



## Education Report: Initiating consultation about redesignating Te Kura o Rangiriri (1919) as a designated character school

|   |   |                     |               |
|---|---|---------------------|---------------|
| <b>To:</b>                                    | Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education          |                     |               |
| <b>cc:</b>                                    | Hon Kelvin Davis, Associate Minister of Education |                     |               |
| <b>Date:</b>                                  | 10 November 2020                                  | <b>Priority:</b>    | High          |
| <b>Security Level:</b>                        | In Confidence                                     | <b>METIS No:</b>    | 1241359       |
| <b>Drafter:</b>                               | Alison Harold, Manager                            | <b>DDI:</b>         | (07) 858 7166 |
| <b>Key Contact:</b>                           | Shane Ngatai, Director of Education for Waikato   | <b>Mob:</b>         | 9(2)(a)       |
| <b>Messaging seen by Communications team:</b> | No  | <b>Round Robin:</b> | No            |

### Purpose of report

The purpose of this paper is to seek your approval to consult on a proposal by the board of Te Kura o Rangiriri (1919) in Rangiriri, Te Kauwhata, for redesignation of the kura as a designated character kura-ā-iwi under section 200 of the Education and Training Act 2020 (the Act). The change is proposed to take effect from 1 January 2021.

We recommend you agree to this consultation.

### Summary

1. Te Kura o Rangiriri is a state co-educational decile one, Year 1-8 kura located in Rangiriri, Te Kauwhata, Waikato. The kura whānau identify strongly with Kīngitanga and the kura provides Māori immersion learning to students.
2. The school's roll has remained between 16 and 28 since 2019, and was 27 as at 1 July 2020. The kura moved to level 1 Māori immersion status in 2003. All staff, students and their whānau are associated with the local hapū, Ngāti Naho, Ngāti Pou and Ngāti Hine.
3. Ngā Kura ā Iwi o Aotearoa has accepted the application for membership from Te Kura o Rangiriri, and would actively support a kura-ā-iwi designated character school, should this be approved.
4. Te Kura o Rangiriri Board now seeks that the kura become redesignated as a designated character kura-ā-iwi from 1 January 2021.

5. The Board has already consulted locally and received support for the proposal. We will consult with local schools and the Kāhui Ako although there is only one kura whose roll we consider might be affected if you approve the change.
6. The proposed redesignation fits within the *Ka Hikitia* education strategy for Māori to achieve education success as Māori, as well as supporting the priorities of *Ko te Mana Mātauranga Waikato Tainui Education Plan 2015 – 2020*.
7. The 2019 Education Review Office (ERO) report confirms the kura is well governed and provides quality education. The kura is on a three year ERO review cycle.

## Recommended actions

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We recommend that you:

- a) **note** that the Ministry has received an application from the board of Te Kura o Rangiriri in Rangiriri to be redesignated as a designated character school (kura-ā-iwi);

**Noted**

- b) **note** that before making a decision about redesignation of a school, you must first consult with the boards of all state schools whose rolls might be affected by the change under section 209 of the Education and Training Act 2020;

**Noted**

- c) **agree** that the Ministry undertake, on your behalf, consultation under section 209 of the Education and Training Act 2020 with all schools whose rolls might be affected by the possible change;

**Agree** / Disagree

- d) **agree** that this education report be proactively released once a final decision has been made. Any information that might need to be withheld will be done so in line with the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982.

**Release** / Not release

  
Katrina Casey  
Deputy Secretary  
Sector Enablement and Support

10/11/2020



Hon Chris Hipkins  
Minister of Education

28/11/2020



## Background

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1. Te Kura o Rangiriri is a decile one Year 1 – 8 state full primary school situated in Rangiriri, in the Waikato District. It has been operating for 133 years.
2. The school's roll has remained between 16 and 28 since 2019, and was 27 as at 1 July 2020. Between 95 percent and 100 percent of students have historically been of Māori descent and all associate with the local hapū and the Kingitanga movement.
3. In 2003 the kura moved to a level one te reo Māori immersion status. The kura has aligned its curriculum with Ko te Mana Mātauranga Waikato Tainui Education Plan 2015-2020, and is actively contributing to the three priorities outlined in the Education Plan:
  - All Waikato-Tainui tribal members are fluent in Waikato reo me ōna tikanga.
  - All Waikato-Tainui tribal members transition into meaningful pathways.
  - All Waikato-Tainui tribal members know their whakapapa and are connected to their marae.
4. Ngā Kura ā Iwi o Aotearoa has accepted the application for membership from Te Kura o Rangiriri, and would actively support their kura-ā-iwi designated character school, should this be approved.
5. Te Kura o Rangiriri is a member of the Tainui Kāhui Ako whereby 90 percent of the school membership are affiliated to Ngā Kura ā Iwi o Aotearoa. The leaders within this Kāhui Ako would provide appropriate support and guidance to the kura.

