



Education Report: **Change of designation for Whangamarino School (2083)**

To:	Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education		
Cc:	Hon Kelvin Davis, Associate Minister of Education (Māori Education)		
Date:	17 March 2022	Priority:	Medium
Security Level:	In Confidence	METIS No:	1282256
Drafter:	Louix Waru, Senior Adviser	DDI:	07 343 1351
Key Contact:	Vianney Douglas, Manager Education	DDI:	9(2)(a) [REDACTED]
Messaging seen by Communications team:	No	Round Robin:	No

Purpose

This report seeks your approval for a change in designation for Whangamarino School (2083) to a Year 1-8 designated character school, kura-ā-iwi, under section 200(1)(a) of the Education and Training Act 2020 (the Act).

In October 2021, you agreed to consult with the boards of all schools whose rolls might be affected by this change [METIS: 1267230]. The Ministry has now completed this consultation.

Summary

1. Whangamarino School (the school) is a co-educational, decile 2, Year 1-8, state primary school located in eastern Rotorua, approximately 30kms from the city centre.
2. The roll is 97.6% Māori and has grown steadily. The October 2021 roll was 188, with 116 students engaged in the Māori Medium Education Level 1 (MME) programme offered by the school. The change in designation would support the local identity of Ngāti Pikiao, and legally protect the school's designated character.
3. The application meets the statutory criteria for a designated character school, kura-ā-iwi, and Ngā Kura ā Iwi o Aotearoa has agreed it will actively support Whangamarino School becoming a kura-ā-iwi designated character school, should this proposal be approved.
4. We consulted with 10 schools and three responded in favour of the change with no feedback provided from the other schools.
5. If you agree to the proposed change of designation, we recommend the change takes effect from Term 2, 2022. Letters to the Whangamarino School Board and the local Members of Parliament (Annex 1) and notice for the *New Zealand Gazette* (Annex 2) are attached for your signature.

Recommended actions

The Ministry of Education recommends you:

- a. **note** that in October 2021 you agreed to consult on the proposal to designate Whangamarino School as a kura-ā-iwi [METIS 1267230];

Noted

- b. **note** that the consultation under section 209 of the Education and Training Act 2020 has been completed; and

Noted

- c. **agree** to change the designation of Whangamarino School to a kura-ā-iwi under section 200(1)(a) of the Education and Training Act 2020, to take effect at the start of Term 2, 2 May 2022.

Agree/Disagree

- d. **Note** that the Ministry proposes to approve a maximum roll of 200 students.

Noted

And if you approve the designation, you are asked to:

- e. **sign** the attached letters to the Presiding Member of the Whangamarino School Board and the local Members of Parliament (Annex 1) and the *New Zealand Gazette* notice (Annex 2);

And you are asked to

- f. **agree** that this Education Report will be proactively released. Any information that might need to be withheld will be redacted in line with provisions of the Official Information Act 1982.

Agree/Disagree



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

17 March 2022



Hon Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education

06/4/2022

Background

1. Whangamarino School is a co-educational, decile 2, Year 1 – 8, full primary state school located in eastern Rotorua, approximately 30kms from the city centre. In the 1920s it was established as a Native School teaching in English, on land gifted by Ngāti Pīkiao.
2. In April 2020 we received an application for a change of designation from the board of Whangamarino School. The application was not advanced in that year due to COVID-19 related priorities at the school. The board applied to be a designated character kura-ā-iwi and has received a letter of support from Ngā Kura ā Iwi o Aotearoa.
3. The school has had consistent roll numbers (around 170 – 180 tamariki) for the last three years. The October 2021 roll was 188, with 116 students learning in Level 1 Māori Medium Education (MME). Approximately 20% of the students live near the school and there is board funded transport for those who live further away.
4. The school's curriculum has a strong focus on Ngāti Pīkiao. Parents view this characteristic as desirable, and this is reflected by the high percentage of students travelling from outside of the school's Transport Entitlement Zone.
5. Changing the school's designation to a kura-ā-iwi would support the local identity of Ngāti Pīkiao, and legally protect the school's designated character.
6. The school would like to continue to offer both English Medium and Māori Medium Education. There are two other schools, TKKM o Rotoiti and TKKM o Ruamata, within the immediate network that offer full immersion MME. The Whangamarino Board considers that English Medium Education is the school's point of difference.

