

## Education Report: Application for a change of class for Ngataki School (1055)

<b>To:</b>	Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education		
<b>cc</b>	Hon Kelvin Davis, Associate Minister of Education		
<b>Date:</b>	15 January 2020	<b>Priority:</b>	High
<b>Security Level:</b>	In Confidence	<b>METIS No:</b>	1216535
<b>Drafter:</b>	Pat Conrad	<b>DDI:</b>	s 9(2)(a)
<b>Key Contact:</b>	Hira Gage, Director of Education for Tai Tokerau	<b>DDI:</b>	
<b>Messaging seen by Communications team:</b>	N/A	<b>Round Robin:</b>	No

### Purpose of Report

This report asks you to agree to a proposal by the Ngataki School commissioner to change the class of the school, under section 153 of the Education Act 1989 (the Act) from a Year 1-8 primary school to a Year 1-10 composite school. This would be a phased implementation.

You agreed to consultation about this proposal under section 157 of the Act on 20 November 2019 [METIS 1208312 refers]. We have completed this consultation on your behalf.

We recommend you agree to this change.

### Summary

1. Ngataki School (the school) is a decile 1, co-educational Year 1-8 school, situated in the settlement of Ngataki, Tai Tokerau. This a rural community on the Aupouri Peninsula, 53 km (45 minutes) from Kaitia.
2. The school's Māori community is very active with a long-established marae. Ngataki School and Te Hapua School both draw students from Ngati Kuri, and have a shared principal and a shared commissioner.
3. In 2017 both schools began working collaboratively in shared spaces using a localised place-based curriculum. Teachers collaborate with annual and term planning, shared teaching opportunities, shared and individual enquiry documents, and a shared vision and strategic plan. Both schools participate in joint Education Outside the Classroom (EOTC) events including camps.
4. There is increased whānau consultation between the two schools.
5. The closest secondary school is Kaitia College. Kaitia is a two hour return commute by bus from Ngataki and a four hour return commute from Te Hapua (excluding any stops).

6. Since her appointment, the current principal, a former pedagogical leader of the schools, has proactively strengthened the relationship between the schools, the local marae, their whānau, kaumātua, and hapū.
7. The principal consulted internally on this proposal, then engaged with parents, whānau, hapū and marae.
8. We consulted with the board and the boards of all state schools whose rolls might be affected by the proposed change.
9. All schools supported the application. ✓
10. The proposal would support *Maihi Karauna*, the Māori language strategy, foster increased participation and success for Māori students through the advancement of Māori education initiatives, and aligns with *Ka Hikitia*. It also aligns with the national network plan to support Māori medium education in the network.
11. The change would result in approximately eight to twelve Year 9 students from both Ngataki and Te Hapua Schools remaining at Ngataki School each year, progressing through to the subsequent Year 10 level. They would then choose a secondary school for the remainder of their secondary schooling.
12. The commissioner has requested a phased implementation whereby only Year 9 students are proposed to be enrolled for 2020.
13. Across both schools there is currently a 4.62 Full Time Teacher Equivalent Staffing entitlement (FTTE). If this proposal is approved, the additional operational cost to the Crown is estimated at approximately \$245,000 (excl GST) per annum. There would be no property implications as the school has sufficient teaching spaces for the projected roll.
14. Tai Tokerau kura-ā-iwi, Te Kura o Te Kao, situated between the two schools, has also submitted a change of class application, requesting to become a composite (Year 1 – 10) kura. The school and Te Kura o Te Kao have been supporting each other through their discussions, consultation and applications.

## Recommended actions

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We recommend that you:

- a) **agree** that, under section 153(1) of the Education Act 1989, Ngataki School change its class from a Year 1 – 8 primary school to a Year 1-10 composite school with effect from 20 July 2020 (start of Term 3);

Agree / Disagree

- b) **agree** that this change be phased in, with the school providing Year 1 to 9 in 2020 and Year 1 to 10 in 2021;

Agree / Disagree

- c) **sign** the attached letter to the board chair and the local Members of Parliament informing them of your decision;

- d) **sign** the attached *New Zealand Gazette* notice;

- e) **agree** that this report be proactively released in line with your expectations. Any information that might need to be withheld will be done so in line with the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982.

