

Education Report: Request to establish a designated character school, Kura ā Iwi, in Feilding

To:	Hon Kelvin Davis, Associate Minister of Education - Māori Education		
Cc:	Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education		
Date:	26 August 2022	Priority:	High
Security Level:	In Confidence	METIS No:	1291177
Drafter:	Darryl Leath, Lead Advisor Network, Taranaki, Whanganui, Manawatū	DDI:	06 757 6477
Key Contact:	Marlene Clarkson, Director of Education, Taranaki, Whanganui, Manawatū	Mob:	9(2)(a) [REDACTED]
Messaging seen by Communications team:	Yes	Round Robin:	No

Purpose of report

The purpose of this report is to provide you with consultation feedback and seek your decision on the proposal to establish a Year 1-13 co-educational designated character school, Kura ā Iwi, in Feilding, to be known as Te Kura o Kauwhata.

Opening intent

We want to uphold the rangatiratanga of Ngāti Kauwhata and at their request, support the inclusion of this karakia at the beginning of this Education Report.

He Reo Karakia (Nā Kauwhata i tuku)

Kotia te pū,
Kotia te hono.
Whakairohia ake nei,
ko te kawenga he hiihiri,
he wānanga, he whaihua,
kia tutuki ki uta,
kia rere ki tai,
eke pānuku, eke Tangaroa.
Ko te hono he ngāwari,
he tipua,
he tawhito,
whakahoungia ki te ao mārama.
Haumi e, hui e tāiki e!

Summary

1. Ngā Kaitiaki o Ngāti Kauwhata Incorporated (the applicant) asks that you establish Te Kura o Kauwhata, a Year 1-13 co-educational designated character school, to be located in Feilding. The applicant has been working since 2013 on the development of this proposal.
2. At the end of 2021, Minister Hipkins approved consultation on this proposal as required by section 209 of the Education and Training Act 2020 (METIS 1275453 refers). We consulted, on his behalf, with schools and kura whose rolls might be affected, as well as sector and community groups. This consultation has now closed and no objections to the proposal of the establishment of this wharekura were raised.
3. The proposed designated character of the wharekura would be Kura ā Iwi. The applicant proposes mātauranga taketake and Te Ao Māori will be embedded in the teaching and learning infrastructure at all levels of the wharekura, and that Te Reo Māori will be the primary language of instruction. The proposed curriculum will be grounded in taonga tuku ihohanga (cultural inheritance) of Ngāti Kauwhata ancestry. The applicant's proposal meets the requirements of being significantly different from an ordinary state school, as is required under section 204(3) of the Education and Training Act 2020 (the Act) for a designated character school.
4. Ngā Kura ā Iwi o Aotearoa (NKAI) is supportive of this application and the wharekura will become a member if established. NKAI support kura-ā-iwi across the motu, and currently have 39-member kura.
5. We support the applicant's proposal that specific provision be made, via an alternative constitution, to guarantee iwi representatives from Ngāti Kauwhata are represented on the Board. We recommend this be given effect when the wharekura transitions from an establishment board to its substantive board, giving the applicant and establishment board time to develop the alternative constitution.
6. Whānau have planned for this wharekura through the operation of an off-site class of Te Kura ā iwi o Whakatupuranga Rua Mano. This class of around 25 ākonga, known locally as Te Kura o Kauwhata, and operates on the former Cheltenham School site (which closed in 2016). The off-site class is about 13 km north of Feilding and has been supported by the applicant and other Ngāti Kauwhata iwi groups. Most of the present staff, ākonga, and whānau whakapapa to Ngāti Kauwhata.
7. Our demographic analysis projects the proposed wharekura may grow to 161 ākonga by 2026.
8. Should the wharekura be established, the ākonga currently in the off-site class would enrol at the new wharekura, which would initially operate in the same location until the new wharekura is built.
9. If you agree to establish this wharekura, funding will be sought in future budget rounds for site acquisition and the design and construction of the wharekura, with an initial build for 160 ākonga and a proposed master build for 250. We will collaborate with Ngāti Kauwhata on site acquisition and the design of the wharekura.
10. If you agree to establish this wharekura, we will work collaboratively with Ngāti Kauwhata to appoint five people to form the establishment board, under schedule 22, clause 3(1)(a)

of the Act (power is delegated to Manager Education). We will also appoint a Governance Facilitator to support the Board.

