

Cabinet Paper material

Proactive release

Minister & portfolio Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education
Name of package Government Response to the Petition of Angela Mason
Date considered 1 November 2021
Date of release

These documents have been proactively released:

Cabinet paper: Government Response to the Petition of Angela Mason

Date considered: 1 November 2021

Author: Minister of Education

Cabinet Minute: CAB-21-MIN-0446

Date considered: 1 November 2021

Author: Cabinet Office

Cabinet Minute: LEG-21-MIN-0172

Date considered: 28 October 2021

Author: Cabinet Office

Associated documents released

1269531 Education Report Government Response to the Petition of Angela Mason

16 September 2021

Ministry of Education

1274963 Briefing Note: Talking points for LEG committee for Mason petition response

26 November 2021

Ministry of Education

Material redacted

Some deletions have been made from the documents in line with withholding grounds under the Official Information Act 1982. Where information has been withheld, no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it.

The applicable withholding grounds under the Act are as follows:

Section 9(2)(a) to protect the privacy of natural persons

Section 9(2)(i) to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities

Some deletions have been made from the documents as the information withheld does not fall within scope of the Minister's portfolio responsibilities, and is not relevant to the proactive release of this material.

You can read the Official Information Act 1982 here:

<http://legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1982/0156/latest/DLM64785.html>

In Confidence

Office of the Minister of Education
Chair, Cabinet Legislation Committee

Government Response to the Petition of Angela Mason

Proposal

- 1 This paper seeks approval of the Government's response to the petition of Angela Mason, petition number 2020/82 "We need a new high school on the Pohutukawa Coast".

Background

- 2 The petition requested that the House of Representatives urge the Ministry of Education to build a new high school to serve the growing community on the Pōhutukawa Coast, Auckland Region. Pursuant to standing order 380, the Petitions Committee has referred the petition to the Minister of Education for direct response.

Petition summary

- 3 On 3 June 2021, Angela Mason, on behalf of Pōhutukawa Coast communities, presented a formal submission to the Education and Workforce Committee, with supporting data and evidence, letters of support from Franklin Local Board and surrounding primary schools, and a written petition signed by 3,600 people, to highlight the need for a new secondary school for the Pōhutukawa Coast, Auckland.
- 4 The petition states that to meet Auckland's housing shortage, the Pōhutukawa Coast was up zoned under the Auckland Unitary Plan 2016 and may be close to 20,000 population by 2031. The Pōhutukawa Coast growth area includes Whitford, Beachlands, Maraetai, Clevedon and Kawakawa Bay. It states that currently, there is no high school for this growing community and high school students must bus up to 20km along high-speed rural roads with high crash rates. The petition calls for the Ministry of Education to build a high school to serve the Pōhutukawa Coast.

Proposed response

Network analysis

- 5 The National Education Growth Plan (NEGP) outlines the Ministry's programme to manage, maintain and grow the schooling network to meet increasing school age population forecasts across New Zealand in high growth areas to 2030. Auckland is New Zealand's fastest-growing region with its population likely to reach 2 million in the next 10 to 15 years.

- 6 The NEGP is a flexible, dynamic and live document that forecasts demand for student places based on regional analysis and catchment modelling. The modelling is regularly updated and refined as forecasts change, growth patterns emerge and as key input data (rolls, enrolment patterns, population projections and large-scale developments) is updated. This allows us to dynamically adjust the required expected timing of, and forecast demand for, additional student places.
- 7 The Ministry of Education has been monitoring growth across this network and has carried out a demand analysis looking at population projections out to 2043. In the short term, there is sufficient scope and capacity in the existing network of schools to accommodate secondary growth from the Pōhutukawa Coast.
- 8 The Ministry's analysis shows that any projected growth for the Beachlands and Maraetai areas could be managed for a number of years by Howick College reducing its out-of-zone enrolments, and the Ministry has been working with the college to reduce these numbers. After 2025, additional capacity would be required at Howick College.
- 9 It should be noted that there is no budget approved or allocated for the new school sought through the petition. We have an existing long-term strategic land acquisition pipeline, to purchase sites for new schools, outlined in the NEGP, which includes the Auckland Education Growth Plan.
- 10 With the recent purchase of the Formosa Golf Course and adjoining land by NZ Superfund, this could potentially see this land developed into residential housing. Our modelling indicates that should this large-scale residential development progress, a new secondary school would be needed around 2030, and sooner if additional capacity is not delivered at Howick College.
- 11 Therefore, the Ministry is currently investigating the need for a new primary and a new secondary school in Beachlands, although this is contingent on large scale development proceeding.
- 12 The Ministry has met several times with the development consortium, including NZ Superfund, to align our planning. The developers have provisionally allocated space in their structure plan for both a primary and secondary school.

