

### Catchment description

The Rotorua catchment comprises the Rotorua district and Rotorua lakes areas extending south to Broadlands and east to Murupara. The catchment is made up of 5 sub-catchments, including Rotorua Central (16 schools/kura), Rotorua East (11 schools/kura), Rotorua West (15 schools/kura), Reporoa (6 schools/kura) and Murupara (5 schools/kura). The city of Rotorua has a population of about 58,500, while the population of the wider district and smaller, rural settlements is about 77,300. In 2021, there were about 14,200 school-age students in this catchment, with 58% of these identifying as Māori.

Rotorua is a major destination for both domestic and international tourism, which has been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Tourism is the district's largest single employer. The rural hinterland also contributes to the economy through agribusiness, forestry and geothermal industries.

Rotorua has strong iwi presence in education provision and support services, school governance and housing/land development in the city. With a wide ranging set of education services including the iwi governed Puna Manawa Early Childhood Centre, Kokiri Alternative Education, and school Te Rangihakahaka Centre for Science and Technology, original land grants to establish schools, and a long history of directly funding whānau scholarship and achievement through the Ngāti Whakaue Endowment Trust, Te Arawa iwi are essential partners with whānau, schools and kāhui ako in this catchment.

### What's influencing the education system in this catchment?

#### Network management

- Population monitoring will be updated when the Census projections are released, but trends are expected to include an increasing proportion of Māori families over the next ten years, housing growth in Central and Eastern Rotorua, and steady demand for composite immersion kura and State integrated schools.
- There are a number of housing developments in the initial planning stages in Rotorua, including Pukehangi Heights in Western Rotorua (for potentially 750 – 900 dwellings) and Kāinga Ora delivering housing to vacant land and existing state housing sites across parts of Rotorua.
- Some upgrades to Te Ngae Rd along the eastern side of Lake Rotorua have been undertaken by Waka Kotahi and Rotorua Lakes Council to invest in roading and stormwater infrastructure to unlock urban land development in Eastern Rotorua (for up to 1,100 dwellings).
- Average numbers of school age children in new households depends on the demographic of the housing, and roll growth will need to be monitored as subdivision and building proceeds. At this stage, it is anticipated that new growth will be able to be accommodated in existing schools.

#### Māori medium

- Māori immersion learning at Level 1 and 2 is growing in popularity amongst students living in the Rotorua catchment. About 18% of all students identifying as Māori are engaged in Māori medium education, with 1,492 ākonga enrolled in Levels 1 and 2 of the Māori Language Programme. The two composite kura are at capacity and have limited space on site, and several schools with strong appeal for Māori families have increasing rolls.
- Immersion learning is offered through 7 kura and 25 kōhanga reo, and Māori medium programmes are also located within 12 dual medium schools. Most Kura are composite (Years 1 – 13). Within the catchment, there are good pathways for students and whānau opting for a full immersion education from kōhanga through to secondary.
- Choice of kura and dual medium schools is a feature in the Eastern Rotorua and Central Rotorua sub-catchments. Travel is required in the West and Murupara sub-

catchments to access schools other than kura kaupapa Māori, and there is no Māori medium provision in Reporoa at present.

- Rumaki or bilingual Level 2 provision is available at 12 dual medium primary schools, and Western Heights High School provides a rumaki at secondary level for a small number of wharekura students.



#### Parental choice influencing utilisation

- Ten schools in Rotorua urban area operate enrolment schemes. No schools located in the Murupara or Reporoa sub-catchments operate an enrolment scheme. Some zoned schools can continue to offer enrolment outside of their local area because the school has surplus property. Enrolling families living outside a school's local area may also be supported by board funded school transport.
- There is spare capacity in many schools. Parental choice impacts rural schools and schools in lower decile neighbourhoods, while popular schools can experience accommodation pressures while there are classrooms available nearby. One third of schools in the catchment have rolls of 100 students or less.
- Overall, the school network is anticipated to have sufficient capacity to accommodate known future demand, however there may be pressures at schools nearing capacity, particularly in eastern Rotorua and in dual medium schools focussed on engaging whānau with access to social supports, belonging and Te Reo Māori options.



#### Kāhui Ako

- There are 6 Kāhui Ako within this catchment, with the majority of the Rotorua city schools members. The Kāhui Ako are generally location based, with two being faith-based. Māori medium kura and most smaller rural schools within this catchment do not belong to a Kāhui Ako. All Kāhui Ako have been allocated Learning Support Coordinators.



#### Leadership and governance

- This catchment has a mixture of long serving leaders and first-time principals. From a leadership and governance perspective it is stable.



#### Secondary-tertiary pathways

- Rotorua is home to the central campus of Toi Ohomai Institute of Technology, with the largest programmes on offer being Māori language, nursing, forestry, business, tourism and hospitality. There are Gateway programmes at two of the colleges, plus a small number of Trades Academy places.



