



## Education Report: Consultation on establishment of proposed new primary and secondary schools in Ōmokoroa, Western Bay of Plenty.

<b>To:</b>	Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education		
<b>Date:</b>	15 March 2022	<b>Priority:</b>	Medium
<b>Security Level:</b>	In Confidence	<b>METIS No:</b>	1281148
<b>Drafter:</b>	Tony Shanahan	<b>DDI:</b>	07 571 7796
<b>Key Contact:</b>	Dawid de Villiers, Director of Education for Bay of Plenty   Waiariki	<b>DDI:</b>	07 571 7828
<b>Messaging seen by Communications team:</b>	No	<b>Round Robin:</b>	No

### Purpose of Report

This report requests your approval for consultation regarding two proposed new schools, a primary school and a secondary school, in Ōmokoroa, Western Bay of Plenty. Consultation is required under section 209 of the Education and Training Act 2020 (the Act) before a new school is established.

This report is supported by the Director of Education for Bay of Plenty | Waiariki.

### Summary

- 1 Ōmokoroa is located in the Otūmoetai catchment of the National Education Growth Plan (NEGP), which has been identified as an area of significant future growth.
- 2 To cater for the long-term projections in this catchment the NEGP identified that at least three new schools would be required by 2030. We are proposing that two schools be established in Ōmokoroa, a new Year 1–6 primary school and a new Year 7–15 secondary school, with a planned opening date of 2025.
- 3 Primary schools in the area are near to, or over capacity. Ōmokoroa Point School and Whakamārama School are currently over capacity. Neighbouring schools, Pahoia and Ōmokoroa School, are both near capacity. The only remaining school in this part of the Otūmoetai catchment, Te Puna School, still has some capacity to absorb growth in the short term.
- 4 The opening of the new secondary school will likely result in a change of class/decapitation of the full primary schools in the Otūmoetai network. This adjustment will ease the current and future roll growth pressure on the schools in and around Ōmokoroa.

- 5 The Ministry has acquired a site big enough for both schools in Ōmokoroa, and it has been designated for the new schools. The site is located to the northeast of Ōmokoroa and Prole Road (Annex 1).
- 6 Section 209 of the Education and Training Act 2020 requires that you consult with the boards of all state schools whose rolls might be affected by the establishment of a new school. If you agree to this proposal, the Ministry will complete consultation on your behalf. Once consultation is complete, we will provide a further education report outlining the outcomes of the consultation process, and seek your decision to establish each school.

Proactively Released

## Recommended Actions

---

We recommend you:

- a. **note** that Ōmokoroa is an area of significant growth with an additional 2,300 dwellings to be built over the next 10 years;

**Noted**

- b. **note** that the Ministry has acquired and designated a site for the proposed primary and secondary schools in Ōmokoroa;

**Noted**

- c. **note** that we are proposing that the new schools, to be known initially as Ōmokoroa Primary and Ōmokoroa Secondary School, be operational in 2025 to meet the forecast growth and demand in the area; and

**Noted**

- d. **agree** that the Ministry consult, on your behalf, with the boards of all state and state integrated schools whose rolls might be affected by establishment of the proposed schools.

**Agree / Disagree**

If you agree to consult, you are asked to:

- e. **note** that a further report will be provided to you containing the consultation feedback and a decision on the establishment of the proposed schools; and

**Noted**

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 provisions of the Official Information Act 1982.

**Release / Not release**



Jocelyn Mikaere  
Hautū | Te Mahau  
Te Tai Whenua (Central)



Hon Chris Hipkins  
Minister of Education

15 / 03 / 2022

6 / 4 / 2022

## Background

---

- 1 The Ōmokoroa peninsula is located in the western Otūmoetai catchment of the National Education Growth Plan (NEGP). This catchment extends from Tauranga in the east, through the Western Bay of Plenty to the Pahoia peninsula. It has been identified as an area of significant future growth.
- 2 In 2019 the NEGP indicated that the Otūmoetai catchment would need three new schools to accommodate up to an additional 1,000 student places across both primary and secondary schooling.
- 3 In Ōmokoroa, continued housing development has already resulted in nearly 600 new dwellings being completed, and at this rate another 600 are expected to be completed by 2025. It is estimated that there will be an additional 254 Year 1–6 primary students, and 535 Year 7–15 students in this network by 2025<sup>1</sup>.
- 4 A new Priority Development Area<sup>2</sup> in the west of the Ōmokoroa Peninsula is expected to deliver approximately 3,200 additional new dwellings on the Ōmokoroa Peninsula. Current growth rates indicate that approximately 2,300 new dwellings will be completed by 2031 and will generate approximately 518 primary aged students and 649 secondary age students. Significant roading and infrastructure developments are also expected to increase the pace and scale of this planned residential development.