Release / Not release

  
Katrina Casey  
Deputy Secretary  
Sector Enablement and Support

14/1/2020

  
Hon Chris Hipkins  
Minister of Education

28/1/20

## Background

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1. Ngataki School (the school) is a decile 1, co-educational Year 1-8 school, situated in Ngataki, Tai Tokerau. This is a rural community on the Aupouri Peninsula, 53 km (45 minutes) from Kaitaia.
2. Te Hapua School is a decile 1, co-educational Year 1-8 school, in Te Hapua, Tai Tokerau. It is the northern-most school in New Zealand. This is a remote rural community on the Aupouri Peninsula, 102 km (90 minutes) from Kaitaia. Both schools share a commissioner and a principal.
3. The closest secondary school is Kaitaia College. Kaitaia is a two hour return commute by bus from Ngataki and a four hour return commute from Te Hapua (excluding any stops).
4. The school roll at Ngataki has fluctuated over the last five years ranging from 26 to 32. While there is movement of enrolments and leavers over a year, there is a trend of whānau moving back to both communities.
5. The majority of students, staff and whānau are of Māori heritage from the Ngāti Kuri iwi. The Ngāti Kuri Trust Board's strategic goal: "*Ngāti Kuri language, identity and culture is strong and thriving wherever we are*", is an important community aspiration that impacts on student learning, and has led to community-initiated language programmes held at the local marae. Currently, most students do not come from Māori-speaking homes.
6. The community is very active with a long-established marae and a recently re-established Kōhanga Reo in Te Hapua.
7. The principal, a former pedagogical leader of the schools, has proactively strengthened the relationship between the schools, the local marae, their whānau, kaumātua and hapū.
8. Te Kura o Te Kao, situated between Ngataki School and Te Hapua School, has also submitted a change of class application requesting to become a composite (Year 1-10) kura. Both schools have shared thinking and have been supporting each other through their discussions, consultation and now, applications.

## Application

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9. From 2016 Ngataki and Te Hapua Schools have operated as 'Mahi Tahi - two schools working as one'. Teachers collaborate with annual and term planning, shared teaching opportunities, shared and individual inquiry documents, and a shared vision and strategic plan. Both schools participate in joint EOTC events including camps. In 2019 the schools have been working collaboratively with Te Kura o Te Kao as part of a *Teacher Led Innovation Funding* initiative.
10. In December 2018 the principal delivered a presentation to the commissioner outlining the need to continue the pedagogical approach that the students of Ngataki and Te Hapua Schools have succeeded with.
11. The presentation concluded that Ngataki School should extend its pathway from Year 1-8 to Year 1-10 to better support the whānau and children of the Te Hapua and Ngataki communities. The commissioner resolved to support the presentation and conclusion.
12. An internal consultation process was then initiated and advanced on behalf of the commissioner by the principal and staff.

13. In March 2019 the principal presented to the commissioner and the Ngati Kuri Trust Board a draft application for a change of class from Year 1-8 to Year 1-10. The commissioner and the Trust Board supported the application (see Annexes 2 and 3).
14. The change would result in approximately eight to twelve Year 9 students from both Ngataki and Te Hapua Schools remaining at Ngataki School each year, progressing through to Year 10 the following year. Students would move on to a secondary school for the remainder of their schooling. The commissioner has requested a phased implementation, where only Year 9 students are proposed to be enrolled for 2020:

2020 Years 1 – 9

2021+ Years 1 – 10

15. The proposed combined rolls to 2022 are set out in the table below:

Table 1 – projected roll levels 2019 to 2022

Year	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	TOTAL
2019	0	5	10	8	1	10	12	7	9	-	-	62
2020	4	1	6	10	8	1	10	12	7	9	-	68
2021	4	4	1	7	10	8	1	10	12	8	9	73
2022	4	4	4	1	7	10	8	1	10	12	8	69

16. The proposal aims to provide wharekura or secondary-level education to give students better options upon leaving secondary schooling than they currently experience. It is further hoped that at least some of those gaining higher qualifications will return to Ngataki and Te Hapua as stewards within their own and neighbouring communities. The proposal also seeks *“to promote the survival of te reo Māori me ōna tikanga o Ngati Kuri”*.

## Board consultation

17. The commissioner's consultation hui were led by the principal with parents of current students. The community consultation hui were held on 3 and 4 December 2018, and again on 14 February 2019. Whānau were largely supportive. 100% (17/17 whānau) from Ngataki and 83% (15/18 whānau) from Te Hapua were in favour of the proposal for Ngataki School to become a Year 1-10 school.
18. The commissioner has consulted with the boards of schools or groups that might be affected by the proposal. No objections were raised.
19. All students would likely attend Kaitaia College from Year 9 if the proposal were declined.

