



Briefing Note: School Network functions and work programme

To:	Hon Jan Tinetti, Associate Minister of Education		
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Purpose of Report

The paper outlines the work programme for the school network, and upcoming network change and reports. It is provided as part of the background information for your new portfolio delegations.

Summary

- This briefing provides information on the school network team's planning and management functions. These functions include management of and planning for the school network (approximately 2,500 schools). It involves significant internal engagement across Ministry groups and external engagement with other government agencies, communities, and the school sector and wider education sector.
- The school network is subject to constant change through network regeneration projects and change processes e.g. closures, mergers, applications for state integration or designated character status, change of class, new school establishment and the implementation and amendment of enrolment schemes. Networks functions, programmes and activities support the effective management of network change across the educational regions.
- Our key planning activities include the forecasting and modelling for new schools, school expansions and roll growth. We have developed the National Education Growth Plan (NEGP) that provides forecast demand in specific 'high growth' catchments across New Zealand. The 39 catchment plans in the NEGP include 20 across the Auckland region and 19 elsewhere across New Zealand. Combined, these catchment plans forecast an additional 100,000 new student places to 2030. This is based on Statistics NZ high growth projections.

- We have also developed the National Education Network Plan [METIS 1270750 refers] that extends the catchment planning framework of the NEGP across all regions through the development of 80 additional education network plans. The combined number of education network plans, including the 39 NEGP high growth plans, is 119 across all regions.
- The National Education Network Plan is part of the Education Network Programme which includes the NEGP, and other areas of education network planning such as Māori medium provision (working with Te Pae Roa, to develop a long-term work programme), specialist school network planning, and the planned management of the early learning network learning network.

Proactive Release

- a **agree** that the Ministry of Education release this briefing in full once it has been considered by you.

☒ **Agree** ☐ **Disagree**



Jann Marshall
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Te Pae Aronui

17/06/2022



Hon Jan Tinetti
Associate Minister of Education

19/06/2022

Background

The National Education Network Plan

1. Population growth is placing pressure on our school network in specific areas of the country. These high growth areas are all unique and are experiencing growth in different ways. In some areas, we are seeing redevelopment and intensification of existing urban areas, while in other areas entire new communities are being established.
2. In 2019, Cabinet agreed to the National Education Growth Plan (NEGP) and its approach to managing the school network. At the same time, Cabinet noted [DEV-19-MIN-0143 refers] that the Ministry planned to expand this catchment planning framework across all regions and their catchments.
3. The NEGP is a flexible, dynamic and live document. Forecast demand for student places in the NEGP is based on regional analysis and catchment modelling which is regularly updated and refined as forecasts change and growth patterns emerge and transform; and as key input data is updated, such as school roll data, population projections, and large-scale housing developments.

The National Education Network Plan (NENP)

4. We have now developed an additional 80 education network plans which combined with the 39 high growth catchments in the NEGP form the National Education Network Plan (the NENP).
5. The 80 education network plans complement the NEGP, creating a whole portfolio view for network planning across all regions. This will better enable us to consider the quality of the schooling network and the choices ākonga and whānau are able to make, to better provide for learning pathways and equity, right across our schooling network.
6. The NENP provides options for managing growth in the short to medium term, including a range of interventions at a regional and catchment level, such as the use of enrolment schemes and property solutions where demand exceeds current property capacity.

Enrolment Schemes

7. We are currently working with 343 schools to introduce new enrolment schemes or amend or review existing schemes. The largest enrolment scheme programme is in Auckland. The Auckland Enrolment Scheme programme had an initial list of 135 schools across three phases from 2019 to 2022.
8. As of 13 June 2022, 88 enrolment schemes have been approved or amended and we are working with 54 schools this year to have their zones in place for the start of 2023. Additional schools, as required, have been added to the programme.
9. The total number of state and state integrated schools with enrolment schemes for the Auckland region is 348. Nationally, as of June 2022, 1,137 schools have an enrolment scheme.
10. We are providing regular reporting through EWU on the Auckland Enrolment Scheme programme and updates on active consultations are posted on our network web pages.

We are monitoring the enrolment scheme implementation across all regions against the annual baseline.