#### Learning Support

- Rotorua catchment has a considerable number of students identified by Kāhui Ako as having additional learning needs who are accommodated in all Rotorua schools. In addition, around 1% of students have Ongoing Resourcing Scheme (ORS) funding, and are enrolled either directly by most schools, or in hosted classes managed by Rotorua Specialist School – Te Kura Pūkenga o Rotorua.
- The catchment has a relatively high proportion of children in specialist schooling compared to local school enrolment, including one-third of ORS funded new entrant (aged 5 – 6 years) children enrolling in the specialist school.
- Rotorua Specialist School is located in Central Rotorua and enrolls students from age 5 to 21. Around 35% of the roll attends at the base school with the remainder learning

in eight satellite sites in the urban Rotorua area and one site in Taupō. The base site experiences space pressures and the specialist school does not have a partner for hosting senior secondary students at a local secondary school.

- One-third of ORS funded secondary students are enrolled in the specialist school. Western Heights High School operate a specialist unit, called Te Maru, and Rotorua Lakes High School has a dedicated space for students with additional learning needs. Funding was obtained to increase the roll of Te Maru to increase choice for secondary ORS funded students.
- This catchment also has the Stand Children's Village within its boundaries. This facility provides residential therapeutic care and education for children from around New Zealand and has been working alongside the Eastern Rotorua kāhui ako.



#### Early Childhood Education

- With 105 services within this catchment, there is plenty of supply. Quality, however, has been an issue in a small number of cases. Some services are outstanding and have been recipients of the Prime Minister's Education Excellence Awards. There is known to be a shortage of early learning teachers.

### Here's what is already underway to help us manage education provision in this catchment:



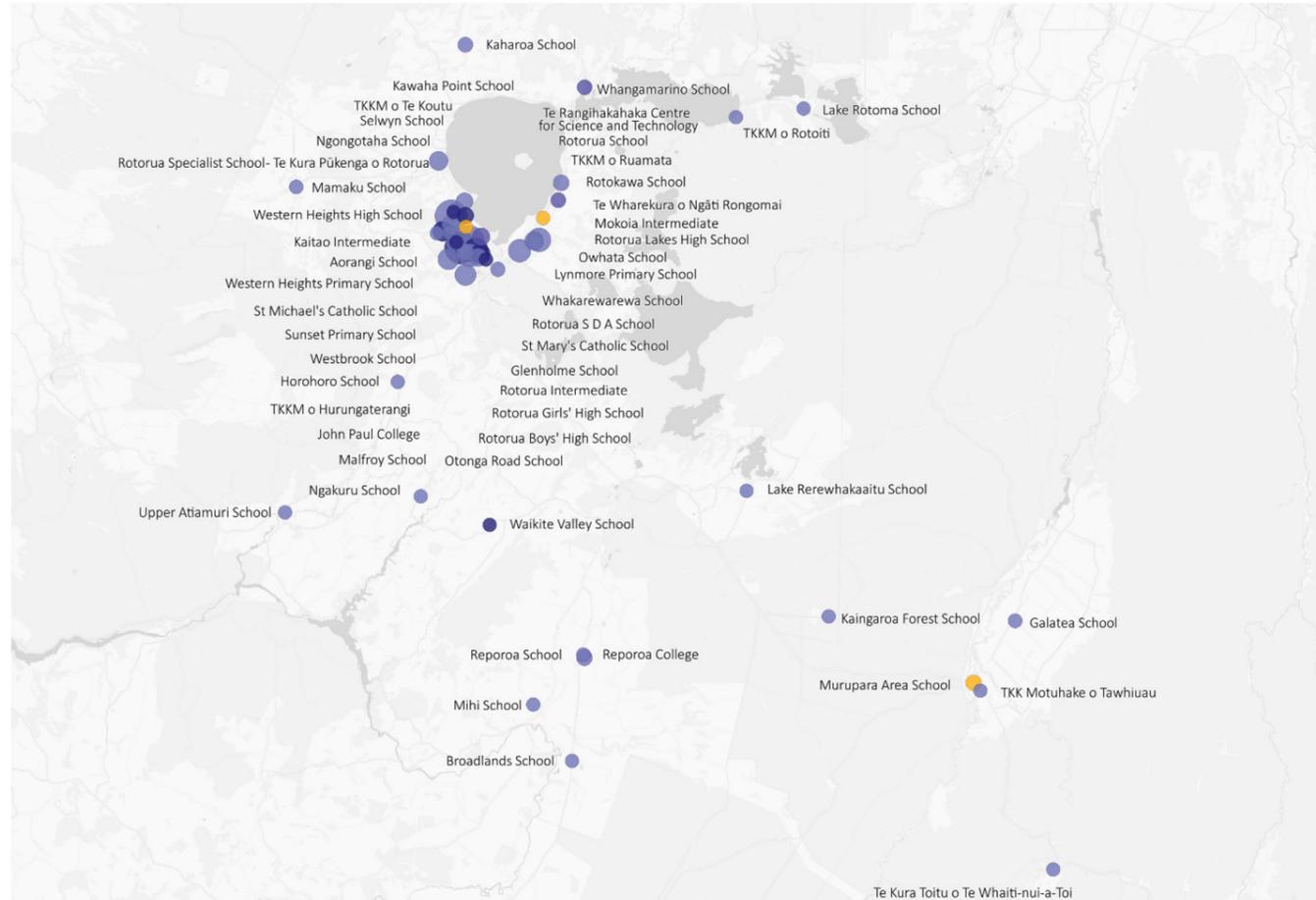
- Investment in new classrooms, property upgrades, and rationalisation is underway, and additional funding has been made available for schools to improve their learning environments through the School Investment Package.
- We have acquired a site and are preparing to build a permanent school for Te Wharekura o Ngāti Rongomai, which was formally established as a Year 1-13 Māori medium wharekura in 2017.
- Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Hurungaterangi has recently changed status to become a Year 1 – 13 wharekura. Funding has been allocated to support the kura to undertake classroom improvements for senior student needs.
- We are redeveloping some spaces at Western Heights High School, including expansion of the school's dedicated unit for ORS funded students, to improve options for secondary ORS funded students.
- Additional classrooms are being provided at Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Ruamata, Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Te Koutu, Glenholme School, Ngongotahā School, and Whangamarino School.
- We are working with Rotorua Specialist School to review the existing capacity of the school in its satellite units to ensure there is sufficient space for students. Funding has been allocated for a roll growth classroom at this school.



