



Education Report: Application to consult on the proposed establishment of a designated character school in Te Waimate

To:	Hon Kelvin Davis, Associate Minister of Education (Māori Education)		
Cc:	Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education		
Date:	1 December 2022	Priority:	Medium
Security Level:	In Confidence	METIS No:	1298052
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Messaging seen by Communications team:	N/A	Round Robin:	N/A

Purpose of report

This report seeks your approval to consult under section 209 of the Education and Training Act 2020 on the proposal by Tauwhara Marae to establish a new Māori immersion kura-a-iwi in Waimate North, Te Tai Tokerau.

Summary

1. We have received an application from Tauwhara Marae seeking to establish a composite designated character school (kura-ā-iwi), offering Year 1-10 education initially, with the intention to apply to become a composite Year 1-13 wharekura in the future.
2. In 2020, a representative group from Tauwhara Marae located in Waimate North, contacted the Whangarei regional office to discuss a proposal to create a Māori immersion kura for the graduates of Te Kōhanga Reo o Taurangi situated at Tauwhara Marae.
3. Several meetings took place with the group throughout 2020-2021. At the close of 2021 an application was submitted to the Ministry seeking to establish a designated character school (kura-ā-iwi), to be situated in Waimate North.

4. A future meeting is planned between the applicant and Ngā Kura ā Iwi o Aotearoa (NKAI) to discuss their proposal.
5. Tai Tokerau has high numbers of ākonga Māori and there is an increase in demand from whanau for quality education provision in te reo Māori.
6. When establishing a school under section 190 of the Education and Training Act (the Act), the Minister of Education may designate the school a designated character school in accordance with section 204 and section 205 of the Act.
7. Before establishing a new school under sections 190 and 204 of the Act, section 209 of the Act requires you to consult with the boards of all state and state integrated schools whose rolls might, in your opinion, be affected by the establishment of a new kura. If you agree, we will undertake this consultation on your behalf.
8. We recommend consulting on both the establishment of a Year 1-10 kura, which the applicant group has proposed, and the establishment of a Year 1-8 kura. We consider that operating a full primary kura first would give the applicants experience in operating a state school with its own governance and leadership, before adding secondary students.
9. If you agree to consultation, once it has been completed, we will provide you with a report incorporating the consultation feedback so you can consider any issues raised and make a decision on the establishment of the kura.
10. Note that the applicant is also applying for the Tauwhara Marae to be named a body that has a special affiliation with the school or has responsibility for the different character of the school under section 205 of the Act, to support the kura. This provision is available if you establish the school with a designated character. We will provide further details in the next report for your consideration.

Recommended actions

The Ministry recommends you:

- a) **note** the Ministry has received an application from a representative group of Tauwhara Marae asking you to establish a Year 1-10 composite designated character school (kura-ā-iwi) in Waimate North, Tai Tokerau;
- b) **note** that before establishing a new school, under section 209 of the Education and Training Act 2020, you must first consult with the boards of all state and state integrated schools whose rolls might be affected by the establishment; and
- c) **agree** that the Ministry undertake consultation on two options on your behalf: the establishment of a Year 1-8 kura and the establishment of a Year 1-10 kura.

Agree / Disagree

If you agree, you are asked to:

- d) **sign** the enclosed letter to the applicant (Annex 1) and local Member of Parliament informing them of your decision; and
- e) **note** that following the consultation, a further report will be provided to you for your decision about the establishment of the proposed kura.


You are also asked to:

- f) **agree** that this education 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.

