



Education Report: Redesignating Te Kura o Rangiriri (1919) as a designated character school

To:	Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education		
Cc:	Hon Kelvin Davis, Associate Minister of Education (Māori Education)		
Date:	16 April 2021	Priority:	High
Security Level:	In Confidence	METIS No:	1255527
Drafter:	Maehe Paki	DDI:	07 850 8975
Key Contact:	Alison Harold	DDI:	07 858 7311
Messaging seen by Communications team:	Yes	Round Robin:	No

Purpose of report

This report seeks your approval to redesignate Te Kura o Rangiriri (1919), as a designated character school (kura-ā-iwi), under Section 200 of the Education and Training Act 2020 (the Act).

You approved consultation on this proposal on 28 November 2020 [METIS 1241359 refers]. That consultation has been completed.

We recommend you agree to this redesignation.

Summary

1. Te Kura o Rangiriri (the kura) is a state co-educational Year 1 – 8 primary school located in Rangiriri in the Waikato. The kura has provided Māori immersion learning to its ākonga since 2003 but has not previously been designated as a Māori medium school.
2. All ākonga are learning at Level 1 Māori medium immersion, and the roll of the kura has grown steadily from 19 in 2015 to 28 in 2020.

3. All kaiako, ākonga and their whānau are affiliated to the local hapū of Ngāti Naho, Ngāti Pou and Ngāti Hine. The whānau of the kura strongly identify with the Kīngitanga movement and local hapū, which is significantly reflected in the student's marau-ā kura (local curriculum).
4. Ngā Kura ā Iwi has accepted the application for membership from Te Kura o Rangiriri and actively support the redesignation of the school as kura-ā-iwi.
5. This proposal aligns with the Ministry's Ka Hikitia and Tau Mai te Reo policies as it is designed to support Māori learners and their whānau, hapū and provides for barrier-free local access to Māori medium education.
6. This proposal will help strengthen provision of Māori medium education and the education pathways of ākonga. It also supports the priorities of the Waikato-Tainui education plan, Ko te Mana Mātauranga and reo strategy Tikanga Ora Reo Ora (TORO) strategy, which advocates for the use and preservation of Waikato reo and tikanga.
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.
8. The consultation period has now closed and full support for this new direction for Te Kura o Rangiriri is expressed by its community and whānau.
9. Should you agree to this change of designation it will be implemented from 26 July 2021 (the start of Term 3).

Recommended actions

The Ministry of Education recommends you:

- a. **note** that Te Kura o Rangiriri is a state school that has membership to Ngā Kura ā Iwi o Aotearoa and has applied to be redesignated as a designated character school (kura-ā-iwi);

Noted

- b. **note** that the Ministry considers that Te Kura o Rangiriri meets the criteria and has completed consultation about the possible redesignation of Te Kura o Rangiriri as a designated character school, and no objections have been raised;

Noted

- c. **note** that the Secretary for Education proposes to approve a maximum roll of 100 students;

Noted

- d. **agree** that Te Kura o Rangiriri be redesignated under Section 200 of the Education and Training Act 2020 as a designated character school (kura-ā-iwi);

☒ Agree ☐ Disagree

If you approve the re-designation, you are asked to:

- e. **sign** the attached *New Zealand Gazette* notice, letters to the applicant board and the local MPs;

- f. **agree** to release the attached media statement, should you wish;

☒ Agree ☐ Disagree

- g. **agree** that this report be proactively released in line with your expectations. Any information that might need to be withheld will be done so in line with the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982.

