



Education Report: Agreement to consult on proposed 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:	1 October 2021	Priority:	Medium
Security Level:	In Confidence	METIS No:	1267230
Drafter:	Rebecca Lepa, Regional Analyst	DDI:	07 349 7394
Key Contact:	Merle Ramsay, Manager Education	DDI:	07 3497397
Messaging seen by Communications team:	No	Round Robin:	No

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek your approval to consult on a proposal by the board of Whangamarino School (2083) for redesignation of the school as a designated character kura-ā-iwi under section 200 of the Education and Training Act 2020 (the Act).

We recommend you agree to this consultation.

Summary

1. Whangamarino School (the school) is a state co-educational, decile 2, Year 1 – 8, full primary school located in eastern Rotorua, approximately 30kms from the city centre. It was established as a Native School teaching in English, on land gifted by Ngāti Pikiao.
2. Ngā Kura ā Iwi o Aotearoa would actively support Whangamarino School becoming a kura-ā-iwi designated character school, should this proposal be approved.
3. The school has had consistent roll numbers for the last three years. Approximately 20% of the roll live near to the school¹, and there is board funded transport in place for those who live further away.
4. Changing designation to a kura ā-iwi would support the local identity of Ngāti Pikiao tamariki, including those who live some distance from the school. They also wish to continue to provide an English medium alternative for whānau who wish their tamariki to learn within the context of their iwi in English.

¹ As of March 2021, 19% of the students that could be mapped were residing with the school's Transport Entitlement Zone (TEZ). Students residing within the TEZ are attending their nearest school.

5. The roll is 97.6% Māori and has grown steadily over the last decade. The July 2021 roll was 168, with 116 students learning Level 1 Māori medium education. The board has proposed that the school become a designated character school, kura-ā-iwi.

Recommended actions

We recommend that you:

- a) **note** that the Ministry has received an application for a change of designation for Whangamarino School (2083) to be a designated character kura-ā-iwi under section 200 of the Education and Training Act 2020; **Noted**
- b) **note** that under section 209 of the Education and Training Act 2020, before making a decision about redesignation of a school you must first consult with the boards of all state schools and kura whose rolls might be affected by this change; and **Noted**
- c) **agree** that the Ministry undertake this consultation on your behalf. The results of the consultation will be provided for your consideration in a second report **Agree / Disagree**
- d) **note** that the Ministry considers that the application has provided sufficient evidence that the requirements of the Education and Training Act 2020 regarding a designated character school have been met. **Noted**

If you agree, you are asked to:

- e) **sign** the attached letter to the presiding member of the board informing them of your approval to consult, and return it to the Ministry for delivery to the school; and **Signed**
- 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. **Agree / Disagree**



Helen Hurst
Tumu Te Hāpai ō Rāngai | Te Hāpai ō Rāngai
Deputy Secretary
Sector Enablement and Support

1/10/21



Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education

25/10/2021

Background

1. Whangamarino School is a state co-educational, decile 2, Year 1 – 8, full primary 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 Pikiao.
2. We have received an application for a change of designation from the board of Whangamarino School dated April 2020. The board has 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 for the last three years. Approximately 20% of the students live near to the school, and there is board funded transport in place for those who live further away.
4. Changing designation to a kura-ā-iwi would support the local identity of Ngāti Pikiao tamariki. They also wish to continue to provide an English medium alternative for whānau.
6. The school worked with Ngā Kura ā Iwi o Aotearoa for kura ā-iwi designated character status over 2020. Its application was not advanced in that year due to COVID-19 related priorities.
5. The school would like to continue to offer both English medium and Māori medium education. There are two other schools² within the immediate network that offer full immersion Māori medium education, and Whangamarino consider that their English medium education is the point of difference.

Proposal for designation

6. Section 204 of the Act (designated character schools) applies both to an existing school that is being redesignated, and to a school's first being established as a designated character school. A designated character school must meet the requirements of section 204(3) of the Act. The key requirements are:
 - the designated character school will have a character that is in some specific way(s) different from the character of ordinary state schools
 - it is desirable for students (whose parents wish them to do so) to get such an education
 - students at the school will get education of a kind that differs significantly from the education they would receive at an ordinary state school.

Designated character

7. The proposed designated character of the school details is to take the following approach to teaching and learning:
 - a. the school currently teaches 63% of its ākonga at Level 1 te reo Māori, but regards itself as 'dual medium' and intends to continue English medium education in accordance with its history,
 - b. the curriculum emphasises capabilities in Ngāti Pikiaotanga, 97.6% of the school whānau are part of the Ngāti Pikiao iwi, or identify as Māori,

² TKKM o Rotoiti and TKKM o Ruamata.

