



Director elections 2026

Candidate Information

Everything you need to know about
applying for a position on the DairyNZ
Board of Directors & the Directors'
Remuneration Committee



➔ Nominations close 12 noon, 21 August 2026

Contents

About this guide	1
What is involved in being a DairyNZ director	2
What does the Directors' Remuneration Committee do?	5
Election details	7
Nominations	8
Completion of nomination forms	9
Interest statement	10
Candidate profile statements	12
About the election process	14
About electionz.com	16

About this guide

This guide provides general information for prospective candidates in the 2026 DairyNZ Incorporated (DairyNZ) election for one farmer-elected director and two farmer-elected members of the Directors' Remuneration Committee.

The elections are being conducted by postal and internet voting, with nominations closing at 12 noon, Wednesday, 21 August 2026.

Candidates or others who require more detailed information can contact the returning officer, Anthony Morton (electionz.com), phone 0800 666 935.

Positions on offer

We are seeking nominations to fill the following three vacancies:

- DairyNZ Board: one farmer-elected position
- Directors' Remuneration Committee: two positions

Incumbent director Cameron Henderson is seeking re-election to the DairyNZ Board. Johanna Burton is seeking re-election to the Directors' Remuneration Committee.

The second Directors' Remuneration Committee position arises from the board's decision to increase committee membership from three to four members.

If more than the required number of candidates are nominated to fill these vacancies, we will hold an election allowing DairyNZ Inc members to vote on their preferred candidate.

If the number of candidates matches the number of vacancies, those candidates are elected unopposed.

Key 2026 election dates

Nominations open 9am, Monday 3 August

Nominations close 12 noon, Friday 21 August

Voter packs and Notice of Meeting booklet posted to farmers Thursday 1 October

Voting opens Friday 2 October

Podcast with candidates week of 5 October

Voting closes 12 noon, Thursday 29 October

Candidates notified of outcomes Thursday 29 October

Results publicly announced at approximately 3pm, Friday 30 October

DairyNZ Annual Meeting Wednesday 4 November.

What is involved in being a DairyNZ director?

Board members play a critical role in setting the strategic direction and driving DairyNZ forward to maximise performance and achievement of goals that benefit the dairy sector and progress a positive future for New Zealand dairy farming. Read our **strategy**.

DairyNZ's eight Board members share the responsibility to govern DairyNZ. The board is responsible for setting strategy and overseeing the performance of the organisation as well as making decisions to respond to risks and opportunities facing dairy farmers and the sector. As an industry good organisation, DairyNZ is responsible for activity that is expected to provide net benefits to a dairy industry group/s and which would not be sufficiently provided by the market.

Further details about responsibilities of board members are set out in the **Rules of DairyNZ Incorporated**. All prospective candidates should make themselves familiar with this document prior to submitting their nomination. Directors have a duty to act in the best interests of the organisation.

Becoming a board member

Milksolids suppliers who pay a levy to DairyNZ and are members of DairyNZ Inc elect up to five board members, and the board appoints up to three independent board members. Board members may be elected or appointed from anywhere in New Zealand.

Chair

The board will decide on the Chair annually. This process takes place after each annual meeting.

Competencies and skills

Board members are expected to demonstrate the following personal competencies and qualities:

- Integrity – upholds high moral and ethical standards
- Commitment and reliability, ensuring they prepare well and represent DairyNZ within the wider sector
- Good communication skills demonstrating the ability to listen, asks questions, understand perspectives and articulate ideas to others including differing views
- Sound judgement – ability to reach well-reasoned conclusions and propose course of actions based on information and available knowledge
- Farmer and levy payer perspective – awareness and knowledge of dairy sector dynamics and issues, including the understanding of different viewpoints across the sector demonstrating the capability to look objectively at the needs of the dairy sector as a whole
- A team player with experience of demonstrating leadership and/or governance within the dairy or agriculture sector
- Curious and active to build knowledge and commitment to ongoing governance development
- Financial literacy.