☒ Agree ☐ Disagree



Katrina Casey
Deputy Secretary
Sector Enablement and Support

15/11/2021



Hon Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education

24/5/2021

Background

1. Te Kura o Rangiriri (the kura) is a state co-educational Year 1 – 8 primary school located in Rangiriri, along State Highway One, north of Huntly, in the Waikato.
2. The kura has been operating for over 140 years and within its curriculum importance is placed on Rangiriri and the battles that occurred on the land where the kura currently stands. The history, values, and practices of Kīngitanga underpin all learning at the kura.
3. Currently all kaiako, ākonga and their whānau are associated with the local hapū of Ngāti Naho, Ngāti Pou and Ngāti Hine and of Horahora, Maurea and surrounding marae.
4. All ākonga are learning at Level 1 Māori medium provision, and the roll of the kura has grown steadily from 19 in 2015 to 28 in 2020.
5. In 2003, the kura moved to a level one te reo Māori immersion status and has had positive Education Review Office reports which confirm the kura is governed well and provides quality education.
6. The kura reflects the aspirations of the Waikato-Tainui Tikanga Ora Reo Ora (TORO) strategy which advocates for the use and preservation of Waikato reo and tikanga. The kura has aligned its charter with the Waikato - Tainui Education plan Ko te Mana Mātauranga 2015 – 2020 three priorities, these being that all members:
 - are fluent in Waikato reo me ōna tikanga
 - transition into meaningful pathways
 - know their whakapapa and are connected to their marae.
7. Ngā Kura ā Iwi has accepted the application for membership from Te Kura o Rangiriri and actively supports the redesignation of the school as kura-ā-iwi.
8. The kura is a member of Tainui Kāhui Ako of which 90% of the membership are affiliated to Ngā kura-ā-iwi o Aotearoa. The leaders within this Kāhui Ako are willing to provide appropriate support and guidance to the kura should re-designation be granted.

Process for the proposed change

9. Under Section 200(1)(a) of the Education and Training Act 2020 (the Act), a state school that is not a designated character school may be redesignated as a designated character school by notice in the New Zealand Gazette, following consultation with the school's board. Under Section 209(2)(g) of the Act you must first consult with the boards of all state schools whose rolls might, in your opinion, be affected if you take this action. The Ministry has undertaken the required consultation on your behalf.
10. If you agree to redesignation of the kura the Secretary for Education must set a maximum roll for the school. This is required by Section 204(7) of the Act. We expect to set a maximum roll of 100 students.

The proposed designated character

11. The designated character for the proposed school includes a unique approach to teaching and learning. This is detailed in the application as follows:
- The kura curriculum would reflect the mātauranga of their hapū, being Ngāti Naho, Ngāti Pou and Ngāti Hine;
 - The kura has been operating in accordance with cultural practices of their hapū, namely Ngāti Naho, Ngāti Pou and Ngāti Hine;
 - The kura teaching and learning would reflect the dialect of their hapū, being Ngāti Naho, Ngāti Pou and Ngāti Hine;
 - The kura would reflect the aims and aspirations of the Waikato-Tainui Education Plan and TORO strategy.
12. The curriculum, teaching and learning practices outlined in the application clearly reflect the vision and philosophy of the designated character.
13. The applicant has provided the following roll projections for the re-designated school. These projections are based on the current roll estimation of the demand for the new designated character compared with its current status as an ordinary state school.

Year	2021	2022	2023
Projected Roll	31	33	34

14. 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 by the Rangiriri community and hapū.
15. 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;
 - it is desirable for students (whose parents wish them to do so) to get such an education, that fits the expectations implemented through Ka Hikitia, the Māori Education Strategy, and Tau Mai Te Reo, the Māori Language in Education Strategy;
 - 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's curriculum would specifically reflect the mātauranga and tikanga of the tāngata whenua of Rangiriri and iwi of Ngāti Naho, Ngāti Pou and Ngāti Hine.

Impact on the schooling network

16. The applicant has requested a future maximum roll of 100 students. This compares with its peak (October) roll of 28. It is likely that the school will continue to draw its students from across a wide catchment. Two maps showing the geographic spread of schools in the area and current students are attached as Annex 4 and 5.
17. Te Kura o Rangiriri has experienced a gradually increasing roll over the past five years. The confirmed 1 July roll was 19 in 2015, and 28 in 2020. Continuing increases in the roll are likely. The census population of Rangiriri increased 56% between 2006 and 2018, and, Te Kauwhata (4.1 km by road) has been identified as a rapid growth area with significant development planned necessitating the relocation of the existing primary school and the purchase of an additional school site.
18. It is considered that the re-designation of Te Kura o Rangiriri would have a positive effect on the local schooling network as it formalises existing Māori medium provision at the school, thereby supporting local whānau choice. Te Kura o Rangiriri offers the only Māori medium provision in the Te Kauwhata catchment, with the nearest Y1-8 Māori medium provision provided at Te Wharekura o Rākaumangamanga (15.7 km by road, in Huntly).

