Monday 31 August 2026

Business Canterbury
Our Chamber of Commerce

Dear Member

Nominations are now open for the 2026/27 Business Canterbury Board.

Business Canterbury is entering one of the most exciting periods in its 170-year history. We have a clear ambition: to become New Zealand's largest and most influential business voice and a globally recognised chamber, backing businesses to thrive through capability, connections and advocacy.

To achieve this, we are seeking exceptional governance leaders who are energised by growth, innovation, influence and impact. This is an opportunity to join a board that is not simply overseeing an organisation, but helping shape the future of business in Canterbury, the South Island and New Zealand.

Business Canterbury has recently transformed its operating model, strengthened its foundations and is the home and voice for Canterbury business with growing influence at both local and central government levels. We have an ambitious strategy, a solid platform for growth designed to significantly increase our impact, reach and financial sustainability. Our 2026–2029 strategy marks a bold shift from being a traditional membership organisation to becoming a highly influential, commercially sustainable and technology-enabled business organisation.

Over the next three years we will focus on:

- Growing our influence and advocacy outcomes
- Scaling services and solutions that businesses value most
- Expanding our reach into new markets and audiences
- Leveraging technology to increase impact and efficiency
- Building new revenue streams beyond membership
- Strengthening partnerships that amplify our influence and value
- Creating a culture that delivers commercial success and meaningful impact
- Help shape the future of business in Canterbury and New Zealand

We are looking for potential board members who have experience with commercial law, long-term financial planning and membership-based organisations. Additional skills and experience that would add significant value include scaling organisations, product and service commercialisation, revenue growth strategies, strategic investments and management, digital transformation (AI, cyber security, data) and M&A and partnerships.

If you don't have the particular skills outlined above but know you can add value through your previous corporate governance experience, we would love to hear from you.

We have 2 Board positions available for a two-year period.

How to Nominate

Nominees must be financial members of Business Canterbury. Nominations must be proposed and seconded by 2 other financial members of Business Canterbury. The proposer can be a member of the nominee's organisation, and the seconder must be from outside the nominee's organisation.

If you wish to nominate a representative, please complete the nomination form found here no later than **5.00pm, Monday 21 September 2026**. Part of the form includes questions, a brief bio and a digital photo which will be included on our website as part of the nominee's profile.

Key 2026 dates

21 September: Nominations close at 5.00pm
5 October: Electronic voting opens, an email will be sent from Electionz to the CEO or key contact of each member organisation with a link to vote (one vote per member organisation)
28 October: Electronic voting closes at 5.00pm
29 October: Results announced at AGM (to be held 4.00pm at Business Canterbury, 57 Kilmore Street)

Further Questions

If you require more information on the Business Canterbury Board Member Position, please request a copy of the Board Position Description and the Code of Conduct. For further information on the Board and organisation you can also contact Leeann Watson, Chief Executive on 03 366 5096 or email: leeannw@businesscanterbury.co.nz or to Paul Deavoll, Board President on email: paul.deavoll@businesscanterbury.co.nz

Finally, thank you for being a valued member of Business Canterbury. We greatly appreciate your ongoing membership to ensure we can continue to deliver support and value across the Canterbury and West Coast business community.

Kind Regards

Leeann Watson
Chief Executive

Paul Deavoll
President