Ideally, individual board members will have several of the following skills and attributes:

- Governance experience, ideally in previous director positions or associate director positions
- The ability to be information-oriented
- Experience in setting strategy and governing performance for results
- Broad dairy sector knowledge and familiarity with farm issues and trends in New Zealand and internationally
- Sound networks and contacts in the dairy sector
- A clear understanding of the role and functions of industry good activities
- An ability to distinguish governance from management
- Advocacy experience at a sector level
- Experience in collaboration with Māori stakeholders, including iwi, hapū, and Māori organisations, including demonstrating a deep understanding of Māori perspectives, values and cultural protocols
- Understanding the dynamics of the research or technology sectors.

Rotation of directors

Under the current DairyNZ retirement policy, directors serve a three-year term before retiring by rotation. After this term they can stand for re-election, with a director able to serve a maximum of three terms (nine years). Casual vacancies can be filled by board appointment. Directors appointed or elected to fill casual vacancies hold office until the next election cycle occurs.

Current board director tenure

A summary of current DairyNZ Board directors, their tenure and their next election.

Director name	First appointed	End of next three-year Rotation
<i>Farmer-elected directors</i>		
Tracy Brown	October 2019	October 2028
Chris Lewis	October 2022	October 2028
Cameron Henderson	October 2023	Up for re-election October 2026
Jacqueline Rowarth	October 2018	October 2027
Richard McIntyre	October 2024	October 2027
<i>Independent directors</i>		
Mark Todd	April 2022	October 2028
Mary-Anne Macleod	October 2020	Up for ratification October 2026
David Hunt	July 2024	October 2027

Directors' duties

Directors, when exercising powers or performing duties, must act in good faith and in the manner which he or she believes will best attain the objectives of the board.

Directors, upon election, will be required to disclose their interests. The board will consider these and agree how best to manage any perceived, potential or actual conflicts in line with the **DairyNZ Conflict of Interest – Directors Policy**.

Director commitments and responsibilities

DairyNZ typically has eight board meetings annually, which can range in length from one to two days, excluding preparation and travel. In addition, directors also attend extra out of session meetings when required and attend four sub-committee meetings per year (Audit & Risk Committee or People & Culture Committee). Board meetings occur at various locations nationwide. One week before each meeting, papers and other material are circulated to directors.

DairyNZ Board directors are also often requested to represent DairyNZ at field days, farmer events or forums, attend regional meetings with farmers, or represent DairyNZ on industry boards or stakeholder groups.

These commitments are additional to board meetings, but are inclusive of the role, meaning annual commitment as a director is approximately 30-35 days per year.

Directors' remuneration and benefits

The Directors' Remuneration Committee (an independent group of levy payers and members) recommend payments for directors each year. Members then vote annually on the proposal as part of the election process. Results will be announced on 30 October 2026.

For 2025/26, directors were paid \$54,000 per annum while the Chair was paid \$102,000 per annum.

Directors are reimbursed for reasonable travel, accommodation and other costs related to meetings or DairyNZ business.

For more information about DairyNZ and the responsibilities of board members, contact the Company Secretary at company.secretary@dairynz.co.nz

Contact details for current DairyNZ farmer-elected board members are available on the [DairyNZ website](#).

What does the Directors' Remuneration Committee do?

DairyNZ is committed to making the levy the best investment for New Zealand dairy farmers and we are prudent in our spending.

The purpose of the Directors' Remuneration Committee (DRC) is to annually review and recommend any changes to directors' remuneration to ensure it is at an appropriate level and effectively managed to attract and retain directors and to motivate them to encourage enhanced performance by DairyNZ in working towards achieving industry good objectives.

Remuneration for directors is set by levy payers who are also members of DairyNZ Inc by voting by post or online each year and will be announced on 30 October 2026. The DRC provides a report to members, as part of the voting process, on the level of remuneration the DRC recommends should be paid for each director and the Chair for that financial year.

