

## Education Report: Initiating consultation over a proposed change of year level for Te Wharekura o Kirikiriroa (1718)

<b>To:</b>	Hon Kelvin Davis, Associate Minister of Education (Māori Education)		
<b>Cc:</b>	Hon Jan Tinetti, Minister of Education		
<b>Date:</b>	29 May 2023	<b>Priority:</b>	Medium
<b>Security level:</b>	In Confidence	<b>METIS No:</b>	13086859(2)(a)
<b>Drafter:</b>	Holly Chapman, Senior Advisor Network	<b>DDI:</b>	
<b>Key contact and number:</b>	Marcus Freke, Director Education for Waikato	<b>DDI:</b>	
<b>Messaging seen by Communications team:</b>	No	<b>Round Robin:</b>	No

### Purpose of Report

This report seeks your approval to proceed with consultation to change the year levels at Te Wharekura o Kirikiriroa (1718) from a Year 1-10 composite, designated character wharekura to a Year 1-13 composite, designated character wharekura.

### Summary

1. Te Wharekura o Kirikiriroa (the wharekura) is a co-educational, Year 1-10 state, composite, designated character wharekura, located within the iwi boundaries of Ngāti Wairere, in the Waikato region.
2. The wharekura provides Māori immersion education for ākonga from Year 1-10. The Board, senior leaders, staff and whānau of the wharekura are committed to upholding the core values of the Kīngitanga, by providing a solid foundation for educational and social success based on Waikato-Tainui kawa and tikanga.

3. Te Wharekura o Kirikiriroa changed its designation from an English medium school to an immersion kura 30 years ago. Whānau involved with the wharekura today are mostly the same whānau who initiated this change.
4. Te Wharekura o Kirikiriroa is a member of Ngā Kura-ā-Iwi (NKAI) and NKAI is supporting this application.
5. In 2021, the then Minister of Education, Minister Hipkins agreed to the Board's proposal to change the classification from a Year 1-8 full primary kura to a Year 1-10 composite wharekura [METIS 1253492 refers].
6. The wharekura began the New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA) application for accreditation to assess against standards on the Directory of Assessment Standards in November 2022. Currently, when ākonga leave the wharekura they attend Ngā Taiatea Wharekura to complete their NCEA qualifications. Ngā Taiatea Wharekura is happy to continue supporting the wharekura and ākonga until their accreditation has been approved.
7. The Marau ā-Kura (local curriculum) is based on Ngāti Wairere and Waikato Tainui knowledge and is designed to extend the teaching and learning opportunities and pathway for ākonga to complete Māori immersion education to Year 13 at the kura.
8. The wharekura has engaged with the Board of Ngā Taiātea Wharekura, who support this proposal. Ngā Taiātea Wharekura is the wharekura whose roll will be most affected by the proposed change.
9. The proposal supports *Maihi Karauna*, the Māori language strategy, foster increased participation and success for ākonga Māori through the advancement of Māori immersion education initiatives, and aligns with Ka Hikitia – Ka Hāpaitia. It also supports the national plan to support Māori immersion education in the schooling network.

## Recommended actions

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We recommend that you:

- a) **note** that the Board of Te Wharekura o Kirikiriroa (1718), a state, co-educational, composite wharekura, has proposed a change the year levels at the wharekura from Year 1-10 to Year 1-13;
- b) **note** the Board has proposed that the change of year levels be phased in over three years, from 2024;
- c) **note** under section 209 of the Education and Training Act 2020 (the Act), you must consult the Board of Te Wharekura o Kirikiriroa and the boards of all state schools whose rolls might be affected before changing the year levels of education provided at a composite school;
- d) **agree** that the Ministry undertake consultation under section 209 of the Act, on your behalf, about the proposed change.

☒ 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, informing them of your decision; and
- f) **note** that, following consultation, a further report will be provided for your decision on changing the year levels offered at the wharekura;

You are also asked to:

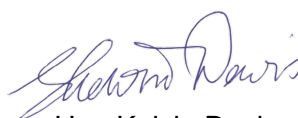
- g) **agree** that this report will be proactively released. Any information that might need to be withheld will be done so in line with the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982.

