Agreement to re-designate Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Waioweka (2061) to be a designated character school and change its name

To: Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education
Cc: Hon Kelvin Davis, Associate Minister of Education
Date: 6 November 2019
Security Level: In confidence
Priority: High

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to seek your approval, under section 154A of the Education Act 1989 (the Act), of a change in designation for Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Waioweka (2061), from a kura kaupapa Māori to a designated character school (kura-ā-īwi). You are also asked to approve an associated change of name for the kura to Te Kura o Waioweka.

Summary

1. Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Waioweka (TKKM o Waioweka) is a decile 1 co-educational full primary school (Year 1 – 8) in Opōtiki, Bay of Plenty. You have agreed to consult over the board’s application to change designation from a kura kaupapa Māori to a designated character school (kura-ā-īwi) [METIS 1199198 refers].

2. The application seeks to conclude a decade-long transition that the kura has made towards implementation of a kura-ā-īwi curriculum, and participation in the national network of kura-ā-īwi. The kura has been an active member of Ngā Kura ā Iwi o Aotearoa since 2010.

3. Although “Kura Kaupapa Māori” is now a protected term, the kura could retain that part of its name, having been in existence before the Education Act was amended. However, it proposes to change its name to Te Kura o Waioweka.

4. Consultation has been completed with eight schools and kura offering Māori medium education in Opōtiki District. The boards of these schools are positive and/or have no concerns regarding the proposed changes.

5. Both national bodies involved (Te Runanga Nui o Ngā Kura Kaupapa Māori o Aotearoa and Ngā Kura ā Iwi o Aotearoa) confirmed this change reflects the current facts.
6. There are no property, transport, or financial implications arising from the proposed change.

Recommended Actions

We recommend that you:

a. note that the Ministry of Education has received an application from the Board of Trustees for TKKM o Waioweka to change designation from a kura kaupapa Māori to a designated character school; Noted

b. note that you agreed to consult on this application [METIS 1199198 refers] and this consultation has been completed; Noted

c. agree to a change of designation under section 154A of the Education Act 1989, for TKKM o Waioweka to cease being a kura kaupapa Māori and become a designated character school (kura-ā-iwi); Agree/Disagree

d. agree to change the name of the kura to Te Kura o Waioweka; Agree/Disagree

e. note that the change of designation will be achieved via notice in the New Zealand Gazette; Noted

f. sign the attached Gazette notice and letter to the TKKM o Waioweka Board of Trustees and local Members of Parliament advising them of your decision;

g. 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. Agree / Disagree

Katrina Casey
Deputy Secretary
Sector Enablement and Support
6/11/2019

Hon Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education
20/11/19
Background

1. Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Waioweka (TKKM o Waioweka) is a decile 1 co-educational full primary school (Year 1 – 8) in Ōpōtiki, Bay of Plenty. The 1 March 2019 roll was 68 students.

2. The board has applied to change designation from a kura kaupapa Māori to a designated character school (kura-a-īwi). This application seeks to conclude a decade-long transition that the kura has made towards kura-ā-īwi curriculum, and participation in the national network of kura-ā-īwi. The kura has been an active member of Ngā Kura ā Iwi o Aotearoa since 2010.

3. The current education at TKKM o Waioweka is focused on teaching and learning within the tikanga of Ngāti Ira, a hapū of Whakatōhea īwi. Since establishment as a kura kaupapa Māori, the kura has maintained a commitment to Ngāti Iratanga, initially alongside Te Aho Matua with a strong focus on Ngāti Iratanga, and latterly as īwi-embedded curriculum, teaching and governance values.

4. You agreed to consult over the board’s application to change designation from a kura kaupapa Māori to a designated character school (kura-a-īwi) [METIS 1199198 refers]. That consultation has been completed.

Legislative requirements

5. Under section 154A(1)(b) of the Education Act 1989 (the Act) you may remove the designation of a Kura Kaupapa Māori and re-designate it as a designated character school.

