

Education Report: Approval to consult on a change of designation for Te Kura o Tuahiwi

To:	Hon Jan Tinetti, Associate Minister of Education (School Operations) Hon Kelvin Davis, Associate Minister of Education (Māori Education)		
Cc:	Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education		
Date:	13 July 2022	Priority:	Medium
Security Level:	In Confidence	METIS No:	1288025
Drafter:	Ruth Sullivan, Education Adviser	Mobile:	
Key Contact:	Vanessa Goodwin, Manager Education	Mobile:	
Messaging seen by Communications team:	No	Round Robin:	No

Purpose of Report

This report seeks your approval to consult on a proposal by the board of Te Kura o Tuahiwi (3563) for redesignation of the school to a Designated Character School, under section 200 of the Education and Training Act 2020.

Summary

1. Te Kura o Tuahiwi (the school) is a co-educational, decile 6, Year 1-8 state primary school in the Waimakariri District of North Canterbury
2. The school's roll has been steadily growing. It has a current roll of 161 and is likely to have 190 ākonga by October 2023.
3. Of the school's population, 75% of ākonga identify as Māori and 40% of the roll whakapapa to Ngāi Tūāhuriri and other hapū of Ngāi Tahu.
4. The school has a very strong relationship with Ngāi Tūāhuriri and sees itself as a Pā school that is committed to the revitalisation and retention of Te Reo Māori and the educational aspirations of Ngāi Tūāhuriri.
5. The school offers Māori Medium Education (MME) Level 1 to Level 3. The school uses collaborative and Māori pedagogical practices throughout the school.
6. In March 2022, the board began the process for a change in designation from a mainstream school to a designated character school.
7. The Board engaged with the school community and Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga. They received support from both.

8. Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga provided a letter of support for the proposed change. They see this as a manifestation of their aspirations to revitalise Māori language, culture, and identity for Ngāi Tahu ākonga in their home area.
9. The application meets the statutory criteria for a Designated Character School as the change would enable the school to provide education in line with the local identity of Ngāi Tūāhuriri and would allow whānau with connections to Ngāi Tūāhuriri from outside the immediate Tuahiwi area the opportunity to connect and continue to engage with their whakapapa.

Recommended Actions

The Ministry of Education recommends you:

- a. **note** that the Ministry received an application for a change of designation for Te Kura o Tuahiwi (3563) to be a Designated Character School under section 200 of the Education and Training Act 2020.
- b. **note** that the Ministry considers that the application has provided sufficient evidence that the requirements of the Education and Training Act 2020 for designation as a Designated Character School have been met.
- c. **note** that, under section 209 of the Education and Training Act 2020, before making a decision about redesignation of a school, you must first consult with the boards of all state schools and kura whose rolls might be affected by this change;
- d. **agree** that the Ministry undertake this consultation on your behalf. The results of the consultation will be provided for your consideration in a second report.

Agree / Disagree


If you agree, you are asked to:

- e. **sign** the attached letters to the presiding member of the Board and local Members of Parliament (Annex 1) informing them of your approval to consult; and

We also recommend that you:

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

Agree / Disagree



Nancy Bell
Hautū | Deputy Secretary
Te Mahau | Te Tai Runga

13/07/2022

Hon Jan Tinetti
Associate Minister
of Education
(School Operations)

___/___/___



Hon Kelvin Davis
Associate Minister
of Education
(Māori Education)