## Proposal for designation

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6. We have received an application from the board of Te Kura o Rangiriri to be redesignated as a designated character kura-ā-iwi.
7. A change to the designation of a school takes place under section 200 of the Act. Under this section, the Minister may designate a state school that is not a designated character school as a designated character school.
8. Section 204 (designated character schools) applies to an existing school that is being redesignated in the same way as if it were first being established as a designated character school. Under section 204 of the Act, a designated character school must meet the requirements in section 204(3) of the Act. The key requirements are:
  - the designated character school will have a character that is in some specific way(s) different from the character of ordinary state schools
  - it is desirable for students (whose parents wish them to do so) to get such an education
  - students at the school will get education of a kind that differs significantly from the education they would receive at an ordinary state school.
9. Cabinet has also developed guidelines for establishing designated character schools. We have assessed the applicant's proposal against these criteria, and the criteria in the Act, attached as Annex 2.

### Designated character

10. The proposed designated character includes a bespoke approach to teaching and learning. This is detailed in the application as follows:
- Waikato reo will continue to be the principal language of instruction at the kura.
  - The kura will operate in accordance with the cultural practices of Waikato Tainui and the local hapū.
  - The kura will continue to actively contribute to the priorities of *Ko te Mana Mātauranga Waikato Tainui Education Plan 2015 – 2020*.
11. The curriculum, teaching and learning practices outlined in the application clearly reflect the vision and philosophy of the designated character.
12. The Ministry considers that the application has detailed that:
- the designated character school will have a character that is different from the character of ordinary state schools, in that the kura-ā-iwi model is already established as having such character, and the focus of the kura is specifically around Waikato reo me ōna tikanga.
  - it is desirable for students (whose parents wish them to do so) to get such an education, as it fits within the *Ka Hikitia* education strategy for Māori to achieve education success as Māori, as well as supporting the priorities of *Ko te Mana Mātauranga Waikato Tainui Education Plan 2015 – 2020*.
  - the kura-ā-iwi model provides education of a kind that differs significantly from the education students would receive at an ordinary state school. The kura curriculum would specifically reflect the mātauranga and tikanga of the mana whenua of Ngāti Naho, Ngāti Pou and Ngāti Hine.

### Impact on the schooling network

13. The applicant has provided the following roll projections for the proposed school. These projections are based on the assumption that each year group will follow through into the next school year.

| Year           | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 |
|----------------|------|------|------|
| Projected Roll | 31   | 33   | 34   |

14. We consider that the proposed change in designation of the kura would have a minimal effect on the schooling network.
15. The nearest Year 1-8 Māori medium provision is provided at Te Wharekura o Rakaumangamanga (15.7 km by road). At 1 July 2020 the Year 1-8 roll at this kura was 257. It would not become marginal as a result of redesignation of Te Kura o Rangiriri. Te Wharekura o Rakaumangamanga is supporting this application.

### Property implications

16. There would be no change in property requirements.



## Transport

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17. The change in status would result in the kura becoming eligible to apply for Māori Medium School Funding. Under this scheme, eligible students (those living more than 3.2 km away without public transport availability, and for whom the kura is the nearest Level 1 Māori Medium Education kura) attending the kura would generate a per-student rate paid to the kura to provide school transport assistance as the kura saw fit. Should this application be approved, Te Kura o Rangiriri would be considered a rural decile 1 kura under the scheme, and therefore would receive \$9.3435 per day + \$3.35 (admin) per eligible student per quarter.
18. This applies instead of standard school transport assistance to eligible students.

## Staffing implications

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19. The kura already attracts staffing ratios as appropriate to Level 1 Māori Medium Education, so redesignation would not have any staffing impact.

## Consultation

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20. Section 209 of the Act requires you to consult the boards of all state schools whose rolls might be affected before deciding whether to change a school's designation. The Ministry would undertake this consultation on your behalf.

## Next steps

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21. If you agree, please sign the attached letter to the board.
22. We will consult with the boards of all state schools whose rolls might be affected by the proposed change in designation of the school. We will also consult with sector bodies, local iwi, and community groups as appropriate.
23. Following consultation we will prepare a final report for your consideration and decision.

## Proactive release

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24. As this report seeks to initiate consultation, the results of which you will need to consider, it is intended that this report be proactively released only once a final decision is made. Any information that might need to be withheld will be done so in line with the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982.