DairyNZ has two standing sub-board committees – the Audit & Risk Committee and the People & Culture Committee. The DRC proposes the remuneration of the Chairs of each subcommittee and the remuneration of the board's deputy chair.

The DRC is also required to make recommendations regarding the standing committee fees and the daily fee for an associate director, which will also be voted on by members of DairyNZ Inc.

The board may also seek recommendations regarding director remuneration of DairyNZ subsidiary companies.

Becoming a DRC member

The DRC is comprised of four people who are not associated with the business of DairyNZ but are nominated and elected by levy payers and members of DairyNZ Inc. The role of the DRC is to consider and recommend remuneration for directors of DairyNZ Inc annually.

A member of the DRC must be a member of DairyNZ but shall not be a director or permanent employee of a DairyNZ Group entity.

DRC members' duties

Members, when exercising powers or performing duties, must act in good faith and in the manner which they believe will best attain the objectives of the DRC.

Vacancies

The board may appoint a member to the DRC for a period of up to one year if no members stand for election when vacancies arise.

Meetings

The DRC meets one to two times a year, either in person or virtually. The Chair of the DRC may be required to report to the DairyNZ Annual Meeting in November each year.

Chair

The DRC will decide on the Chair annually.

Rotation of DRC

DRC members are appointed for a maximum term of three years*. At the end of the three-year term a committee member may stand for re-election. A committee member can serve a maximum of three terms (nine years).

**The three-year term was first introduced in May 2025.*

DRC Members' remuneration and benefits

DRC members are currently paid \$900 per day for attending meetings.

DRC members are reimbursed for reasonable travel, accommodation and other expenses related to attending meetings.

Current DRC tenure

Director name	First appointed	End of next three-year Rotation
Shirley Trumper (Chair)	October 2020	October 2028
Johanna Burton	October 2021	October 2026
Ellen Bartlett	October 2024	October 2027
Vacant position	October 2026	October 2029

For more information about DairyNZ and the responsibilities of DRC members, email company.secretary@dairynz.co.nz.

Election details

Nominations are sought to fill three vacancies (one on the DairyNZ Board, and two on the Directors' Remuneration Committee). If more than the required number of candidates are nominated to fill these vacancies, elections will be carried out:

- across all members of DairyNZ (levy paying dairy farmers who are also members of DairyNZ Incorporated ("members"))
- using postal and internet voting
- using the single transferable voting (STV) method.

Voting will be weighted by final 2025/26 season milksolids.

Candidate names will be listed in random order on the voting papers. The order will be determined by the returning officer drawing the candidates' names by lot.

Who can vote?

A levy payer who is a member of DairyNZ Inc holds the right to vote on director elections, Directors' Remuneration Committee member elections and other resolutions proposed for voting upon.

These members will be sent voting packs. After voting has closed, each supplier's vote will be multiplied by the number of milksolids produced by that supplier.

Members of DairyNZ Inc in relation to Levy Payers

In 2024, DairyNZ updated its Rules, which were voted on and resolved by Levy Payers, to be compliant with the new Incorporated Societies Act 2022 (the Act).

Under the Act, a new levy payer cannot automatically become a member of DairyNZ Inc and must consent to do so. All existing levy payers as of 22 October 2024 automatically became members as described by the Act at the time of adopting the amended Rules.

There is no membership fee to become a member.

If you have any questions on whether you are a member of DairyNZ please contact the returning officer, Anthony Morton at electionz.com.



Nominations

Candidate eligibility

Board of Directors

A candidate for the DairyNZ director election must be:

- a) a member, i.e. someone who pays a levy to DairyNZ and is also a member of DairyNZ Inc
- b) not disqualified under the Companies Act 1993 from being a director of a company established under that Act
- c) not disqualified under the Incorporated Societies Act 2022 from being an officer of an incorporated society under that Act
- d) not currently declared bankrupt
- e) qualified, in the opinion of the members nominating them, by virtue of their knowledge of or experience in the dairy sector, science skills, or governance experience or qualifications.

