

VOTE TENBY POWELL FOR MAYOR

" I will be an active advocate for you, for our city and our region, locally, nationally, and internationally. "



My commitment to Tauranga

It would be an honour to serve you as the next Mayor of Tauranga. I am committed to bringing my private sector and government leadership experience to fix and grow this outstanding city of ours - a city which is of strategic importance to New Zealand.

My Experience

I bring a new level of leadership experience to the role of Mayor of Tauranga. My experience spans the private business sector, government entities, Not-For Profit and the Military.

Current roles:

- Chair of the Government's Small Business Council (I have advocated for Small Business for some 15 years. Small business owners are a critically important ecosystem for NZ and Tauranga is the flag ship of entrepreneurial innovation.)
- Member APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC)
- Co-Chair of the ABAC Digital and innovation Working Group
- Immediate past co-Chair of the ABAC Small & Medium Enterprise Working Group
- Serve on the Government's Sector Workplace Engagement Programme (SWEP)
- Colonel, New Zealand Army

My career journey so far

My experience spans the private business sector, government entities, Not-For Profit and the Military. I was educated at the University of Waikato (*awarded Distinguished Alumnus in 2010*) and Harvard Business School. I held senior management positions in Fletcher Challenge and Skellerup Group, prior to forming private investment company, Hunter Powell Investments Limited in 1999.

To date, HPIL portfolio companies have included:

- PC Direct
- NZ Rental Group Ltd (Hirepool, Hirequip and five operating companies)
- EuroPacific Foods
- Nationwide Equipment Ltd
- Power Plant Supplies Ltd
- Envoy 360 Ltd (Risk Management and Maritime Protection)
- Greenlane Biogas Technologies Ltd

Hunter Powell Investments was the largest non-institutional shareholder in the New Zealand Rental Group from 2003 - 2015, New Zealand's market leading equipment rental and distribution group comprising, cornerstone business Hirepool, together with Hirequip, Henderson Rentals, Rhodes Rentals, Port-a-Loo, Castles Marquee Hire, and Barricading Solutions.

I stepped down as Chief Executive Officer of the Group in 2009. Under my leadership, the business grew from fourteen branches, when purchased in 2003, to 86 business units some six years later, with increased revenues of 300%, increased profits of 120%, employing 250% more staff and returning 10 x equity to shareholders, providing an annual compound return of 132% for the period 2003 to 2006. For further information, [click here for the Hirepool story](#).



This firm base enabled New Zealand Rental Group to constantly out-perform its major competitor, Hirequip. In February 2013, the Commerce Commission approved the sale of Hirequip to New Zealand Rental Group enabling the establishment of New Zealand's largest equipment rental and distribution company.

In 2013, HPIL become the cornerstone investor in clean technology business, [Greenlane Biogas Technologies Ltd](#) and I accepted the position of Chief Executive Officer. Greenlane Biogas, with offices in North America, Scandinavia, Europe, China and New Zealand, is a leading global developer and supplier of technology for upgrading biogas to renewable biomethane for use in natural gas pipelines and/or vehicle fuel.

In late 2014, I negotiated the sale of Greenlane Biogas to UK public company, [Pressure Technologies Plc](#). This was achieved by aligning shareholders, stabilizing staff globally, recovering customer and supplier relationships (the latter comprising a significant global supply chain) and re-positioning the business to attract significant new customers globally which included the establishment of a JV partner in China.

In addition to private investment and management roles, I am a professional Director with Governance experience in both the private sector and with government entities.

Previously, I have held chairmanships of:

[Waikato Link Ltd](#) (the commercialization and technology transfer company of the University of Waikato)

[Aldera Ltd](#) (a New Zealand company dedicated to creating diversified solutions for the animal health industry)

[Envoy 360 FZ LLC](#) (a New Zealand owned maritime security and risk management company)

[Advaro Finance](#) and [Yoogo Vehicle Leasing and Fleet Management](#) (now combined as Spiers Finance, a Maui Capital owned company)

[Wedgelock Equipment Ltd](#)

Chair of the government appointed [Small Business Development Group](#) (advising government on the dynamics of the small business economy and the impact of policies on this ecosystem)

