



Education Report: **Change of classification and change of designation for Te Kura o Te Moutere o Matakana (1811)**

To:	Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education		
Cc:	Hon Kelvin Davis, Associate Minister of Education (Māori Education)		
Date:	3 December 2021	Priority:	Medium
Security Level:	In confidence	METIS No:	1278202
Drafter:	Arona Jacob, Senior Adviser	DDI:	07 571 7826
Key Contact:	Vianney Douglas, Manager Education	DDI:	07 571 7873
Messaging seen by Communications team:	No	Round Robin:	No

Purpose

This report seeks your approval for Te Kura o Te Moutere o Matakana to change its classification from a Year 1 – 8 kura to a Year 1 – 10 kura, and change its designation to a designated character school, kura-ā-iwi.

In May 2021 you agreed to consult with the boards of all state schools whose rolls might be affected by this change [METIS1256241 refers]. The Ministry has now completed this consultation on your behalf.

Summary

1. Te Kura o Te Moutere o Matakana (the kura) is a decile 3, co-educational Year 1-8 kura located on Matakana Island in the Tauranga Harbour, approximately 20 kms north west of Tauranga CBD. It was established as a Native school on gifted Māori land in the 1860s and has been teaching in Te Reo Māori for more than 20 years.
2. The kura has a 100% Māori roll of 36 ākonga (July 2021), all learning in Māori Medium Education Level 1.
3. If this change of classification is approved, we estimate there would be an additional 10 ākonga in Year 9 and 10 in coming years. Initially it would see the roll grow to 40 - 50 ākonga. There is capacity at the kura to accommodate a roll of 60 ākonga.
4. The proposed change will have minimal impact on any other school. The secondary school most ākonga transition into is Tauranga Boys' College. Tauranga Boys' College has a July 2021 roll of 2008 and has been identified as needing further classroom provision.

5. Two schools expressed support for the proposed changes to the kura, to increase choice for the whānau of the somewhat isolated community of Matakana Island.
6. The kura meets the statutory criteria for designated character school, kura-ā-iwi.
7. If you agree to the proposed change of classification and redesignation, we recommend the changes take effect from Term 2, 2 May 2022.

Recommended Actions

We recommend that you:

- a. **note** that in May 2021 you agreed to consult on a proposed change of classification and a change of designation for Te Kura o Te Moutere o Matakana, and that we have completed this consultation on your behalf;
- b. **note** that the proposed change of classification to Year 1 – 10 will have minimal effect on the rolls of secondary schools and other composite kura in Tauranga;
- c. **agree** to change the classification of Te Kura o Te Moutere o Matakana from a Year 1 – 8 full primary school to a Year 1 – 10 composite kura under section 198 of the Education and Training Act 2020, to take effect at the start of Term 2, 2 May 2022;
- d. **agree** to change the designation for Te Kura o Te Moutere o Matakana from an ordinary state school to a designated character school, kura- ā-iwi under section 200 of the Education and Training Act 2020, to take effect at the start of Term 2, 2 May 2022;

Noted

Agree/Disagree

Agree/Disagree

If you agree, you are asked to:

- e. **sign** the attached letter to the board (Annex 1), and letters to local Members of Parliament (Annex 2);
- f. **sign** the attached *New Zealand Gazette* notice (Annex 3); and
- g. **agree** to proactively release this education report as per your expectation. Any information that might need to be withheld will be done so in line with the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982.