Property implications

19. The property is currently in very poor condition with the buildings suffering extensive weather tightness issues and poor maintenance. This has caused significant damage to the main school building (Block B) which houses the only two teaching spaces and admin area of the kura. Remedial action and maintenance is currently taking place to address the poor state of the buildings.
20. The school proposes to continue to operate from this site. The current teaching spaces are adequate for the proposed roll.

Transport implications

21. 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. 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.
22. This change would apply instead of the standard school transport assistance provided to eligible students.

Financial implications (Operations)

23. As there are no immediate changes to the roll as a result of the proposed re-designation there are no financial implications.
24. The kura has made significant progress under the current leadership and its finances have improved significantly over the last three years.
25. For the period ending 31 December 2019 the kura made a net surplus of \$57,995. As at 31 December 2019 the kura had working capital of \$123,945 (an increase of 79% over the three year period). Available cash (working capital plus investments minus non-current liabilities) is also positive \$118,876.
26. It is noted that as at 31 December 2019 assets were 76% depreciated and the kura will likely need to replace those assets soon and should plan for this. Also the roll has increased significantly and the kura should make an assessment as to the sustainability of the increases.

Consultation

27. The Ministry has consulted with the boards of eight schools whose rolls might be affected by this change and Nga Kura ā Iwi.
28. Four schools were in support of the re-designation change; and four schools provided no response.

Consulted Group:	Consultation Comment:
Huntly School	Supportive of the application.
Huntly West School	No response.
St Anthony's Catholic School	Supportive of the application.
Te Kauwhata Primary School	Supportive of the application despite recently opening a bilingual unit in their school.
Kimihia School	No response.
Ohinewai School	No response.
Ruawaro Combined School	No response.
Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Bernard Fergusson	Supportive of the application.
Ngā Kura ā Iwi	Supportive of the application.

29. Te Wharekura o Rākaumangamanga in Huntly have also provided a letter of support, outside of consultation, for the application of Te Kura o Rangiriri to become a kura-ā-iwi.

Next Steps

30. If you approve this application, the school will operate as a Kura ā Iwi from Term 3, 2021.
31. You are asked to sign the attached letters and New Zealand Gazette notice and agree to the release of the attached media statement.
32. The Ministry will set a maximum roll for the school as required by section 204(7) of the Act.

Proactive Release

33. The Ministry recommend that this report be proactively released, in line with your expectations. 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: | Letters to Applicant and Local MPs |
| Annex 2: | Notice for the <i>New Zealand Gazette</i> |
| Annex 3: | Communications Plan: Draft Media Release |
| Annex 4: | Map of geographic area of neighbouring schools |
| Annex 5: | Map of current students |

Annex 1: Letters to applicant and local MPs

Proactively Released

Hon Chris Hipkins

MP for Remutaka

Minister for COVID-19 Response

Minister of Education

Minister for the Public Service

Leader of the House



Leeanne Nikau
39 Rangiriri Road
RD 2
Te Kauwhata 3782

Dear Leeanne

I am pleased to advise that I have approved your application to re-designate Te Kura o Rangiriri as a kura kaupapa Māori under section 200 of the Education and Training Act 2020. The kura will operate under its new designation from Term 3, 2021.

The Secretary for Education has indicated she is likely to approve a maximum roll of 100 students. If, in the future, the kura wishes to increase this figure then it will need contact the Ministry's Hamilton office on (07) 850-8880.

I wish to acknowledge the way that you have worked with the Ministry of Education during this process and I look forward to hearing of the progress of Te Kura o Rangiriri as a kura kaupapa Māori.

