



Education Report: Agreement to proposed NELP and TES priorities and timeline

To:	Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education		
Date:	12 June 2020	Priority:	Medium
Security Level:	In Confidence	METIS No:	1231276
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Messaging seen by Communications team:	No	Round Robin:	No

Purpose of Report

This paper seeks your feedback on a revised draft strategy on a page for the Statement of National Education and Learning Priorities (NELP) and Tertiary Education Strategy (TES), to enable commencement of a Cabinet process to approve the final NELP and TES, before the House rises.

Recommended Actions

The Ministry of Education recommends that you:

- a. **note** that we have reviewed the draft NELP and TES document in the context of COVID-19 and are confident that the priorities are still the right ones to support learners through the post-COVID recovery
Noted
- b. **note** that, due to the impact of COVID-19, we now recommend a plan on a page approach for the NELP and TES, which can clearly and simply set out the Government's priorities for education
Noted
- c. **note** that officials consider that more than the plan on a page will be needed, and that a short, tightly written document that unpacks the priorities is necessary for the TES and NELP to have practical effect – the attached draft Cabinet paper seeks agreement for you to finalise this before publication
Noted
- d. **agree** to the priorities and content set out in the draft NELP and TES on a page, attached as Appendix A to the Cabinet paper

Agree / Disagree

e. **agree** to the Cabinet timeline set out in this briefing (Cabinet approval on 6 July)

Agree / Disagree

f. **note** that, subject to agreement to recommendations d and e, officials will start formal agency consultation on the draft NELP and TES plan on a page and Cabinet paper, ahead of working with your office to finalise them

Agree / Disagree

g. **note** that officials would like to discuss this with you at your next available agencies meeting

Noted

Proactive Release Recommendation

h. **agree** that this Education Report is proactively released once the final NELP and TES have been approved by Cabinet and published.

Agree / Disagree



Dr Andrea Schöllmann
Deputy Secretary
Education System Policy

12/06/2020

Hon Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education

__/__/2020

Background

1. Following the disruption caused by COVID-19, we recommend seeking Cabinet approval on the NELP/TES soon, so that the Government's vision for the education system, and its vital role in New Zealand's economic recovery, is clearly articulated.

Impact of COVID-19

2. Since then, New Zealand has been responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. We have reviewed the draft NELP/TES in the context of COVID-19 and are confident that the priorities articulated in the draft NELP/TES are still the right ones. However, we propose a plan on a page approach, to enable the document to be rapidly progressed through departmental and Ministerial processes for approval.
3. The pandemic highlighted the equity issues that exist across the education system, and has made it even more important that our system supports success for a broader range of learners. In particular, in the post-COVID economy, the education system will need to support successful transitions from education to employment, as well as supporting people to upskill and retrain. This is a strong focus of the draft NELP and TES priorities, particularly through priority 7.

Next steps

4. We have attached a draft NELP/TES on a page document and draft Cabinet paper. Subject to your agreement to these documents, we will work with your office to finalise these for SWC on 1 July and Cabinet approval on 6 July. This will mean a short period of departmental and ministerial consultation from 16 June until 23 June, and lodging the paper with SWC on 25 June.

Annexes

Annex 1: (Draft) Cabinet paper

Annex 2: (Draft) A3 NELP/TES priorities

Final Cabinet paper can be found here: <https://www.education.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/R-1-1e-CAB-20-MIN-0094-Cabinet-pack-Redacted.pdf>