11. This proposal aligns with Ministry goals to strengthen Māori Medium Education (MME) in the schooling network and supports Maihi Karauna, the Māori language revitalisation strategy, which is intended to foster increased participation and success for Māori ākonga through the advancement of Māori education initiatives. The application also aligns with the goals of Ka Hikitia – Ka Hāpaitia, and Tau Mai Te Reo.

Recommended actions

The Ministry recommends you:

- a) **note** the Ministry received an application from Ngā Kaitiaki o Ngāti Kauwhata Incorporated asking you to establish a Year 1-13 co-educational designated character school in Feilding to be known as Te Kura o Kauwhata;
- b) **note** that the proposed designated character of the wharekura would be based on taonga tuku ihohanga (cultural inheritance) of Ngāti Kauwhata ancestry. Teaching would be in te Reo and staff and ākonga would uphold the culture, language and practices of Ngāti Kauwhata;
- c) **note** that on 8 December 2021, Minister Hipkins agreed to consult on this proposal under section 209 of the Education and Training Act 2020 (the Act) (METIS 1275453 refers). This has been completed and there were no objections to the proposal; and
- d) **note** that Section 205(4) of the Act allows you to name a body that has a special affiliation with the wharekura or has responsibility for the different character of the wharekura; and
- e) **agree** to establish a Year 1-13 composite wharekura to be known as Te Kura o Kauwhata under section 190 of the Act, and to designate it as a designated character school under sections 204 and 205 of the Act; and

☒ Agree ☐ Disagree

- f) **agree** to name Ngā Kura ā Iwi o Aotearoa under Section 205(4) of the Act, as a body that has a special affiliation with the wharekura; and

☒ Agree ☐ Disagree

If you approve the establishment of Te Kura o Kauwhata, you are asked to:

- g) **note** that we will appoint a Governance Facilitator, and working collaboratively with Ngāti Kauwhata, appoint five people to form the establishment board, under schedule 22, clause 3(1)(a) of the Act;
- h) **note** that we will seek funding to design and build Te Kura o Kauwhata as a Year 1-13 kura, from future budgets.
- i) **note** that Te Kura o Kauwhata will temporarily operate on the former Cheltenham School site (which closed in 2016) until the build is complete.
- j) **note** that before we proceed to an elected board, the establishment board will seek your approval for an alternative constitution for the Board of Te Kura o Kauwhata, under schedule 22 clause 4(1) of the Act.
- k) **sign** the attached New Zealand Gazette notice, letters to the applicant, and the local Members of Parliament informing them of your decision; and

- l) **agree** that this education report be proactively released. 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



Jocelyn Mikaere
Hautū | Deputy Secretary
Te Mahau | Te Tai Whenua

26/08/2022



Hon Kelvin Davis
Associate Minister of Education
Māori Education

09/ 09/ 2022

Background

1. In July 2013, a steering committee was formed by Ngā Kaitiaki o Ngāti Kauwhata Incorporated to investigate the establishment of a Māori language immersion wharekura to be located in the Feilding area. This committee approached the Whanganui regional office to discuss the proposal.
2. In September 2014 the Ōroua Team Trust was established with their main objective being the establishment of a Kura-ā-Iwi that was affiliated to Ngāti Kauwhata and was open to all peoples that accept its designated character.
3. In November 2014 the Ōroua Team Trust formally advised the Ministry of their intention to establish a satellite Māori language immersion Kura-ā-Iwi at Kauwhata Marae, and eventually the establishment of a wharekura. In 2015, an off-site class of Te Kura-ā-Iwi Whakatupuranga Rua Mano, known locally as Te Kura o Kauwhata, began operating from Kauwhata Marae, just south of Feilding. In 2016, the marae facilities were found not to be suitable for the day-to-day operation as a wharekura and the off-site class moved to the former Cheltenham School site, after this school closed in 2016.
4. In 2015, the Ōroua Team Trust began the process to seek the establishment of a Year 1-13 co-educational designated character school. We have worked with the applicant to develop their application, and they have worked on curriculum detail, graduating student profile, academic and vocational pathways, Iwi outcomes, and how compliance would be met with national educational learning priorities.
5. In 2021, Ngā Kaitiaki o Ngāti Kauwhata Incorporated (the applicant) applied for Minister Hipkins to establish a Year 1-13 co-educational designated character school in Feilding to be known as Te Kura o Kauwhata. On 8 December 2021, Minister Hipkins agreed to consult on the proposal to establish Te Kura o Kauwhata (METIS 1275453 refers).