14/08/2022

Background

1. Te Kura o Tuahiwi (the school) is a co-educational, decile 6, Year 1-8 state primary school in the Waimakariri District of North Canterbury.
2. The school offers Māori Medium Education (MME) at Level 1 to Level 3. The school uses collaborative and Māori pedagogical practices throughout the school.
3. The school has a very strong relationship with Ngāi Tūāhuriri and is situated 100 metres from Tuahiwi Marae. Learning frequently takes place on the marae and ākonga often spend time learning from kaumatua and support mana whenua to prepare the marae for tangi or events.
4. Of the school's population, 75% of ākonga identify as Māori and 40% of the roll whakapapa to Ngāi Tūāhuriri and other hapū of Ngāi Tahu.
5. The school's roll has been steadily growing. It has a current roll of 161 and is likely to have 190 learners by October 2023.
6. Due to the roll growth, the Ministry started discussions with the school in 2021 about how growth can be managed. Both the development of an enrolment scheme and the option of applying to be a designated character school were discussed.
7. At the end of 2021 the school began considering whether to remain a regular state school that offers a bilingual education option (as a Special Programme) or apply to become a Designated Character School specialising in providing bilingual education. The school consulted with their community and Ngāi Tūāhuriri.
8. In March 2022 we received an application for a change in designation from the Board of the school. The Board applied to be a Designated Character School specialising in providing bilingual education that is seen as an extension of Ngāi Tūāhuriri. Its character is uniquely Ngāi Tūāhuriri and is not a generic bilingual programme. Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga has provided a letter of support for this application.
9. The school currently does not have an enrolment scheme. If the designated character status were to be declined, an enrolment scheme will need to be developed with some urgency in order to define a local home zone, manage the roll within available capacity, prevent overcrowding, and to ensure there is fair and transparent access to bilingual provision offered by the school.
10. Becoming a Designated Character School would enable Te Kura o Tuahiwi to provide education in line with their proposed designated character, allowing whānau with connections to Ngāi Tūāhuriri from outside the immediate Tuahiwi area the opportunity to connect and continue to engage with their whakapapa. As a Designated Character School, a maximum roll would be set and the school would need to manage the roll within that approved number.

Proposal for redesignation

11. For you to designate a school as a Designated Character School, the school must meet the requirements in section 204(3) of the Act. This applies to both an existing school and to a school first being established. The three key requirements that apply here are:
 - the school will have a character that is in some specific way or ways different from the character of ordinary state schools, and

- it is desirable for students whose parents want them to do so to get such an education, and
- students are to receive an education of a kind that differs significantly from the education they would receive at an ordinary state school.

Designated character

12. The proposed designated character of the school is to take the following approach to teaching and learning:
 - The curriculum reflects the mātauranga of their hapū, Ngāi Tūāhuriri.
 - The school is located within 100 metres of the Tuahiwi Marae and the connection between the two is undeniable, authentic, and lived. This is where the first kura was established (160 years ago) and effectively, it is a Pā /whānau kura. Understanding who they are and where they are from is part of life at the school. Every child learns and lives the education and cultural aspirations of their hapū.
 - The school reflects Ngāi Tūāhuriri's aims and aspirations to revitalise Māori language, culture and identity for ākonga in their own home area. Tūāhuriritanga is the essence of the school values and the backbone of their curriculum.
 - It also supports the Ngāi Tahu language strategy 2021, Kōtahi Mano Kaika, Kōtahi Mano Wawata; a thousand homes achieving a thousand aspirations; acknowledging several generations of language loss and cultural repression as an impact of colonisation.
 - The school mantra: Aroha ki te tangata; te tuahiwi ki te whai ao is about respecting everyone and the school being the connector from the ridge (village) to the wider world. This is lived through the way the school tends to the needs of not only the ākonga, but also in partnership with whānau and the world around them.
 - Tuahiwi School has spent many years living and breathing their kura ūara, through effective learning pedagogy. The school connects ākonga to the principles of whanaungatanga, ūkaipotanga, rangatiratanga, kaitiakitanga and puāwaitanga to provide holistic achievement and development.
13. The proposed character presented by Te Kura o Tuahiwi provides a point of difference to a state school. The unique values and principles make it a desirable option for whānau.
14. The Ministry considers that the application has provided sufficient evidence that the requirements of the Act regarding a Designated Character School have been met.

Roll analysis

15. Tuahiwi is a small settlement in the Waimakariri District, located between the towns of Kaiapoi and Rangiora. It is expected that the majority of ākonga drawn to the school will either live in Tuahiwi or in one of these towns.
16. The only other provider of MME in the Waimakariri district is Rangiora Borough School, which operates a Bilingual Special Programme. There are no bilingual providers in the Hurunui District.

