

# Timaru: Steady and Stable

## Education Network Plan

### Catchment description

The Timaru catchment is a large area on the east coast of the South Island. It incorporates the city of Timaru and stretches north to Geraldine and the Rangitata River, and south towards the Otaio River and the town of St Andrews. The catchment is predominantly rural, with three larger towns and a number of smaller rural settlements. This catchment is in the rohe of Ngāi Tahu.

The main industries are agriculture and associated light manufacturing. The port in Timaru is key for fishing and also import and export in the South Island.

Census 2018 data shows a district-wide population of 46,000 with growth of 5.4% since the 2013 Census. The combined roll of schools in this catchment is 7,875 ākonga, an increase of about 200 since 2019, mostly in the secondary rolls.

Timaru District's economy has recovered strongly from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and recession. Economic activity and consumer spending are both strong, and the agricultural and food processing sectors are a key source of strength, particularly dairy farming.

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



#### Students attending their local schools

- A large proportion of students in this catchment attend a local school, rather than travelling out of catchment. School attendance is, however, dependent on available transport options. The Ministry directly resources a number of transport routes in this catchment.
- Most schools have significant capacity for roll growth. The few schools that have experienced roll pressure have implemented or are implementing enrolment schemes.



#### Diversity

- There are a number of different schooling options in this catchment. There are several state integrated Christian schools, as well as single sex and co-educational state schools. There is also a Māori medium primary school near Temuka, with a long history in the area.
- While this diversity offers choice to families, some schools that draw students from similar areas are seeing an imbalance in roll numbers as one school becomes a 'school of choice'.
- As a result of the 2005 network review of schooling in Timaru, the Timaru Technology Centre (T-Tech) was established. This centre provides technology classes for 800 Y7 and 8 students per week for all schools in the local network.



#### Leadership and governance

- Eight schools in this catchment have had a change of principal in the last few years. New school leaders will need time to settle in before beginning to work collaboratively with other schools.
- Two of the four Kāhui Ako in this catchment have had recent leadership changes.



#### Learning support

- Three schools offer specialist learning support programmes. Highfield School provides a programme for ORS funded learners. This is a programme established after the closure of Maru Special School. The programme operates out of a purpose-built building and the school enrolls students from across the wider catchment. The school has recently included the special programme as part of their enrolment scheme.
- Mountainview High School enrolls a high number of ORS funded students into their learning support programme (Whare Ako). The programme operates out of a purpose-built facility but is not included as part of their enrolment scheme.
- Geraldine High School also operates a learning support programme but this is not included within their enrolment scheme.
- The Refugee Resettlement Programme is currently on hold due to Covid-19. There is no current timeline as to when this will recommence. When it does, small numbers of families will come into the catchment and these students will require support.
- A support network has been set up for people who settle in this area after leaving the Gloriavale compound. This may impact roll growth at state integrated schools with a Christian focus.



#### Māori medium

- There is one immersion early learning centre in Timaru which is very successful. Arowhenua Māori School (Year 1-8) is the only school in this catchment to offer bilingual education. There is no provision for Māori medium education at secondary level. More than 1,000 students across primary and secondary levels identify as Māori, but only 45 are able to access bilingual provision.
- There is demand to grow provision in this area. However, the main barrier is teacher supply.

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



- Geraldine High School has recently implemented an enrolment scheme.
- Several primary schools in the Timaru area have recently implemented enrolment schemes.