Proposal to redesignate as a kura-ā-iwi

7. We have received a proposal from the Whangamarino School Board to change from a state school to a designated character school, kura-ā-iwi.
8. For you to designate a school as a designated character school, the school must meet the requirements in section 204(3) of the Act. These are the same as for establishing a new designated character school. The three key requirements that apply here are:
 - the school will have a character that is in some way specific or different from the character of ordinary state schools, and
 - it is desirable for students to get such an education, and
 - students will receive an education that differs significantly from the education they would receive at an ordinary state school.
9. The proposed designated character for the school includes a unique approach to teaching and learning. This is as follows:
 - **English and Māori medium provision:** the school currently teaches 63% of its students at Level 1 Te Reo Māori but regards itself as “dual medium” and intends to continue English Medium Education in accordance with its history;

- **Ngāti Pikiaotanga:** the curriculum emphasises capabilities in Ngāti Pikiaotanga. 97.6% of the school's whānau affiliate directly to Ngāti Pikiao iwi or identify as Māori; and
 - **Unique local perspective and values:** the relationship with the physical and cultural environment of the surrounding whenua and waterways is embedded in the identity of the school. The school applies Te Marautanga o Aotearoa to its curriculum across both Māori and English Medium streams.
10. There is significant number of current students that travel from outside the school's Transport Entitlement Zone (Annex 3). This demonstrates that there is a demand for the type of education provision being offered at Whangamarino School.
 11. The 2019 Education Review office (ERO) report noted that significant work had been done towards improving outcomes for students. A new Principal was appointed in Term 3 of 2018 and she has worked positively with the board to improve reporting and engagement with whānau.
 12. The Ministry considers that the application has provided sufficient evidence that the requirements of the Act, regarding a designated character school, have been met.

Network considerations

13. Currently there is only one other kura-ā-iwi in Rotorua, Te Wharekura o Ngāti Rongomai and there is strong demand for this provision.
14. The roll at Whangamarino School is 98% Māori and has grown steadily over the last decade. Between October 2013 and October 2021, the school has grown by 75 students. The October 2021 roll was 188, with 116 students learning in Level 1 MME.
15. The redesignation will strengthen the school's profile and enhance the delivery of Te Reo Māori for current and future students. It also supports Maihi Karauna, the Māori language strategy, and aligns with Ka Hikitia and Tau Mai Te Reo.
16. The network indicates a surplus of space in this catchment and little significant population change, according to Statistics New Zealand, in the school catchment itself. The school will remain as a Year 1-8 school and a change of designation is expected to have minimal impact on the rolls of other schools.

Property implications

17. Whangamarino School is nearing capacity, but this is being mitigated by roll growth classrooms awarded in the Budget 2019. If a change of designation is approved, the Ministry recommends a maximum roll of 200 students based on its current roll, forecast growth, and demand in the area.
18. In conjunction with transport, there are improvements required for vehicle access at the school. Quality of access and drop off points would need to be considered in the future.

Transport implications

19. Transport funding for the school, which includes English Medium students as well as those learning in Te Reo Māori, would increase to around \$250,000 per annum, with a roll of 200.

Financial implications

20. We have no current concerns regarding the financial viability of the school.
21. Whangamarino School has increased its working capital from 9(2)(j) in 2017 to 9(2)(j) as of 31 December 2020, with available cash of 9(2)(j).
22. The 31 May 2021 management accounts show the school is budgeting a deficit of 9(2)(j). Whangamarino School is tracking well with a year-to-date surplus of 9(2)(j) and working capital of 9(2)(j). Banking staffing is being managed well, currently with a 9(2)(j) banking staffing underuse as at pay period 2021.