## Statutory consultation

20. You agreed to consultation under section 157 of the Act on 20 November 2019 [METIS 1208312 refers]. We have completed this consultation on your behalf.
21. We consulted with the boards of the following schools:

- Kaitaia College
- Waiharara
- Pukenui

- Paparore
- Kaitaia Abundant Life
- Awanui
- Te Kura o Te Kao.

22. All schools supported the proposal.

## Education at the Kura

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23. The following comments have been taken from the most recent Education Review Office review (03/08/2018):

*A well-managed change approach, including open and honest communication, is building trust and mutual respect between teachers and staff, and with the community. The school's meaningful consultation is deepening learning partnerships with Ngāti Kuri whānau and is promoting an engaged and productive learning community.*

*In partnership with the Ngāti Kuri Trust Board, teachers and whānau, the principal has created a strategic vision and goals for both schools that are connected to The New Zealand Curriculum and to Ngāti Kuri expectations. Strategic goals are well aligned to teachers' professional learning and to their inquiry-based appraisal. Internal evaluation is used purposefully to sustain and further improve outcomes for learners.*

*Learning programmes immerse children in te ao Māori, including scientific inquiry within the Ngāti Kuri rohe. These localised experiences support children, teachers and whānau to learn within and about their own environment. Importantly, they promote children's pride in their language, culture and identity. Learning programmes enhance children's critical thinking and problem solving skills. Field trips and using digital devices provide significant learning opportunities for children, staff and whānau beyond the local area.*

24. Both schools are on a three year review cycle.

## Education in the local area

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25. There is one state English medium secondary school in the area, Kaitaia College, catering for students from Year 9 - 13, with a roll of around 730 students. Other schools that cater for secondary-level students are Te Rangi Aniwaniwa, a composite (Year 1-13) Māori immersion kura, Kaitaia Abundant Life School, a state integrated Year 1-13 with a roll of 195 students, and Te Kura o Te Kao, currently a Year 1-8 kura-ā-iwi of 32 students. As stated, Te Kura o Te Kao is also in the process of requesting a change of class to become a composite (Year 1-10) kura.

26. All primary schools in the area are Years 1-8 full primary schools. They are set out in the table over:

Table 2: Primary schools in the vicinity of Ngataki School

School	March 2019 Roll	Distance
Pukenui School	80	12 km (9 min)
Waiharara School	21	30 km (23 min)
Paparore School	159	36 km (31 min)

27. All schools are on a three year ERO review cycle.

28. The proposal would support *Maihi Karauna*, the Māori language strategy, foster increased participation and success for Māori students through the advancement of Māori education initiatives, and aligns with *Ka Hikitia*. It also aligns with the national network plan to support Māori medium education in the network.

### Financial implications

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29. If this application is approved the additional operational cost to the Crown is estimated at approximately \$245,000 (excl GST) per annum.

### Staffing

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30. The schools have a combined staffing of 4.62 FTTE.

31. Primary teachers are able to teach to Year level 10 without further training, so if this is approved the current staff could support the Year 9-10 students.

### Property and transport implications

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32. There is currently sufficient property at the school to accommodate additional students if approval is given to the proposal.

33. No changes to existing transport arrangements are necessary. Transport entitlements for students at other schools in the area will not be affected. The school intends to provide its own transport for students.

### Conclusion

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34. We consider it appropriate to approve the proposed change of class for Ngataki School to a Year 1-10 composite school because:

- the application arises from reports of success experienced by students of fellow kura-ā-iwi from across the national kura-ā-iwi network
- the change would provide whānau with the opportunity for their tamariki to be educated within a designated character pathway and Māori medium provision
- there is strong community support for the proposal, and support from local schools
- the change would support *Maihi Karauna*, foster increased participation and success for Māori students through the advancement of Māori education initiatives, and aligns with *Ka Hikitia*. It also aligns with the national plan to grow Māori medium education in the network.

## Risks and mitigation

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35. s 9(2)(g)(i)

36.

## Next steps

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37. If you agree, please sign the attached notice for the *New Zealand Gazette* giving effect to your decision (Annex 1).
38. Please also sign the attached letters to the commissioner of Ngataki and Te Hapua schools (Annex 2) and local Members of Parliament (Annex 3).
39. We will support the commissioner to implement this change.

