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## Media release

# Power consumers urged to get involved in HBPCT elections

28 June 2024

The 2024 Hawke's Bay Power Consumers' Trust (HBPCT) election is getting underway soon.

HBPCT Chair Diana Kirton is urging power consumers to get involved.

"Firstly we encourage any power consumer with a strong desire to serve their community to throw their hat in the ring and stand as a candidate in the October election.

"And secondly we strongly encourage power consumers to vote in the upcoming election, and have their say on who they want their HBPCT representatives to be for the next three years."

Candidate nominations for the HBPCT elections – run independently by Election Services – open on 1 July, with the election held on 1 October.

Information from Election Services will soon be made available on the HBPCT website that informs intending candidates of the election process. Schedule 1 of the HBPCT Trust Deed outlines the process for elections.

HBPCT has five elected trustee positions. Trustees act on behalf of all electricity consumers connected to Unison's electricity network in Napier and Hastings.

The key tasks of the Trust are to:

- Act in the best interests of power consumers
- Exercise its rights as shareholder of Unison on behalf of power consumers
- Appoint Unison's Board of Directors
- Monitor the performance of Unison and its board
- Approve Unison's annual business and financial goals
- Determine annually the amount of Trust funds to be paid to power consumers - as a dividend or in other ways
- Manage the financial affairs of the Trust
- Report to the public each year (via public meeting) on the operations and financial performance of the Trust
- Periodically review Unison's ownership structure.

Mrs Kirton, who has been a Trustee for 19 years (over two separate periods) and is standing down at the end of the current cycle, says it has been an enormous privilege to serve the community.

“Trustees hold the shares in Unison on behalf of consumers connected to Unison's electricity network in Hawke's Bay.

“The job of Trustees is to look after the interests of power consumers, putting power consumers first and foremost.

“Power consumers need a group of committed and qualified trustees to fill the roles and take on these important duties. To anyone interested in standing, please register as a candidate for the upcoming election”.

Nominations close at 5pm, 31 July.

**ENDS**