Consultation

23. Section 209 of the Act requires the Minister of Education to consult the boards of all state schools whose rolls might be affected before deciding whether to change the designation of an existing state school.
24. The Ministry has undertaken this consultation on your behalf. Ten schools were consulted (Annex 4) with only three responses received within an extended timeframe of eight weeks. Two responded in favour and the other had no issue with the proposal.

School	Year	Feedback
Lake Rotomā	1-8	Supportive
Mokoia Intermediate	7-8	Supportive
TKKM o Ruamata	1-15	No issue

25. A summary of the consultation feedback is provided (Annex 4).

Conclusion

26. The Ministry recommends you approve the proposed change of designation for Whangamarino School because:
- the proposed change in designation to kura-ā-iwi meets the requirements of the Act
 - the proposed change is supported by local iwi and Ngā Kura ā Iwi o Aotearoa
 - the proposed change would enhance the Māori Medium Education Network in the Rotorua area
 - the consultation indicates general support for the change.

Next steps

27. If, after considering the information in this report, you are satisfied the school should change its designation, a letter to the board, the Local Members of Parliament (Annex 1), and the *New Zealand Gazette* notice (Annex 2) are attached for your signature to give effect to the change.

Proactive Release

28. It is intended that this Education Report is proactively released as per your expectation that information be released as soon as possible. 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
- Annex 2: *New Zealand Gazette* notice
- Annex 3: Map of students travelling from outside the school's Transport Entitlement Zone (July 2021).
- Annex 4: Consultation feedback

Annex 1: Letters to the board and Local Members of Parliament

Hon Chris Hipkins

MP for Remutaka

Minister for COVID-19 Response

Minister of Education

Minister for the Public Service

Leader of the House



Glenda Gates
Presiding Member
Whangamarino School Board
State Highway 33
R D 4
Rotorua 3074

Dear Glenda

I am pleased to advise that I have approved your application to redesignate Whangamarino School (2083) as kura-ā-iwi under section 200(1)(a) of the Education and Training Act 2020. The school will operate under its new designation from 2 May, 2022.

A notice giving effect to my decision will be published in the *New Zealand Gazette*:
<https://gazette.govt.nz/>

The Ministry of Education has indicated it will likely approve a maximum roll of 200 students. If, in the future, the school wishes to increase this maximum roll then it will need to apply to the Ministry of Education.

I look forward to hearing of the progress of Whangamarino School as a kura-ā-iwi.

If you have any further questions, please contact Louix Waru in the Ministry's Rotorua office at louix.waru@education.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'CH' followed by a stylized flourish.

Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education

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

Hon Chris Hipkins

MP for Remutaka

Minister for COVID-19 Response

Minister of Education

Minister for the Public Service

Leader of the House



Todd McClay
MP for Rotorua
Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON

Dear Mr McClay

I have received an application from the board of Whangamarino School to redesignate as a designated character school, kura-ā-iwi.

The Ministry of Education has consulted, on my behalf, 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 from 2 May 2022. A notice giving effect to my decision will be published in the *New Zealand Gazette*.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'CH' followed by a stylized flourish.

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
MP for Waiariki
Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON

Dear Mr Waititi

I have received an application from the board of Whangamarino School to redesignate as a designated character school, kura-ā-iwi.

The Ministry of Education has consulted, on my behalf, 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 from 2 May 2022. A notice giving effect to my decision will be published in the *New Zealand Gazette*.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'CH' followed by a stylized flourish.

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



CHANGE OF DESIGNATION FOR WHANGAMARINO SCHOOL (2083) (Rotorua)

Under sections 200, 204 and 205 of the Education and Training Act 2020, I hereby declare that Whangamarino School (2083) will be a designated character school, kura-ā-iwi. This designation will take effect from 2 May 2022.

Whangamarino School will operate in accordance with section 204 of the Education and Training Act 2020. The designated character of the school is:

Whangamarino School offers dual English and Māori Medium provision and a curriculum based on the traditional and historical knowledge of Ngāti Pikiao.

The constitution of the Whangamarino School Board shall not be changed by this notice.

Dated at Wellington this 6th day of April 2022

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'CH' followed by a stylized flourish.

Hon Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education

Annex 3: Map of students travelling from outside the school's Transport Entitlement Zone