Consultation

6. On Minister Hipkins' behalf, we consulted with kura that are presently offering Māori Medium Education and those schools considered as neighbouring schools, whose rolls might be affected by establishment of a new wharekura. We also wrote to Te Kura ā Iwi o Whakatupuranga Rua Mano (who currently operate the off-site class), as part of the consultation process and sought assurances that the establishment of the new wharekura would coincide with the closure of the off-site class. A total of 28 schools were consulted (a full list of schools and responses can be seen in Annex 6).
7. We also consulted with;
 - Ngā Kura ā Iwi o Aotearoa (NKAI)
 - New Zealand School Trustees Association (NZSTA)
 - New Zealand Post Primary Teachers' Association / Te Wehengarua (PPTA)
 - New Zealand Educational Institute (NZEI)
 - Te Kōhanga Reo National Trust
 - Te Rūnanganui o Ngā Kura Kaupapa Māori
8. There were no objections to the establishment of a Year 1-13 co-educational designated character school in Feilding to be known as Te Kura o Kauwhata. All responses received were supportive. Some schools did not respond. A summary of consultation is attached as Annex 6.

Legislative requirements for a designated character school

9. Under section 204 of the Education and Training Act 2020 (the Act), the Minister of Education has absolute discretion whether to establish a designated character school. For a new school to be established as a designated character school it must meet the requirements in section 204(3) of the Act. The three key requirements are:
 - the designated character kura will have a character that is in some specific way or ways different from the character of ordinary state schools
 - it is desirable for ākonga (whose whānau want them to do so) to get such an education
 - ākonga at the kura are to receive an education of a kind that differs significantly from the education they would receive at an ordinary state school.
10. The proposed designated character of the wharekura would be Kura-ā-Iwi based on Ngāti Kauwhata. The Kura-ā-Iwi model has previously been recognised as meeting the requirements of section 204(3) of the Education and Training Act 2020 (the Act).
11. The applicant proposes mātauranga taketake and Te Ao Māori will be embedded in the teaching and learning infrastructure at all levels of the wharekura, and that Te Reo Māori will be the primary language of instruction. The proposed curriculum will be grounded in taonga tuku iho (cultural inheritance) of Ngāti Kauwhata ancestry. This approach to teaching and learning is different from the character of ordinary state schools and from other schools in the catchment.
12. We consider that the requirements under section 204(3) of the Act are met by this application.
13. Cabinet has also developed guidelines for establishing designated character schools. We have assessed the applicant's proposal against these criteria, attached as Annex 4. We consider that the wharekura meets these requirements except for the requirement determining size (which Cabinet considers as 200 for a composite wharekura). However, you have the discretion to consider any commendable application that does not meet the requirements.

The proposed wharekura

14. The applicant has shown that the initial curriculum will be well supported by Ngā Kura ā Iwi o Aotearoa and Te Aho o Te Kura Pounamu (Te Kura) courses will be provided, where necessary, until the wharekura has teaching capacity for a wider range of pathways.
15. There are currently 25 tamariki attending the off-site class of Te Kura ā Iwi o Whakatupuranga Rua Mano. There are an additional four tamariki that have applied for enrolment later in this calendar year. The applicant attributes this low roll to the impacts of COVID-19 on local whānau. Before COVID-19 the roll was between 50 and 57 ākonga (2018 – 2020).
16. The applicant provided roll projections based on pre-COVID-19 data and on the assumption that each year group will follow through into the next school year. Based on our demographic analysis, we project the roll is more likely to start lower, and if the wharekura is established, we would estimate the roll to grow to 161 by 2026. This shows that there is demand for this education provision in the catchment.