If you have any further questions or queries, please contact Maehe Paki on (07) 850-8975 or maehe.paki@education.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely

Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education

Hon Chris Hipkins

MP for Remutaka

Minister for COVID-19 Response

Minister of Education

Minister for the Public Service

Leader of the House



Hon Nanaia Mahuta
MP for Hauraki-Waikato
Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON

Dear Nanaia

I am pleased to advise that I have approved an application from the Board of Te Kura o Rangiriri to re-designate Te Kura o Rangiriri as a Kura ā Iwi under section 200 of the Education and Training Act 2020. The kura will operate under its new designation from Term 3, 2021.

As a Kura ā Iwi, Te Kura o Rangiriri will reflect the mātauranga and dialect of their hapū of Ngāti Naho, Ngāti Pou and Ngāti Hine and align with the aims and aspirations of the iwi.

I believe this kura will provide educational choice of a type that cannot be provided at an ordinary state school for Te Kauwhata/Rangiriri students.

Yours sincerely

Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education

Hon Chris Hipkins

MP for Remutaka

Minister for COVID-19 Response

Minister of Education

Minister for the Public Service

Leader of the House



Mr Tim van de Molen
MP for Waikato
Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON

Dear Mr van de Molen

I am pleased to advise that I have approved an application from the Board of Te Kura o Rangiriri to re-designate Te Kura o Rangiriri as a Kura ā Iwi under section 200 of the Education and Training Act 2020. The kura will operate under its new designation from Term 3, 2021.

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Yours sincerely

Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education

Proactively Released

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Leader of the House



New Zealand Gazette Notice

REDESIGNATION OF TE KURA O RANGIRIRI 1919, RANGIRIRI

Pursuant to Sections 200, 204 and 205 of the Education and Training Act 2020 (the Act), I hereby designate Te Kura o Rangiriri (1919) as a designated character school. This designation will take effect from 26 July 2021.

Te Kura o Rangiriri will operate in accordance with section 204 of the Education and Training Act 2020. The kura will teach in te reo Māori and the designated character of the school will be:

Te Kura o Rangiriri will function, operate and frame its curriculum within its primary Rangiriri identity centred within the worldview of Ngāti Naho, Ngāti Hine, Ngāti Pou, Maurea and Horahora Marae.

The constitution of Te Kura o Rangiriri Board of Trustees shall not be changed by this notice.

Dated at Wellington this 24th day of May 2021.

A blue ink signature of Hon Chris Hipkins.

Hon Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education

Annex 3: Communications plan: background, key messages, draft media release

Proactively Released

DRAFT MEDIA

Change of status for Rangiriri kura

Education Minister Chris Hipkins today announced that Te Kura o Rangiriri in the Waikato will have a change of status to become a designated character school within the Māori-medium network.

"This kura has been providing Maori immersion learning since 2003 in the historic town of Rangiriri, so I'm delighted that it will now formally join the 294 other Maori-medium schools throughout the country." The number of students attending the year 1-8 kura has expanded to 31 in recent years, with provision now for a roll of up to 100.

Chris Hipkins says the kura will have an ongoing affiliation with Ngā kura-ā-iwi o Aotearoa which will have an ongoing affiliation and responsibility for the special character of Te Kura o Rangiriri.

"The history, values and practices of Kīngitanga underpin learning at the kura, which has operated for over 140 years.

"Much importance is placed on the significance of Rangiriri in the New Zealand Wars, and the site of the kura where a battle took place in 1863.