Proactively release / Not release


Isabel Evans
Hautū | Deputy Secretary
Te Mahau | Te Tai Raro

01 / 12 / 2022


Hon Kelvin Davis
Associate Minister of Education
Māori Education

11/12/2022

Background

1. In 2020 a representative group from Tauwhara Marae located in Waimate North, contacted the Ministry to discuss a proposal to create a Māori immersion pathway for the graduates of Te Kōhanga Reo o Taurangi which is situated at Tauwhara Marae.
2. Several meetings took place with the group through 2020-2021. The group then submitted an application (available to you by request) proposing that you establish a designated character school (kura-ā-iwi), to be situated in Waimate North.
3. Tauwhara Marae has applied for the establishment of a Year 1-10 composite kura initially, noting the intention to apply to be a full composite Year 1-13 wharekura in the future.
4. We recommend consulting on both the establishment of a Year 1-10 kura and a Year 1-8 kura.
5. The vision of the application includes establishing a kura-ā-iwi with a localised curriculum for the collective hapū of Te Waimate of the Ngāpuhi tribe. Among the hapū of Te Waimate are Ngāi Tawake ki te Tuawhenua, Ngāti Hineira, Te Whiu, Te Whānau Tara, Ngāti Korohue, Te Uri Taniwha, Te Whānau Whero and Te Popoto.

Consultation

6. Before establishing a new school or kura, under section 209 of the Act you must first consult with the boards of all state and state integrated schools and kura whose rolls might be affected. We are seeking your approval to conduct this consultation on your behalf. While the applicant has applied for a Year 1-10 kura we would also like to consult on the establishment of a Year 1-8 kura. Establishing a primary kura will give the applicants time to operate as a state school with its own governance and leadership, before adding secondary students. Following consideration of both, you will then be able to make your final decision.
7. A list of the schools we would consult is attached as Annex 2.

Legislative requirements to establish a designated character school

8. Under section 204 of the Act, you have absolute discretion to establish or refuse to establish a designated character school. For a designated character school to be established, you must be satisfied it meets the following three key requirements in section 204(3) of the Act:
 - the designated character school is to have a character that is different from the character of ordinary State schools in some specific way(s)
 - it is desirable for students (whose parents want them to do so) to get such an education

- students at the school are to receive education of a kind that differs significantly from the education they would receive at an ordinary state school.

Application

9. The proposed kura will be full Māori immersion using Te Reo o te Haukāinga (local dialect) and other languages / dialects within the community. There will be a focus to strengthen the connection of tamariki with their whenua through the lens of not only the Pākehā settlers, but through Kupe, his exploits and his connections to Te Waimate and his descendants.
10. The kura plans to teach the history and the untold history of their rohe through the lens of Te Haukāinga stories. This will be via the implementation of a localised curriculum and aims to educate their tamariki in ways that serve to address aspects of that injustice.
11. Te Marautanga o Te Kura ā Iwi o Te Waimate will begin with Te Reo o te Kāinga, Te Hītori o te Kāinga, Te Pūtaiao o te Kāinga. For example, maunga, awa, roto, ngahere, whenua, hangarau, ngā pā, ngā rauemi, ngā kupenga, ngā ponga, hauora me te haumarua, ngā rongoā Māori me te oranga o te tinana, te hinengaro me te wairua, mahi toi, whakapakari tinana, mau rākau, kī-o-rahi, kapa haka, waiata, kitā, taramu, tētere, piana, waiata tira.
11. Note that the applicant is also applying for the Tauwhara Marae to be named a body that has a special affiliation with the kura? or has responsibility for the different character of the kura under section 205 of the Act, to support the kura. This provision is available if you establish the school with a designated character. We will provide further details in the next report for your consideration.

Ministry assessment

Different Character

12. We believe that the proposed different character meets the requirements under section 204(3)(b) *to have a character that is in some specific way or ways different from the character of ordinary State schools* as it would be a kura-ā-iwi founded on He Whakaputanga and Te Tiriti o Waitangi. The teachings would incorporate the hāhi (belief systems introduced and maintained by their ancestors) of the Te Waimate for the role they carried within an environment of injustice.
13. This kura will be full immersion Māori using Te Reo o te Haukāinga (local dialect) and other languages within the community.