## Proactive release

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40. It is intended that this Education Report be proactively released in line with your expectations that information be released as soon as possible. Any information that might need to be withheld will be done so in line with the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982.

## Annexes

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|----------|-------------------------------------------|
| Annex 1: | Notice for the <i>New Zealand Gazette</i> |
| Annex 2: | Letter to the commissioner                |
| Annex 3: | Letters to local Members of Parliament    |



Proactively Released

# Hon Chris Hipkins

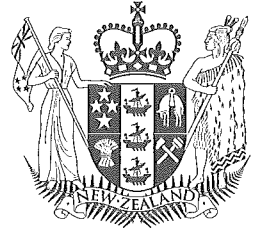
MP for Rimutaka

Minister of Education

Minister of State Services

Leader of the House

Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services



## Change of class for Ngataki School, Ngataki, Northland (1055)

Under sections 153(1) and 153(1A) of the Education Act 1989, I declare that Ngataki School will become a Year 1 – 10 composite school on 20 July 2020 and cease to be a primary school on that day.

The change will be phased in as follows:

2020: Year 1 to Year 9.

2021: Year 1 to Year 10.

Dated at Wellington this 28<sup>th</sup> day of January 2020

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'CH' followed by a stylized surname.

Chris Hipkins  
Minister of Education

Annex 2: Letter to the commissioner

Proactively Released

# Hon Chris Hipkins

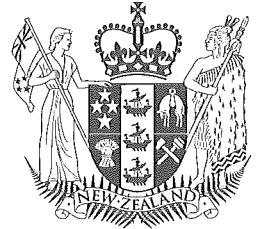
**MP for Rimutaka**

Minister of Education

Minister of State Services

Leader of the House

Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services



Harry Burkhardt  
Commissioner  
Ngataki School  
5265 Far North Rd  
R D 4  
KAITAIA 0484

Dear Harry

Further to my letter of 20 November 2019 I am writing to you regarding your board resolution of 25 March 2019 to apply to change the class of Ngataki School from Year 1-8 primary school to a Year 1-10 composite school.

The Ministry of Education has consulted on my behalf with the boards of all schools whose rolls might be affected by this change.

Having considered all the information provided to me I have decided to change the class of Ngataki School under sections 153(1) and 153(1A) of the Education Act 1989 to become a Year 1 – 10 composite school.

This change will be notified in the *New Zealand Gazette* and will take effect from 20 July 2020, and will be phased in as follows:

2020: Year 1 to Year 9.  
2021: Year 1 to Year 10.

The Ministry of Education's Senior Education Advisor for Ngataki School, Pat Conrad, will be in contact with you regarding the process from here.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'CH'.

**Chris Hipkins**  
**Minister of Education**

## Annex 3: Letters to local MPs

Proactively Released

# Hon Chris Hipkins

MP for Rimutaka

Minister of Education

Minister of State Services

Leader of the House

Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services



Hon Kelvin Davis  
MP for Te Tai Tokerau  
Parliament Buildings  
WELLINGTON 6160

Dear Kelvin

I am writing to let you know that I have received an application from the board of trustees of Ngataki School in Northland for a change of class from a primary school to a composite school.

Under sections 153 (1) and 153 (1A) of the Education Act 1989, I have decided that Ngataki School will become a Year 1 – 10 composite school. This change will be notified in the *New Zealand Gazette* and take effect from 28 April 2020. The change will be phased in as follows:

2020: Year 1 to Year 9.

2021: Year 1 to Year 10.

I consider this change will assist local students who so choose to continue their Māori medium education beyond Year 8.

Yours sincerely

**Chris Hipkins**  
Minister of Education

# Hon Chris Hipkins

MP for Rimutaka

Minister of Education

Minister of State Services

Leader of the House

Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services



Matt King  
MP for Northland  
Parliament Buildings  
WELLINGTON 6160

Dear Mr King

I am writing to let you know that I have received an application from the board of trustees of Ngataki School in Northland for a change of class from a primary school to a composite school.

Under sections 153 (1) and 153 (1A) of the Education Act 1989, I have decided that Ngataki School will become a Year 1 – 10 composite school. This change will be notified in the *New Zealand Gazette* and take effect from 28 April 2020. The change will be phased in as follows:

2020: Year 1 to Year 9.  
2021: Year 1 to Year 10.

I consider this change will assist local students who so choose to continue their Māori medium education beyond Year 8.

Yours sincerely

**Chris Hipkins**  
Minister of Education