Year	2023	2024	2025	2026
Applicants Projected Roll	112	128	148	161
Ministry Projected Roll	30	80	120	161

17. Hāpaitia Kōhanga Reo, located in Feilding, have parents and whānau committed to a Māori immersion educational pathway from Kōhanga Reo through to the end of primary school. The Kōhanga Reo currently has a waiting list of whānau who wish for their children to enter a total immersion education pathway and would be the primary feeder for the proposed Te Kura o Kauwhata.
18. The proposal has support from Hapaitia Te Kōhanga Reo, Aorangi and Kauwhata Marae committees, Te Wānanga-o-Raukawa, Te Kura-ā-iwi o Whakatupuranga Rua Mano and Ngā Kura ā Iwi o Aotearoa (NKAI).
19. If established, Te Kura o Kauwhata would be the only affiliated Kura ā Iwi in the Manawātū region, and in the northern end of the ART Confederation.
20. Te Kura-ā-iwi o Whakatupuranga Rua Mano have confirmed, that if the proposal is approved, the off-site class based at Cheltenham School will close.

Impact on the schooling network

21. Feilding is within the Taranaki, Whanganui, Manawātū planning area for Māori medium.
22. Two of the regional goals for Māori medium are to develop Māori medium pathways, and to support iwi initiatives to advance iwi education plans that develop tumuaki leadership, kaiako reo capability, educational planning and research, and iwi-centric resources.
23. There is no Kura-ā-Iwi in the catchment and the proposed designated character would support a Māori medium pathway in the catchment; Kōhanga Reo (Hāpaitia Kōhanga Reo) to wharekura.
24. We do not consider that the establishment of this wharekura will have a detrimental effect of any school rolls in the area.
25. There are 236 ākonga who whakapapa to Ngāti Kauwhata residing and attending schools within the Manawātū District and Palmerston North City TLA boundaries (596 across Aotearoa). Based on our demographic analysis, we project this population to increase to 298 ākonga by 2026.
26. The Feilding catchment has an estimated capacity of 4840 ākonga with 4320 presently enrolled (March 2022). Of those ākonga, 1100 (25%) identify as Māori. The estimated utilisation of the Feilding network is 89% (March 2022). Maps showing the geographic spread of schools and kura in both catchments is attached in Annex 5.
27. As at March 2022:
 - in the Feilding catchment there are no Māori ākonga enrolled in Level 1 Maori immersion (81-100% of the curriculum is taught in Te Reo Māori for between 20 and up to 25 hours a week).

- In the Palmerston NENP reporting catchments, there are 2% (344) of Māori ākonga enrolled in Level 1 Māori language learning. There are two Kura Kaupapa Māori in the city of Palmerston North (TKKM o Manawatū and Mana Tamariki).
 - There is no full Māori immersion pathway in the Manawatū district. Two schools offer some Level 2 Māori immersion (51-80% of curriculum is taught in Te Reo Māori), an English medium state primary school with a bilingual unit (North Street School), and a secondary state integrated boys' school (Hato Paora).
28. We consider that the establishment of the proposed wharekura (given enrolment is not limited to ākonga that whakapapa to Ngāti Kauwhata), will provide a Māori medium pathway for ākonga in the Manawatū district and also ākonga from the Palmerston North National Education Network Plan reporting catchments.

Proposed location and property

29. Should you agree to establish the wharekura, the Ministry, in collaboration with Ngāti Kauwhata, will commence investigations for a site. If a site is to be purchased, the Ministry will seek funding through future Budgets to plan and design the new wharekura. Once the new wharekura is designed, construction funding will be sought in a subsequent Budget year. The wharekura will continue to operate from the present Cheltenham School site until a new build is completed.

Transport

30. The wharekura will receive direct transport funding to organise their own transport needs. This funding is based on the number of eligible ākonga attending. The wharekura uses this funding to organise their own school transport, which could be chartering a company or buying a vehicle.

Financial implications

31. If you decide to establish Te Kura o Kauwhata, the estimated operational cost to the Crown (staffing and operational funding) when the wharekura is at full capacity (160 ākonga) is approximately \$2.3m.
32. The proposed wharekura would generate an establishment funding of \$366,800. This grant is to be used for establishment administration, teaching and learning, and library provision.

Governance

33. Should you agree to establish the wharekura, Section 205(4) of the Act allows you to name a body that has a special affiliation with the school or has responsibility for the different character of the school. We recommend that you name Ngā Kura ā Iwi o Aotearoa as such a body.
34. Should you agree to establish the proposed wharekura, we will appoint a Governance Facilitator and work with Ngāti Kauwhata to appoint five people to form the establishment board, under Schedule 22, clause 3(1)(a) of the Education and Training Act 2022. This power has been delegated to the Ministry at Manager Education level.