## Annexes

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| Annex 1: | Letter to the board  |
| Annex 2: | Assessment of application against the Act and Cabinet Guidelines           |
| Annex 3: | Support from Te Wharekura o Rakaumangamanga and Ngā Kura ā-Iwi o Aotearoa. |

## Annex 1: Letter to the board

Proactively Released

Blain Berryman  
Chairperson, Te Kura o Rangiriri Board  
39 Rangiriri Road, RD2  
Te Kauwhata

Dear Blain

Thank you for your application to redesignate Te Kura o Rangiriri as a designated character kura-ā-iwi. Before making a decision, I must undertake consultation under section 209 of the Education and Training Act 2020 on your proposal. The Ministry of Education will undertake this consultation on my behalf.

The Ministry will consult with the boards of schools whose rolls might be affected by the proposed change to your school's designation. They will also consult with appropriate sector organisations and groups such as local iwi. As part of this consultation, the Ministry will advise you of replies and provide an opportunity for your response.

When consultation is complete, the Ministry will inform me of the feedback received and advise me on your proposal. When I have considered this advice, I will then make final a decision.

The Ministry will continue discussions with your board about the proposed change. Please contact Rowan Brickell, Manager Education, on 07 837 3129 or by email at [Rowan.Brickell@education.govt.nz](mailto:Rowan.Brickell@education.govt.nz) if you have any questions about this process.

Yours sincerely



Chris Hipkins  
**Minister of Education**

cc Shane Ngatai, Director of Education for Waikato

## Annex 2: Assessment of application against Act and Cabinet Guidelines

### Criteria in Section 204 of the Act

Section 204(3) of the Education and Training Act 2020 provides that the Minister may not establish a school as a designated character school unless satisfied that if established, the school will meet the criteria set out in section 204 of the Act. This also applies to existing schools being designated as designated character schools.

The criteria, and the Ministry's assessment, are summarised in the following table.

| Criteria  | Ministry comment   |
|---|--|
| The designated character school provides education that in some specific way or ways is different from the character of ordinary state schools. | <p>The kura would become a kura-ā-iwi designated character school. This model has already been recognised as meeting the requirements of section 204 of the Act.</p> <p>The kura curriculum would specifically reflect the mātauranga and tikanga of the mana whenua of Ngāti Naho, Ngāti Pou and Ngāti Hine.</p> <p>This fits within the <i>Ka Hikitia</i> education strategy for Māori to achieve education success as Māori.</p>  |
| It is desirable for students (whose parents want them to do so) to get such an education.   | <p>The kura has been operating in accordance with the cultural practices of Waikato Tainui and the local hapū since it transitioned to Level one Māori immersion reo status in 2003.</p> <p>The desire to redesignate to a designated character school kura-ā-iwi is welcomed by the kura community. The proposed character fits within the <i>Ka Hikitia</i> education strategy for Māori to achieve education success as Māori, as well as supporting the priorities of <i>Ko te Mana Mātauranga Waikato Tainui Education Plan 2015 – 2020</i></p> |
| Students at the school will get education of a kind that differs significantly from the education they would get at an ordinary state school.   | <p>The described character meets the legislative criteria for being different from that of an ordinary state school, and delivering an education of a kind that differs significantly from the education students would get at an ordinary state school. This will better deliver on the language, culture and identity demand becoming increasingly common across Waikato Tainui.</p>   |



## Cabinet guidelines

Cabinet has approved guidelines for processing applications for the establishment of designated character schools. These are summarised in the following table, together with the Ministry's comments on the current application.