6. To be so re-designated the kura must meet the requirements of section 156 of the Act. These are:
   a. the designated character school will have a character that is in some specific way or ways different from the character of ordinary state schools
   b. it is desirable for students whose parents want them to do so to get such an education
   c. students at the school will get an education of a kind that differs significantly from the education they would get at an ordinary state school.

Proposed Designated Character

7. The kura whānau for TKKM o Waioweka are asking for the following designated character description to be gazetted if the re-designation and name changes are approved. A draft Gazette notice is attached (Annex 1).

   - To nurture each individual learner, through Mana Ahureatanga, Mana Mātauranga and Mana Orangatunutanga.

   - The development of learners’ knowledge of Ngāti Iratanga, Te Whakatōhea and strengthening relationships and connections with their whānau, hapū and īwi.
To instil the values of whānau, manaaki, wairua, tiaki, aroha and pono as the guiding lights that will permeate throughout the kura.

To strive for the highest quality of learning and achievement allowing for individual differences in learning, to allow for those with special needs and to provide learning situations of non-failure.

Retention of the aspirations of the koroua and kuia of Ngāti Ira and revitalisation of the customs and traditional knowledge of its hapū.

Te Kura o Waioweka is a member of Ngā Kura ā Iwi o Aotearoa. Our kaupapa aligns with Ngā Kura ā Iwi and fully support the focus on our learners achieving Te Tīhi o Angitu (cultural autonomy, intellectual independence and holistic wellbeing).

8. TKKM o Waioweka is focused on the education of uri of Ngāti Ira, a hapū of Whakatohea ā Iwi, and enrols whānau who accept this education and wish to enrol their tamariki in the kura. Since establishment as kura kaupapa Māori, the kura has maintained a commitment to Ngāti Ira Itangata, initially alongside Te Aho Matua with a strong focus on Ngāti Itangata, and latterly as ā Iwi-embedded curriculum, teaching and governance values.

9. This character is different from the character of ordinary state schools. The curriculum provides an education that differs significantly from the education students would get at an ordinary state school. This fits within the Ka Hikitia education strategy for Māori to achieve education success as Māori. As such it is desirable that students who seek it receive this type of education.

10. The proposed designated character meets the requirements of the Act.

Name change

11. If TKKM o Waioweka ceases to be a kura kaupapa Māori, the name of the school would normally have to be changed to remove the reference to ‘Kura Kaupapa Māori’, as this is a protected term. This has also been requested by Te Runanga Nui o Ngā Kura Kaupapa Māori o Aotearoa (TRN) in its consultation response.

12. Although the kura could retain that part of its name, having been in existence before the Education (Te Aho Matua) Amendment Act 1999, the TKKM o Waioweka Board of Trustees has resolved to change the name of the school to Te Kura o Waioweka, in keeping with its redesignation as a kura-ā-īwi.

Consultation

13. On your behalf, we have consulted eight schools and kura in Ōpōtiki District who offer Māori medium education and whose rolls might be affected by the proposed change. We undertook an individual call survey of board opinions, with the result that no kura or school holds any concerns about the proposal for TKKM o Waioweka to change designation and name.

14. The Ministry also consulted with TRN and Ngā Kura ā Iwi o Aotearoa. Both kaitiaki organisations confirmed the proposal to change designation for TKKM o Waioweka accords with the current affiliation for this kura as a kura-a-īwi.
Education at the kura

15. The January 2018 Education Review Office (ERO) review describes TKKM o Waioweka as effectively using information to plan for student outcomes, and as a kura whānau working in line with expectations for an effective kura in the ERO Framework for Review and Evaluation for Kura.

16. ERO also commented on the vision of TKKM o Waioweka leadership as focussing on achievement outcomes for students while acknowledging and maintaining their connections to Ngāi Ira tikanga.

17. The Tumuaki has advised the kura does not need to make changes to curriculum or pedagogy in response to the change of designation.

18. Change of designation from a Kura Kaupapa Māori is not likely to affect student pathways for the kura or within the Community of Learning.

19. The Tumuaki has confirmed that the kura will continue in its membership of the Ōpōtiki Community of Learning and this is not likely to be affected by any change of designation.