35. An initial task for the establishment board will be the appointment of the tumuaki. It is anticipated that the tumuaki will take up his/her position as soon as possible after appointment so that he/she may participate in planning the framework and processes for the wharekura.

Treaty of Waitangi implications

36. The Government has an enduring focus on improving educational outcomes for Māori learners and giving effect to the Treaty of Waitangi (the Treaty) and its principles. Section 4(d) of the Education and Training Act 2020 states that one of the purposes of the Act is “to establish and regulate an education system that honours Te Tiriti o Waitangi and supports Māori-Crown relationships”.
37. This proposal is consistent with the Crown’s responsibilities under the Treaty, including to support the revitalisation and protection of Te Reo Māori as a taonga.
38. This proposal also supports enhancing Māori participation in education, and Māori achieving success as Māori in an environment that will uplift and protect Ngāti Kauwhata values. It also aims to remove barriers to access education for Māori ākonga by establishing a full Māori medium pathway provision in the area.

Risks and Mitigations

39. Should you agree to establish the proposed wharekura there is a risk that programmes of work may not be suitable until Te Kura o Kauwhata has grown internal capacity and capabilities. We will mitigate this by working with the establishment board, tumuaki (once appointed), and NKAI to ensure the needs of ākonga are met, especially regarding NCEA and secondary tertiary pathways.

Next steps

40. The Ministry considers that the requirements of the legislation have been met and recommends that Te Kura o Kauwhata be established as a designated character school.
41. Should you agree to establish the proposed wharekura, we will present a further memo requesting you appoint five named people to form the establishment board, under schedule 22, clause 3(1)(a) of the Education and Training Act 2020.
42. A governance facilitator will be appointed to work with the establishment board as it works to establish the wharekura as a state designated character school.
43. If you approve this application, you are asked to sign the attached letters, *New Zealand Gazette* notice, and agree to the release of the attached media statement.

Proactive release

44. It is intended that this report be proactively released. Information that might need to be withheld will be done so in line with the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982.

Annexes

- Annex 1: Letters to applicant and local Members of Parliament
- Annex 2: Notices for the *New Zealand Gazette*
- Annex 3: Communications plan
- Annex 4: Ministry's assessment of the application
- Annex 5: Maps of the geographic spread of schools
- Annex 6: Summary of consultation

Hon Kelvin Davis

MP for Te Tai Tokerau

Minister for Māori Crown Relations: Te Arawhiti

Minister for Children

Minister of Corrections

Associate Minister of Education (Māori Education)



Dennis Emery
Presiding Member
Ngā Kaitiaki o Ngāti Kauwhata Incorporated
139 South Street
Feilding 4702

Tēnā koe Dennis

Thank you for your application asking me to establish a Year 1-13 designated character school, in Fielding.

I am pleased to advise that I will establish Te Kura o Kauwhata as a Year 1-13 designated character school under sections 190 and 204 of the Education and Training Act 2020.

The designated character of the school will be Kura ā Iwi, and under section 205(4) of the Act, I have named Ngā Kura ā Iwi o Aotearoa as a body having a special affiliation with the wharekura.

As part of preparing Te Kura o Kauwhata to open as a state school, I have requested the Ministry of Education work collaboratively with Ngāti Kauwhata to appoint the Establishment Board (EB) to govern the school. The EB will be supported by a governance facilitator who will be appointed by the Ministry of Education.

I am aware, that before proceeding to an elected board, the EB will seek approval for an alternative constitution for the Board of Te Kura o Kauwhata, under schedule 22, clause 4(1) of the Act.

I look forward to hearing of the progress of Te Kura o Kauwhata as a designated character school.

If you have any further questions or queries, please contact Dianne Wilson on Dianne.Wilson@education.govt.nz

Heoi anō

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'Kelvin Davis'.

Hon Kelvin Davis
Associate Minister of Education (Māori Education)

cc Marlene Clarkson, Director of Education, Taranaki, Whanganui, Manawātū

Hon Kelvin Davis

MP for Te Tai Tokerau

Minister for Māori Crown Relations: Te Arawhiti

Minister for Children

Minister of Corrections

Associate Minister of Education (Māori Education)



Ian McKelvie
Member of Parliament for Rangitīkei
Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON

Tēnā koe Mr McKelvie

I am pleased to advise that I have established Te Kura o Kauwhata as a Year 1–13 designated character school under sections 190 and 204 of the Education and Training Act 2020 (the Act). The school will open in 2023.