Signed

Agree/Disagree



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



Hon Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education

3/12/2021

18/ 1/ 2022

Background

1. Te Kura o Te Mouere o Matakana (the kura) is a state Year 1 – 8 kura situated on Matakana Island in the Bay of Plenty. With a roll of 36, the kura is the smallest kura of six located in the Tauranga Moana catchment.
2. In July 2020, the kura applied for a change in designation to become a designated character school, kura-ā-iwi. The kura revised their application in September 2020 to include change of classification from a Year 1 – 8 full primary kura, to a Year 1 – 10 composite kura.
3. The kura provided evidence of engaging with whānau and having support for the proposed changes to the kura. Tauranga Moana Kāhui Ako and Ngā Kura ā Iwi o Aotearoa provided letters of support for the proposed changes along with the application.
4. The kura wish to become a designated character school, kura-ā-iwi to support their current pedagogy and wish to retain their Year 9 and 10 ākonga to support and foster the unique island identity that these tamariki share.
5. The kura whānau support the kura regarding these changes because they believe the education at the kura increases belonging, engagement, and retention of the ākonga in schooling, and sustains their wellbeing in community, hapū, marae, and iwi.
6. The schooling catchment for Te Kura o Te Mouere o Matakana includes the communities of Matakana and neighbouring Rangiwaia Island. Matakana Island supports a population of around 260 people, mostly Māori of Ngāi te Rangi descent. In July 2020, all of the kura students identified as Māori.
7. There are five other kura in the Tauranga Moana Bay of Plenty catchment that currently offer Māori medium education: a composite immersion Kura Kaupapa Māori (Year 1 – 13), a composite immersion (Year 7 – 13) kura-ā-iwi, and three Year 1 - 8 kura.
8. The proposed designated character for Te Kura o Te Mouere o Matakana is focused on education in Te Reo Māori that supports ākonga to succeed intellectually, culturally, and socially. Although focused on education for ākonga of Ngāi te Rangi and particularly the five local hapū of the island, the kura is inclusive.
9. The Ministry completed consultation on your behalf in August 2021. There have been expressions of support from two kura in the catchment, and from the Post Primary Teachers' Association and Ngā Kura ā Iwi o Aotearoa.

Proposal for reclassification

10. Under section 198(1)(b) of the Education and Training Act (the Act) you may declare a primary school to be a composite school. Under section 198(3) of the Act, you may specify the class levels for which education must be given at a school and may provide for class levels to be phased in, over a specified period of time.
11. The kura has developed its kaiako and recruited specifically for its Level 1 immersion kura-ā-iwi education programme.
12. The tumuaki is secondary trained and has teaching experience in composite kura. The profiles of other kura kaiako show local kura and composite kura experience.
13. We consider that the school is well placed to provide tuition for Year 1 – 10 ākonga.

Proposal for designation

14. Under section 200(1)(a) of the Act you may designate an ordinary state school as a designated character school.
15. Section 204 of the Act (which relates to establishment of designated character schools) applies to a school that is being redesignated in the same way as if it were being established as a designated character school for the first time. A designated character school must meet the requirements in section 204(3) of the Act. For the proposed change in designated character, section 204(3) of the Act requires that:
 - a. a designated character school will have a character that is in some specific way or ways different from the character of ordinary state schools;
 - b. it is desirable for students [whose parents wish them to do so] to get such an education; and
 - c. ākonga at the school will get an education of a kind that differs significantly from the education they would get at an ordinary state school.
16. The kura would become a kura-ā-iwi designated character school. This model has been recognised as meeting the requirements of section 204 of the Act.

Designated character requirements

17. The proposed designated character of the kura details the following approach to teaching and learning:
 - a. the kura would continue to teach all year levels in Māori Medium Education Level 1;
 - b. the curriculum emphasises capabilities in kawa, tikanga and performing arts;
 - c. the relationship with the physical and cultural environment of the mouere is embedded in curriculum and teaching; and
 - d. the kura whanau are a related family group with strong connections to each other and the island.
18. The curriculum, teaching and learning practices outlined in the application reflect the vision and philosophy of the designated character of the kura. The application states the kura applies Te Marautanga o Aotearoa¹, and places strong emphasis on culture and location.
19. Becoming a designated character school will protect this in legislation and better reflect the school's existing education.
20. The kura is offering a different character education to an ordinary state school. The kura has been delivering Māori medium education Level 1 to all ākonga since 2000. The board has adopted guiding values for the kura of: Manawa Nui, Manawa Roa and Manawa Ū².
21. The kura is offering an education whose character significantly differs from the education that is available to the students at any other ordinary state school in Tauranga and that it is desirable for ākonga to receive such an education.

