

Catchment description

The Thames Hauraki catchment covers the area from Tapu, north of Thames, on the Thames Coast, south to Puriri and west across the Hauraki Plains to Maramarua and Mangatangi. The catchment includes the townships of Thames and Ngatea as well as the smaller settlements and the surrounding rural area. The local iwi are Ngāti Maru, Ngāti Pāoa, Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki, Ngāti Tamaterā, Ngāti Whanaunga, Waikato, Ngāti Hako, Ngāti Rāhiri Tumutumu, Ngāti Tara Tokanui and Ngāti Hinerangi. The Thames Hauraki catchment is a geographically diverse catchment in the north of the Waikato region and is located within New Zealand's economic 'golden triangle'. This catchment falls under the Hauraki District Council and Thames Coromandel District Council.

Census 2018 data shows that there was population growth of 13.4% with an additional 5,931 residents across both districts (which includes the Coromandel peninsula). The combined catchment population is now 49,917.

For the Thames Hauraki catchment, Census 2018 data shows smaller growth of 6.8% with an increase of 1,083 residents.

The main industries in the Thames Hauraki catchment are mining and farming, with the towns of Ngatea and Thames being the main service centres for those living in the catchment. These industries are supported by horticulture, aquaculture and tourism.

What's influencing the education system in this catchment?



Changing population profile

- Census 2018 data shows a very small decrease in the population aged between 0 – 14 years since 2013, with this age group comprising about 18% of the total population. Current Statistics NZ population projections forecast a stable school aged population to 2030 followed by long term school aged population decline out to 2043.
- Changes in population growth and structure can significantly influence the education system. Not only do changing birth rates and migration affect population demographics, so too do economic and labour force conditions. The impact of these changes varies across location and over time, therefore we will continue to monitor local school rolls and population change in the catchment to inform investment decisions.



Recent roll growth funding

- Schools across the Hauraki Thames catchment have not received roll growth funding in recent years. We expect that due to surplus capacity across the network we will be able to manage school rolls in the short term, but will continue to monitor this to determine if and when additional teaching spaces may be required.



Rural and isolated schools

- Due to the large and rural nature of much of this catchment, there are some students that have significant travel times to attend their local school.



Leadership and governance

- School leadership and governance is reasonably stable across the Thames Hauraki catchment, with the recent appointment of a new tumuaki at Thames High School. Recruitment of leadership and teaching staff is an ongoing challenge for boards and school leaders. Several schools in the area have some form of additional support in place, including student achievement practitioners and governance support in the form of specialist advisors.
- There are two Kāhui Ako in the catchment, the majority of schools within the catchment are members of a Kāhui Ako and there is growing Early Childhood Education involvement.



Enrolment schemes

- There are four schools in the Thames Hauraki catchment that currently have an enrolment scheme in place: Hauraki Plains College, Moanataiari School, Ngatea School and Te Puru School. The schemes provide a tool for managing the roll at these schools and support the network of schools in the Thames Hauraki catchment.



Māori learners/ākonga

- Census 2018 data shows that the proportion of tamariki aged between 0 – 14 years that identify at Māori is 36%.
- In 2021, there were 79 ākonga engaged in immersion learning through two schools (Kerepehi School and Thames South School) in the catchment.
- There are no kura or wharekura in the Thames Hauraki catchment and currently there is no pathway for Māori immersion students beyond Year 8 into secondary school. There are a small number of students who transition to wharekura outside of the catchment and travel to Te Wharekura o Manaia (north of Thames) or Te Wharekura o Te Rau Aroha (south of Te Aroha).
- There is a strong desire in the Hauraki Thames region to develop Māori medium pathways for ākonga and there has also been a strong community voice to establish dual medium pathways.



Secondary-tertiary pathways

Hauraki Plains College has existing secondary/tertiary pathways which are supported well by the Waikato tertiary sector. Thames High School has strengthened the secondary/tertiary pathway opportunities with the increase of Trades Academy within the district. Both secondary schools operate successful Gateway programmes.



Learning Support

- There were six Learning Support Co-ordinator roles allocated to the Thames Hauraki catchment. Four of these will be based in the Hauraki area and support the schools who are members of the Hauraki Kāhui Ako. The remaining two will be based in Thames and support the schools who are members of the Thames Kāhui Ako.