Desired by Whanau

14. There is ongoing demand from the local community for Māori immersion education in the Far North area. Many parents are supportive of a Māori immersion education option in this region and for these reasons we believe the proposal meets the requirements of 204(3)(c) *it is desirable for students whose parents want them to do so to get such an education.*

Different education

15. We believe the proposal meets the requirements of 204(3)(c) *students at the school are to receive an education of a kind that differs significantly from the education they would get at an ordinary State school*. The application and proposed different character describe the values and beliefs that will underpin the localised curriculum and therefore ākonga would receive an education of a kind that differs significantly from the education they would receive at an ordinary state school.

Network Analysis

Designated Character

16. There is currently one Kura-ā-Iwi in the catchment (Te Kura o Waikare. in Kawakawa) and the proposed designated character would continue to support a Māori medium pathway in the catchment.
17. Kawakawa is significant distance (over 25km) from Waimate North and therefore we do not consider the new kura would impact negatively on the roll of Te Kura Waikare.

Year levels

18. Although the application is to establish a Year 1-10 composite kura, it notes an intention to apply to be a full composite Year 1-13 kura in the future. Our usual model is to begin the kura as a Year 1- 8 initially. This will give the kura time to establish and operate as with its own governance and leadership, before enrolling wharekura ākonga.
19. Whether the kura begins as Year 1-8 or Year 1-10, we expect Tauwhara Marae would submit another application to extend the year levels to Year 13 in the future.

School size

20. Ministry guidelines for the establishment of a kura are that they have no less than 36 enrolled students initially. We are confident that the kura will be able to meet this roll number.
21. We consider that the 2022 roll of 26 ākonga will grow once the kura is established given the community support. Further analysis of initial roll size and roll projections will be provided to you along with the consultation feedback.

Māori immersion education

12. Approving the kura establishment would align with the Crown's responsibilities under the Te Tiriti o Waitangi, and the Ministry's goals to grow te reo Māori immersion in the schooling network.
13. Waimate North is included in the Mid-North catchment of the Tai Tokerau Māori Medium Education Network Plan. The plan identifies that supporting the growth of Māori immersion education is a priority.

14. The proposal also 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 and the National Education Network Plan to support Māori immersion education.

Roll projections

15. The applicant indicates the following roll predictions for the next three years if the proposal is approved (acknowledging that these numbers are estimates prior to actual decisions made about property division and maximum roll). Based on the applicant's knowledge of their community, the projections include number of ākonga currently enrolled at other schools that would likely transfer if the kura is established.

Year of operation	Y0	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Y7	Y8	
Year 1	3	3	6	6	6	6	6	6	3	45
Year 2	3	3	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	45
Year 3	3	3	6	6	6	6	6	9	9	53

Impact on the schooling network

16. The Mid-North catchment has experienced significant population growth, especially in Kerikeri and Pāhia. Current Māori medium provision is clustered around Kawakawa, Moerewa and Kaikohe.
17. There are currently two kura kaupapa Māori and one kura-ā-iwi in the Mid-North area:
- *TKKM o Kaikohe in Kaikohe*
 - *TKKM o Taumarere in Moerewa*
 - *Te Kura o Waikare in Kawakawa.*
18. All three of these kura are at or over capacity. TKKM o Kaikohe is currently experiencing the fastest growth for a Māori immersion kura in Tai Tokerau.
19. The neighbouring state English Medium schools have an average utilisation rate of 79%. Ākonga attending the proposed Te Kura a iwi Waimate will be a combination of ākonga currently attending distant Māori Medium providers or neighbouring English Medium schools.
20. While all three are also affiliated to the Ngāpuhi tribe, each are located across different Mid-North localities and groupings of Ngāpuhi hapū, to the Te Waimate group of Ngāpuhi hapū.
21. The proposed new kura is approximately 16 kilometres from TKKM o Kaikohe, 20 kilometres from TKKM o Taumarere, and 48 kilometres from Te Kura o Waikare.
22. We have completed a network analysis of the Tai Tokerau Mid- North catchment, with reference to adjoining catchments, which supports the need for increased participation and access to Māori immersion education.