¹ The essential knowledge, skills, and values of Māori medium schools.

² Patience, resilience, and excellence in learning and sports

22. The proposed designated character for Te Kura o Te Moutere o Matakana is focused on education in Te Reo Māori that supports ākonga to succeed intellectually, culturally, and socially. Although focused on education for ākonga of Ngāi te Rangi and particularly the five local hapū of the island, the kura is inclusive.
23. The Education Review Office (ERO) commented during the consultation that ākonga and whānau learn and confidently participate in tikanga marae and performing arts, are “closely connected through whakapapa”, and experience regular involvement of kaumātua at the kura, enhancing ākonga understanding of ūkaipōtanga. ERO said teaching practice includes the local heritage and environment of the island and that students “are provided with opportunities to learn skills and practices that are unique to the island and their environment.”

Consultation

24. We undertook consultation with four state schools whose roll might be affected by the change (Annex 5). Two of the schools gave their support to the changes at the time of the application and did not wish to change their response.
25. Both Tauranga Girls' College and Tauranga Boys' College were apprehensive to give their support to the change and raised concerns about the provision for Year 9 and 10 ākonga if they were to stay at the remote school. The Tauranga Girls' College response was supportive of the change of designation but opposed the change of Year Levels.
26. The feedback from the school is outlined below:

School	Year	Feedback
Te Kura o Matapihi	Year 1 – 8	Supportive
Te Wharekura o Mauao	Year 7 – 15	Supportive
Tauranga Girls' College	Year 9-15	Felt that there are more opportunities provided in an existing high school provision for Year 9 and 10 ākonga. The board also voiced concerns around the disadvantage of transitioning to a high school environment in Year 11 versus transitioning in Year 9.
Tauranga Boys' College	Year 9-15	The board voiced concerns that ākonga will be disadvantaged by the limited range of options available compared to a range of extra-curricular options that they could access at large mainstream schools such as Tauranga Boys' College and Tauranga Girls' College. The board also voiced concerns around the disadvantage of transitioning to a high school environment in Year 11 vs transitioning in Year 9.

27. We also consulted with the Post Primary Teachers' Association (PPTA), New Zealand School Trustees Association (NZSTA), Te Riu Roa New Zealand Educational Institute (NZEI) and Ngā Kura ā iwi o Aotearoa (NKAI).
28. Ngā Kura ā Iwi o Aotearoa gave a letter of support when the school first approached them about becoming a kura-ā-iwi in June 2020 (Annex 4).

29. The results from sector consultation are outlined in the table below:

Organization	feedback
PPTA	Supportive, if secondary provision at other kura particularly Te Wharekura o Mauao is not undermined.
NZSTA	No response
NZEI	No response
NKAI	Supportive

30. The proposal supports Maihi Karauna, the Māori language 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 Ka Hikitia, Tau Mai Te Reo, and Ministry goals to support and grow Māori Medium Education in the network.
31. Although the concerns raised by Tauranga Boys' College and Tauranga Girls' College are valid, due to the low impact that this proposal will have on their rolls and that the proposal aligns with initiatives that uplift the achievement of Māori, we perceive that supporting Māori achieving as Māori takes precedence.
32. The board also received support for the proposed changes to the kura from the kura whānau. The whānau support the proposal on the basis transitioning to secondary school off island can be challenging for their Year 9 tamariki and because they believe that education at the kura increases belonging, engagement and retention of ākonga in schooling, and sustains their wellbeing in community, hapū, marae, and iwi.

Education at Te Kura o Te Mouere o Matakana

33. The April 2018 ERO review indicates the current education at Te Kura o Te Mouere o Matakana reflects the aspirations of the kura for kura-ā-iwi status. This should mean that significant changes to curriculum or teaching methods would not be needed alongside change of designation.
34. The proposed change of classification to Year 1 – 10 is likely to strengthen retention of ākonga in Māori medium education. The tumuaki has secondary teaching experience and has developed the school's education practices to incorporate the Year 9 and 10 ākonga.

