The National Education Growth Plan (NEGP) is a new way of thinking about and co-ordinating the Ministry of Education’s response to population growth across New Zealand. The NEGP incorporates the catchment plans for high growth areas throughout New Zealand.

Wellington

Key facts

The most significant growth in Wellington is concentrated in northern Kāpiti and Wellington North through greenfields development, and in central Wellington through intensification. Both types of growth put pressure on existing schools, many of which are on constrained sites.

Northern Kāpiti

Significant investment in roading infrastructure has reduced travel time to Wellington making northern Kāpiti a desirable location for families. The opening of Transmission Gully in 2020 is expected to see this intensify.

We also anticipate the urban-rural boundary to shift further north as the population grows and previously undeveloped areas are developed as land becomes available. To address population growth in this catchment, we are reviewing site options for future primary school provision in Waikanae. There is also a desire from iwi to expand provision of Māori medium education and additional capacity may be required.

We will continue to work with schools in this catchment to review existing enrolment schemes and implement new ones to better use our existing network of school infrastructure.

Wellington Central and North

Greenfields development to the north and intensification in central Wellington are putting pressure on our network of schools.

The majority of future residential growth in Wellington Central is expected to come from medium and high density housing. School rolls have been steadily increasing and the primary school network is under pressure. Many schools are on constrained sites which limits the opportunities for expansion.

The Wellington North catchment is a popular area for families, with medium density housing and close proximity to the city. Large greenfield sites in Newlands/Grenada are being developed.

Many schools in this catchment have enrolment schemes and we will continue to amend and implement these as necessary. We are working with primary schools to review the teaching of the Y7-8 technology curriculum and what these facilities might look like in the future to help free up crucial space in schools. We will also add additional teaching space, redevelop and master plan existing schools, and consider all network options to relieve pressure on schools.

Investment

Long term investment is required to deliver the NEGP, including in Wellington.

Planning

The Ministry will continue to engage with the education sector, to understand their ideas for managing the growth in their local schooling networks in the future. Our plans are aligned with and enhanced through partnering with Councils and other government agencies.

We will continue to work with school communities as population projections are dynamic and subject to change over time.

Solutions

Catchment plans present strategic solutions for managing education demand across New Zealand. Detailed response planning for each catchment will follow.

We will continue to work with schools to implement and amend enrolment schemes, apply schooling level changes, add in additional capacity and consider network structure as required across the regions.

For areas outside of the NEGP that are growing, we still plan to address this growth, using solutions such as roll growth classrooms to address increased demand.