

Catchment description

The Waihi Paeroa catchment is located on the eastern side of the Hauraki District extending from Netherton and Hikutaia in the west, to Waihi Beach on the east coast. The catchment comprises the townships of Paeroa and Waihi as well as a number of smaller settlements in the surrounding rural areas. Hauraki iwi within this catchment are Ngāti Hako, Ngāti Maru (Hauraki), Ngāti Tamaterā, Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki, Ngāti Tara Tokanui and Ngāti Whanaunga. The catchment lies within the Hauraki and Western Bay of Plenty districts.

Across the Hauraki District, Census 2018 data shows population growth of 12.4% since 2013, with an additional 2,214 residents, taking the total population in the area to 20,022 people. Between 2013 and 2018, the proportion of the population under the age of 15 decreased slightly from 18.8% to 17.6%. However, the total number of children under 15 increased by 168 people, a 7.5% increase.

Gold and silver mining has historically been a key industry in this catchment, and continues to be important, as is agriculture, horticulture and tourism.

What's influencing the education system in this catchment?



Changing population profile

- In the Waihi Paeroa catchment, the proportion of young people under the age of 15 years is 17.6%, below the average of 20% across the rest of New Zealand.
- Statistics NZ population projections forecast a relatively stable school-age population out to 2030 followed by long-term school-age population decline out to 2043, with significantly fewer school-aged children in the Waihi Paeroa catchment by this time.
- 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.



School property

- We expect that due to surplus capacity across the network we will be able to manage school rolls in the short term. We will continue to monitor school rolls to determine if and when any additional teaching spaces may be required. No schools within the Waihi Paeroa catchment have received roll growth funding in recent years.



Kāhui Ako

- The Ohinemuri (Waihi) Kāhui Ako has recently confirmed their achievement challenges, and a new lead principal for the Kāhui Ako is working on strengthening and rebuilding collaborative relationships and pathways.
- The Paeroa Kāhui Ako has had a recent change in leadership and increasing momentum. The Kāhui Ako is working towards ensuring the achievement challenges are achievable.



Leadership and governance

- There have been leadership changes at many of the schools in the Waihi Paeroa catchment. Some schools are currently receiving additional support from the Ministry with leadership and governance. Most schools in the Waihi Paeroa catchment are members of either the Waihi Kāhui Ako or the Ohinemuri Kāhui Ako. Engagement with the early childhood sector is variable but growing stronger across the catchment.



Enrolment schemes

- There are currently three schools in the Waihi Paeroa catchment which have enrolment schemes: Netherton School, Waihi Beach School and Waihi East School.
- Waihi East School and Waihi Beach School have both recently requested that their enrolment schemes be removed due to decreases in their school rolls. Both applications have been declined as there is projected growth in the wider Waihi area and removing the schemes would potentially increase roll numbers and put the schools at risk of overcrowding.



Māori learners/ākonga

- Census 2018 data shows that 30% of tamariki aged between 0 – 14 years identify as Māori. In 2021, there were 82 ākonga engaged in immersion learning through the rumaki units based at Waihi College, Paeroa Central and Waihi Central schools.
- Some ākonga are opting to leave the catchment to enrol at wharekura outside of the area to access a secondary pathway.
- There continues to be difficulties in attracting and retaining Māori medium teachers within this catchment. This issue is prevalent across the entire Waikato region.



Secondary-tertiary opportunities

- Paeroa College has a strong careers and employability skills programme, with increasing numbers taking up the opportunities offered through the Trades Academy programme.
- Waihi College has engaged with local businesses, industries and STP programmes in developing pathways beyond secondary school.



Learning Support

- Three Learning Support Co-ordinator roles have been allocated to schools within the Waihi Kāhui Ako.
- There were no Learning Support Co-ordinators roles allocated to the Paeroa Schools. These schools will continue to utilise the roles that are already established in the schools.

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



- We are monitoring enrolment schemes to ensure that they are being operated effectively to manage overcrowding and to ensure that overcrowding does not occur in some schools while others have surplus capacity.
- We have recently initiated discussions with four schools about implementing enrolment schemes.