Transport

- 13 The Ministry provides free school bus services for the Beachlands and Maraetai areas to and from Howick College, comparable to other services around the country. Even if a new secondary school is provided, much of the Pōhutukawa Coast and Wairoa sub-division is rural and school bus services would still be required.

Ministry engagement with petitioners

- 14 The Ministry has met with and advised the community representatives that a business case for a new secondary school would be contingent on the Formosa development proceeding. If it does, then the Ministry would be looking at establishing a secondary school in around 8 years-time, 5 years from site designation.
- 15 The Ministry will continue to work with all parties involved to ensure school provision meets demand.

Timing of the government response

- 16 The government response must be presented to the House by 1 November 2021.

Consultation

- 17 Other agencies have not been consulted on this Cabinet Paper.

Financial implications

- 18 Should new schooling be required in this area in the future, capital funding would be sought through the Ministry of Education's usual annual Budget processes.

Publicity

- 19 Key messages are available through the Ministry of Education for any media that may arise from this petition and Cabinet Paper.

Proactive Release

- 20 The Minister of Education intends to release this Cabinet paper as part of communication activities on the government's response to the petition. Proactive release is subject to redaction as appropriate under the Official Information Act 1982.

Recommendations

The Minister of Education recommends that the Cabinet Legislation Committee:

- 1 **note** that on 3 June 2021 the Petitions Committee received a petition from Angela Mason entitled "We Need a High School on the Pohutukawa Coast, Auckland"
- 2 **note** that the committee referred the petition to the Minister of Education, for direct response, pursuant to Standing Order 380;
- 3 **note** the submission of the Minister of Education and in particular his advice that a new school may be required, should certain developments go ahead,

and that the Ministry of Education is working with the community and developers to ensure schooling provision meets demand;

- 4 **approve** the government response, attached to this submission, to the Petition of Angela Mason entitled “We Need a High School on the Pohutukawa Coast, Auckland”;
- 5 **note** that the government response must be presented to the House by 1 November 2021;
- 6 **invite** the Minister of Education to present the government response to the House in accordance with Standing Order 380;
- 7 **invite** the Minister of Education to write to the petitioner enclosing a copy of the government response to the petition, after the response has been presented to the House.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education

**Government Response to
Petition 2020/82 of Angela Mason**

“We Need a High School on the Pohutukawa Coast, Auckland”

Presented to the House of Representatives

In accordance with Standing Order 380

Government response to Petition of Angela Mason

Introduction

- 1 The government has carefully considered the petition of Angela Mason; “We Need a High School on the Pohutukawa Coast, Auckland” The petition asked *“That the House of Representatives urge the Ministry of Education to build a new high school to serve the growing community on the Pohutukawa Coast, Auckland Region.”*
- 2 The government responds to the petition in accordance with Standing Order 380.
- 3 The government understands that previous planning by the Ministry of Education did not indicate the need for a new secondary school in this area. However, planning in the Ministry’s National Education Growth Plan is iterative and responsive to change. Proposed housing developments in this area, should they occur, may require new schooling by 2030.