The designated character of the wharekura is Kura ā Iwi with a focus on a curriculum grounded in taonga tuku ihohanga (cultural inheritance) of Ngāti Kauwhata ancestry. Te Reo Māori will be the primary language of instruction with Mātauranga taketake and Te Ao Māori embedded in all teaching and learning.

The wharekura will initially be located in Cheltenham, before a new site is found in Feilding. I believe this wharekura will provide educational choice of a type that cannot be provided by the current state schools in Feilding.

Heoi anō

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'Kelvin Davis'.

Hon Kelvin Davis
Associate Minister of Education (Māori Education)

Hon Kelvin Davis

MP for Te Tai Tokerau

Minister for Māori Crown Relations: Te Arawhiti

Minister for Children

Minister of Corrections

Associate Minister of Education (Māori Education)



Adrian Rurawhe
Member of Parliament for Te Tai Hauāuru
Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON

Tēnā koe Adrian

I am pleased to advise that I have established Te Kura o Kauwhata as a Year 1–13 designated character school under sections 190 and 204 of the Education and Training Act 2020 (the Act). The school will open in 2023.

The designated character of the wharekura is Kura ā Iwi with a focus on a curriculum grounded in taonga tuku ihohanga (cultural inheritance) of Ngāti Kauwhata ancestry. Te Reo Māori will be the primary language of instruction with Mātauranga taketake and Te Ao Māori embedded in all teaching and learning.

The wharekura will initially be located in Cheltenham, before a new site is found in Feilding. I believe this wharekura will provide educational choice of a type that cannot be provided by the current state schools in Feilding.