Local schools

23. The table below shows March 2022 rolls of schools and kura with Year 1-8 students across the wider Mid-North catchment, with Māori Language Resourcing (MLR) funding at Levels 1-2:

School	Years	2022 July Roll	2022 Māori % of roll	MLR L1	MLR L2
Kawakawa Primary School	Y1-8	175	92.6%	0	72
Kerikeri High School	Y 7-13	1524	35.4%	0	11
Mangamuka School	Y 1-6	14	100.0%	0	14
Moerewa School	Y 1-10	154	98.1%	23	24
Mōtatau School	Y 1-8	53	100.0%	0	53
Tautoro School	Y 1-8	156	98.7%	0	83
TKKM o Taumarere	Y 1-13	160	100.0%	160	0
TKKM o Kaikohe	Y 1-13	201	100.0%	201	0
Te Kura o Waikare	Y 1-10	87	100.0%	72	15

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24. Based on July 2022 data 60.3% of all students across these schools identified as ākonga Māori.
25. The total student population across these schools as at July 2022, is 2,554 of which 17.7% are engaged in Māori immersion education at Level 1, or 28.3% engaged in Levels 1 and 2.
26. The Network Impact Assessment can be found in Annex 3.

Te Tiriti o Waitangi

27. The Government has an enduring focus on improving education outcomes for Māori learners and giving effect to the Te Tiriti o Waitangi and its principles. The Education and Training Act 2020 reflects this. Section 4(d) 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”.
28. Approving consultation and then the establishment of the kura would align with the Crown’s responsibilities under the Te Tiriti o Waitangi, and the Ministry’s goals to grow te reo Māori immersion in the schooling network.
29. This proposal supports enhancing Māori participation in education, and Māori achieving success as Māori within a unique environment. The proposed designated character places an importance on He Whakaputanga, acknowledges the whole community and encourages active and life-long learning for all.

Proposed location and property

30. The proposed permanent site of the kura, is at 421 Te Ahuahu Road, Waimate North. It is 2.6km from Tauwhara Marae and was the site of the now closed Waimate North School.

31. The property is currently under a lease arrangement for the temporary site for Harvest Christian School. The terms of the lease have a termination date of 31 December 2023, which Harvest Christian will need while they build their new facility.
32. Should this proposal be approved and the kura is established on the Waimate North site, the Ministry would lease the site. We are aware that the buildings are likely to need additional investment.
33. A high-level estimate cost will be developed, based on a proposed maximum roll of 48 which would generate an entitlement of three teaching spaces and the required non-teaching and support space. This will be provided in the next report. If the application is approved, property funding would be contingent on future budget bids and subject to prioritisation.
34. Because the applicant's preferred site belongs to Te Whiu hapū, they initially hoped the establishment would be able to be fast tracked and approved to begin in 2023. We have informed them of the right of renewal the current lease has, and that the process to establish a new kura typically takes longer than this. The applicant group were informed they must manage the expectation of whānau who have expressed intention to enrol should the kura be established.

Transport

35. Should the kura be established it would be directly resourced for transport.
36. Māori immersion transport assistance is calculated on a quarterly basis and reviewed on an annual basis. It is calculated based on a per ākonga rate along with the number of eligible ākonga and gazetted school days. An approximate funding amount based on this calculation would be \$27,232 per quarter.

Financial implications

37. If, following consultation, you agree to establish the kura, the estimated annual operational cost to the Crown (staffing and operational funding for a roll of 45) is approximately \$613,000 (GST incl) and lease costs would be additional to this.

Conclusion

38. We recommend you agree to consultation for the following reasons:
- There is demonstrated demand from local whānau for a designated character school that offers this type of education.
 - There is support from the local kōhanga reo, marae, and community.
 - There is support from the kaumātua and respective takiwā representations of Te Rūnanga ā Iwi o Ngāpuhi.
 - This proposal aligns with both national and regional plans to increase access to, and participation in Māori immersion education.

39. We recommend consultation on two options – establishment of a Year 1-8 kura and establishment of a Year 1-10 kura. Should the kura be established, we acknowledge the intent of whānau to apply for a change to become Year 1-13.