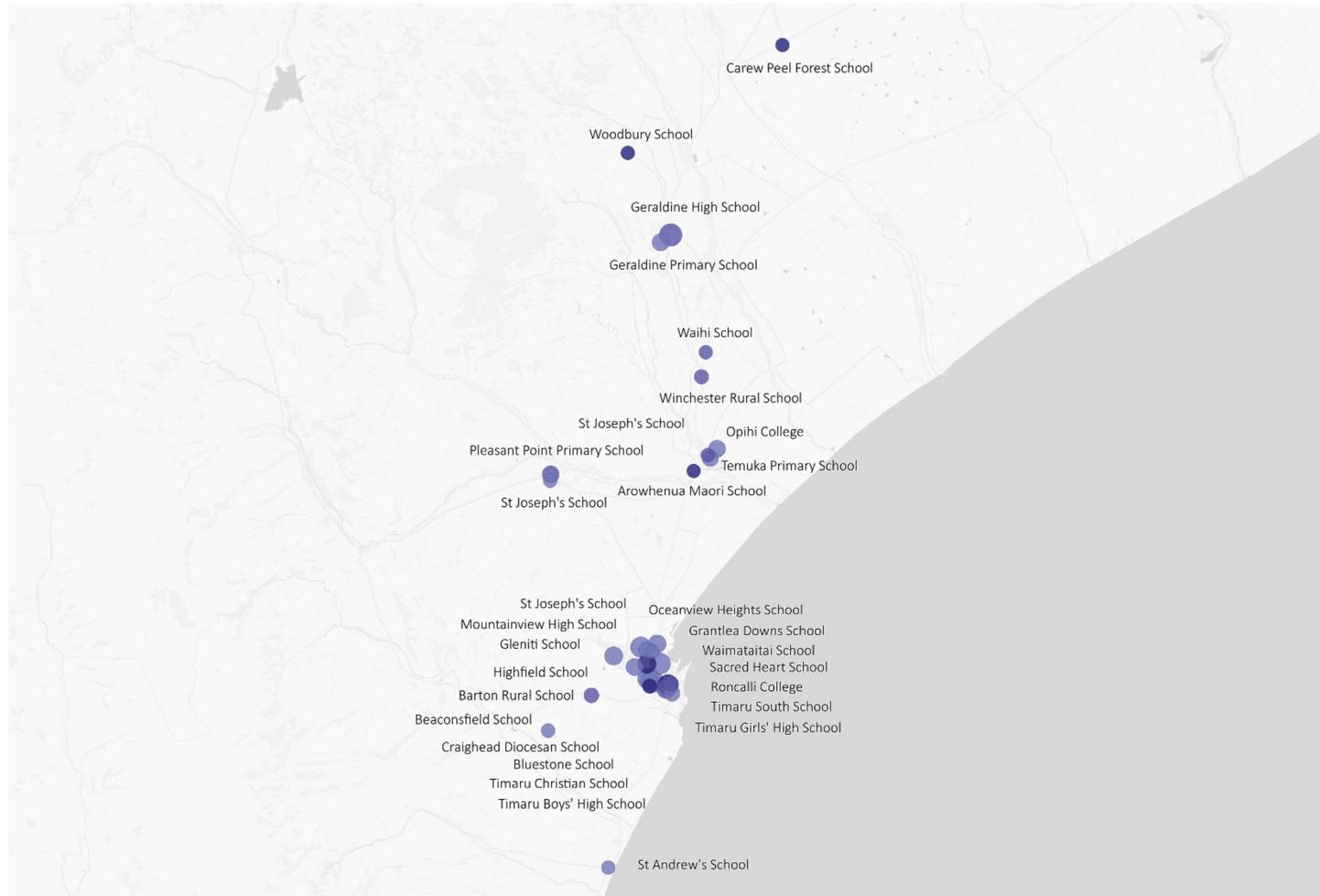
- The *Thrive Aoraki* behavioural programme has been run in this catchment.



- Arowhenua Māori School has been redeveloped, including additional capacity to allow for future roll growth.
- The library and main teaching block at Oceanview Heights School have been upgraded.

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## Education Network Plan



The **Timaru Catchment Plan** will meet the needs of New Zealand's changing schooling network, benefiting an estimated **8,000 learners/ākonga** each year over the next decade to 2030. There are 30 schools/kura in this catchment.

July 2021	Primary	Composite	Secondary	Specialist	Total
Number of schools	22	1	7	0	30
Total funded roll	4,517	139	3,227	0	7,883
MME Level 1 & 2	39	0	0	0	39
ORS-funded roll	40	2	39	0	81
Māori roll	712	29	447	0	1,188
Pacific roll	198	16	89	0	303

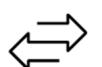
### Map key:

% 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 Timaru catchment:



### Enrolment schemes/zones

- We will continue to work with schools who may need enrolment schemes or amendments to ensure a balanced and best use of the schooling network.
- We will continue to monitor school rolls to identify any trends in roll numbers.



### Kāhui Ako

- We will continue to work with the new and existing leadership and Kāhui Ako to develop their relationships and work collaboratively.



### Learning support

- We will work with schools and providers to ensure that appropriate support is available for students, including any refugee students in future.
- We will work with the Timaru District Council to be aware of and align with any social programmes that may have an impact on students and whānau.



### School buses/transport

- We will continue to review our transport provision in this area to ensure decisions are transparent and equitable.



### Strengthening the Māori medium pathway

- We will work with the Timaru schools, rūnanga and whānau to better understand the demand and opportunities for providing Māori medium pathways within the catchment.
- A regional plan for the future of Māori medium education provision in Canterbury has been developed and will be used to engage and discuss ways to grow and strengthen Māori medium education with sector groups, kura, whānau and others.