

## Marcus Gower

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### Governance Profile

My professional career to date has been largely in the information technology sector. Since 1995, I have been self-employed, director of an IT business called Fragment. I provide onsite and remote IT support to businesses of various sizes. Support ranges from troubleshooting through to large SharePoint development projects. I believe the expertise that I have is extremely valuable at the board table. It enables boards to have greater confidence in the oversight of their IT spend, which is increasingly a focus of boards, as companies utilise modern technology. Security and now privacy with the passing of new legislation, are big issues for businesses; I believe my experience with firewalls, backups, Microsoft 365 and antivirus solutions providing solutions against ransomware, malware and security exploitations would be valuable at the board table.

As a Local Government Councillor for several years, I have been deeply involved in strategic planning, having to plan for our future growth, and this has given me the skills and knowledge to be able to future think and actively contribute to strategic decision making.

Due to my community connections and knowledge, I am often asked to assist Waipā businesses of varying sizes and industries (e.g. food manufacturing and horticulture) to help develop strategies and ideas and to connect them with the right people to make sure they have the connections to have a great experience with the Council processes, like Resource Consents, Liquor licensing. I have been immersed in the Waipā and wider Waikato communities giving my all to make a difference. Working with stakeholders, which can include businesses to local community groups, and supporting community initiatives in a governance capacity is what I do best.

I am a current an active member of the New Zealand Institute of Directors (MInstD), I have completed the Company Directors Course which has helped me further increase my knowledge and skills in directorships. I am also an active Justice of the Peace and enjoying helping others in my community.

My governance strengths are:

- Information technology, security risks, cloud computing.
- Organisational strategic development.
- Future based thinking and planning.
- Community and stakeholder engagement.

### Current Governance Roles

#### Trustee

**Waipa Networks Trust** [www.waipanetworkstrust.co.nz](http://www.waipanetworkstrust.co.nz)

2021 to Current

Waipa Networks Trust owns 100% of the local lines company, Waipa Networks Ltd, on behalf of beneficiaries who are the connected consumers of the district. Every 3 years connected consumers (the 28,000 or so customers Waipa Networks delivers power to) vote for up to six members for the Trust.

The latest Trust elections were held in October 2021, where I was successfully elected.

The Trust holds an important role in the community, looking after beneficiaries interests by appointing the Company Directors, approving the Statement of Corporate Intent of the Company and monitoring the Company Performance, amongst other Trust duties.

I am committed to maintaining local ownership and annual discounts to all consumers and I am passionate about promoting energy efficiency measures to our beneficiaries.

## **Councillor**

### **Waipa District Council**

2007 to Current

This is an elected position that I have had over a number of terms.

Waipā is a desirable location to live, work and play. I have been involved in many of the community development projects in region over the past 10 years including major cycleway projects, Te Awamutu Library, Cambridge Velodrome, Cambridge Pool and Te Awamutu Museum. These projects challenge governance, because we are elected to represent our community, but we also must work with each other to make decisions that in the best interests of our entire region.

During my tenure I have held positions on the following governance committees:

- **Chairperson – Regulatory Committee**
  - This committee leads the development of Council's policy development and District Plan reviews
  - Undertake hearings on contentious community issues such as dangerous dogs, Cambridge Velodrome development and sustainable water supply for a growing population.
  - Completed the Chairpersons Certification – RMA Making Good Decisions
  - Key role where we must consider the positive impacts against the environmental impacts and safety.
- **Deputy Chair - Liquor licensing Committee**
  - Role is to establish new licenses for notable new premises, approve managers licenses and special licenses for large events such as Fieldays
  - Chair hearings where there are objections from Police or Ministry of Health. These can be contentious and you need to make fair decisions that can affect peoples lives.
- **Waipā Iwi Consultative Committee**
  - The purpose of this committee is to facilitate communications between Council and Tangata Whenua. The Committee will consider any matter impacting on the interests of Tangata Whenua. The Committee advises Council and the various Iwi on Treaty of Waitangi implications for policies and activities of Council.
  - Interesting projects have been the Te Awamutu Museum project and the ownership of the collection and retelling of stories in a recent exhibition. This required significant consultation with the different Iwi, on what items from the collection could be shown and the stories told.
- **Waipā Creative Communities Funding Committee and Chair District Promotions Committee**
  - Distributes approximately \$70,000 in funding twice per year, towards community arts and cultural activities.
  - District Promotions distributes approximately \$150,000 and is to enable events to happen in our District and help give some promotion to Waipā.
- **Trustpower Community Awards Committee**
  - Judging our local community group awards to see who would win to represent the Waipā community amongst the rest of New Zealand.
- **Member of Strategic Planning and Policy Committee, Finance and Corporate Committee**
  - These committees are to deal with our future plans, 10 year plan, annual plan, finance reports.

## **Past Governance Roles**

### **Independent Director**

#### **Freeman Court**

2012 – 2015

This is a not-for-profit organisation providing affordable independent housing for the elderly. I held a directorship position while the organisation was working through a significant restructure to a new governance and operation model. This required extensive consultation with stakeholders and as a Board we had to be future focused.

Freeman Court provides a valuable service to our elderly community and we wanted to ensure this service and its facilities could remain in the community long into the future. The governance was transitioned successfully, with the day-to-day operations led by Habitat for Humanity.

### **Chairperson**

#### **Te Awamutu Public Relations Board (TAPRB)**

2016 – 2017

This organisation operated the local i-Site and worked to extend the reputation of our region to visitors. In addition, TAPRB ensured the community was connected and in touch with what is available and on offer locally and in other regions.

I assisted with setting the direction and purpose for the organisation to help put them in a good position to move into the future.

### **References**

- Supplied on request