Network considerations

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

Effects on the rolls of other state schools

36. Including Te Kura o Te Mouere o Matakana, there are six Māori medium providers in Tauranga. These kura did not object to the proposed changes, and two commented in support of the applications.
37. The existing ordinary state secondary schools would be minimally impacted by the addition of Year 9 and 10 attending Te Kura o Te Mouere o Matakana.

38. The two local state high schools, Tauranga Boys' College and Tauranga Girls' College enrol a combined secondary age population in Tauranga of around 3300. If the change is approved there is an approximate loss of 10 ākonga across both schools, which does not suggest a sizable impact.

Financial implications

39. Financially, the kura is regarded as in good shape, with the region's 2020 financial analysis of the kura's draft accounts showing a budget surplus of \$42,149. Working capital, available cash, equity and assets have all been stable over the past three years and saw improvement from 2019 to August 2021. Banking staffing is showing \$9,257 overuse currently. The Finance Adviser does not have any financial concerns regarding the kura and will make contact to see how they are managing their bank staffing.
40. The estimated additional operational cost for Te Kura o Te Moutere O Matakana (1811) retaining their students into Years 9 and 10 is \$351,028.60 (GST incl.) per year.

Property implications

41. The school has three teaching spaces in two buildings, a 70m² library, administration block, and some ancillary spaces. The kura also hosts the Kohanga Reo o Matakana Island onsite.
42. The teaching spaces at the kura are sufficient for the foreseeable roll if the kura was to retain all of its ākonga transitioning to Year 9. Longer term the school has space for up to 60 ākonga and the space occupied by the kohanga could be redeveloped if needed.

Transport implications

43. There would be a small saving on transport costs for students staying at Te Kura o Te Moutere o Matakana for two more years. Students living on Matakana would be able to attend the local kura to Year 10, which would reduce costs for the small number of students who currently must be transported to the city after Year 8.
44. There would be no change to transport entitlements for students who want to go to school in Tauranga after Year 8. Students are transported to Māori medium settings by choice so students attending Te Wharekura o Mauao or Tauranga Boys' College rumaki unit would not be affected. Year 9 and 10 students living in Matakana who want English medium would continue to be eligible for transport to attend Tauranga schools that are English medium settings.

Staffing implications

45. Retention to Year 10 will likely support the roll of the kura which has fluctuated between 30 and 40. With a roll of 35, the kura has a 2.50 FTTE staffing entitlement for 2021, topped up by Kāhui Ako staffing to 3 FTTE. The board used 30% of its operations grant for board funded staffing in 2020 which is below the level usually used by small kura.
46. The kura is a member of the Tauranga Moana Māori Medium Kāhui Ako and has been working to address shared achievement challenges in Māori medium with other kura leaders. Te Kura o Te Moutere o Matakana has been encouraged to access support with staffing, staff communications, and finances from Ngā Kura ā Iwi o Aotearoa and New Zealand School Trustees Association.

47. Nga Kura ā Iwi o Aotearoa and NZSTA have been asked to continue to support the tumuaki and teachers at the kura to plan for and deliver junior secondary curriculum. A Student Achievement Function Practitioner will be available to support the kura to build its capability to increase student achievement if required.

Conclusion

48. The Ministry recommends you approve the proposed changes to Te Kura o Te Moutere o Matakana. We have come to this view because:
- a. the proposed designated character meets the requirements of the Act;
 - b. the kura has already transitioned to providing education under the kura-ā-iwi model;
 - c. local whānau support the change; and
 - d. the potential effect on the rolls of any other schools in the network are small and would be offset by the value in strengthening the immersion kura pathway.

Next Steps

49. If, after considering the information in this report, you decide you are satisfied the school should change its classification, and change its designation, a letter to the board (Annex 1), letters to Local Members of Parliament (Annex 2) and *New Zealand Gazette* notice (Annex 3) are attached for your signature to effect the change.
50. You are asked to return the signed letter for the board and Members of Parliament to the Ministry to be delivered.

