

EASTERN & CENTRAL COMMUNITY TRUST STRATEGIC PLAN

2015 - 2020

CHAIR'S MESSAGE

ECCT exists to provide funding for projects that benefit communities in Gisborne, Hawke's Bay, Tairāroa, Manawatu, Horowhenua, and Wairarapa.

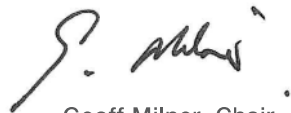
This strategic plan outlines how this will be done. Our traditional strategies around our governance, giving, and financial management that have made us strong in the past have been retained. Trustees have identified new areas of focus that they believe will make a lasting impact on our communities.

This sees us continuing the support of grassroots community groups through contributing to their operating costs such as rent, wages, volunteers, power, programmes, resources, equipment, and other things they use every day. It sees us taking a stronger focus on making sure that the buildings and other large community facilities meet the changing needs of our communities and are well-used, for many years to come. It also sees us working more collaboratively with our partners to make things easier for our community groups to carry out their activities.

Our approach to funding reminds me of the whakataukī: Nā tō rourou, nā taku rourou, ka ora ai te iwi – With your food basket and my food basket, the people will thrive.

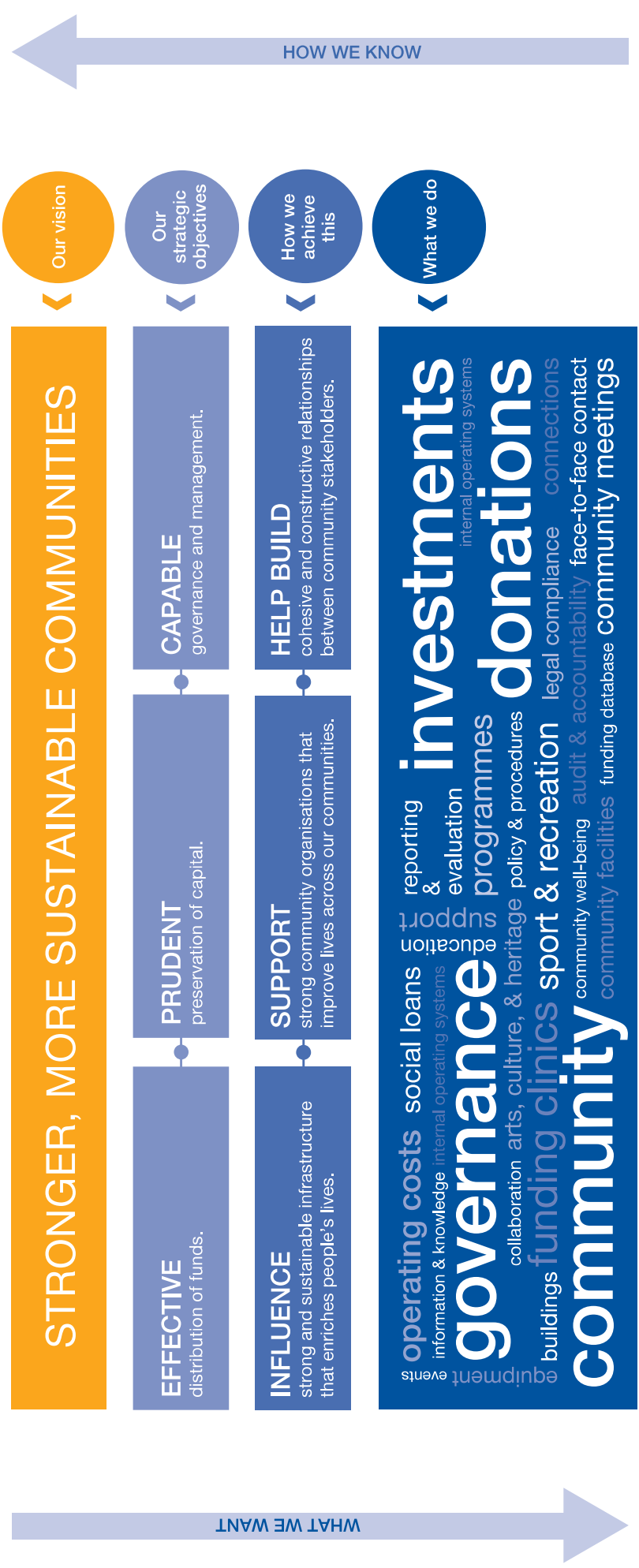
We work with groups which identify community need and show a commitment to helping themselves.