- We are working with Reporoa College to support educational outcomes.



- We are reviewing the suitability of enrolment schemes across 20 schools and discussing the setting of maximum rolls. An enrolment policy for Bethlehem College has been implemented that includes a maximum number of enrolments from the Rotorua District.
- We are working with Whangamarino School to assess their application to become a designated character school.



The **Rotorua Catchment Plan** will meet the needs of New Zealand’s changing schooling network, benefiting an estimated **14,000 learners/ākonga** each year over the next decade to 2030. There are 51 schools/kura in this catchment.

July 2021	Primary	Composite	Secondary	Specialist	Total
Number of schools	36	8	6	1	51
Total funded roll	8,216	1,094	4,845	92	14,247
MME Level 1 & 2	816	763	23	0	1,602
ORS-funded roll	63	6	46	91	206
Māori roll	4,544	1,093	2,589	56	8,282
Pacific roll	303	1	125	4	433

**Map key:**  
% roll change over 10-year period  
 ● Opened in last 10 years  
 ● High growth  
 ● Moderate growth  
 ● Low growth  
 ● Stable/decline  
 Note: Roll growth at schools indicated on this map is based on a percentage change in roll numbers over a 10-year period, and may indicate higher (or lower) roll growth than absolute numbers suggest.

### Potential responses to shaping a stronger education system across the Rotorua catchment:



#### Network structure

- We will continue to monitor and plan proactively to meet capacity needs arising from new housing developments and population changes, with a focus on increasing capacity for existing schools if needed.
- We plan to review the school transport network.



#### Investment in school property

- We are working with Whakarewarewa School, Rotorua School and Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Te Koutu about their accommodation needs following recent roll growth.
- We will work with the schools on the future siting needs of composite kura and Te Rangihakahaka Centre of Science and Technology.



#### Supporting quality education

- We will continue to assist early learning services, schools and kura to strengthen governance, leadership and teaching capability, to improve engagement and student outcomes, as well as to strengthen their cooperation with each other.



#### Strengthening the Māori medium pathway

- We plan to work with key schools to lift access to Māori medium learning, particularly at secondary level. We will continue to support kura to ensure the quality of Māori medium education is consistent, and work to grow the kaiako workforce, particularly specialist teachers.
- We will further develop our Māori medium Network Plan for the Bay of Plenty – Waiariki region.



#### Learning Support

- We will develop our forecasting to better understand the need for learning support services within the sector for students identified as having additional learning support needs.
- We will work to encourage schools to strengthen inclusive practice so that ORS funded students are able to access local schooling that connects them to their neighbourhood and wider whānau, particularly at secondary level.
- We will support Rotorua Specialist School to plan for optimal use of its existing spaces to meet the future needs of the school.



#### Relationships with external agencies

- We will work to nurture and strengthen our relationship with iwi to strive for positive educational outcomes for tamariki and rangatahi in this catchment.
- We will continue to develop relationships with Council, tertiary sector, employers, early childhood education providers and other government agencies to align our work in the Rotorua catchment.