Proactive Release of this Report

51. It is intended that this report be proactively released as per your expectation. Any information that might need to be withheld will be done so in line with the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982.

Annex

- Annex 1: Letter to the board
- Annex 2: Letters to the Members of Parliament
- Annex 3: *New Zealand Gazette* notice
- Annex 4: Consultation letters

Proactively Released

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



Myra Ngatai
Presiding Member
Te Kura o Te Moutere o Matakana
Counter Delivery
Matakana Island Post Centre
Tauranga 3136

Ref: CH10949

Dear Myra

Thank you for your application asking me to redesignate Te Kura o Te Moutere o Matakana as a designated character school, kura-ā-iwi and to change the classification of the kura from a Year 1 – 8 kura to a Year 1 – 10 kura.

The Ministry of Education has now completed consultation on my behalf with the state schools whose rolls might be affected by these changes. After reviewing the information provided to me from the consultation period, I am pleased to advise you I have agreed to the changes. The kura will become a Year 1 – 10 composite, designated character school, kura-ā-iwi from the start of Term 2, 2 May 2022.

Both changes will be published in the *New Zealand Gazette*.

In making the transition to become a composite kura there will be a number of matters your board will need to consider. Please contact your board's support organisation to ensure a smooth transition. Similarly, staff may transition to a new Collective Agreement and teacher unions will be able to support you with this change.

The Ministry's Tauranga office will contact you regarding next steps in implementing these changes.

I would like to acknowledge the service that the members of the board, and staff, have given to the ākonga of Te Kura o Te Moutere o Matakana.

Yours sincerely

Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education

cc: Dawid de Villiers, Director of Education for Bay of Plenty | Waiariki

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



Hon Rawiri Waititi
MP for Waiariki
Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON

Ref: CH10950

Dear Mr Waititi

I have received an application from the board of Te Kura o Te Moutere o Matakana to redesignate the kura as a designated character school, kura-ā-iwi and to change the kura from a Year 1 – 8 to a Year 1 – 10 kura.

The Ministry of Education consulted with the boards of all state schools whose rolls might be affected by these changes. After considering all the information provided to me, I have decided to approve these changes to take effect in Term 2, 2 May 2022.

This change will be notified in the *New Zealand Gazette*.

Yours sincerely

A blue ink signature of Chris Hipkins.

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 Todd Muller
MP for Bay of Plenty
Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON

Ref: CH10951

Dear Mr Muller

I have received an application from the board of Te Kura o Te Moutere o Matakana to redesignate the kura as a designated character school, kura-ā-iwi and to change the kura from a Year 1 – 8 to a Year 1 – 10 kura.

The Ministry of Education consulted with the boards of all state schools whose rolls might be affected by these changes. After considering all the information provided to me, I have decided to approve these changes to take effect in Term 2, 2 May 2022.

This change will be notified in the *New Zealand Gazette*.

Yours sincerely

A blue ink signature of Chris Hipkins.

Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education

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New Zealand Gazette Notice

Change of classification and change of designation for Te Kura o Te Moutere o Matakana, Tauranga (1811)

Under section 198(1) and (3) of the Education and Training Act 2020, I hereby declare that Te Kura o Te Moutere o Matakana, will become a Year 1 – 10 composite school on 2 May 2022 and cease to be a Year 1 – 8 primary school on that day.

Pursuant to Sections 200, 204 and 205 of the Education and Training Act 2020, I hereby designate Te Kura o Te Moutere o Matakana (1811) as a designated character school, kura-ā-iwi. This designation will take effect from 2 May 2022.

Te Kura o Te Moutere o Matakana will operate in accordance with section 204 of the Education and Training Act 2020.

The constitution of the board of Te Kura o Te Moutere o Matakana shall not be changed by this notice.

Dated at Wellington this 18th day of Jan 2022



Hon Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education