☒ Proactively Release / ☐ Not Release



Jocelyn Mikaere  
**Hautū | Deputy Secretary  
Te Mahau | Te Tai Whenua**

29 / 05 / 2023



Hon Kelvin Davis  
**Associate Minister of Education  
(Māori Education)**

04 / 06 / 2023

## Background

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1. Te Wharekura o Kirikiriroa (the kura) is a state, co-educational, composite, designated character wharekura, located within the iwi boundaries of Ngāti Wairere, in the Waikato region. The wharekura provides Māori immersion education for ākonga from Years 1-10. The Board, senior leaders, staff and whānau of the wharekura are committed to upholding the core values of the Kīngitanga, by providing a solid foundation for educational and social success based on Waikato-Tainui kawa and tikanga.
2. On 1 March 2023, the wharekura had a roll of 250 ākonga, 27 of whom are in Year 10.
3. Te Wharekura o Kirikiriroa is a member of Ngā Kura-ā-Iwi (NKAI) and NKAI is supporting this application.
4. The wharekura has had a long-term goal of offering wharekura education for Year 1-13 and the Ministry is therefore exploring the possibility of relocating Te Wharekura o Kirikiriroa to a newly purchased site in Greenhills, Ruakura as growing a wharekura on the existing site will be difficult. This has an estimated date of 2028.
5. The Board and whānau consider there are educational advantages in tamariki remaining at the wharekura for Years 11-13. Among the advantages is the connection these ākonga have to the wharekura and the desire to prepare them for a successful, safe, and seamless transition to tertiary education or the workforce.
6. The wharekura began the New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA) application for accreditation to assess against standards on the Directory of Assessment Standards in November 2022. The wharekura and ākonga will continue to be supported by Ngā Taiātea Wharekura until accreditation is approved.
7. The Marau ā-Kura (local curriculum) is based on Ngāti Wairere and Waikato Tainui knowledge and is designed to extend the teaching and learning opportunities to complete the education for ākonga in Year 13 at the wharekura.
10. The wharekura has informed the Ministry of the numerous discussions they have had with the Board of Ngā Taiātea Wharekura, who support this proposal. Ngā Taiātea Wharekura is the wharekura whose roll will be most affected by the proposed change.
11. The Board has proposed that the change of year levels be phased in over three years beginning with Year 11 in Term 1, 2024. However, the wharekura would initially like to have gained NZQA accreditation. Factoring in consultation, we consider that the earliest the first change of a year level could now occur would be Term 2, 2024.

## The Application

12. The application submitted is for a change of year levels from a Year 1-10 composite wharekura to a Year 1-13 composite wharekura. The Board has requested a phased implementation as follows:

Year	Year levels offered
2024	Year 1-11
2025	Year 1-12
2026	Year 1-13

13. The projected rolls are set out in the table below. In 2027 the projected roll for Year 11-13 will be a total of 65 ākonga.

Year	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
2024	28	16	31	30	23	29	32	20	31	12	22	9	N/A	N/A
2025	49	28	16	31	30	23	29	32	20	31	12	22	9	N/A
2026	30	49	28	16	31	30	23	29	32	20	31	12	22	9
2027	30	30	49	28	16	31	30	23	29	32	20	31	12	22

14. The 2014-2022 ākonga movement data shows that the large majority of ākonga from Kirikiriroa enrol with Ngā Taiātea Wharekura for Years 11-13. Should this application be approved, it will impact on their enrolment numbers, with a reduction of up to 65 students. The 1 July 2022 roll at Ngā Taiātea (Year 9-13), was 272. We note that Ngā Taiātea Wharekura supports the change.

## Te Tiriti o Waitangi

15. The Crown has an enduring focus on improving education outcomes for ākonga Māori and giving effect to the Te Tiriti o Waitangi and its principles. The Education and Training Act 2020 (the Act) 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”.
16. Approving the wharekura to become a Year 1-13 designated character wharekura would align with the Crown’s responsibilities under Te Tiriti o Waitangi, and the Ministry’s goals to grow te reo Māori immersion in the schooling network.
17. This proposal also:
- supports enhancing Māori participation in education, and Māori achieving success as Māori within a unique environment

- aims to remove barriers to accessing education for ākonga Māori by establishing a Māori immersion/Kaupapa Māori provision within the iwi boundaries of Ngāti Wairere
- aligns to the objectives of Maihi Karauna, the Māori language strategy, to foster increased participation and success for Māori ākonga through the advancement of Māori education initiatives and with the outcome domains set out in Ka Hikitia – Ka Hāpaitia.

## Legislation

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18. Under section 195 of the Act, you may, by written notice to the Board of a composite school, require the Board to provide education for the year levels specified in the notice, and if you do so, the Board must provide the education at the school accordingly.
19. Under section 209 of the Act, you must consult the Board of the state school concerned and the boards of all the state schools whose rolls might, in your opinion, be affected before changing the range of year levels of education provided at a school under section 195.

## Consultation

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20. If you agree to this consultation, the Ministry will conduct this on your behalf. We have identified three schools whose rolls might be affected by this proposed change of year levels. They are listed in the table below.

School Name	School type
Ngā Taiātea Wharekura (488)	Year 9-13
Fairfield College (129)	Year 9-13
Hillcrest High School (138)	Year 9-13

21. We will also consult with the following sector organisations:
  - Local Iwi representatives
  - Te Rūnanganui o Ngā Kura Kaupapa Māori (TRN)
  - Ngā Kura ā Iwi (NKAI)
  - New Zealand School Trustees Association (NZSTA)
  - New Zealand Post Primary Teachers' Association / Te Wehengarua (PPTA)
  - New Zealand Educational Institute (NZEI).

## Financial implications

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22. As of 31 December 2022, Te Wharekura o Kirikiriroa is in a strong financial position, 9(2)(b)(ii) . With a strong level of reserves Te Wharekura o Kirikiriroa could afford a significant outlay of funds to set up any internal system required to support the learning of the additional ākonga. Any capital requirements such as IT could be paid for out of these reserves.

