



# GEOTHERMAL RISING

## Candidates for Board of Directors Applicant Form 2027-2029 3 Year Term

### Personal Information

**Name**

Aroha Campbell

**Organization and Title (optional)**

Tauhara North No.2 Trust, Trustee

**Please provide a brief candidate biography and statement describing your background and qualifications for serving on the Board (maximum 750 words).**

Aroha Cambell (Aotearoa New Zealand) brings more than three decades of geothermal governance, leadership, and community development experience, including her long-standing roles as Trustee of Tauhara North No. 2 Trust (TN2T), Director of the Rotokawa Joint Venture, Board Member of the New Zealand Geothermal Association, and adviser to geothermal communities around the world. Her expertise spans governance, stakeholder engagement, strategic leadership, indigenous participation, and the successful integration of cultural values within major geothermal developments.

Aroha grew up living within a geothermal environment and Māori community at Ohaki, where these precious natural resources were used for bathing, cooking and community connection. But a power station development had a significant negative impact, causing subsidence and surface feature destruction with subsequent loss of access, knowledge and connection for her tribe, Ngati Tahu. This personal experience has driven Aroha's lifelong passion for raising Indigenous voices in geothermal development – because at Ohaki in the 1980s the Māori landowners were not involved in decision making for the power station development and operation.

Since the 1990's Aroha has continuously built her skills and knowledge in geothermal development (across both the operator/ industry and Māori perspectives), which she takes into each subsequent project and shares with others. She is widely recognized for helping to transform TN2T from a small landowner trust into one of New Zealand's most successful indigenous geothermal enterprises, with assets now exceeding \$1BN. She has played a key role in enabling the development of significant geothermal power projects, including overseeing the stand up of four geothermal power stations, while ensuring benefits flowed back to owners through education, health, cultural, and community initiatives. Her leadership has demonstrated how geothermal resources can create lasting economic and social outcomes for Indigenous communities.

Aroha continues to advocate for the Ohaki community, and has negotiated mitigation agreements, and access to burial sites and the ngawha (hot springs). Her 35+ year relationship with Contact Energy for Ohaki and with Mercury for Rotokawa and Nga Tamariki geothermal fields is a lived experience, that has resulted in strong, positive relationships and effective communication between industry and Indigenous landowners. These relationships are built on shared principles of trust, kaitiakitanga (guardianship), and sustainability, with agreement to do what is best for both parties. Real value creation includes 300+MW, Māori geothermal leadership, knowledge, training and aligned long-term plans.

Aroha has also supported geothermal research programmes, with a focus on community engagement, cultural competency and increased Māori participation in geothermal research and development. To

improve communication between industry and Māori through shared language, Aroha was a key member of the Waiwhatu-Arawhata project (2022-2025), that created new kupu (words) in Te Reo Māori (the Māori language) to define scientific terms. Aroha is currently a governance advisor for the NZ superhot geothermal drilling project (GeoShot).

Beyond New Zealand, Aroha has been a strong advocate for indigenous participation in geothermal development internationally, including contributing to the first Geothermal Indigenous People’s Declaration and supporting strategic initiatives with communities in Kenya, Hawaii and elsewhere. Aroha was awarded the GRC Geothermal Special Achievement Award in 2016. She also is the recipient of the NZ Queens Service Medal for services to Māori (2015) and the Women in Geothermal (WING), Global Inspiring Woman Award (2016).

**Your Personal Geothermal Rising Involvement statement (Maximum 500 words).**

Aroha first attended GRC conferences in the early 2000s, and has been a conference attendee, paper co-author and presenter. In 2016, she received the GRC Geothermal Special Achievement Award for outstanding achievement of geothermal development on Māori lands and the dramatic increase in value these efforts have brought to New Zealand. More recently, Aroha co-convened the first Indigenous Geothermal Symposium in Hawai’i, held prior to the 2024 Geothermal Rising conference. She acknowledges the support from GRC which funded this symposium and made it possible to raise Indigenous voices within the geothermal community. A key outcome from the 2024 symposium, which Aroha co-developed, was a Geothermal Indigenous People’s Declaration. The Indigenous Geothermal Symposium has been continued in 2025 (GRC, Reno) and 2026 (WGC), with an update to the Declaration completed in 2026.

**Statement of your personal plan if elected (Maximum 500 words).**

Aroha’s governance style has a strong compliance focus, with strengths in communication and relationship building. She has a sincere willingness to assist others, and thinks outside the box while maintaining integrity and focus on the desired outcomes.

If elected, her personal focus is to help to ensure that diverse global and indigenous voices continue to be represented in the future direction of the geothermal industry. She wants to drive action, building on the Geothermal Indigenous People’s Declaration, to increase indigenous participation in geothermal projects. Key to this is relationship building and translating / bridging the different perspectives of industry and Indigenous worldviews.

**Upload your Personal Bio Photo**



**Upload your Personal Video**

 GRC pitch Aroha (final).mp4

**Date**

Thursday, August 27, 2026

If you have any questions regarding the election process, Board service, or candidate materials, please feel free to reach out directly to Caity Smith, Chair of the Governance & Nominations Committee, at [csmith@xgsenergy.com](mailto:csmith@xgsenergy.com).