| Guidelines  | Ministry comment  |
|---|---|
| <p>Within three years of establishment, the roll of the proposed school should be at least 100 (primary), 200 (composite), or 300 (secondary).</p>  | <p>Te Kura o Rangiriri has experienced a gradually increasing roll over the past 5 years. The confirmed 1 July roll was 19 in 2015, and 28 in 2019. Projections indicate that while the roll is unlikely to reach 100 children within the first few years of operation, continuing increases are likely. The census population of Rangiriri increased 56% between 2006 and 2018, and while further residential development near the school is constrained by Lake Kopuera / Lake Waikare to the east and the Waikato River to the west, Te Kauwhata (4.1 km by road) is a rapid growth area. Waikato District Council predicts the population in Te Kauwhata will increase to 10,898 by 2045, from 1,473 in 2018. Schools within the catchment are likely to grow considerably, and the Ministry is planning new schooling provision.</p> <p>It is also important to note in this context that the school offers the only Māori medium provision in the area.</p> |
| <p>There must be an existing mainstream school in the area which children can conveniently attend if their parents do not support the proposed designated character school. Alternatively, all parents in the community must support the proposed school.</p>     | <p>From Te Kura o Rangiriri, Te Kauwhata Primary (Year 1-6) is 4.1 km by road and Te Kauwhata College (Year 7-13) is 4.8 km. The Te Kauwhata Primary Enrolment Scheme includes Rangiriri and school bus routes 2098 and 2100 link Rangiriri to these schools.</p>   |
| <p>Establishment of the proposed school should not cause another school or schools in the local network to become marginal. That is, to fall below 100 (primary), 200 (composite), or 300 (secondary), or cut back on curriculum delivery in the medium term.</p> | <p>Redesignation is unlikely to impact to any considerable degree on the roll at Te Kauwhata Primary (291 students at 1 July 2020) or Te Kauwhata College (502 students at 1 July 2020. 136 of these students are Year 7 and 8). The primary school has reached its current capacity and the college is nearing capacity. Property investment in the local network is underway, including acquisition for a planned new primary school site.</p> <p>The nearest Year 1-8 Māori medium provision is provided at Te Wharekura o Rākaumangamanga (15.7 km by road). At 1 July 2020 the Year 1-8 roll at this kura was</p>  |

|  |   |
|--|---|
|  | 275. It will not become marginal as a result of redesignation of Te Kura o Rangiriri.   |
| The applicants should support the government's broad goals for education, the school should be generally available to those who subscribe to its designated character and the designated character should be meritorious, and not in conflict with the Education and Training Act 2020.          | The described character meets the legislative criteria of being different from that of an ordinary state school, it being desirable for students whose parents want them to do so to get such an education and delivering an education of a kind that differs significantly from the education students would get at an ordinary state school. This will better deliver on the language, culture and identity demand becoming increasingly common across Māori communities of the Waikato Tainui, and that is sought by the local community. It also supports <i>Ka Hikitia</i> . |
| The applicants should be able to demonstrate that they have the necessary skill and experience to administer a school and ensure delivery of the New Zealand curriculum.   | The 2019 ERO report supports the idea that the kura board and management can demonstrate the necessary skills and experience to administer a kura and ensure delivery of Te Marautanga o Aotearoa.  |
| Exceptions to the guidelines can be considered where the application arises from a community need expressed during a review of the local network of schools, or where the application will enable provision of highly desirable education services that are unlikely to be met in any other way. | Although the roll will not meet the guideline of 100 in the near future, the roll is stable and is projected to grow steadily. There is ongoing support for the character of the kura and delivery, which supports the initiatives noted. The kura is the only primary school providing this type of education in the vicinity.   |
| The Minister may consider any meritorious application that fails to meet the requirements in the guidelines.   |   |

Annex 3: Support from Te Wharekura o Rakaumangamanga and Ngā Kura ā Iwi o Aotearoa.

TE WHAREKURA O RĀKAUMANGAMANGA  
26 McDiarmid Crescent, Rāhui Pokeka, Huntly 3700  
Waea Kōrero: (07) 828 9013 Waea Tuhi: (07) 828 8080  
TUMUAKI (Principal): John. R. Heremia (Barna)  
Tumuaki Tuarua (Deputy Principal):- Rangimarie Mahuta  
Mērā Hiko: [tari@rakaumanga.school.nz](mailto:tari@rakaumanga.school.nz)



7 November 2019

Melissa Kani  
Tumuaki  
Te Kura o Rangiriri  
37 Rangiriri Road  
RD2 Te Kauwhata 3782

Teenaa koe

On behalf of Te Wharekura o Rakaumanga we support Te Kura o Rangiriri's application to the Ministry of Education to be recognized as a special charter.

Naaku naa

Hine Carmichael  
Kaiwhakahaere

▲ TE AROHA ▲ TE WHAKAPONO ▲ TE TURE ▲



Watson Ohia <[watson@kuraaiwi.maori.nz](mailto:watson@kuraaiwi.maori.nz)>  
To: Ariana Tarawhiti <[tumuaki@rangirinikura.school.nz](mailto:tumuaki@rangirinikura.school.nz)>

6 September 2019 at 14:03

Kia ora Melissa

Ae rawa atu, ka tautoko matou i to koutou tono.

E mihi ana

**Watson Ohia**  
POU KOKIRI - Chief Executive Officer

**Ngā Kura ā Iwi o Aotearoa Incorporated**  
027 2277 254  
[watson@kuraaiwi.maori.nz](mailto:watson@kuraaiwi.maori.nz)

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