Key Risks and Issues

11. There are significant and complex short- to medium-term impacts from COVID-19 on the demand for schooling. Key impacts on the school network include slower rates of release of land development by private developers due to macro-economic conditions and changes in population growth, trends and enrolment patterns.
12. Within the school network we have a range of challenges to develop schools in the right place, to the right size, at the right time. These challenges have been brought about by historical deficits in teaching spaces at schools, emerging growth, changes in enrolment patterns, and the introduction of large scale Kāinga Ora housing developments, particularly in Auckland.
13. New schools, expansions and roll growth across the network require significant future capital expenditure as do schooling network change projects such as Kelston, Hawera, and Melville which are not solely driven by roll growth but are also needed to support equity and deliver quality educational outcomes. Therefore, prioritisation, planning and funding applied over many budget rounds and years will be required to meet the significant funding implications of the Education Network Programme.

Upcoming school reports

14. The boards of state schools and proprietors of state integrated schools are required to seek approval to make changes to their school. The changes include changes to the school's name, the year levels they provide education for, changes to their designated character or their maximum roll, merger with another school and in some cases the closure of the school.
15. Many of the changes to state integrated schools have been delegated to the Ministry to approve. However, changes to state schooling have been retained by the Minister.
16. The Education and Training Act 2020 requires that formal consultation is undertaken before schooling changes are considered, and the Minister approves this consultation (which the Ministry carries out on behalf of the Minister). This means that most schooling changes require two reports to be considered by the Minister; the first seeking approval for formal consultation to be undertaken¹ and the second being to either approve or decline the schooling change.

Schooling changes that are currently underway

Background

17. We have a tracking sheet which details the changes to the schooling network that are proposed, underway and those being implemented. We will keep your office informed of the status of these schooling changes, including providing media information, when to release letters to local MPs and your announcements (and perhaps visits) when changes have been approved.

¹ Section 209 requires consultation to be undertaken with the schools whose rolls may be affected by the proposed change to the schooling network.

18. We note that Minister Davis is delegated Network change in Māori medium schools, so the details below do not include kura.
19. We also note that there are a number of reports currently sitting with Minister Hipkins, these are also not included in the information below.

School Reorganisations in progress

20. We are progressing a report about the possible merger of Gore High School and Longford Intermediate School. This report is seeking agreement to undertake formal consultation on the proposal. Once the consultation is completed a further report will be provided so a final decision can be made.
21. We have recently undertaken a consultation process in Kelston, Auckland about the possible relocation of Kelston Boys' College, Kelston Girls' College and Kelston Intermediate onto a shared site.

School Reorganisations that are being implemented

22. The closure of Hawera Intermediate School and Hawera High School in January 2023, and the establishment of a new Year 7-13 school (currently called Hawera New Year 7-13 School) which opens for Term 1, 2023.
23. The closure of Melville Intermediate School and Melville High School in January 2024, and the establishment of a new Year 7-13 school (currently called Melville Year 7-13 College) which opens for Term 1, 2024.

Individual school changes that will be provided for your consideration in the coming months

24. Application for the integration of Hereworth School into the state system, currently a Year 1-8 private school for boys in Havelock North.
25. Application for a change of proprietor for Miramar Christian School, Wellington (from Peniel Charitable Trust Board Inc to the New Zealand Christian Proprietors Trust).
26. Closure of Linton Country School, Palmerston North (a report seeking agreement to consult on the proposed closure is currently with Minister Hipkins).
27. Closure of Glenham School, Southland (initial report is seeking agreement to consult on the proposed closure).
28. Establishment of Ruapehu Drive School, Palmerston North (a report seeking agreement to consult on the proposed establishment is currently with Minister Hipkins).
29. Recapitation of Wakefield School and Appleby School, Nelson, currently Year 1-6 and would become Year 1-8. The initial report is seeking agreement to consult on the proposal.
30. Establishment of Kingseat Primary School, Auckland (initial report will be seeking agreement to undertake consultation).
31. Establishment of a new primary and secondary school in Omokoroa, Tauranga (consultation for the new schools has been approved and is currently underway).

Other Relevant Information

32. Other school network initiatives underway include:

- Tārai Kura – this national programme supports boards to develop their vision and planning for new builds, rebuilds and redevelopments, working collaboratively with Te Puna Hanganga Matihiko and Asset Management. The programme supports boards to develop collaboration with mana whenua and together support a strong foundation for their school.
- Early Learning Network project - we are working on the data and evidence and tools to support the national and regional statements for early learning and the planned more active management of the network. This involves a 'community need' test for all new prospective providers into the early learning network and is planned to be implemented from 1 February 2023.
- Specialist Schools - We have started a round of engagement with regions on specialist school planning to better understand specialist school networks and strengthen our planning for them. This will help us create a nationwide picture and plan to meet the Learning Support Action Plan goals of a more strategic and planned approach to the management of the specialist school network, building a national picture of provision and future demand, and supporting more inclusive outcomes for ORS learners in the mainstream schooling network.