Directors' Remuneration Committee

A candidate for the Directors' Remuneration Committee election must be:

- a) a member, i.e. someone who pays a levy to DairyNZ and is also a member of DairyNZ Inc
- b) not a current DairyNZ Board or DairyNZ Board subsidiary director
- c) not a candidate for the DairyNZ director election
- d) not an employee of DairyNZ or subsidiary
- e) qualified, in the opinion of the members nominating them, by virtue of their knowledge, skill or experience.

General criteria

If the supplier is a company, partnership, trust or other corporate structure, membership will apply to the nominated representative of that entity.

Announcement of results

The DairyNZ Board (per the Rules of DairyNZ) holds the right to communicate how the results of the election will be shared. For the 2026 director election process, the successful candidates will be announced publicly on Friday 30 October 2026. Individual candidates' results will not be publicly shared. Each candidate will be notified of the outcome 24 hours prior to the public announcement.

Nomination forms

Each nomination must be made on an official nomination form, available from the returning officer, electionz.com:

Phone: 0800 666 935

Email: nominations@electionz.com

Web: electionz.com/dairynz2026

Completion of nomination forms

Nominations can be completed online or in hard copy format.

On the electionz.com/dairynz2026 website, candidates will find an 'Online' and 'PDF' version for each of the Board of Directors Nomination Form and Directors' Remuneration Committee Nomination Form.

Online submission

To complete the nomination form online, the candidate should select one of the following:

- Board of Directors Nomination Form (Online)
- Directors' Remuneration Committee Nomination Form (Online)

The candidate will initially be required to complete a candidate section.

They can also attach their candidate profile, photo and interest statement (see pages 10-13 for details of these).

Once they submit the candidate section, they will get a confirmation email and two more emails which they need to send to their nominator and seconder, so they can complete their parts of the nomination.

Email or posted submission

If you wish to complete the nomination in hard copy, download the 'PDF' option and print.

Nomination forms (including candidate profile, photo and interest statement) can be scanned and emailed to the returning officer at **nominations@electionz.com**.

Alternatively, nomination forms (including candidate profile, photo and interest statement) can be posted or couriered to:

The Returning Officer

electionz.com

3/3 Pukaki Road

Yaldhurst

Christchurch 8042

Note, the nomination form must be received by the returning officer no later than 12 noon, Friday 21 August 2026.

The following requirements apply to all nominations:

- Each candidate must include their consent on the nomination form and be nominated by one other current levy payer and member of DairyNZ Inc, and be seconded by one other current levy payer and member of DairyNZ Inc.
- Each candidate must consent to the sharing of their personal information, as provided on the nomination form
- The candidate must complete and sign Section A of the nomination form.
- The nominator and seconder must complete and sign Section B.
- If a candidate is unable to sign the nomination form (e.g. absent overseas), a letter of consent signed by the candidate is acceptable to attach to the nomination form.
- If a candidate is commonly known in the community by a slightly different name (e.g. Edward Smith is commonly known as Ted Smith) and has been known by this name for at least the last six months (to the satisfaction of the returning officer), the commonly known name may appear on the nomination form.

- Each candidate, nominator and seconder must declare their dairy processing company name and supplier number on the nomination form. If you supply a dairy company that does not assign you a unique supplier number, please provide your telephone number.
- Each candidate can provide a candidate profile statement (300-word limit) and photo with their nomination form. If elections are required, these profiles will be published by the returning officer in the Notice of Meeting booklet distributed with the voting papers.
- Candidates are not permitted to use honours, official designations, ranks etc as part of their name on the voting paper. For example:
 - a) an honour bestowed on a person by the government such as a knighthood. For example, "Sir" or "Dame", which occur before a person's first name or "OBE" which is placed after a person's surname
 - b) an official designation or appointment in the government such as a registrar-general, the auditor-general or a registrar
 - c) the holding of a rank in the New Zealand Defence Force, the New Zealand Police, the New Zealand Fire Service or the judiciary. For example, colonel, sergeant, private, rating, detective inspector, constable, commander, justice, judge or master
 - d) the use of official titles such as doctor or professor. The use of degrees or qualifications (BBS, BSc, BAgSci, DipScTech) are also not permitted on the voting paper after a candidate's name, however, they may be included in the 300-word candidate profile statement.

