

Independent Auditor's Report

To the readers of Central Hawke's Bay Consumers Power Trust's group financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2026

Opinion

The Auditor-General is the auditor of Central Hawke's Bay Consumers Power Trust and its subsidiaries and controlled entities (the Group). The Auditor-General has appointed me, Chris Webby, using the staff and resources of The Audit Office, to carry out the audit of the financial statements of the Group on his behalf.

We have audited the financial statements of the Group on pages 2 to 24, that comprise the balance sheet as at 31 March 2026, the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year ended on that date and the notes to the financial statements that include material accounting policies and other explanatory information.

In our opinion, the financial statements of the Group:

- present fairly, in all material respects:
 - the Group's financial position as at 31 March 2026; and
 - the financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended; and
- comply with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand in accordance with New Zealand Equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards Reduced Disclosure Regime.

Our audit was completed on 16 July 2026. This is the date at which our opinion is expressed.

Basis for our opinion

We carried out our audit in accordance with the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards, which incorporate the Professional and Ethical Standards and the International Standards on Auditing (New Zealand) issued by the New Zealand Auditing and Assurance Standards Board. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Responsibilities of the auditor section of our report.

We have fulfilled our responsibilities in accordance with the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Responsibilities of the Trustees for the financial statements

The Trustees are responsible on behalf of the Group for preparing financial statements that are fairly presented and that comply with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand.

The Trustees are responsible for such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable them to prepare financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible on behalf of the Group for assessing the Group's ability to continue as a going concern. The Trustees are also responsible for disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting, unless the Trustees intend to wind up the Group or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

The Trustees' responsibilities arise from the Electricity Industry Act 2010 and the Trust Deed of the Trust.

Responsibilities of the auditor for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements, as a whole, are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion.

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit carried out in accordance with the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements are differences or omissions of amounts or disclosures and can arise from fraud or error. Misstatements are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the decisions of readers taken on the basis of these financial statements.

We did not evaluate the security and controls over the electronic publication of the financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. Also:

- We identify and assess the risk of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

- We obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Group's internal control.
- We evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Trustees.
- We conclude on the appropriateness of the use of the going concern basis of accounting by the Trustees and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Group's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements, or if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Group to cease to continue as a going concern.
- We evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
- We plan and perform the Group audit to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the financial statements of the entities or business activities within the Group as a basis for forming an opinion on the consolidated financial statements. We are responsible for the direction, supervision and review of the audit work performed for the purposes of the Group audit. We remain solely responsible for our audit opinion.

We communicate with the Trustees regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Our responsibilities arise from the Public Audit Act 2001.

Other information

The Trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises all of the information included in the annual report, but does not include the financial statements, and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information, and we do not express any form of audit opinion or assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information. In doing so, we consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on our work, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Independence

We are independent of the Group in accordance with the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards, which incorporate the independence requirements of Professional and Ethical Standard 1 *International Code of Ethics for Assurance Practitioners (including International Independence Standards)* (New Zealand) issued by the New Zealand Auditing and Assurance Standards Board.

In addition to the audit of the Group and subsidiary, we have carried out an assurance engagement over the Electricity Information Disclosures, which is compatible with those independence requirements. Other than these engagements, we have no relationship with, or interests in, the Group.



Chris Webby
The Audit Office
On behalf of the Auditor-General
Palmerston North, New Zealand