

Catchment description

The Wairarapa South catchment, in the Wellington Region, covers the area from the Remutaka Hill to north Carterton. It is bounded by the Tararua ranges to the west. While it is predominantly rural, the catchment includes the towns of Featherston, Greytown, Carterton and Martinborough. These towns serve the wider rural community where sheep and beef farming and viticulture are the main industries.

Growth is anticipated across the Wairarapa South catchment.

What's influencing the education system in this catchment:



Changing population profile

- Historically, the towns in this catchment have had a high proportion of holiday homes used for weekend living. There has been a shift in recent years as more people are choosing to permanently reside in these areas. Affordable housing options, weather and lifestyle are the main contributors to this. Consequently, school rolls here have increased, with almost 400 additional students enrolled across the catchment between 2008 and 2021. The majority of this growth occurred between 2017 and 2021 (250 students). The highest growth has been in Greytown and Featherston.
- Census 2018 data confirms the anecdotal evidence of an increasing number of 20-39 year olds in the catchment as young couples and families move here, attracted by lower house prices and transport connections to Wellington.



Network management

- Tuturumuri School, located in the rural western part of the catchment, closed on 28 February 2020. This followed consultation on the future of the school in 2019, as it had no students and no known future enrolments.
- Six of the primary schools in this catchment operate enrolment schemes.



Parental choice

- Historically, many students have travelled to attend secondary schools in Masterton. Kuranui College has been experiencing significant roll growth in recent years as it is attracting an increasing share of local students.



State integrated schooling options

- There are three state-integrated schools in this catchment, two Catholic primary schools and one composite Christian School. The Catholic primary schools (St Mary's School Carterton, and St Teresa's School Featherston) have the same Proprietor and have maximum rolls of 138 and 150 respectively. Ponatahi School is a composite Christian school with a maximum roll of 160 students.



Investment in school property

- Most state schools are in a good condition. The gym at Kuranui College has significant weather-tightness issues and we are working with the board on options to address this.



Remote and isolated schools

- Principals of rural schools face challenges in addressing and coordinating property management issues, such as drainage and waste management, and daily monitoring of water quality in swimming pools and water pumps.



Māori learners/ākonga

- In 2021, 24% of students identified as Māori. Education through the Māori medium is available at Carterton School, which operates a Level 3 bilingual unit, and Featherston School, which has a new Level 3 bilingual unit. There is no other Māori medium provision in the catchment.
- There are no Kōhanga reo services within this catchment.



Kāhui Ako

- There is one Kāhui Ako in this catchment, currently led by the Principal of Kuranui College. This Kāhui Ako is focussed on each school supporting local schools for local students, with another focus on improving relationships between local iwi.



Transitional partnerships

- Students have to travel significant distances to access tertiary education as there is no tertiary provision in this catchment.
- Kuranui College, the only state secondary school in the catchment, has developed individualised pathway plans for every student, including working with their families. They have developed strong partnerships with local employers as well as tertiary providers in Masterton, Palmerston North and the Hutt Valley to enable students to access Gateway and Trades Academy provision. Students also access drivers licence training, at risk students support and other post-school opportunities via Wairarapa wide support agencies.
- Seasonal employment opportunities in the farming and food production sectors do impact senior student attendance and engagement at Kuranui College.



Early childhood education

- Early learning services are stable in this catchment. There are 17 providers, and there is capacity for additional students within the existing centres. Whilst the early learning centres are geographically widespread, there is strong communication between them.



Learning support

- There is currently no specialist learning support provision in this catchment.

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



- We are investing in a redevelopment of Greytown School to improve building quality, as well as building four roll growth teaching spaces to accommodate roll growth pressures.
- We have allocated six additional teaching spaces for Kuranui College to alleviate the immediate roll growth pressure.



- We are working with Kimi Ora Specialist School to determine the location for two funded specialist learning support satellite units. There is potential that one may be in South Wairarapa or the students in this catchment will have access to specialist support in a neighbouring catchment.



- We have been proactively working with the schools to discuss the schooling network, including implementing new enrolment schemes.



- We are working with iwi and local and central government agencies to develop the Wellington Regional Growth Framework. The Framework is looking at challenges and opportunities to accommodate population growth in the overall Wellington region over the next 30 years.



The **Wairarapa South Catchment Plan** will meet the needs of New Zealand's changing schooling network, benefiting an estimated **2,400 learners/ākonga** each year over the next decade to 2030. There are 14 schools/kura in this catchment.

July 2021	Primary	Composite	Secondary	Specialist	Total
Number of schools	12	1	1	0	14
Total funded roll	1,890	135	653	0	2,678
MME Level 1 & 2	1	0	0	0	1
ORS-funded roll	18	2	10	0	30
Māori roll	454	3	191	0	648
Pacific roll	43	0	17	0	60

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 Wairarapa South catchment:



Secondary-tertiary pathways

- We will support Kuranui College to continue to strengthen strong links to tertiary provision for local students.



Investment in school property

- We will continue to monitor school rolls and provide additional teaching space where required to address roll growth.



Māori medium

- We will work with iwi, schools and whānau to understand aspirations and establish a pathway for Māori medium education in the catchment.