



Education Report: Government Response to petition of Angela Mason

To:	Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education		
Date:	16 September 2021	Priority:	High
Security Level:	In Confidence	METIS No:	1269531
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Messaging seen by Communications team:	No	Round Robin:	No

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is for you to agree to the Government Response and Cabinet Paper responding to the petition of Angela Mason, 2020/82: "We need a high school on the Pohutukawa Coast". The Response is attached as Annex 1, and the Cabinet Paper as Annex 2.

The attached Cabinet Paper seeks agreement to the Government Response and is to be lodged on 14 October 2021 for consideration at the Legislation Committee on 21 October 2021.

Summary

- 1 Angela Mason's 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

- 2 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.
- 3 The proposed Government Response (Annex 1) broadly outlines that the Ministry agrees that new secondary schooling is likely to be needed, but only if the potential residential development at Formosa Golf Course proceeds. If this were to happen, it is likely a new secondary school would be needed by 2030.

- 4 The response also outlines that the Ministry has been in contact with the petitioners to discuss this matter, as well as developers and Auckland Council. The community representatives are aware of the Ministry's position and the likely timing for a new school should the Formosa development go ahead.
- 5 If you agree with the proposed Government Response, Cabinet will need to approve it before you present it to the House. A response is due to the house by 1 November.

Recommended Actions

The Ministry of Education recommends that you:

- a. **agree** to the attached Government Response to Angela Mason's petition;

Agree / Disagree

- b. **agree** to lodge the attached Cabinet paper, which submits the Government Response for Cabinet approval;

Noted

- c. **note** that the paper is to be considered by the Legislation Committee on 21 October 2021, and must be lodged by 14 October 2021;


Noted

- d. **note** that the Government Response is to be presented to the House by 1 November 2021; and

Noted

- e. **proactively release** this report, the Cabinet paper and Government Response, once the response has been approved and presented to the House, with any redactions in line with the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982.

Release / Not release



Helen Hurst
Tumu te Hāpai Ō Rangai / Te Hāpai Ō
Rangai
Deputy Secretary
Sector Enablement and Support

Hon Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education

16/09/2021

____/____/____

Background

- 1 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.
- 2 The petitioners also commissioned a report; *"Kahawairahi College: a new secondary school in Wairoa"*, 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 broadly agrees with the information presented in this report.
- 3 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 analysis

Short - medium term

- 4 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.
- 5 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.
- 6 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 five 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.
- 7 Beachlands and Maraetai, two of the main settlements of the Pōhutukawa Coast are currently zoned for Howick College for secondary age education. Based on 2021 roll data, Howick College has 655 out-of-zone students comprising 31% of its total roll. Clevedon students have a pathway through to Alfriston College or Papakura High School, both of which have surplus places.

- 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. 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.
- 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.

Longer term

- 10 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 is a proposed development at Clevedon that could deliver 1,500 dwellings and over 300 additional secondary students.
- 11 Our 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.
- 12 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.
- 13 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.
- 14 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.
- 15 Before proceeding further, we are waiting to learn the outcome of the Private Plan Change that will 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.

Transport

- 16 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

- 17 On 12 August 2021, the Ministry met with representatives from the Petitioning group, Franklin Local Board and Beachlands School.

- 18 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.
- 19 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.
- 20 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.
- 21 The community representatives seemed comfortable with the timing for a new school should the Formosa development go ahead.

Next steps

- 22 If you agree with the attached Government Response (Annex 1), it will need to be approved by Cabinet before it is presented to the House by 1 November 2021. A Cabinet Paper outlining the draft response is attached as Annex 2.
- 23 The Legislation Committee is meeting on 21 October 2021, and to meet this date, the Paper will need to be lodged by 14 October 2021.

Proactive release

- 24 It is intended that this report be released with the Government Response, once it has been approved and released to the petitioners. Any information that may need to be withheld will be done so in line with the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982.

Annexes

Annex 1: Government Response to the Petition of Angela Mason, 2020/82

Annex 2: Cabinet Paper

Proactively Released

Proactively Released