23. If, following consultation, the application to become a Year 1-13 designated character wharekura is approved, over time the wharekura would be funded for an additional 65 ākonga with an estimated cost to the Crown of approximately \$204,100 (excl GST) per year.

## Property Implications

24. The wharekura currently has 12 teaching spaces, which can accommodate 306 ākonga, and is currently catering for a roll of 250 ākonga. If approved, the change is likely to result in an additional 65 ākonga on the roll when all year levels are enrolled.
25. We have been advised that growing a wharekura on the existing site will be difficult, especially in terms of providing the specialist, gym and multipurpose spaces.
26. We are therefore exploring the possibility of relocating Te Wharekura o Kirikiriroa to a newly purchased site in Greenhills, Ruakura.
27. Locating Te Wharekura o Kirikiriroa on Tainui-owned land offers obvious synergies and would also allow for the wharekura to expand in purpose-built facilities. The site has been purchased for educational purposes and the Ministry would look to prioritise funding for its future development.

## Network Analysis

28. The wharekura is located in the eastern suburbs of Hamilton, which has a range of secondary schooling options from English-medium schools to kura offering full immersion te reo Māori education.
29. The wharekura and Ngā Taiātea Wharekura (Year 9-13) in the western suburbs of Hamilton are Māori immersion Level 1 providers. Fairfield College (Year 9-13) and Hillcrest High School (Year 9-13) are English medium schools.
30. The number of Year 9-13 ākonga at the three schools/kura over the past five years are shown in the table below.

School Name	Roll numbers for each year				
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Ngā Taiātea Wharekura (488)	241	254	250	269	272
Fairfield College (129)	539	562	618	665	644
Hillcrest High School (138)	1641	1644	1616	1591	1586
<b>Total</b>	<b>2421</b>	<b>2460</b>	<b>2484</b>	<b>2525</b>	<b>2502</b>

31. The ākonga who would attend Year 11-13 at the wharekura would likely have been enrolled to attend through Year 1-10. This would cause less of a disruption to ākonga as they would not need to transition to a new wharekura and nor would they come from other schools.

32. The only kura that this change would have significant effect on would be Ngā Taiātea Wharekura, who have already written in support of this proposed change.

### Risks and Mitigations

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33. There is a low level of risk in property provision, until Te Wharekura o Kirikiriroa can be relocated to the newly acquired site. We are advised that growing a wharekura on the existing site will be difficult. However, the wharekura is committed to building new teaching spaces on site and the phased implementation of the year levels will provide space for each year level introduced.
34. No other risks have been identified.

### Next steps

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35. If you agree to initiate consultation, you are asked to sign the letters to the Presiding Member and the local Members of Parliament. We will then undertake this consultation on your behalf. Once consultation has been completed, we will prepare a further Education Report providing you with the feedback from consultation and seeking your decision on the change of year level for this wharekura.

### Proactive release

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36. It is intended that this 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.

### Annexes

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- Annex 1: Letters to the Presiding Member and local Members of Parliament



Annex 1: Letters to the Presiding Member and local Members of Parliament

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)



Mahi Newton-King  
Presiding Member  
Te Wharekura o Kirikiriroa Board  
33 Fifth Avenue  
Enderley  
Hamilton 3252

Tēnā koe Mahi

Thank you for your application proposing that I change the year levels of education provided at Te Wharekura o Kirikiriroa from a Year 1-10 composite, designated character wharekura to a Year 1-13 composite, designated character wharekura.

Before I make a decision on your application, under section 209 of the Education and Training Act 2020, I must consult with boards of all state schools whose roll might be affected by the change of year levels. The Ministry of Education will conduct this consultation on my behalf.

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

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

Please contact Holly Chapman at the Ministry's regional office by email at [Holly.Chapman@education.govt.nz](mailto:Holly.Chapman@education.govt.nz) if you have any questions about this process.

Heoi anō

**Hon Kelvin Davis**

Associate Minister of Education (Māori Education)

# 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 Nanaia Mahuta  
Member of Parliament for Hauraki-Waikato  
Parliament Building  
Wellington

Tēna koe Nanaia

I have received an application from the Board of Te Wharekura o Kirikiriroa proposing a change of year levels from a Year 1-10 composite, designated character wharekura to a Year 1-13 composite, designated character wharekura.

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

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 and then I will then be in a position to make a decision.

Heoi anō

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'Kelvin Davis'.

**Hon Kelvin Davis**  
Associate Minister of Education  
(Māori Education)

# 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)



Jamie Strange  
Member of Parliament for Hamilton East  
Parliament Building  
Wellington

Tēna koe Jamie

I have received an application from the Board of Te Wharekura o Kirikiriroa proposing a change of year levels from a Year 1-10 composite, designated character wharekura to a Year 1-13 composite, designated character wharekura.

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

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 and then I will then be in a position to make a decision.

Heoi anō

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**Hon Kelvin Davis**  
Associate Minister of Education  
(Māori Education)