Next steps

40. If you agree to initiate consultation on the proposal, please sign the letter to the applicant and local Member of Parliament attached as Annex 1.
41. We will consult with the boards of all state and state integrated schools whose rolls might be affected by the establishment of the kura. We will also consult with education sector bodies, local iwi and community groups as appropriate.
42. Following consultation, we will prepare a final report for your consideration and decision. This will include further information about the application for the Tauwhara Marae to be named a body that has a special affiliation with the school or has responsibility for the different character of the school under section 205 of the Act.

Proactive release

43. This education report will 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

- Annex 1: Letter to applicant and local Member of Parliament
- Annex 2: Schools to be consulted
- Annex 3: Network Assessment

Proactively Released

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)



Te Rangi Allen and Belinda Woodman

9(2)(a)

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

Tēnā koe Te Rangi

Thank you for your application, proposing that I establish Te Kura ā Iwi o Te Waimate as a composite designated character school (kura -ā-iwi). Before I may establish a new kura, under section 209 of the Education and Training Act 2020 I must first consult the boards of all state schools whose rolls might be affected.

I have agreed that consultation be undertaken on two options - the establishment of a Year 1-8 kura and a Year 1-10 kura. The Ministry of Education will conduct this consultation on my behalf.

As part of this consultation, the Ministry will advise you of replies and provide an opportunity for your response to them.

When consultation is complete, the Ministry will inform me of the results of the consultation and provide advice to me on the proposed establishment of your kura. When I have considered this advice, I will be able to make a final decision about the establishment.

Please contact Kath Corby, at the Ministry's regional office, on (09) 436 8039 or by email at kath.corby@education.govt.nz if you have any questions about this process.

Heoi anō

Hon Kelvin Davis

Associate Minister of Education (Māori Education)

cc Hira Gage, Director of Education for Tai Tokerau

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)



Hon Willow-Jean Prime
Member of Parliament for Northland
Parliament Building
Wellington

Tēna koe Willow-Jean

I have received an application proposing that I establish a new designated character school in Waimate North. The application is from the Tauwhara Marae and proposes to establish a Year 1-10 kura with the intention for the kura to offer Year 1-13 in the future.

Before I approve the establishment of a new school, under section 209 of the Education and Training Act 2020, I must first consult with the boards of all state schools whose rolls might be affected by the establishment. I have agreed that the Ministry of Education can conduct this on my behalf consulting on two options: a Year 1-8 kura and a Year 1-10 kura.

Once consultation has been completed, I will receive a final report asking me to consider the views provided through the submissions and make a final decision on the application.

Heoi anō

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kelvin Davis'.

Hon Kelvin Davis
Minister of Education (Māori Education)

Annex 2: Schools to be consulted

School	Distance from preferred site	Type/Year levels
Kaikohe Christian School	16.3km	Composite (Year 1-13)
Kaikohe East School	16.2km	Contributing (Year 1-6)
Kaikohe Intermediate	16.6km	Intermediate (Year 7-8)
Kaikohe West School	16.9km	Contributing (Year 1-6)
Kawakawa Primary School	26.5km	Full Primary (Year 1-8)
Kerikeri High School	15.0km	Secondary (Year 7-13)
Kerikeri Primary School	15.0km	Full Primary (Year 1-8)
Mangamuka School	45.5km	Contributing (Year 1-6)
Moerewa School	20.5km	Composite (Year 1-10)
Motatau School	49.8km	Full Primary (Year 1-8)
Ohaeawai School	5.9km	Contributing (Year 1-6)
Okaihau College	13.5km	Secondary (Year 7-13)
Okaihau Primary School	13.6km	Contributing (Year 1-6)
Oromahoe School	10.8km	Full Primary (Year 1-8)
Pakaraka School	13.5km	Full Primary (Year 1-8)
Riverview School	19.9km	Contributing (Year 1-6)
Tautoro School	24.2km	Full Primary (Year 1-8)
Te Kura o Waikare	48.1km	Composite (Year 1-10)
TKKM o Kaikohe	15.9km	Composite (Year 1-13)

Proactively Released