Directorships of:

[Antarctica New Zealand](#) (a New Zealand government Crown Entity responsible for New Zealand's activities in Antarctica and the Southern Ocean)

[Acrow Limited](#) (New Zealand's largest scaffolding, formwork, falsework and event infrastructure company)

[The Icehouse](#) (a development factory of owner-managers and entrepreneurs providing business growth programmes, a business incubator for start-ups, and New Zealand's largest group of Angel Investors)

[The Auckland Resource Helicopter Trust](#) (Westpac Rescue Helicopter)

[Angel Link](#) (a national angel investment network to back New Zealand high growth technology ventures, with an emphasis on life sciences, engineering and ICT).



In May 2009, I co-Chaired the New Zealand Entrepreneurial Summit with my wife Sharon Hunter, comprising some of our country's top entrepreneurs who gathered to generate ideas to jump-step the economy during the Global Financial Crisis. A white paper was developed from this initiative for the New Zealand Government focusing on increased commercialization & Intellectual Property management of Science, Research & Technology ultimately establishing [The Kiwi Innovation Network](#) (KiwiNet), a consortium of Universities, Crown Research Institutes and Crown Entities dedicated to taking a collaborative approach to the aggregation of research commercialization.

In December 2011, I founded the [New Zealand SME Business Network](#) (with over 11,000 members as of Nov 2018) with the prime purpose of giving small Business Owners a voice through the creation of a Network-of-Influence. A secondary objective was to provide support to small business owners by those who have a track record in successfully growing SMEs here & abroad.

The Group's objective is to enable government to recognize that by changing New Zealand's small business economy - to one of stimulating growth by lifting our innovative capacity and enabling an increase in business sophistication - we will lift New Zealand's economic performance. As of July 2019, the network had circa 11,300 SME owner / manager members together with their professional advisors.

As a consequence of this ongoing work, all of which is pro-bono, I was appointed by government as Chairman of the Small Business Development Group in Dec 2012.

I have also served in the Regular and Reserve Forces of the [New Zealand Army](#) since 1983 and hold the rank of Colonel. From 2001 – 2002 I held the appointment of Deputy Chief of a United Nations unit in the Middle East and, from 2005 – 2007, was Commanding Officer of the Auckland Battalion. In December 2015 I was appointed Honorary Colonel of the now merged 3rd and 6th Battalions, Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment. From February – June 2017, I worked with the Papua New Guinea Defence Force on sustainment and capability development, on assignment with the New Zealand Defence Force.

Due to my mix of business, government and defence relationships, I was appointed by the Minister of Defence to serve on the 2015 /16 selection panel of the Chief's of Navy, Army and Air Force. Today's Defence Force is a large and dynamic organization and my conjoint knowledge of corporate and military leadership was sought in the selection process of New Zealand's top military leaders.

In terms of current roles, I serve as one of two private sector members on the [Sector Workforce Engagement Programme](#) (SWEP), established by government in 2016 to strategically support businesses to invest and grow through better ways of accessing reliable, appropriately skilled staff across seven key sectors critical to New Zealand's economic development: Tourism, Horticulture & Viticulture, Dairy, Construction, Road Freight Transport, ARA (Auckland Airport) and Aged Care.

In November 2016, I was appointed, by Prime Minister Sir John Key, to the [APEC Business Advisory Council](#) (ABAC). ABAC provides advice on the implementation of business sector priorities and responds when the various APEC fora request information about business-related issues while also providing a business perspective on specific areas of cooperation. ABAC comprises three members of the private sector from each country and members are appointed by their respective Leaders to represent a range of business sectors, including small and medium enterprises.

In May 2018, I was appointed, by Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern, as Chair of the governments' newly established [Small Business Council](#). The role of the SBC is to develop a strategy to drive improvement and innovation in the small business sector with the strategic objective of lifting the performance of New Zealand's many small enterprises.

My mix of commercial, government (including military) and Not-For-Profit experience has created a rich and deep cross-sector knowledge base enabling an ability to work effectively with diverse cultural and socio-economic groups domestically and internationally.