Government Response

Petition summary

- 4 On 3 June 2021, Angela Mason, on behalf of Pōhutukawa Coast communities, presented a formal submission to the Education and Workforce Committee, with supporting data and evidence, letters of support from Franklin Local Board and surrounding primary schools, and a written petition signed by 3,600 people, to highlight the need for a new secondary school for the Pōhutukawa Coast, Auckland.
- 5 The petitioners had commissioned a report; *“Kahawairahi College: a new secondary school in Wairoa”* in July 2021 which details the community led campaign and various metrics around education facilities in the Wairoa subdivision of the Franklin Local Board. The Ministry of Education broadly agrees with the information presented in this report.
- 6 The petition states that to meet Auckland's housing shortage, the Pōhutukawa Coast was up zoned under the Auckland Unitary Plan 2016 and may be close to 20,000 population by 2031. The Pōhutukawa Coast growth area includes Whitford, Beachlands, Maraetai, Clevedon and Kawakawa Bay. It states that currently, there is no high school for this growing community and high school students must bus up to 20km along high-speed rural roads with high crash rates. The petition calls for the Ministry of Education to build a high school to serve the Pōhutukawa Coast.

Ministry of Education analysis

- 7 The National Education Growth Plan (NEGP) outlines the Ministry’s programme to manage, maintain and grow the schooling network to meet increasing school age population forecasts across New Zealand in high growth areas to 2030. Auckland is New Zealand’s fastest-growing region with its population likely to reach 2 million in the next 10 to 15 years. The NEGP is a flexible, dynamic and live document that forecasts demand for student places based on regional

analysis and catchment modelling. The modelling is regularly updated and refined as forecasts change, growth patterns emerge and as key input data (rolls, enrolment patterns, population projections and large-scale developments) is updated. This allows us to dynamically adjust the required expected timing of, and forecast demand for, additional student places.

Short to medium term

- 8 The Ministry of Education has been monitoring growth across this network and has carried out a demand analysis looking at population projections out to 2043. There are currently 917 secondary age students from the Wairoa subdivision attending a range of state schools; the 5 top destination schools being Howick College, Rosehill College, Pukekohe High School, Botany Downs Secondary College and Hauraki Plains College. The largest destination by far is Howick College. A further 249 students attend state integrated schools, and 258 students attend private schools. These numbers indicate that any new secondary school at Beachlands would have a healthy starting roll given the existing student base.
- 9 The Ministry's analysis shows that any projected growth for the Beachlands and Maraetai areas could be managed for a number of years by Howick College reducing its out-of-zone enrolments, and the Ministry has been working with the college to reduce these numbers. In the short term, there is sufficient scope and capacity in the existing network of schools to accommodate secondary growth from the Pōhutukawa Coast. After 2025, additional capacity would be required at Howick College.
- 10 It should be noted that there is no budget approved or allocated for the new school sought through the petition. We have an existing long-term strategic land acquisition pipeline, to purchase sites for new schools, outlined in the NEGP, which includes the Auckland Education Growth Plan.

Long term

- 11 With the recent purchase of the Formosa Golf Course and adjoining land by NZ Superfund, this could potentially see this land developed into residential housing. A large-scale residential development on the site, and additional developments at Clevedon, may trigger the need for a new secondary school in the future. This would also require an assessment of appropriate education pathways and enrolment schemes.
- 12 In the longer term and if there is large scale development at the Formosa Golf Course site, there could be sufficient secondary age students to support a new secondary school. 3,000 additional dwellings at Formosa could generate over 550 additional year 9-13 students. In addition, there a proposed development at Clevedon that could deliver 1,500 dwellings and over 300 additional secondary students.
- 13 The Ministry's modelling indicates that under these circumstances, a new secondary school would be needed around 2030, and sooner if additional capacity is not delivered at Howick College.

- 14 The Ministry is currently investigating the need for a new primary and a new secondary school in Beachlands, although this is contingent on the large scale residential development proceeding.
- 15 The Ministry have met several times with the development consortium, including NZ Superfund, to align our planning. The developers have provisionally allocated space in their structure plan for both a primary and secondary school.
- 16 The Ministry of Education notes there are challenges with infrastructure including issues with transport and water (involving Auckland Transport, Watercare and other agencies), given the rural nature of the area. However, the development consortium advises that they are working through these issues and have proposed solutions to the most critical issues.
- 17 To proceed with the development, a Private Plan Change must be considered by Auckland Council. The development consortium is likely to lodge this plan change prior to the end of 2021 and there would then be a submission and decision period. The Ministry of Education will monitor this process.

