

Catchment description

The Tokoroa Putāruru catchment is in the southern Waikato, centrally located between Hamilton, Tauranga, Rotorua and Taupō. The catchment covers the area from Tirau in the north to Mangakino in the south, comprising the townships of Tokoroa, Putāruru and Tirau, and smaller settlements in the surrounding rural areas.

The local iwi are Raukawa, Ngāti Korokī and Ngāti Hauā. The catchment falls within the South Waikato district.

Census 2018 data shows population growth in the South Waikato of 8.9% since 2013, with an additional 1,971 residents across the whole district taking the total population to just over 24,000. During the same period, the number of children aged under 15 years increased by 6% taking the total number of 0 – 14 year olds in the catchment to 5,526 people.

The local economy is primarily based on forestry and agriculture, and is supported by horticulture and the Fonterra Cheese Factory at Lichfield.

What's influencing the education system in this catchment?



Changing population profile

- In the Tokoroa Putāruru catchment, the proportion of young people under the age of 15 years is 23% of the total population, compared to an average of 20% for the rest of New Zealand. This is a slight decrease since 2013.
- Statistics NZ population projections forecast a relatively stable school age population out to 2030 followed by significant decline in the school-age population over the long term 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.



Kāhui Ako

- Three of the local schools are part of the Putāruru Kāhui Ako, and Te Wharekura o Pātetere is part of the Tainui Kāhui Kura Kāhui Ako. The low number of participating schools and lack of secondary participation in the Kāhui Ako has presented challenges in relation to discussions about pathways. The Kāhui Ako has a co-leadership approach and has been working towards strengthening relationships. Despite these challenges, the recent joining of four ECE's to the Kāhui Ako has helped to strengthen the transition pathway from early childhood to primary school.
- All of the Tokoroa schools participate in a Kāhui Ako and there is strong leadership supported by all the principals. Although the Tokoroa Kāhui Ako has one participating high school, pathways to secondary are still a challenge. The Tokoroa Kāhui Ako has strong relationships with the Pacific community and Iwi.



Leadership and governance

- School leadership and governance is reasonably stable across this catchment. The recruitment of leadership and teaching staff can at times be challenging for the boards and school leaders of some of the schools in this catchment.
- Engagement of schools in the Kāhui Ako is varied across the catchment, however those schools who are involved benefit from the resources and support. There is strong involvement from early learning services in Kāhui Ako.



Enrolment schemes/zones

- Four schools in the Tokoroa Putāruru catchment currently have an enrolment scheme in place; Te Waotu School, Tainui Area School, Tirau School and Tokoroa North School.



Strengthening the Māori medium pathway

- Census 2018 data shows that in the Tokoroa Putāruru catchment, the proportion of tamariki aged between 0 – 14 years that identify as Māori is 52% (2,901 children). We are experiencing an increasing demand for Māori immersion learning across the Tokoroa Putāruru catchment.
- In 2021, there were 393 ākonga engaged in immersion learning at Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Te Hiringa and Te Wharekura o Te Kaokaoroa o Pātetere. There is also Level 3 Māori medium education provided through a rumaki unit at Tokoroa North School, with around 20 taura.
- There is currently a satellite arrangement at TKKM o Te Hiringa which has resulted in the retention of secondary school aged children. As a result, the roll at the kura is growing and there is interest in the school becoming a wharekura in the future.



Secondary-tertiary pathways

- All of the schools with secondary aged students have established programmes to support the readiness and transition of students from secondary to tertiary education.
- The Youth Guarantees programme involves strong collaboration and networking with schools, council and health industry in the Tokoroa Putāruru catchment.
- The South Waikato Gateway Co-ordinator and Tokoroa High Transitions lead are participating of our (CG) Transitions Focus Group and as a group they are exploring different project solutions to mitigate transition.
- Introduced onsite 2-day Trades Academy programme by the Solomon Group in term one; however, due to COVID-19 the organisation has withdrawn programme delivery. Gateway funding is used to supplement some of the available learning time.

- The Youth Guarantee program at Toi Ohomai Institute of Technology and Waikato University have established a programme supporting early readiness and preparation for Tertiary to support first year students. This has been successful and students are now well supported as they transition to further study with Waikato University.



Learning Support

- Three Learning Support Co-ordinator roles have recently been funded for the Tokoroa Kāhui Ako in the first funding tranche. Schools within the Putāruru Kāhui Ako that have not received similar funding will continue to utilise the SENCO roles across the schools with a focus on identifying student needs early and providing a referral system which caters for student needs from early childhood education through to secondary.

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



- We will continue to work with schools to manage their enrolment schemes and support the network of schools in this catchment.



- Te Wharekura o Te Kaokaoroa o Pātetere recently received funding for six additional teaching spaces, and we are working with the school to deliver these spaces.



- Schools in the Tokoroa and Putāruru catchment are fostering strong relationships with iwi, business and whānau support services. Engagement with iwi is being fostered through staff contacts at Putāruru College. The Kāhui Ako have also been able to access some education funding grants through the Iwi.
- Engagement with programs such as Power Up (Pacific programme) and the Secondary School Employer Program is gaining momentum to help boost learning opportunities and create strong vocation pathways. Schools also support school/community initiatives such as drug education and driver license workshops



The **Tokoroa Putāruru Catchment Plan** will meet the needs of New Zealand's changing schooling network, benefiting an estimated **4,200 learners/ākonga** each year over the next decade to 2030. There are 21 schools/kura in this catchment.

July 2021	Primary	Composite	Secondary	Specialist	Total
Number of schools	17	1	3	0	21
Total funded roll	2,792	264	1,242	0	4,298
MME Level 1 & 2	129	264	0	0	393
ORS-funded roll	32	1	19	0	52
Māori roll	1,482	264	697	0	2,443
Pacific roll	312	0	112	0	424

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 Tokoroa Putāruru catchment:



Wider network review

- We will work with the community and schools to develop a long-term plan for education provision in the catchment, acknowledging the role of each school in providing quality future-focused learning environments.



Relationships with external agencies

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



Strengthening the Māori medium pathway

- We are developing a regional plan for Māori medium education in the Waikato to provide for a connected pathway across the rohe for all ākonga.
- Engagement with iwi, communities, whānau and the education sector will inform the demand and opportunities in the Tokoroa Putāruru catchment for expanding provision of immersion pathways; and the associated property implications, including the use of existing school infrastructure.



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

- Surplus capacity at schools in this catchment has resulted in fluctuating rolls at many of the schools. We have already initiated discussions with three schools in the catchment regarding the need to implement an enrolment scheme in order to manage the school roll. We will continue to monitor the rolls 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.



Growing Pacific community

- Census 2018 data shows that 20% of students aged between 0 – 14 years in the Tokoroa Putāruru catchment identify as Pacific. In order to support the growing number of Pacific students living in the Tokoroa Putāruru catchment the Power Up (Pacific Programme) has been established. It is based in Tokoroa with a particular focus on supporting Pacific students of secondary school age.