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



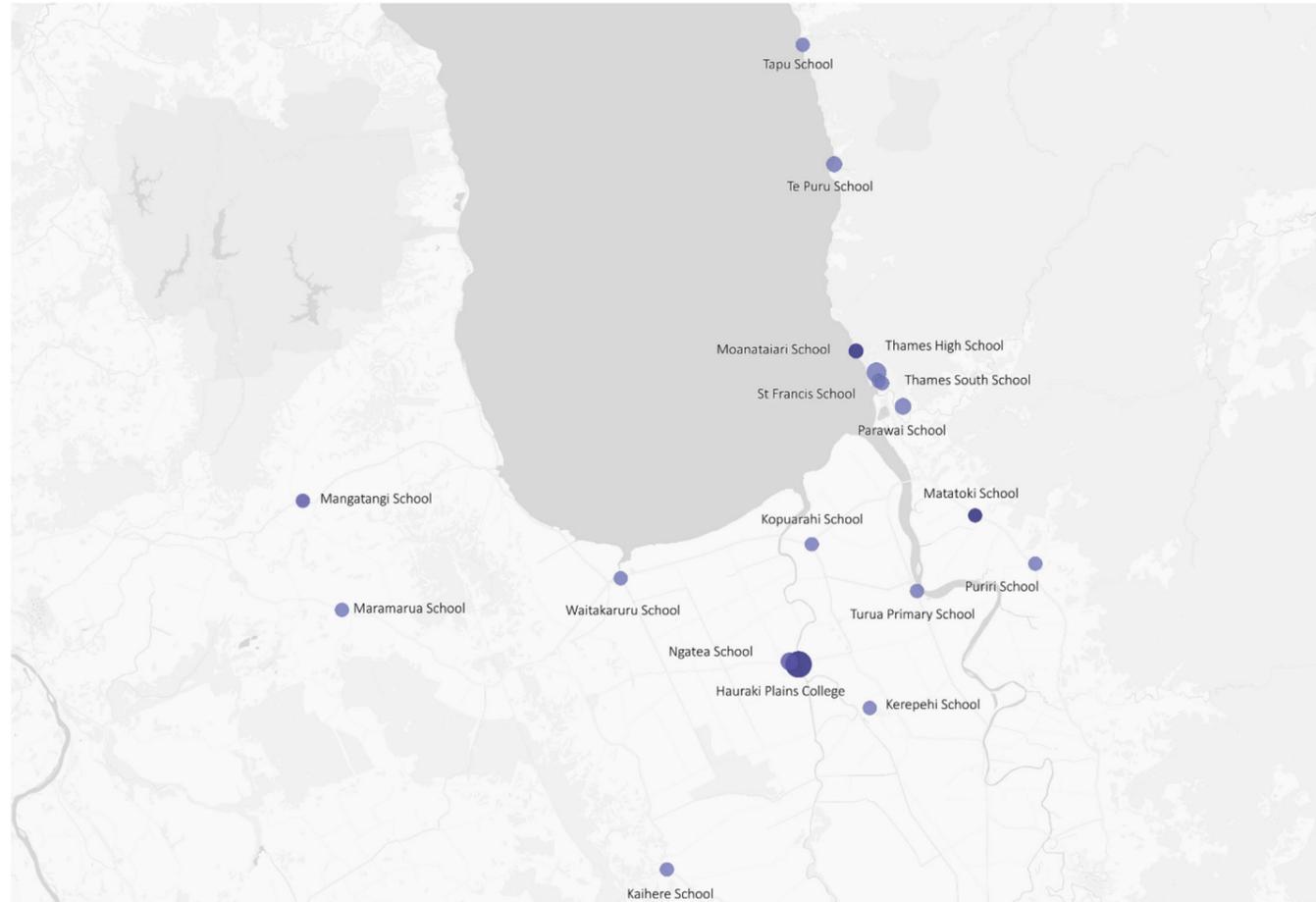
- The Thames area has seen an increase in Trades Academy participation with Wintec boosting their provision in 2020.
- Hauraki Plains College have been undertaking a major review of their careers department and support for students.



- There is no planned roll growth funding for schools in the Thames Hauraki catchment. Schools are managing maintenance work through their school maintenance funding and any projected roll growth can be managed within the network.



- Schools in the catchment are strengthening their engagement with the community, such as through the Kia tū Rangatira survey. This survey for whānau is being completed by several schools on a regular basis providing valuable data about positive factors influencing students to succeed in education and schools have been using this to inform decisions.
- The six Kāhui Ako leaders in this area engage with iwi on a regular basis; partnerships that have helped promote localised teaching and learning.



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.

The **Thames Hauraki Catchment Plan** will meet the needs of New Zealand’s changing schooling network, benefiting an estimated **3,000 learners/ākonga** each year over the next decade to 2030. There are 18 schools/kura in this catchment.

July 2021	Primary	Composite	Secondary	Specialist	Total
Number of schools	16	0	2	0	18
Total funded roll	1,664	0	1,213	0	2,877
MME Level 1 & 2	79	0	0	0	79
ORS-funded roll	8	0	2	0	10
Māori roll	559	0	325	0	884
Pacific roll	55	0	24	0	79

Potential responses to shaping a stronger education system across the Thames Hauraki catchment:



Strengthening the Māori medium pathway

- Engagement with iwi, communities, whānau and the education sector will inform the demand and opportunities in the Thames Hauraki catchment for expanding provision of immersion pathways, and the associated property implications.
- The development of a Māori medium strategy for the Waikato will help to support developing pathways for ākonga in the region.



Relationships with external agencies

- We will continue to develop relationships with iwi, Council, the tertiary sector, employers, early childhood education providers and other government agencies, to align our work in the Thames Hauraki catchment.



Educational support mechanisms

- We will continue to assist schools to strengthen governance, leadership and teaching capability, to improve engagement and student outcomes.



Enrolment schemes/zones

- Additional capacity in the network has resulted in fluctuating rolls at many of the schools in the Thames Hauraki catchment, particularly at the secondary level. We expect that management of existing enrolment schemes and out of zone enrolments will help to address roll growth pressures without the need for additional property investment.
- We have already initiated discussions with Matatoki School about the need to implement an enrolment scheme in order to manage the school roll. We will continue to monitor the roll of all schools in the catchment and engage in discussions with school boards to determine if enrolment schemes are needed; to ensure that we are making best use of the schooling network.