17. The applicant has proposed a maximum roll of 250 ākonga if it is redesignated. It is likely that the school would draw ākonga from across the Waimakariri District, with smaller numbers of ākonga drawn from the Hurunui District.
18. The following projections have been generated by the local Ministry office, and are based on the current roll, historic roll trends, and the school's stated aspirations:

Year	2022	2023	2024	2025
Projected October Roll	189	204	215	228

Network analysis

19. Residential growth is underway in both Kaiapoi and Rangiora. There is currently roll pressure at schools in Kaiapoi, and planning is in place for anticipated future roll growth in the primary education network in Rangiora.
20. The school is the only local school without an enrolment scheme. The local un-zoned area is bordered by the home zones of Woodend School, Southbrook School, Ohoka School, Kaiapoi Borough, and Kaiapoi North Schools. All of these schools, except for Southbrook School, are expected to experience roll pressure due to in-zone growth.
21. If designated character status is approved for the school, the home zone will need to overlap with the home zones of neighbouring schools to ensure there is a local schooling option for any ākonga in Tuahiwi who do not align with the designated character of Te Kura o Tuahiwi.
22. While Southbrook School would have the capacity to accommodate ākonga who do not choose to attend Te Kura o Tuahiwi, it may be appropriate to include Tuahiwi in the home zones of other neighbouring schools. This will require engagement with local schools and public consultation to determine the appropriate zoning for this area.
23. It is considered that the redesignation of Te Kura o Tuahiwi would have a beneficial impact on the local network of schools, which are experiencing roll pressure, and for which further local growth is expected.

Property implications

24. The school is currently situated on a relatively narrow and long site with a shared private drive to the North and Māori Reserve Land (currently leased back to the local council) to the South. There is also an established early childhood centre and schoolhouse along the front of the site, leaving no frontage for the school from the street. This restricts access and the ability to grow significantly. The majority of buildings are located within the central third of the site and the only open space at the back.
25. The field has been identified as essential for the service and defined as a no-build zone by the Ministry's Design Assurance team. The existing buildings are a combination of small, grouped teaching blocks – mostly CEBUS style with two to three teaching spaces within each.
26. There are two roll growth projects planned for the short to medium term to increase the teaching space count from eight to ten. Construction is expected to commence in the

third quarter of 2022. Construction for the second increase to 14 is expected to commence in the fourth quarter of 2024.

27. A Master Plan has been developed and is based on a potential maximum roll of 280 ākonga with consideration of the school becoming a wharekura – a possible long-term aspiration of whānau. Note that the initial maximum roll is proposed to be 250, with increases beyond this subject to formal application/approval processes.

Transport

28. The Ministry currently funds 44 ākonga with a conveyance allowance to assist with travel costs to attend Te Kura o Tuahiwi. This is based on our eligibility criteria that requires ākonga to be enrolled at the closest school and be more than 3.2 kms from home to school. There are no suitable public transport options within 2.4 kms of the school.
29. It is likely that a large proportion of future enrolments will be drawn from Kaiapoi and Rangiora. These ākonga are likely to be eligible for the conveyance allowance. Given the October 2021 roll of 175 and the proposed maximum roll of 250 (an increase of 50%), the number of ākonga receiving conveyance allowance is likely to increase to around 66.
30. Due to the increased roll, any property development should include improved and larger safe areas for school buses and car parking for caregivers at drop off and pick up times at the school.

Financial implications

31. As Te Kura o Tuahiwi is already an established school, there would be limited financial implications as a result of the redesignation.
32. Any financial implications would be managed as per roll growth indicators as the roll grows towards the suggested maximum roll growth capacity.

Consultation

33. Section 209 of the Act requires you to first consult the boards of all state schools and kura whose rolls might be affected before deciding whether to change the designation of an existing state school.
34. If you agree, the Ministry will undertake this consultation on your behalf. The schools that we will consult are outlined in the table below:

School ID	School Name	School Type
3276	Amberley School	Full Primary
3284	Ashgrove School	Full Primary
3285	Ashley Rakahuri School	Full Primary
3303	Broomfield School	Full Primary
3321	Clarkville School	Full Primary
3325	Cust School	Full Primary
3340	Fernside School	Full Primary
3388	Kaiapoi Borough School	Full Primary

3389	Kaiapoi North School	Full Primary
3411	Leithfield School	Full Primary
3419	Loburn School	Full Primary
3447	North Loburn School	Full Primary
3451	Ohoka School	Full Primary
3481	Rangiora Borough School	Full Primary
3501	Sefton School	Full Primary
3510	Southbrook School	Full Primary
3547	Swannanoa School	Full Primary
3565	View Hill School	Full Primary
3570	Pegasus Bay School	Full Primary
3586	West Eyreton School	Full Primary
3600	Woodend School	Full Primary
572	Te Matauru Primary	Full Primary
3540	St Patrick's School (Kaiapoi)	Full Primary
4132	St Joseph's School (Rangiora)	Full Primary
3518	St Albans School	Contributing Primary
310	Oxford Area School	Composite
1618	TKKM o Te Whānau Tahī (Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Te Kura Whakapūmau i te Reo Tūturu ki Waitaha)	Composite
4212	TKKM o Waitaha	Composite
706	Te Pa o Rakaihautu	Composite
418	Rangiora New Life School	Composite
312	Rangiora High School	Secondary Y9-15
314	Kaiapoi High School	Secondary Y9-16
2748	Karanga Mai Young Parents College	TPU