Our direction in the next five years expands on this. By taking a coordinated approach and working together we hope to make the best use of the resources available to our community and provide support as we become stronger and more sustainable together.



Geoff Milner, Chair
Eastern & Central Community Trust

ECCT STRATEGIC PLAN 2015 - 2020



ABOUT OUR STRATEGIC PLAN

Our Purpose

ECCT was created by legislation and enacted under the Community Trusts Act 1999 to support charitable, cultural, philanthropic, recreational and other activities that enrich people's lives in communities in the Gisborne District, Hawke's Bay, Tairāroa, Wairarapa, Manawatu and Horowhenua regions.

Our vision

To achieve this purpose, Trustees' long-term vision for ECCT is:
To help build stronger, more sustainable communities.

Our strategic objectives

ECCT has grouped our work into three streams to help achieve our vision. The aims for each stream are:

1. **Capital** – to preserve the capital base in real terms while making optimal annual distributions.
2. **Giving** – to distribute Trust funds, in partnership with our communities and stakeholders, in a fair and effective manner.
3. **Organisation** – to exercise effective governance and management that reflects best practice.

How we achieve this

Trustees have defined three outcomes we want for our communities in the next 3-5 years. These outcomes will help guide ECCT's work and the impact we seek from our giving and other activities.

1. **Support** strong community organisations that improve lives across our communities;
2. **Influence** strong and sustainable infrastructure that enriches people's lives;
3. **Help Build** cohesive and constructive relationships between community stakeholders.

What we do

Our main activities are **managing investments** so we have funds to give away and then **making donations** to groups whose work benefits our community.

In 2015-2016, we'll be working with community groups to understand how we might be able to better support them in their work. This will include looking at our own practices to make sure we're easy to deal with.

We also want to know more about the difference that our funding is making in our communities.

Our Values

These values underpin the work and decision-making processes of ECCT: **Prudence in Investment; Fairness and effectiveness; Respect and support** for Trustees, staff and stakeholders; and **High performance**.

WHAT WE DO - KEY ACTIVITIES

Governance

ECCT is an independent Trust and enacted under the Community Trusts Act 1999. Our 12 Trustees are appointed by the Minister of Finance. Each year, Trustees review a Strategic Plan that sets the direction for the Trust and outlines how this will be achieved. They oversee every donation the Trust makes. A General Manager and staff are employed to deliver the business plan and make sure key policies are in place to deliver the Trustees' vision.

Donations

The ECCT Board meets six times per year to consider nearly 800 applications and donate money to community groups. Donations amount to around \$5 million per annum and approximately 80% of applicants are successful. Our staff provide advice and information to community groups through phone calls, meetings, visits, forums, funding clinics, the website and the Annual Public Meeting.

Community

Our giving is informed by community needs and the Trustees who live within the region. Staff speak with Councils, local and regional organisations, and other funders to understand community needs and projects. In 2015-2016, we'll be working with community groups to better understand their needs and aspirations and how we can work together to make communities a better place for all who live there.

Investment

Trustees have stewardship for the Trust Funds (currently \$162m). They're responsible for prudently managing, investing, and distributing funds for the benefit of the community. An independent advisor is employed to provide advice to the General Manager and the Trust. The Trust's focus is on income generation rather than growth, to ensure its continued ability to meet community requests for funding. Fund managers are used to manage the portfolio on a day-to-day basis.