

# *Whakapapa*

**STATEMENT | 30 APRIL 2025**

## **Whakapapa's future just got real**

Whakapapa Holdings Limited (WHL) has — with pride and elation — received its new concession to operate Whakapapa Ski Area.

More than a step forward — this is the breakthrough we've been waiting for.

“This is the moment the team has been working toward for two and a half years,” says WHL Director Tom Elworthy. “The concession doesn't just represent progress — it marks a new starting point. It gives us the certainty we've been missing, and everything flows from here. Whakapapa has a future — and it starts now.”

The concession approval enables WHL to complete the final steps toward ownership. The transaction process is well underway and expected to conclude shortly.

More updates will follow in the coming days, including news on the transaction, opening dates, and 2025 season pass sales.

**ENDS**

## **About Whakapapa**

Whakapapa is situated in the heart of New Zealand's central North Island spanning 550 hectares on the northern side of Mt Ruapehu in Tongariro National Park, an easy three-hour drive from Hamilton, four from Wellington and five hours from Auckland.

Since 1953, New Zealanders have been discovering their first love of snow at Whakapapa's premier learner facility, Happy Valley, while more advance skiers and riders hone their skills exploring natural bowls, wind lips, exhilarating chutes, and remnants of old volcanic crater rims on descent from 2320m - New Zealand's highest lifted point.

Naturally volcanic terrain is formed by solidified lava, with snow filling in natural gullies and rocky crevasses from June through to October. Traditionally a snow base upwards of 1m from August is enhanced by Whakapapa's expert team and makes for some of the best free ride terrain in the Southern Hemisphere.

Whakapapa is home to the Sky Waka gondola, New Zealand's premier gondola experience (wheelchair accessible). It transports guests 1.8km up the Whakapapa side of the maunga 2020m above sea level and offers



panoramic vistas out across the volcanic terrain and neighbouring mountains, Mt Tongariro and Mt Ngauruhoe. Skiers, boarders, and sightseers are welcomed to the architecturally awarded Knoll Ridge Chalet and highest year-round eatery in the country. The Sky Waka gondola runs daily, 10am – 4pm.

For families looking to give their kids a snow play experience, a snow experience zone at the top of the Sky Waka gondola can be accessed with a sightseeing pass. Or the Whakapapa sledding zone in Happy Valley offers fun for snow-seekers of all ages. Kids need to be 8 years+ to ride their own sled unaccompanied.

For more visit [whakapapa.com](https://www.whakapapa.com) | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#)

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