programmable thermostats for heating can really make a difference. For more tips visit

<https://www.unison.co.nz/tell-me-about/community/energy-efficiency/>

Connecting to the Network

Did you know Unison has standard pricing for small connections for residential, rural, and commercial customers? These standardised prices help to provide cost certainty for new connections, learn more

here: <https://www.unison.co.nz/i-need-to/get-connected/to-electricity/get-power-to-my-property/connection-pricing-table/>

HBPCT annual public meeting

When: 2pm, Wednesday 31 July

Where: East Pier, 50 Nelson Quay, Ahuriri, Napier

Why: The Trust Deed requires trustees to hold a public meeting each year within four months of the end of the financial year. At that meeting the Trust reports on the operations and financial statements of the Trust in the preceding financial year.

This is also an opportunity for the public to ask questions about the activities of the trust and the company.

All Hawke’s Bay power consumers are welcome to attend.