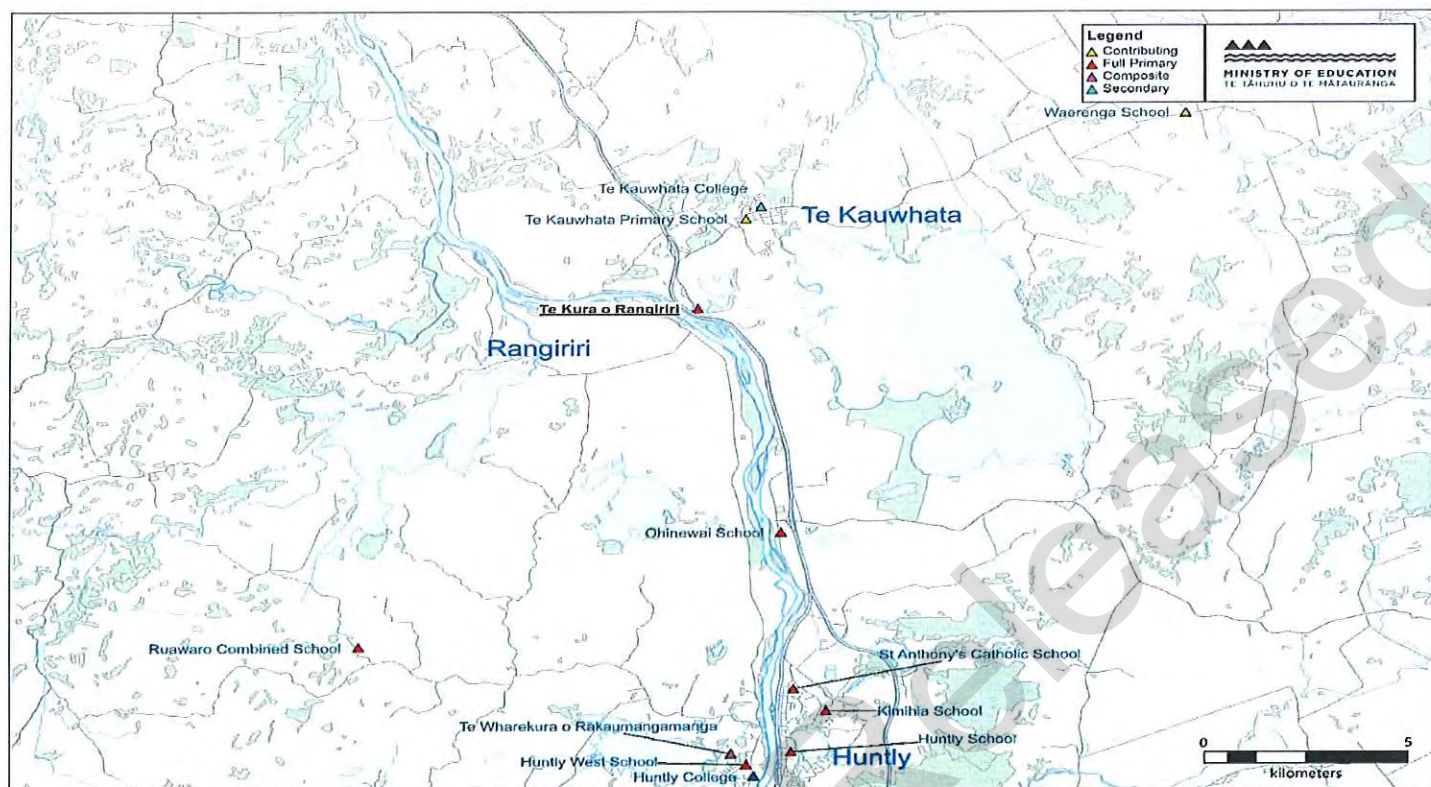
"The new designation will mean Te Kura o Rangiriri can continue to strengthen the use of Waikato reo and tikanga for local ākonga, with the support of local hapū - Ngāti Naho, Ngāti Pou and Ngāti Hine, and local marae Horahora and Maurea."

Other schools in the area were consulted and supported the change of status to a Kura-ā-lwi, which will be effective from Term 3, 2021.

Note: Māori-medium education is where students are taught all or some curriculum subjects in the te reo Māori language for at least 51 percent of the time. As at 1 July 2020, 22,391 students were enrolled in Maori-Medium education throughout New Zealand, which was 2.7 percent of the total school population.

Annex 4: Map of Geographic area and neighbouring schools

Proactively Released



Annex 5: Map of current students

Proactively Released

