

Trust Deed — Te Awanui Kaitiaki Trust

1. Name

The name of the Trust is **Te Awanui Kaitiaki Trust** (“the Trust”).

2. Purpose / Kaupapa

The purposes of the Trust are to: Protect, preserve, and promote Māori knowledge, language, and cultural taonga within the digital and technological domain. Develop, maintain, and govern open-source and community-driven digital systems under principles of *Kaitiakitanga*, *Manaakitanga*, *Whakapapa*, and *Rangatiratanga*. Support indigenous data sovereignty, digital literacy, and AI ethics initiatives throughout Aotearoa New Zealand and globally. Establish and maintain the **AwaNet Kaitiaki** digital infrastructure, including domains, software, archives, and kaitiaki agents (e.g. Kitenga, Ruru, Tūwhanawhana). Enable education, research, training, and employment in technology, culture, and creative sectors consistent with the above purposes. Reinvest all income and assets solely for the continuation and enhancement of these kaupapa.

3. Registered Office

The registered office of the Trust shall be located in Aotearoa New Zealand at an address determined by the Trustees.

4. Trustees

The Trust shall have a minimum of **three (3)** Trustees. The initial Trustees are: **Adrian Wiremu Hemi Whiro** (Chair) _____
Additional Trustees may be appointed or retired in accordance with Schedule 1 of this Deed. Trustees must act collectively, transparently, and in accordance with tikanga Māori and New Zealand law.

5. Powers of Trustees

The Trustees may: Acquire, hold, and manage assets, property, and intellectual property (including digital assets). Operate websites, APIs, and digital platforms under the AwaNet Kaitiaki name. Employ or contract individuals for projects, development, or administration. Apply for grants, sponsorship, donations, and government or philanthropic funding. Enter agreements with educational institutions, iwi organisations, or government bodies. Establish subsidiary entities or partnerships to advance the Trust’s purposes.

6. Charitable Status

The Trustees shall seek registration with **Charities Services NZ** to ensure charitable status and tax exemption where applicable.

7. Financial Provisions

The Trust shall maintain proper financial records and prepare annual accounts. All income shall be applied solely to the Trust’s purposes. No Trustee shall receive payment other than reimbursement of reasonable expenses, unless approved for professional services rendered.

8. Meetings & Decision-Making

The Trust shall hold at least one (1) general meeting per year. Decisions require a majority of Trustees present. Meetings may occur in person or online. Minutes shall be recorded and retained.

9. Winding Up

If the Trust is wound up, all assets shall be transferred to another charitable organisation in Aotearoa New Zealand with similar purposes, preferably one operating under kaupapa Māori.

10. Signatures

Executed as a Deed this _____ day of _____ 20_____.

Trustee Name	Signature	Date
Adrian Wiremu Hemi Whiro		