35. We will also consult with the New Zealand Educational Institute (NZEI), as well as Ngāi Tūāhuriri and other local iwi where appropriate.

Next steps

36. If you agree, the Ministry will undertake the required consultation on your behalf.
37. Following consultation, we will prepare a final report for your consideration and ask for your decision on the proposed change of designation.

Proactive Release

38. It is intended that this Education Report is proactively released. Any information which may need to be withheld will be done so in line with the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982.

Annexes

Annex 1: Letters to the Board and local Members of Parliament

Hon Jan Tinetti

Minister of Internal Affairs
Minister for Women
Associate Minister of Education



JT1223

Rebecca Stevenson
Te Kura o Tuahiwi
206 Tuahiwi Road
RD1
Kaiapoi 7691

Tēnā koe Rebecca

Thank you for your application for a change of designation at Te Kura o Tuahiwi to become a Designated Character School. Before making a decision, under section 209 of the Education and Training Act 2020, I must first undertake consultation on your proposal, with the board of schools whose rolls might be affected by the proposed change. The Ministry of Education will undertake this consultation on my behalf.

The Ministry will also consult with appropriate sector organisations and groups as well as local iwi. As part of this consultation, the Ministry will advise you of replies and provide an opportunity for your response.

When consultation is complete, the Ministry will inform me of the consultation feedback and provide advice on the change of designation of your school. When I have considered this advice, I will make a decision about the redesignation.

The Ministry will continue discussions with your board about the proposed change. Please contact Vanessa Goodwin on 021 815 278 or by email at vanessa.goodwin@education.govt.nz if you have any questions about this process.

Nāku noa, nā

Hon Jan Tinetti
Associate Minister of Education (School Operations)

cc Hon Kelvin Davis, Associate Minister of Education (Māori Education)
Coralanne Child, Director of Education for Canterbury/Chatham Islands

Hon Jan Tinetti

Minister of Internal Affairs
Minister for Women
Associate Minister of Education



JT1224

Matt Doocey
Member of Parliament for Waimakariri
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

Tēnā koe Mr Doocey

I have received an application from the board of Te Kura o Tuahiwi requesting to redesignate the school as a Designated Character School.

Under section 209 of the Education and Training Act 2020, I am required to undertake consultation with the boards of all state schools whose rolls might be affected before making a decision on the proposal. I also intend to consult with relevant sector bodies and community groups as appropriate.

The Ministry of Education will conduct this consultation on my behalf. Once consultation is completed, I will consider a detailed report containing all the consultation feedback. I will then make a decision about whether or not the school should become a designated character school.

Nāku noa, nā



Hon Jan Tinetti
Associate Minister of Education (School Operations)

cc Hon Kelvin Davis, Associate Minister of Education (Māori Education)

Hon Jan Tinetti

Minister of Internal Affairs
Minister for Women
Associate Minister of Education



JT1225

Rino Tirikatene
Member of Parliament for Waimakariri
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

Tēnā koe Rino

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Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Tinetti'.

Hon Jan Tinetti
Associate Minister of Education (School Operations)

cc Hon Kelvin Davis, Associate Minister of Education (Māori Education)

Hon Jan Tinetti

Minister of Internal Affairs
Minister for Women
Associate Minister of Education



JT1223

Rebecca Stevenson
Te Kura o Tuahiwi
206 Tuahiwi Road
RD1
Kaiapoi 7691

Tēnā koe Rebecca

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The Ministry will continue discussions with your board about the proposed change. Please contact Vanessa Goodwin on 021 815 278 or by email at vanessa.goodwin@education.govt.nz if you have any questions about this process.

Nāku noa, nā

Hon Jan Tinetti
Associate Minister of Education (School Operations)

cc Hon Kelvin Davis, Associate Minister of Education (Māori Education)
Coralanne Child, Director of Education for Canterbury/Chatham Islands