Interest statement

Candidates for both the Board of Directors and Directors' Remuneration Committee positions must submit a signed interest statement with their nomination.

A candidate must include with their nomination form the name of any entity which provides industry good activities and which DairyNZ promotes or funds, of which the candidate is a director, officer, trustee or employee, and the candidate's status in relation to that entity in accordance with the **Rules of DairyNZ Incorporated**.

In addition to this, a candidate must also declare any interests (actual, potential or perceived) that may give rise to a conflict as a Director of DairyNZ. An interest is not just a financial interest but could be related to personal duties or roles held either personally or with other organisations. See the **DairyNZ Conflict of Interest – Directors Policy** for more information.

Guidelines for interest statements

The requirements for disclosure of interests are set out in Schedule 4, Part D, paragraph 29, of the **Rules of DairyNZ Incorporated** and the **DairyNZ Conflict of Interest – Directors Policy**. The documents outline types of interests for a candidate to consider. All candidates must familiarise themselves with the requirements prior to submitting their nomination form.

If a candidate does not provide a statement of interest at the time of nomination, they may be disqualified from standing for the Board of Directors or the Directors' Remuneration Committee.

The board will include, in the Notice of Meeting booklet, the interests identified by each candidate.

Candidate interests: after election

If a candidate to the Board of Directors or any committee of DairyNZ is elected (or appointed), they are required to disclose any interests upon induction, where the interest will be disclosed in the interest register and made aware to the board or committee. Management of the interest and the associated procedures to manage the interest by the board will be in accordance with the Policy.

Why these legal requirements exist

The legal provisions and requirements referred to above were established to protect the interests of DairyNZ and to protect the interests of individuals standing as candidates for election or serving as board or committee members.

They were also established to ensure that when members are electing directors or committee members, they are fully aware, prior to voting, of any interests the candidates may have.

Together with the candidate profile statements, the director interest statements will be made available to all electors with their voting documents.

Suggested format of interest statement

Option 1 example: No interests to declare	Option 2 example: Interests to declare
Interest statement To the best of my knowledge and belief, I have no conflict (perceived, potential or actual) of interest with DairyNZ at the date of my notice of consent to being nominated as a candidate for the [Board of Directors]/[Directors' Remuneration Committee] and I do not believe that any such conflicts of interest are likely to arise. Signed: Full name of candidate: Date:	Interest statement To the best of my knowledge and belief, I have an interest with DairyNZ at the date of my notice of consent to being nominated as a candidate for the Board of Directors/Directors' Remuneration Committee in that: • I am a senior employee of the [ABC Company], an industry good provider, which is funded in large part by DairyNZ. • I am a governing body member, officer or volunteer of another related industry organisation. • my partner is a senior employee of the [ABC Company], an industry good provider, which is funded in large part by DairyNZ. I do not believe that any additional interests are likely to arise other than the continuation of the interests stated above. Signed: Full name of candidate: Date:



Candidate profile statements

Candidate profiles should be provided by each candidate with the nomination form. Candidate profile statements:

- Must not exceed 300 words.
- Must relate back to competencies.
- Must only include information concerning the candidate, and the candidate's intentions, if elected to the Board of Directors or Directors' Remuneration Committee.
- Should comply with any prescribed requirements (i.e. be generated from a Microsoft Word document, be spell checked, meet the word count and be emailed to the returning officer, nominations@electionz.com or couriered.)
- Include signed permission for your name, cell phone number to be shared and published on the DairyNZ website from when nominees are announced until voting closes.

If the returning officer is not satisfied that a candidate profile statement complies with the rules, the returning officer will, as soon as practicable, return the statement to the candidate and specify their concerns. The candidate will then have three days to re-submit an amended candidate profile statement to the returning officer.