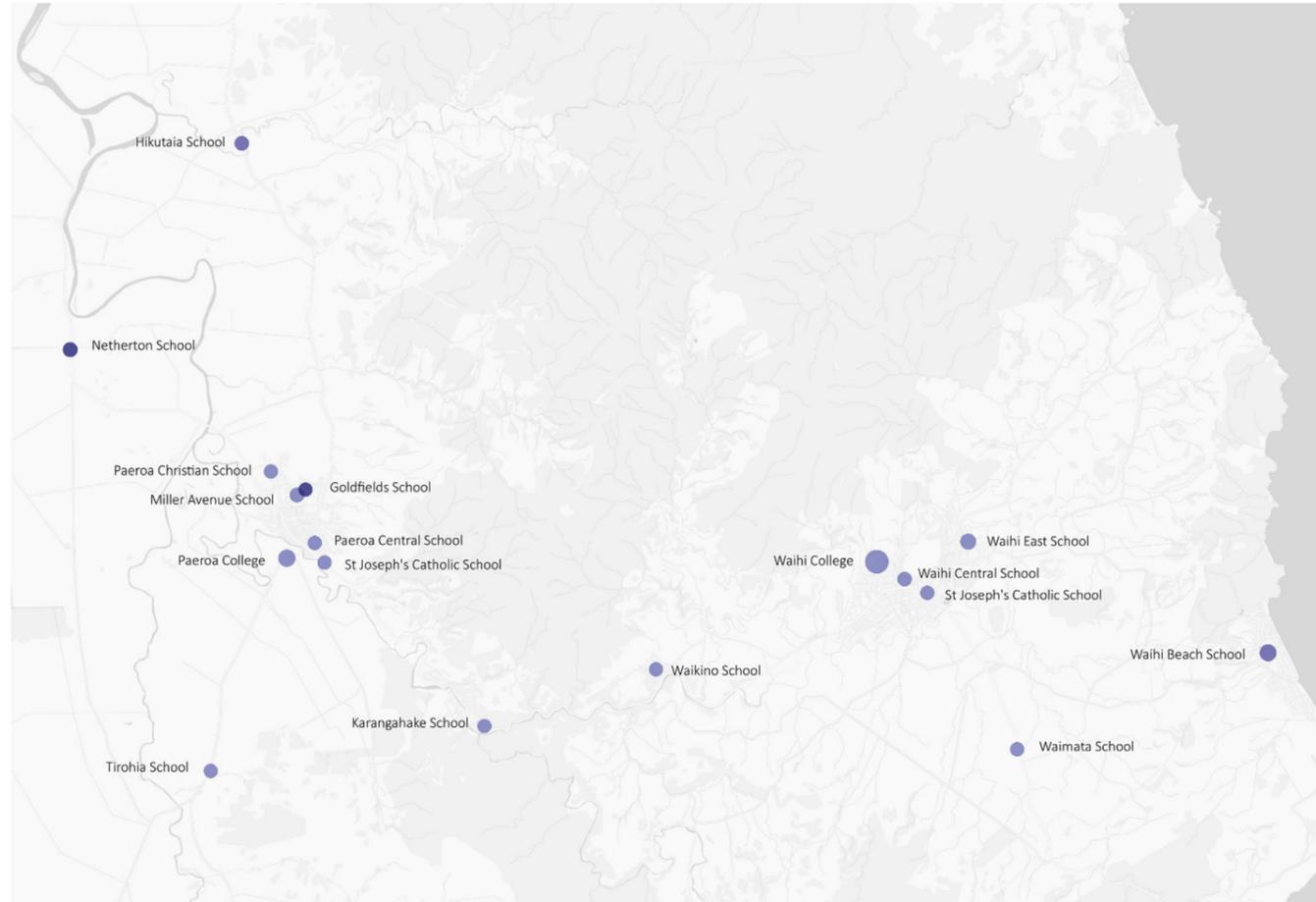
- The Hauraki Māori Trust Board has been supportive and worked with local schools to advise on how to grow connections with local iwi.
- We are working on Māori medium planning for the Waikato rohe. This plan will look at pathways for Māori to succeed as Māori, including the possible establishment of a wharekura at Paeroa Central School.
- We have supported Waihi Central School in a change of classification request to retain Y7-8 students in their Māori language unit.



- Initial discussions are underway with Wintec and Goldfields Railways to explore a flexi-wage project with MSD and further training opportunities.
- Paeroa College are joining the Secondary School Employer Partnerships programme run by Smart Waikato.
- Trades Academy provision to Paeroa College has been strengthened through programmes offered by Te Wānanga o Aotearoa under the Bay of Plenty Trades Academy programme.



- There have been some changes to school bus services in the Waihi area. We will continue to monitor these services to ensure as much as possible a smooth transition to the use of new bus routes.



The **Waihi Paeroa Catchment Plan** will meet the needs of New Zealand's changing schooling network, benefiting an estimated **2,500 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	14	0	2	1	17
Total funded roll	1,478	0	895	87	2,460
MME Level 1 & 2	66	0	16	0	82
ORS-funded roll	7	0	10	86	103
Māori roll	632	0	369	36	1,037
Pacific roll	30	0	14	2	46

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 Waihi Paeroa catchment:



Wider network review

- We will continue to monitor school rolls across the catchment and consider options for making the best use of the existing schooling network to deliver educational outcomes for all tamariki. We will also consider options for further Māori medium provision across the catchment as part of any network review.



Strengthening the Māori medium pathway

- We are developing a regional plan for Māori medium education provision in the Waikato. The goal is 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 Waihi Paeroa catchment for expanding provision of immersion pathways, and the associated property implications.



Relationships with external agencies

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



Educational support mechanisms

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



Network management

- Available capacity in the network has resulted in fluctuating rolls at many of the schools in the Waihi Paeroa catchment. We expect that over time, as the school age population grows, there will be a need to develop and implement enrolment schemes at more schools in the area.
- We will continue to monitor the rolls of all schools in the catchment and as necessary, engage with school boards regarding enrolment schemes and to ensure that we are making best use of the schooling network.