- c. 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.
8. The 2019 Education Review office (ERO) report for the school noted significant work had been done at the school towards improving outcomes for its students. A new principal was appointed in Term 3 of 2018 and they have worked positively with the board to improve reporting, and engagement with whānau.
9. 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 analysis

10. Between July 2013 and July 2021, the school roll has grown by 51 students. Students are attracted to the school from a wide geographic area.
11. A high proportion of total roll is engaged in the Māori Medium Level 1 (MME) programme offered by the school. Of the students enrolled at July 2021, 116 were engaged in MME Level 1 learning and the remaining students are learning at Level 3.
12. In Budget 2019 Whangamarino School was allocated one roll growth teaching space. The October 2020 (peak) roll was 167 students and the school had a deficit of six student places.
13. The network of schools considered alongside Whangamarino School are:

School	Year level
Rotokawa School	1 – 6
Ōwhata School (offers MME)	1 – 6
Kaharoa School	1 – 8
Lake Rotoma School	1 – 8
TKKM o Rotoiti (offers MME)	1 – 8
Mokoia Intermediate (offers MME)	7 – 8
Te Wharekura o Ngāti Rongomai (offers MME)	1 – 13
TKKM o Hurungaterangi (offers MME)	1 – 13
TKKM o Ruamata (offers MME)	1 – 13
TKKM o Te Koutu (offers MME)	1 – 13

14. This network of schools had a utilisation of 78.5 percent at October 2020³. Projections indicate that there is likely to continue to be a network surplus of space out to 2030, with most of the surplus located at Lake Rotoma School, Rotokawa School, TKKM o Hurungaterangi, and TKKM o Rotoiti.
15. The latest Statistics New Zealand projections indicate little significant population change is expected in the Whangamarino School catchment. It is unlikely that we will see roll increase driven by within-catchment population growth.

³ The October roll is the “peak” roll for contributing and full primary schools.

Financial implications

16. Whangamarino School has increased its working capital from \$80,607 in 2017 to \$136,291 as at 31 December 2020 and available cash to \$99,163 (from a position of negative available cash of \$46,270 in 2017).
17. The 31 May 2021 management accounts show the school is budgeting a deficit of \$13,200 but is tracking well with a year-to-date surplus of \$91,757 and working capital of \$228,046. Banking staffing is being managed well, currently with a \$1,021 banking staffing underuse as at pay period 202212.

Property implications

18. The roll is 97.6% Māori and has grown steadily over the last decade. The July 2021 roll was 168, with 116 students learning Level 1 Māori medium education.
19. If a change of designation is approved, a maximum roll of 200 will be recommended by the Ministry, based on the current roll and forecast growth and demand in the area.
20. The establishment of an enrolment scheme would not exclude students from outside of the zone enrolling in the MME programme⁴. With over 60 percent of students currently learning at Māori Medium level 1, an enrolment scheme would have a limited scope to reduce overcrowding.
21. 9(2)(i)

Transport

22. 9(2)(i)

Consultation

23. Section 209 of the Act requires you to consult the boards of all state schools and kura whose rolls might be affected by this change before deciding whether to change a school's designation. The Ministry will undertake this consultation on your behalf.
24. Section 200 of the Education and Training Act requires us to consult with the representative bodies for kura kaupapa Māori, Te Runanga Nui o Ngā kura kaupapa Māori o Aotearoa (TRN) and Ngā Kura ā Iwi o Aotearoa (NKAI).
25. The schools that we will consult with are outlined in the table below:

School Number	School name	Year levels
1931	Rotokawa School	1 – 6
1881	Ōwhata School	1 – 6

⁴ Out-of-zone students accepted for enrolment in a special programme at a school have first priority once home zone places are filled, as long as there are available places in the special programme.

Special programmes are defined by the Education and Training Act 2020 and must be approved by the Secretary for Education. Māori medium units have already been approved by the Secretary.

1788	Lake Rotomā School	1 – 8
1929	TKKM o Rotoiti	1 – 8
1756	Kaharoa School	1 – 8
1832	Mokoia Intermediate	7 – 8
878	Te Wharekura o Ngāti Rongomai	1 – 13
3103	TKKM o Hurungaterangi	1 – 13
1165	TKKM o Ruamata	1 – 13
1153	TKKM o Te Koutu	1 – 13

26. We will also consult with the New Zealand Education Institute Te Riu Roa (NZEI Te Riu Roa), the Post Primary Teachers Association (PPTA), as well as Ngāti Pikiao and other local iwi where appropriate.

Next steps

27. If you agree, the Ministry will consult with the boards of all state schools and kura whose rolls might be affected by the change. We will also consult with sector bodies, local iwi, and community groups as appropriate.
28. Following consultation, we will prepare a final report for your consideration and ask for your decision under section 200 of the Act on the proposed change of designation.

Proactive release

29. As this report seeks to initiate consultation, the results of which you will need to consider, it is intended that this report be proactively released as per your expectation. 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: Letter to the board

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



Ms Glenda Gates
Presiding Member
Whangamarino School board
State Highway 33
RD 4
Rotorua 3074

Ref: CH9397

Dear Glenda

Thank you for your application for change of classification at Whangamarino School to become a designated character school. Before making a decision, I must first undertake consultation under section 209 of the Education and Training Act 2020 on your proposal, with all state schools and kura whose rolls might be affected by this change. The Ministry of Education will undertake this consultation on my behalf.

The Ministry will also consult with appropriate sector organisations and groups such as local iwi. As part of this consultation, the Ministry will advise you of replies and provide an opportunity for your response.

When consultation is complete, the Ministry will inform me of the feedback received and advise me on your proposal. When I have considered this advice, I will then be able to make a decision.

The Ministry will continue discussions with your board about the proposed change. Please contact Merle Ramsay on 021 240 7189 or by email at merle.ramsay@education.govt.nz if you have any questions about this process.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'CH'.

Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education

Cc Ezra Schuster, Director of Education for Bay of Plenty Waairiki