The returning officer is not required to verify or investigate any information included in a candidate profile statement. The returning officer will take no responsibility for the accuracy of the content, however, may suggest corrections to spelling or grammar if appropriate.

A disclaimer concerning the accuracy of the information contained in the statements will be published in the Notice of Meeting booklet.

Photos

Preferably, candidates should also provide an accompanying photo with their profile statement. This should also be provided electronically to the returning officer (scanned as a JPEG and attached to an email to nominations@electionz.com). Hard copy photos can be provided; however, these will not be returned to candidates. The photos may be formatted by the returning officer to ensure standardisation between candidates.

Inclusion in Notice of Meeting booklet

The profiles and photos are collated by the returning officer and forwarded to voters in a Notice of Meeting booklet with the voting papers, if an election is required. The returning officer reserves the right to format any candidate's profile to ensure that no greater prominence is given to one candidate over another.

If there is no candidate profile or photo from a candidate, then the following text will be printed in the profile booklet/sheet: *"No profile statement or photo provided."*

Lodging nomination forms

Nominations close 12 noon, Friday, 21 August 2026.

Nomination forms must be received in the hands of the returning officer, at the offices of electionz.com, 3/3 Pukaki Rd, Yaldhurst, Christchurch, no later than the above time and date.

Once lodged, nomination forms are checked to ensure the candidate is eligible (the name appears on the members' register), and the nominator and seconder are current levy payers and members of DairyNZ Inc.

Process after nominations have closed

If nominations exceed the number of available vacancies, elections will be held in October.

A ballot of candidate names will be held to determine the order of names on the voting papers.

After the close of nominations, the returning officer will email each candidate a list of the confirmed candidates and provide additional information about the conduct of the election (if required) and any additional requirements that will take place once voting opens.

Once nominations have closed, a list of all candidates will be posted on the DairyNZ website and announced by media release.

Complete online

Visit electionz.com/dairynz2026

Scan and email

Nomination forms can be scanned and emailed to the returning officer at nominations@electionz.com

Post / Courier

Deliver to:
The Returning Officer
electionz.com
3/3 Pukaki Road
Yaldhurst
Christchurch 8042

Please do not leave lodging your nomination to the last minute

Should the nomination be received after the close of nominations, the nomination is invalid.

If a nomination form is lodged late on the day nominations close and is incorrectly completed or an ineligible nominator is provided, there may be insufficient time to correct the situation, and the nomination could be invalidated.

Confirmation of the accepted nomination will be emailed to each candidate as soon as the nomination is verified. If you have not received confirmation of the lodgement of your nomination within the next working day of submitting it, contact the election helpline on 0800 666 935 to check it has been received.

About the election process

Campaigning guidelines

- Election campaigning can commence when nominations have opened, or when a candidate declares their intention to stand, but must cease on closure of voting, being 12 noon, Thursday, 29 October.
- No election material may contain an imitation voting paper which has the names of the candidates with any direction or indication as to the candidate a person should vote for, or in any way contain such direction or indication likely to influence the voter.



Candidates:

- must act in good faith and in the best interests of DairyNZ
- must be respectful of other candidates and not make any statement relating to other candidates that is defamatory or that undermines the integrity of the election process
- must focus on issues affecting DairyNZ and the expertise and attributes that they will bring to a position on the board or committee
- must not use any DairyNZ property or resources for campaigning purposes, including logos, brands, photos, images or other intellectual property of DairyNZ
- may use letters, fliers, emails, radio, television, internet, social media and print media (dairy and farming magazines and newspapers) for campaigning purposes.

Promotional opportunities

If an election is to be held, DairyNZ's communications team will engage with candidates to raise their profile prior to the election. It is expected the candidates make themselves available for these promotional opportunities, which may include:

- A biography including photo and contact details (available publicly online during the election period)
- Candidate videos/reels that would then be uploaded to the DairyNZ website and may be used on social media through 'meet the candidate' posts.
- Involvement and engagement in a 'meet the candidates' podcast recorded in October (note all prospective candidates would be expected to participate). This would be hosted independently of DairyNZ. Details of the podcast would be communicated to candidates in the months preceding the event.
- An online biography would also be written for the successful farmer elected directors for the DairyNZ website.

