

THEATRE NEW ZEALAND INC.

REMIT FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE 2026 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Removal of the Requirement to Hold Two Face-to-Face Meetings Each Year

Submitted by: The National Executive of Theatre New Zealand Inc.

Purpose of the Remit

The purpose of this remit is to remove the constitutional requirement for Theatre New Zealand to hold two face-to-face meetings each year.

The increasing costs of travel, accommodation, meals, venue hire and associated expenses make it financially difficult and increasingly unsustainable for Theatre New Zealand to require two in-person meetings annually.

This remit will allow the Annual General Meeting and other meetings of Theatre New Zealand to be held face to face, electronically, or through a combination of both, according to the needs and circumstances of the organisation.

REMIT

That the members of Theatre New Zealand Inc., assembled at the 2026 Annual General Meeting, resolve:

1. That the constitutional requirement for Theatre New Zealand to hold two face-to-face meetings each year be removed.
2. That Theatre New Zealand continue to hold an Annual General Meeting each year in accordance with its Constitution and all applicable legislation.
3. That the Annual General Meeting may be held:
 - face to face;
 - by video conference or other electronic means; or
 - as a hybrid meeting combining face-to-face and electronic attendance.
4. That all other General Meetings, Special General Meetings, National Executive meetings, committee meetings, regional meetings and member consultation meetings may also be held:
 - face to face;
 - by video conference or other electronic means; or
 - as hybrid meetings.
5. That the format and location of each meeting be determined by the National Executive, taking into account:
 - the purpose and nature of the meeting;

- the financial position of Theatre New Zealand;
 - travel and accommodation costs;
 - the geographical location of participants;
 - accessibility and participation;
 - available technology; and
 - the best interests of the organisation and its members.
6. That any person participating electronically be regarded as present at the meeting, provided that the person is reasonably able to:
- hear or read the proceedings;
 - communicate with the meeting;
 - participate in discussion;
 - move or second motions where entitled;
 - receive relevant meeting information; and
 - exercise their voting rights.
7. That electronic and hybrid meetings be conducted in a manner that gives members a reasonable opportunity to participate and vote.
8. That the National Executive retain the discretion to hold face-to-face meetings whenever it considers that an in-person meeting would be beneficial, practical and financially responsible.
9. That the National Executive be authorised to prepare and adopt the necessary constitutional amendments, meeting procedures and administrative policies required to give effect to this remit.

RATIONALE

Theatre New Zealand is a national organisation whose Executive members, representatives and member organisations are located throughout Aotearoa New Zealand.

The current requirement to hold two face-to-face meetings each year creates substantial costs for the organisation, including:

- airfares and other travel;
- accommodation;
- meals;
- local transport;
- meeting venue costs; and
- other expenses associated with bringing participants together from across the country.

These costs have increased significantly and place unnecessary pressure on Theatre New Zealand's limited financial resources.

Funds used to meet travel and accommodation expenses could instead be directed towards Theatre New Zealand's core purposes, including:

- TheatreFest;
- education and training;

- youth development;
- member services;
- national and regional programmes;
- awards and recognition;
- community theatre development; and
- national and international opportunities for members.

Video conferencing and other electronic meeting platforms provide an effective and widely accepted means of conducting meetings.

Electronic and hybrid meetings may also increase participation by removing barriers created by distance, travel costs, employment, family responsibilities, health, disability and other circumstances.

There is no requirement under the Charities Act 2005 for a registered charity to hold meetings face to face. Theatre New Zealand is still required to hold an Annual General Meeting, but that meeting does not have to be conducted entirely in person.

The proposed amendment does not prevent Theatre New Zealand from holding face-to-face meetings. It removes the compulsory requirement to hold two such meetings every year and gives the National Executive the flexibility to choose the most appropriate meeting format.

This change will:

- reduce travel and accommodation expenditure;
- improve the responsible use of Theatre New Zealand's funds;
- make meetings more accessible;
- increase opportunities for members to participate;
- reduce the environmental impact associated with national travel;
- provide greater flexibility in responding to changing circumstances; and
- ensure that face-to-face meetings are held when they provide clear value to the organisation.

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL WORDING

The relevant clause of the Constitution should be amended to read:

Theatre New Zealand shall hold an Annual General Meeting each year in accordance with this Constitution and applicable legislation. The Annual General Meeting and any other meeting of the Society may be held face to face, by electronic means, or through a combination of face-to-face and electronic participation, as determined by the National Executive, provided that members entitled to attend are given a reasonable opportunity to participate and exercise their voting rights.

PROPOSED AGM MOTION

That the Constitution of Theatre New Zealand Inc. be amended to remove the requirement to hold two face-to-face meetings each year and to provide that the Annual General Meeting and all other meetings may be held face to face, electronically, or through a combination of both, as determined by the National Executive, provided that members entitled to attend are given a reasonable opportunity to participate and exercise their voting rights.

Moved by: _____

Seconded by: _____

AGM Decision

- ☐ Carried
- ☐ Carried with amendment
- ☐ Lost
- ☐ Referred back to the National Executive

Amendments adopted by the meeting