Heoi anō

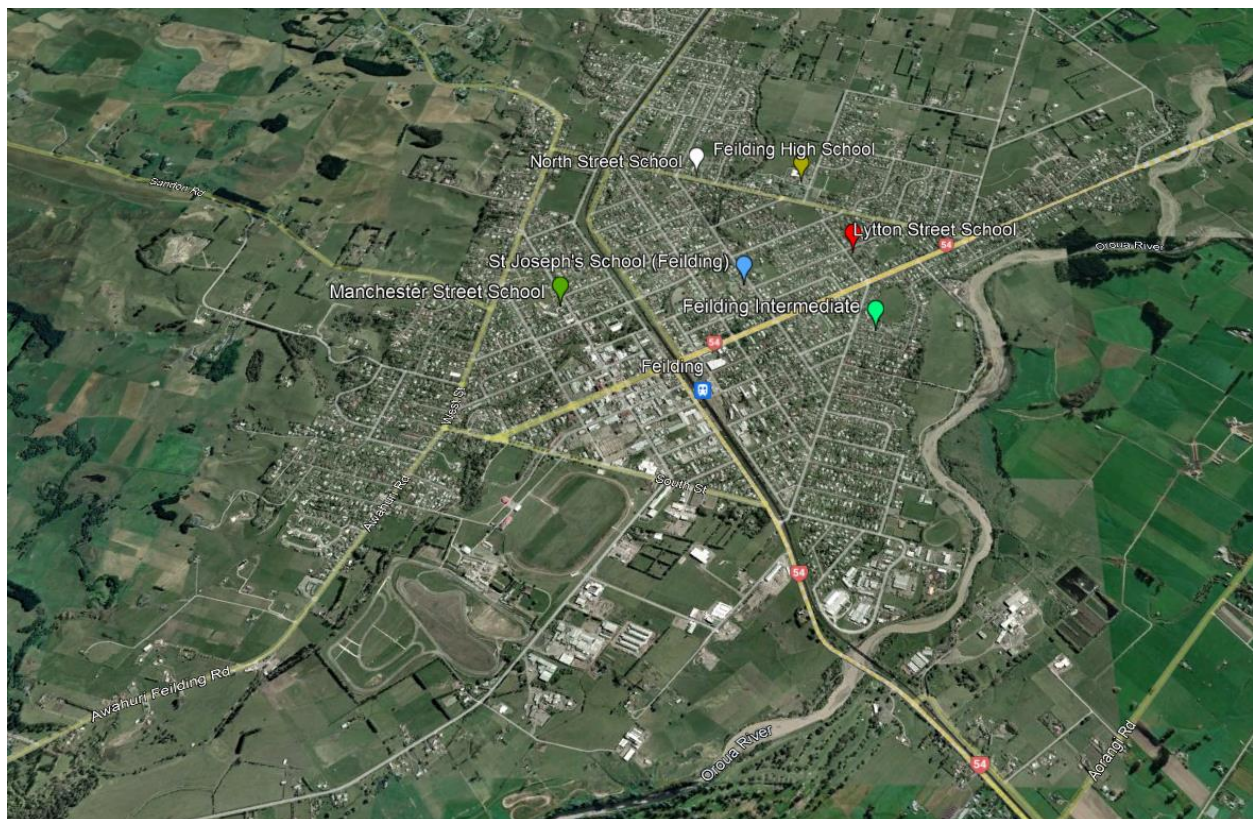
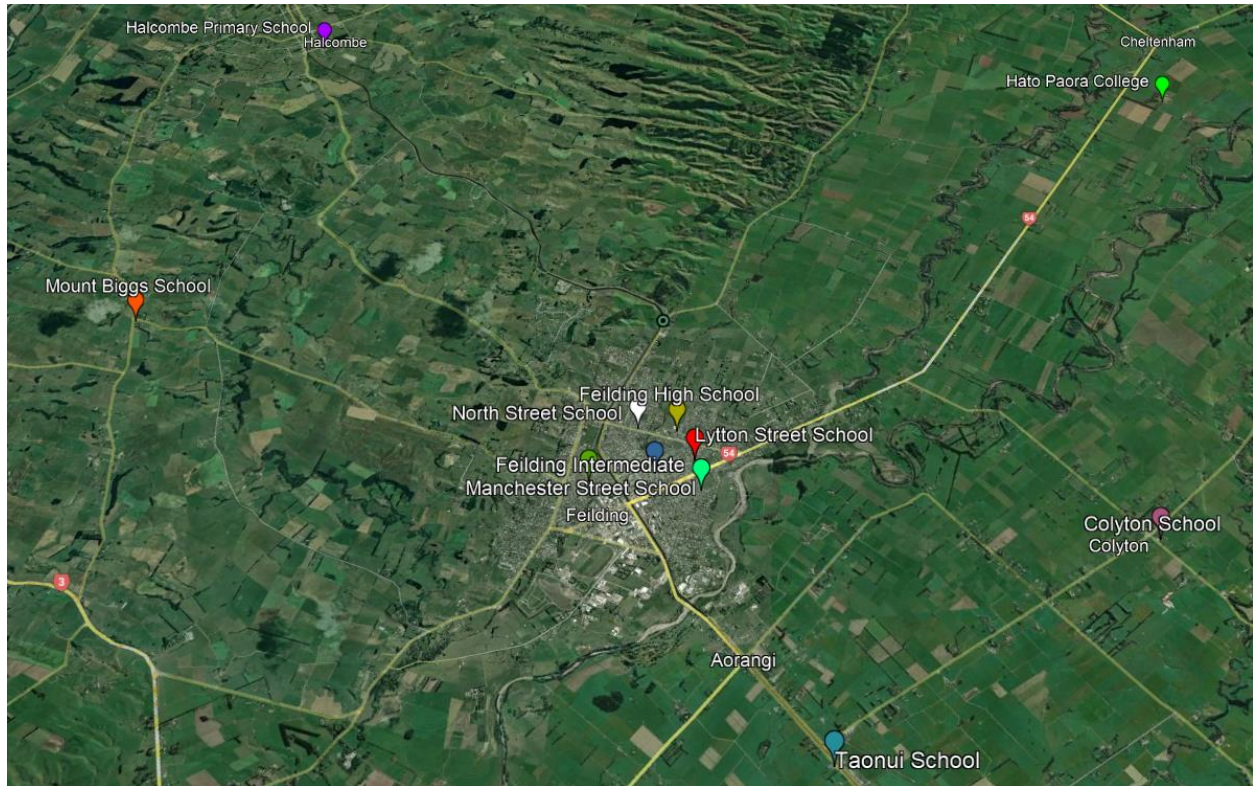
A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'Kelvin Davis'.

