

### Catchment description

The Feilding catchment is predominately rural and lies within the Manawatū district. The largest urban area is Feilding township, located 20 kilometres north of Palmerston North. The rural settlements of Kimbolton, Cheltenham, Waituna West, Āpiti, Bunnythorpe and Halcombe are within the catchment.

Agriculture and agribusiness are the key economic drivers in this area, contributing 18.8% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the Manawatū district. The government has invested in a number of initiatives through the Provincial Growth Fund (PGF) aligned to the Accelerate 25 regional economic development plan, in sectors such as transport, food and beverage, tourism, plastic recycling, processing and re-use industries.

Census 2018 data shows the overall population for the Feilding district has increased by 10.2% since 2013 to 30,200. Of the total population, 16.5% (4,986) identified as Māori, up 2% on the 2013 population.

Within the catchment, there are 17 schools, comprising of 12 full primary schools, two contributing primary schools, one intermediate, and two secondary schools.

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



#### Vocational pathways

- There is a move to develop employment pathways and training across the catchment to retain and attract a skilled work force. An example is Feilding High School who own and manage two farms, Ngakaunui and Manawanui, providing practical agricultural learning.



#### Māori medium

- July 2021 roll data indicates a relatively stable Māori student population in the Feilding catchment, with 1,253 Māori students. Te Kura ā Iwi o Whakatapuranga Rua Mano, based in Ōtaki, has established an offsite classroom in this catchment which provides Year 1-13 Level 1 Māori immersion provision based on Ngā Kaitiaki o Ngāti Kauwhata tikanga.
- Two schools, North Street School and Hato Pāora College, provide Level Two Māori medium language education.



#### School property

- Most schools in this catchment were established in the 1950s or earlier, with many of the school buildings across the catchment aging and requiring upgrading to meet quality learning environment standards.



#### Learning support

- Learners/ākonga with high learning support needs are generally provided for through an inclusive approach across this catchment. The new roles of the Learning Support Coordinators within the Kāhui Ako structure will be used to strengthen support to students. They are developing a collaborative approach to learning support across schools. We are working with them to enhance the service offered to children with additional learning needs.



#### Kāhui Ako

- Fourteen schools and eighteen early learning centres are members of the Feilding Kāhui Ako. They have developed a strong plan to collaborate, and their partnership with Ngā Kaitiaki o Ngāti Kauwhata forms part of the development of a localised curriculum with a focus on improving Māori student achievement. The two Catholic schools in this catchment are members of the Palmerston North Catholic Kāhui Ako. There are good connections between the schools and many of the local early learning providers.
- There is a collaborative mind-set within the Kāhui Ako developing a shared Learning Support model with the employment of eight Learning Support Coordinators.
- Principals, other school leaders, teachers, support staff, parents and other agencies are open to partnerships that meet the needs of children and young people.



#### Parental choice

- Approximately 33% of Year 9-13 students within the catchment attend secondary schools in Palmerston North as they choose single sex, faith based or different vocational pathway options. Around 7% attend secondary schools outside the Manawatū and Palmerston North districts. Conversely a significant number of students from outside the catchment attend high school in Feilding (approximately 32%) choosing the co-ed, Māori medium or agriculture options available.
- There are two boarding options within this catchment. Hato Pāora College is a state integrated Year 9-13 Catholic Māori Boys' school with 140 boarding spaces. Feilding High School is a large co-ed state secondary school with facilities for 180 boarding spaces.



#### Wider network review

- KiwiRail's proposed regional Freight Hub may bring with it an increase in the number of families residing in the catchment over the next 10 years. KiwiRail is currently consulting with the community about this proposal.
- Council has invested significantly in water, roading and storm water infrastructure in Feilding growth areas. Consultation on changes to land use zoning in Colyton, Halcombe, and Hiwinui is also underway, which may change population demographics in these areas.
- No 5 Squadron RNZAF is transferring from Whenuapai to Ōhakea Airforce base near Bulls in the neighbouring Rangitikei District. The initial redeployment is expected to occur in the second half of 2022 and the remainder at the start of 2023. The squadron is expecting around 270 personnel will be redeployed to Ōhakea base (with approximately 100 children). The expectation is that most of the staff will live in the Feilding and Palmerston North area because of the requirement for the workforce to be on a 30 minute standby.

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



- The government has allocated \$2.86 million through the Provincial Growth Fund towards the National Driver Training Centre at Manfeild. Further investment has been made in forestry research, manufacturing and roading. Education providers, including tertiary organisations and secondary schools, have developed pathways and training across the catchment to retain and attract a skilled workforce.



- We have developed an area strategy to manage the expected growth in the wider Palmerston North/Manawatū area. We are currently working to ensure the sector is well informed of the expected growth and are supporting schools to implement key actions to deliver the right provision in the right place, at the right time. We have six schools with enrolment schemes in place with another pending. We will work with these schools to manage the risk of overcrowding and support the best use of the schooling network.



- We have contracted Ngā Kaitiaki o Ngāti Kauwhata to partner with the Kāhui Ako to embed identity, language, and culture in the local curriculum, and to support whānau engagement.



- School leadership and governance is reasonably stable across this catchment; however, we are working with several schools to support enhanced educational delivery in the catchment.
- We have provided regional mentoring to Feilding High School with a focus on achievement and attendance to support students to achieve NCEA L2.



- Schools in the catchment have received approximately \$2.2 million as part of the Schools Investment Package as one-off funding, to accelerate and bring forward property projects already planned. Schools are also able to use this funding for discretionary property projects.
- We are rebuilding two classrooms and the Learning Support Centre at Feilding High School.



The **Feilding Catchment Plan** will meet the needs of New Zealand's changing schooling network, benefiting an estimated **4,300 learners/ākonga** each year over the next decade to 2030. There are 17 schools/kura in this catchment.

July 2021	Primary	Composite	Secondary	Specialist	Total
Number of schools	15	0	2	0	<b>17</b>
Total roll	2,716	0	1,645	0	<b>4,361</b>
MME Level 1 & 2	96	0	99	0	<b>195</b>
ORS-funded roll	32	0	18	0	<b>50</b>
Māori roll	720	0	533	0	<b>1,253</b>
Pacific roll	70	0	43	0	<b>113</b>

**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 Feilding catchment:



#### Secondary-tertiary opportunities

- We will support the design of a fit for purpose secondary - tertiary pathway with our sector partners.



#### Māori medium

- Hui are planned with local iwi to share our Māori medium planning work to ensure it meets iwi aspirations and aligns with their educational plans.
- Opportunities and choice for bilingual and immersion pathways for learning through Māori medium will be considered through this process.



#### Network Changes and Enrolment Schemes

- Conversations with principals and boards will continue to look at educational pathways across the town. This will include consideration of the demand for options to learn through Māori medium and review the need for localised network solutions such as new enrolment schemes and adjustments where required. We will actively support schools to manage their enrolment schemes effectively.