



4 June 2021



Tēnā koe 

Thank you for your email of 8 April 2021 to the Ministry of Education requesting the following information:

- 1. I am hoping to find a dataset on the current state of school capacities in New Zealand, specifically whether there are schools in Tauranga that are currently at overcapacity.*

Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

As communities change, so too do the schooling needs of their children and young people. Our job is to manage school infrastructure by planning for growth and population shifts both in the short and long-term to ensure there is an effective and sustainable school network across New Zealand. To do this, we consider population projections, local council information, enrolment data and how well school properties are utilised.

Utilisation and capacity are approximate, paper-based, point-in-time measures we use to assess how a school may be using Ministry-owned teaching spaces. They are not a measure of overcrowding and they do not capture a complete picture.

Roll capacity records the number of Ministry-owned teaching spaces a school has over forty square metres, student / teacher ratios, school type, level of Māori immersion, learning support requirements, mix of year levels of students and technology aspects. The roll capacity figure indicates the number of students a school should be able to accommodate in Ministry-owned teaching spaces. Roll capacity is used as a guide for planning purposes to determine which schools might require additional property. Where the data identifies potential issues, we will visit the school concerned to work through any issues with them. In many cases, action is not required. Information on capacity allows us to have a conversation with a school about how they intend to manage roll growth. Many of these conversations are underway.

The Ministry uses 105% as the threshold, as that is the figure used in the Ministry's annual reporting processes. However, the fact that a school has a utilisation rate of over 105% should not, of itself, be regarded as an indicator that the school is over capacity or overcrowded. A school can be over-utilised but not overcrowded or overcapacity– you can see examples of this in the data I have attached. (for example where a school has high numbers of out-of-zone enrolments and in-zone enrolments are within the school capacity). We work closely with schools that have concerns about roll growth to manage their rolls.

Options often include:

- implementing an enrolment scheme. Enrolment schemes help schools manage their rolls and avoid the risk of overcrowding. An enrolment scheme ensures that space is available for local students and any student within the enrolment scheme home zone is entitled to attend the school. When considering a new enrolment scheme, or changes to an existing one, we must balance the community's expectations of access to any particular school with the impact that the zone may have on neighbouring schools and the education network as a whole.
- if an enrolment scheme is already in place, working with the school to reduce or eliminate out-of-zone enrolments and/or change the boundaries of the current enrolment scheme;
- expanding capacity by providing additional roll growth teaching spaces;
- changing the year levels the school caters for;
- if a school is marked for redevelopment providing additional capacity as part of that process; and
- expanding the schooling network by building a new school(s).

### Your specific request

The Ministry continues to invest heavily in the schooling network in Tauranga, in recent years we have opened Taumata School in 2019 and brought forward its stage two expansion to 650. We have also opened the state-integrated school Suzanne Aubert Catholic School, and announced the building of a new school to replace Brookfield School. Next year we will open another new school Te Manawa ō Pāpāmoa accommodating a further 650 students. There are projects expanding the capacity of Golden Sands School to 850 students and Papamoa College to 2000 students after their initial build stages.

In addition to these new schools there is continued investment in existing schools including teaching spaces for roll growth. The Ministry is investing \$100M to deliver supply to meet immediate demand across all of New Zealand, of this programme 20 teaching spaces are in Tauranga and Bay of Plenty-Wairariki region.

Attached to this response as **Appendix A** is a list of all schools in Tauranga by school type, and their utilisation rate. I am releasing this to you in full. Around a third of the schools listed have a utilisation rate of above 105%.

We work closely with all the schools in **Appendix A** to forecast roll, determine if a higher roll is likely to be sustained, and if extra capacity is a worthwhile investment. Schools can also apply for roll growth classrooms at their discretion. Generally, this will be when the roll is approaching existing capacity. If the school has high numbers of out-of-zone students they may not qualify for property funding. So in the first instance we always work with the school to reduce the numbers of out-of-zone students.

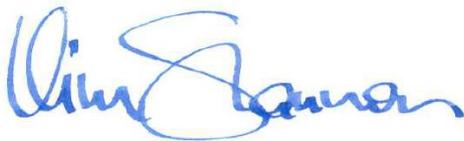
Please note that the:

- The roll data is based from July 2020 while the building data is from October 2020. Data for 2021 is not yet available.
- Data provided includes both state and state-integrated schools. The state-integrated schools have a maximum roll, which we have used as their capacity. Please note that the Ministry does not provide property to state-integrated schools. This is the responsibility of the proprietor.
- We have exclusively listed schools that are within the Tauranga City territorial authority.

Thank you again for your email. You have the right to ask an Ombudsman to review this decision. You can do this by writing to [info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz) or Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Please note, the Ministry now proactively publishes responses under the Act on our website. As such, we may publish this response on our website after five working days. Your name and contact details will be removed.

Nāku noa, nā



Kim Shannon  
**Te Tumu Waihanga**  
**Head of Education Infrastructure Service**

Cc: Ezra Schuster, Director of Education for Bay of Plenty - Waiariki