### The wider schooling network

- 5 Otūmoetai College (Year 9-13) is the only state secondary school in the Otūmoetai catchment. It is currently operating at over 90% utilisation and is projected to reach 100% utilisation in 2022. There are also significant residential developments being planned in the west of the catchment that will increase the number of students in zone for the college. The college has significant redevelopment planned and has been selected for an additional 10 roll growth classrooms to ease roll growth pressure. The opening of a new secondary school in Ōmokoroa, along with an amendment to the enrolment scheme for the college, will ease roll growth pressure there in the medium term.
- 6 Otūmoetai Intermediate School (Year 7-8) is the only intermediate school in this catchment. It is currently operating at 97% utilisation and has been identified in the Region's roll growth priorities for 2022 for two roll growth classrooms. The school will be impacted by residential development in the west of the catchment and its roll will need close monitoring. The school's enrolment scheme would not be significantly impacted by the opening of the proposed new secondary school in Ōmokoroa, but the additional capacity in the network would significantly relieve the current roll growth pressure the intermediate school is experiencing.
- 7 Tauranga Boys' College currently enrolls students from the potential enrolment zone of the proposed new Ōmokoroa secondary school. Tauranga Boys' College is under significant roll growth pressure and has significant development and roll growth classrooms being delivered. The opening of the proposed Ōmokoroa Secondary School would allow the enrolment scheme for Tauranga Boys' College to be reviewed and amended, which may significantly ease some of the current roll growth pressure on the school.

---

<sup>1</sup> Stats NZ 2018 Census

<sup>2</sup> SmartGrowth Development Trends – Technical Report 2021

- 8 Tauranga Girls' College also enrolls students from the potential enrolment zone of the proposed new Ōmokoroa secondary school. Tauranga Girls' College is not currently experiencing roll growth pressure. Should the new Ōmokoroa Secondary School be approved an amendment would be needed to the Tauranga Girls' College enrolment scheme, which may impact on its student numbers in the short term. In the medium term however the significant residential development in the Tauranga catchment will see the roll of the Girls' College increase significantly.
- 9 Katikati College is currently operating at 78% utilisation and may also see a reduction in their roll following the opening of the proposed new secondary school in Ōmokoroa. In the medium term, planned development of up to 1,700 new dwellings in Katikati<sup>2</sup> will result in increased demand at the college.
- 10 Ōmokoroa Point School and Whakamārama School (Year 1-8) are currently operating above capacity. Both schools have been identified for further roll growth classrooms to ease roll growth pressure. The opening of the new Ōmokoroa Secondary School will allow a change of class at both schools (to Year 1-6) and will further ease pressure on their respective school rolls.
- 11 Ōmokoroa School is also operating well above its student capacity with a high number of out of zone students. The opening of a new primary school, and its proposed enrolment scheme, will affect Ōmokoroa School's roll and ease some roll growth pressure. Conversely, it may also result in the school increasing its number of out of zone students and this will need careful monitoring.
- 12 Pahoia School is also operating above its student capacity with a high number of out of zone students. The opening of the new primary school, and its proposed enrolment scheme, is not expected to affect Pahoia School's roll. Also, the school is already a contributing primary (Year 1-6) and there are no consequences associated with the opening of Ōmokoroa Secondary School.
- 13 Te Puna School is located to the east of the proposed new schools and has a very successful Māori medium programme with about 50 students learning at Level 1, where students are learning in te reo Māori for at least 81% of the time. The school is operating at 82% utilisation and has not implemented an enrolment scheme. Most of the students at the school are from the surrounding area. The school is not expected to be directly impacted by the opening of the proposed new primary school. However, it would be impacted by the proposed new secondary school if Te Puna changed from being a Year 1-8 to a Year 1-6 school, to feed into the Year 7-13 proposed secondary school.

### The proposed schools

---

- 14 The proposed new primary and secondary schools are planned to be co-located on a Ministry site in Ōmokoroa. The 12,800m<sup>2</sup> site was acquired and designated in 2019.
- 15 The Ministry has had initial engagement with iwi (Ngāti Ranginui) and hapū (Pirirakau), as well as principals and school boards at all affected schools. There has also been significant engagement with the Western Bay of Plenty Council and the community over the last four years.
- 16 Preliminary site development and design is already underway to inform detailed design and future funding (seed funding for the project was allocated in the 2021 budget).
- 17 It is proposed that the new Ōmokoroa Primary School, opens as a contributing (Year 1–6) primary school from Term 1, 2025.

- 18 It is proposed that the new Ōmokoroa Secondary School (Year 7–13) will also open from Term 1, 2025.

## Consultation Process

- 19 Before a new school can be established, section 209 of the Education and Training Act (the Act) requires you to consult the boards of all state and state integrated schools whose rolls might, in your opinion, be affected by the proposed establishment.
- 20 We have identified the following schools whose rolls might be affected by the proposed establishment:

School	Year levels
Katikati College	Y 7-15
Otūmoetai College	Y 9-15
Otūmoetai Intermediate School	Y 7 - 8
Tauranga Boys' College	Y 9-15
Tauranga Girls' College	Y 9-15
Ōmokoroa Point School	Y 1 - 8
Ōmokoroa School	Y 1 - 8
Pahoia School	Y 1 - 6
Te Puna School	Y 1 - 8
Whakamārama School	Y 1 – 8
Aquinas College	Y 7-15
Bethlehem College	Y 1-15
Matahui School	Y 1 - 8