Transport

- 18 The petitioners noted that students must travel long distances on rural bus routes to access secondary school. The Ministry of Education provides free school bus services for the Beachlands and Maraetai areas to and from Howick College, comparable to other services around the country. The Ministry notes that if a new secondary school is provided, much of the Pōhutukawa Coast and Wairoa sub-division is rural and school bus services would still be required.

Ministry engagement with petitioners

- 19 On 12 August 2021, the Ministry met with representatives from the Petitioning group, Franklin Local Board and Beachlands School.
- 20 Just prior to this meeting the Ministry took the opportunity to meet with representatives of the development consortium at the Formosa Golf Course. Potential sites for future schools were discussed along with the plans for residential development that could realise over 3,000 homes over time. 9(2)(i) [REDACTED], one of the development parties, has indicated it expects to start development on site by 2024. Development would be staged and subject to addressing challenges around infrastructure.
- 21 The Ministry advised the community representatives that a business case for a new secondary school would be contingent on the Formosa development proceeding. If it does, then the Ministry would be looking at establishing a secondary school in around 8 years-time, 5 years from site designation.
- 22 The meeting concluded with the community aware that the Ministry's progression of a secondary school is contingent on large scale development at the Formosa site.
- 23 In the meantime, the Ministry continues to work closely with Auckland Council, NZ Superfund, Auckland Transport and other regional agencies to share information on urban planning and development in the area.

Conclusion

- 24 The government recognises the potential for a future new secondary school in the Pōhutukawa Coast area, subject to potential residential developments. The Ministry of Education will monitor these developments and undertake planning for future schooling as need indicates.

Proactively Released



Cabinet

Minute of Decision

This document contains information for the New Zealand Cabinet. It must be treated in confidence and handled in accordance with any security classification, or other endorsement. The information can only be released, including under the Official Information Act 1982, by persons with the appropriate authority.

Report of the Cabinet Legislation Committee: Period Ended 29 October 2021

On 1 November 2021, Cabinet made the following decisions on the work of the Cabinet Legislation Committee for the period ended 29 October 2021:

Out of scope

LEG-21-MIN-0172 **Government Response to the Petition of Angela Mason** CONFIRMED
Portfolio: Education

Out of scope

Out of scope

Michael Webster
Secretary of the Cabinet

Proactively Released



Cabinet Legislation Committee

Minute of Decision

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Government Response to the Petition of Angela Mason

Portfolio **Education**

On 28 October 2021, the Cabinet Legislation Committee:

- 1 **noted** that on 3 June 2021 the Petitions Committee received a petition from Angela Mason entitled “We Need a High School on the Pohutukawa Coast, Auckland”;
- 2 **noted** that the Petitions Committee referred the petition to the Minister of Education, for direct response, pursuant to Standing Order 380;
- 3 **noted** the submission of the Minister of Education, in particular his advice that a new school may be required, should certain developments go ahead, and that the Ministry of Education is working with the community and developers to ensure schooling provision meets demand;
- 4 **approved** the government response, attached to the submission under LEG-21-SUB-0172, to the Petition of Angela Mason entitled “We Need a High School on the Pohutukawa Coast, Auckland”;
- 5 **noted** that the government response must be presented to the House by 1 November 2021;
- 6 **invited** the Minister of Education to present the government response to the House in accordance with Standing Order 380;
- 7 **invited** the Minister of Education to write to the petitioner enclosing a copy of the government response to the petition, after the response has been presented to the House.

Rebecca Davies
Committee Secretary

Present:

Hon Chris Hipkins (Chair)
Hon Carmel Sepuloni
Hon Andrew Little
Hon David Parker
Hon Stuart Nash
Hon Willie Jackson
Hon Michael Wood
Hon Dr David Clark
Kieran McAnulty, MP

Officials present from:

Office of the Prime Minister
Officials Committee for LEG