Hon Kelvin Davis
Associate Minister of Education (Māori Education)

	<p>Rua Mano. Before COVID, the roll was between 50 and 57 ākonga (2018 – 2020).</p> <p>Our demographic analysis projects the roll to grow to 161 by 2026.</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>There are six schools in the Feilding network.</p> <p>Feilding High School (197): Year 9 – 13 Feilding Intermediate (2356): Year 7 and 8 Lytton Street School (2389): Year 1 - 6 Manchester Street School (2390): Year 1 - 6 North Street School (2409): Year 1 - 8 St Joseph's Feilding (2451): Year 1 – 8</p> <p>The addition of the proposed wharekura balances the equity of the network.</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>The establishment of the wharekura will not result in any other school to become marginal. The overall network of schools in the Feilding catchment is at 99.59% of estimated capacity. It is expected that there may be a small decrease in the roll at North Street School (2409) as some whānau choose a full immersion pathway over a bilingual option (presently at 83.65% of its estimated capacity).</p>
<p>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 commendable, to some degree unique and not in conflict with the Act.</p>	<p>The proposal also supports Maihi Karauna, the Māori language strategy, which is intended to foster increased participation and success for Māori students through the advancement of Māori education initiatives. The application also aligns with Ka Hikitia, Tau Mai Te Reo and the national network plan to support and grow Māori medium education. It also supports the Government's goal of 30% of Māori being in Māori medium education.</p>
<p>The applicant 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.</p>	<p>The application identifies the seven essential learning areas;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Te Reo Māori 2. Pāngarau 3. Pūtaiao 4. Tikanga-ā-iwi 5. Hangarau 6. Ngā toi 7. Hauora <p>The applicant proposes a broad and balanced curriculum for years 11,12 and 13 students to ensure that ākonga retain a wide range of options for future study and career choices.</p>

	The applicant states that while capabilities are being built internally, senior students will be supported by Ngā Kura ā Iwi o Aotearoa and given access to a quality range of wānanga courses through Te Kura and Te Wānanga 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.	A regional review of Māori medium provision in Taranaki, Whanganui, Manawatū identified a lack of full immersion pathways for ākonga in the wider Manawatū, in particular, in and around Feilding.
The Minister may consider any commendable application that fails to meet the requirements in the guidelines	We consider that the wharekura meets the requirements except for the requirement determining size (which Cabinet considers as 200 for a composite wharekura).

Annex 5: Maps of the geographic spread of schools





3 June 2022

Tena koutou e te Kura ā Iwi o Ngāti Kauwhata

He Reta Tautoko

Tēnei te tuku i te whakawhetai ki te Runga Rawa, te tīmatanga me te whakaotinga o ngā mea katoa. E whakaaro nui ana ki ō tātou mate kua riro atu ki a rātou katoa kua whetūrangitia. Rātou te hunga wairua ki a rātou.

Kei ōku rangatira o Ngāti Kauwhata, tēnei te mihi o te ngākau ki a koutou katoa. Anei rā a Ngā Kura ā Iwi e tuku atu nei i ō mātou whakaaro hei tautoko i a koutou kua roa nei e whakaheke werawera ana, ko ngā Uri o Ngāti Kauwhata, otirā te rohe whānui tonu te take.

On behalf of Ngā Kura ā Iwi o Aotearoa, we acknowledge and appreciate the effort, resilience and determination required from you all to advance the vision, aspirations, and goals that you have for your kura and your uri. Nei rā te mihi ki a koutou katoa.

Ngā Kura ā Iwi:

- Appreciates the whānau responsiveness to our suggestions regarding the setting up of an interim Board of Trustees
- Acknowledges that the whānau are carefully considering the sustainable development of the kura, especially the stabilisation of the school roll and building the staff
- Recognises the whānau agreement to continue to work with NKAI to explore the opportunities and pathways to strengthen the Wharekura curriculum
- Acknowledges the ongoing support and commitment to the kaupapa from the whānau despite the length of time it has taken, and the challenges faced to get to this point. This drive and commitment is evident in the whānau reo development strategy through wānanga and years of support for local kōhanga reo.

Therefore, Ngā Kura ā Iwi o Aotearoa recommends that the Ministry of Education commit to establishing this kura as soon as possible and providing ongoing support to ensure that the kura is given the best possible start.

Nei ra te mihi ki a koe e te tuahine, koutou ko tō whānau.

Ngā manaakitanga

Watson Ohia
Pou Kōkiri - CEO
Ngā Kura ā Iwi o Aotearoa Incorporated

Mō tātou, Mā tātou, E ai ki a tātou