Election campaigning can occur between Friday 2 October and 12 noon on Thursday 29 October (when voting closes).

Members' register

The members' register is a listing of levy payers, their name, address and milksolids production values of New Zealand dairy farmers who supplied milksolids to a dairy processor for the season ending 31 May 2026 and who are also members of DairyNZ Inc. The register will include known new season 2026/27 suppliers who are also members. An allocated weighting will be used based on average milksolids supplied in the 2025/26 season. If you did not supply milksolids in the prior season, but are a new levy payer and member, and wish to vote, please contact the returning officer at electionz.com.

There are approximately 10,500 members on the 2026 register.

After voting has closed, each supplier's vote will be multiplied by the number of milksolids produced by that supplier.

The register will not be made available to the public for privacy issue reasons. The register will not be made available to candidates. The register will only be used by the returning officer for the purposes of this election in 2026 and will not be provided to any third party.

Election method – single transferable vote (STV)

STV is used because it has been shown to give the voter the widest choice possible between candidates and thereby increase the diversity of representation. It is an electoral system designed to try and ensure that the candidates elected accurately represent the opinions of the voters across the whole electorate.

It is based on the principle that the elector has a first choice of candidate, but if the preferred candidate has either more than the required number of votes to be elected, or so few as to have the least chance of being elected, then the elector's vote is transferred (in whole or part) to a second or subsequent choice.

Under STV, every voter has only one vote – but they can ask for it, or part of it (as the case may be), to be transferred from one candidate to another, if it would otherwise not help to elect their preferred choice. This is done by ranking the candidates 1, 2, 3 and so on, instead of just putting a tick or cross against one or more preferred candidates.

Scrutineers

Scrutineers cannot be appointed for these elections. The processing of the returned voting papers will be carried out on a progressive basis by electionz.com at its premises, 3/3 Pukaki Road, Yaldhurst, Christchurch.

Election results

The result will be delivered to the company secretary and announced by the DairyNZ Chair on 30 October 2026.

About electionz.com

The returning officer

DairyNZ has appointed electionz.com as the election's contractor for the 2026 elections. Anthony Morton has been appointed returning officer on behalf of electionz.com.

electionz.com is based in Christchurch, where most of the election administration will be carried out.

electionz.com provides public and private sector election services for local government, energy trusts, producer boards, industry good organisations, associations, non-profit organisations, and universities throughout New Zealand.

electionz.com has provided returning officer services for DairyNZ and its preceding entities Dairy InSight and the Dexcel Trust since 2002. electionz.com also carries out returning officer services for many other agriculture-based organisations such as Fonterra Co-operative Group Ltd, Silver Fern Farms, Foundation for Arable Research and Beef + Lamb New Zealand Ltd.

Role of returning officer

The role of the returning officer is to conduct the elections in accordance with the presiding legislation, namely the Rules of DairyNZ Incorporated, as well as in accordance with accepted good election management practices.

The returning officer has complete and final control over how the elections are carried out. The returning officer is contracted by DairyNZ and is responsible to the Chief Executive but does not take direction from the Chief Executive or the existing Board of Directors.

The returning officer is responsible for all staff, systems, resources, policies, procedures and actions to ensure that a democratic process is carried out with utmost integrity, security and fairness for all parties.

Specific duties of the returning officer include:

- the compilation and certification of the members' register
- the publication of any public notices relating to the election
- calling for and receiving nominations and candidate profile statements
- candidate management
- printing and distribution of voter packs
- issue and receipt of special votes
- processing and counting of votes
- declaration of results
- general administration of election issues.

The returning officer's decisions in respect to all matters pertaining to the elections is final.

Queries regarding the actions or performance of the returning officer should be directed to:
company.secretary@dairynz.co.nz.

Dairynz 