- 21 The opening of the new Year 7-13 secondary school will likely result in a change of class/decapitation at the full primary (Year 1-8) schools within the network. The consultation process will invite feedback on the following points:
- Changing the full primary schools to contributing primary schools, thereby easing the current and future roll growth pressure at the schools.
  - Resolving the need for Year 7-8 students to travel to gain access to technology provision.
  - Providing the seed student population for the new secondary school when it opens (Year 7-9).
- 22 We would also consult with sector groups, such as New Zealand Educational Institute, Post Primary Teachers' Association, Western Bay of Plenty Principals' Association, and local iwi and hapū.
- 23 We anticipate consultation could be completed in six weeks, which would allow time for boards to discuss any issues at a board meeting before making a response. Some boards might want to meet with the Ministry before making their submission.
- 24 Once the consultation has been completed, we will provide you with a report so you can consider the consultation feedback before deciding whether to establish the new schools under section 190 of the Act.

## Property Implications

---

- 25 There are no further site implications identified at this stage. The Notice of Requirement was approved and the site designated in 2019.

## Transport Implications

---

- 26 The opening of the secondary school may result, over a number of years, in a significant reduction in the volume of students and school transport using the State Highway 2 route to other secondary schools in Tauranga. This will reduce the number of kilometres needing to be provided by School Transport, potentially resulting in a cost saving.

## Financial implications

---

- 27 Seed funding for the initial planning and design of the two schools was approved in Budget 2021. Additional funding for the build of the new schools will be sought in future Budget rounds.
- 28 Financial projections for the costing of the new schools will be provided in the next report.

## Risks

---

- 29 The timeframe for the establishment and opening of the proposed new school is tight but possible. Currently no risks have been identified that may delay the opening of the schools for 2025.

## Next steps

---

- 30 If you agree, we will consult with the boards of all schools whose rolls might be affected by establishment of the school. We will also consult with sector bodies, local iwi and hapū, and community groups as appropriate.
- 31 Following consultation, we will prepare a final report with the results of the consultation for your consideration and ask for your decision on the establishment of the new schools.

## Proactive Release

---

- 32 It is intended 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.

## Annex

---

- Annex 1: Map of proposed new Ōmokoroa Schools Site
- Annex 2: Letters to local Members of Parliament



Annex 1: Map of proposed new Ōmokoroa Schools Site





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 Jan Tinetti  
Member of Parliament  
Parliament Buildings  
Wellington

Dear Jan

I am pleased to inform you that I am beginning consultations on two proposed new schools, a primary school and a secondary school, in Ōmokoroa, Western Bay of Plenty.

Under section 209 of the Education and Training Act 2020, I am required to undertake consultation with the boards of all the state schools whose rolls might be affected before making a final decision on the proposal.

I expect this consultation to be undertaken in 2022, with a report back to me. I hope to then be in a position to make a decision.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read '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



Simon Bridges  
Member of Parliament for Tauranga  
Parliament Buildings  
Wellington

Dear Mr Bridges

I am pleased to inform you that I am beginning consultations on two proposed new schools, a primary school and a secondary school, in Ōmokoroa, Western Bay of Plenty.

Under section 209 of the Education and Training Act 2020, I am required to undertake consultation with the boards of all the state schools whose rolls might be affected before making a final decision on the proposal.

I expect this consultation to be undertaken in 2022, with a report back to me. I hope to then be in a position to make a decision.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read '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



Rawiri Waititi  
Member of Parliament for Waiariki  
Parliament Buildings  
Wellington

Dear Mr Waititi

I am pleased to inform you that I am beginning consultations on two proposed new schools, a primary school and a secondary school, in Ōmokoroa, Western Bay of Plenty.

Under section 209 of the Education and Training Act 2020, I am required to undertake consultation with the boards of all the state schools whose rolls might be affected before making a final decision on the proposal.

I expect this consultation to be undertaken in 2022, with a report back to me. I hope to then be in a position to make a decision.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'CHH', is written over a large, diagonal, light grey watermark that says 'Proactive Release'.

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



Todd Muller  
Member of Parliament for Bay of Plenty  
Parliament Buildings  
Wellington

Dear Mr Muller

I am pleased to inform you that I am beginning consultations on two proposed new schools, a primary school and a secondary school, in Ōmokoroa, Western Bay of Plenty.

Under section 209 of the Education and Training Act 2020, I am required to undertake consultation with the boards of all the state schools whose rolls might be affected before making a final decision on the proposal.

I expect this consultation to be undertaken in 2022, with a report back to me. I hope to then be in a position to make a decision.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'CH 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 Scott Simpson  
Member of Parliament for Coromandel  
Parliament Buildings  
Wellington

Dear Mr Simpson

I am pleased to inform you that I am beginning consultations on two proposed new schools, a primary school and a secondary school, in Ōmokoroa, Western Bay of Plenty.

Under section 209 of the Education and Training Act 2020, I am required to undertake consultation with the boards of all the state schools whose rolls might be affected before making a final decision on the proposal.

I expect this consultation to be undertaken in 2022, with a report back to me. I hope to then be in a position to make a decision.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'CH', over a large diagonal watermark that reads 'Privately Released'.

Chris Hipkins  
Minister of Education