Network Considerations

20. We would not expect to see any significant change in roll numbers at other kura around Waioweka as a result of the change in designation.

21. There are no network concerns with this proposal in terms of rolls and demand for the proposed type of education of kura-a-iwi, although a recent decline in the roll of the kura has been noted.

22. TKKM o Waioweka is not regarded as significantly impacting the rolls of local schools, including schools with vulnerable rolls.

23. The long transition that the kura has taken from kura kaupapa Māori to kura-a-iwi provision should mean current whānau and staff have understood, and are committed to, the kura-a-iwi education students are receiving.

24. Including TKKM o Waioweka, there are three kura in the area registered as kura kaupapa Māori, with the closest to TKKM o Waioweka being Te Kura Mana Māori o Maraenui, around 45 km away. The distance would present a challenge for TKKM o Waioweka whānau who wished to shift to still follow Te Aho Matua, but access to this is able to be supported with transport provision.

Property

25. There are no property implications arising from the proposed change. With estimated capacity for 98 students in five teaching spaces, TKKM o Waioweka is expected to comfortably accommodate its projected roll out to 2021, with a buffer of up to 20 percent surplus space above projected rolls. Its current roll is around 70. We would propose to set a maximum roll of 100.
Financial Implications

26. Financially, the kura is regarded as in good shape, with indicators showing its finances are ahead of averages for smaller schools in the region (under 100 students).

27. There are no financial implications associated with this change.

Transport

28. The change in status would not result in any changes to school transport entitlements.

Staffing implications

29. The re-designation would not have any staffing impact.

Board structure

30. The kura currently has an alternative constitution specified under section 98 of the Act. The board advises it wishes to operate under the standard constitution specified in section 94 of the Act. The Gazette notice will confirm this.

Risks

31. We have not identified any risks associated with this proposal.

Conclusion

32. We recommend that you approve the proposal. We have come to this view because:
   - the proposed designated character meets the requirements of the Act
   - the Kura has effectively already transitioned to provide education under the kura-a-iwi model
   - both national organisations, Te Runanga Nui o Ngā Kura Kaupapa Māori o Aotearoa and Ngā Kura ā Iwi o Aotearoa, regard the change as reflecting the current situation for this kura
   - local whānau support the change
   - the change is unlikely to have any effect on any other school in the network.

Next Steps

33. If you agree to the proposal, please sign the notice for the New Zealand Gazette (Annex 1). We will arrange publication of this notice.
34. Please also sign the letter to the Board of Trustees (Annex 2), and return it to the Ministry to be delivered. Please also sign the letters to the local Members of Parliament.

35. If you do not agree to the proposals we will prepare a decline letter for your signature.

Proactive Release of this Report

36. It is intended that this report be proactively released. Any information that might need to be withheld will be done so in line with the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982.

Annexes

Annex 1: Notice for the *New Zealand Gazette*

Annex 2: Letters to the Board of Trustees and local MPs
REDÉSIGNATION OF TE KURA KAUPAPA MĀORI O WAIOWEKA (2061) (OPOTIKI)

Under section 154A of the Education Act 1989 (the Act), I hereby declare that Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Waioweka, (2061) will have its designation as a kura kaupapa Māori removed and will be redesignated as a designated character school on 1 January 2020.

School Name

The name of the school will be changed to Te Kura o Waioweka.

Aims Purposes and Objectives

Te Kura o Waioweka will operate under the following aims, purposes, and objectives that will together constitute its designated character:

- To nurture each individual learner, through Mana Ahureatanga, Mana Mātauranga and Mana Orangatonutanga.

- The development of learners' knowledge of Ngāti Iratanga, Te Whakatōheia and strengthening relationships and connections with their whānau, hapū and iwi.

- To instil the values of whānau, manaaki, wairua, tākiri, aroha and pono as the guiding lights that will permeate throughout the kura.

- To strive for the highest quality of learning and achievement allowing for individual differences in learning, to allow for those with special needs and to provide learning situations of non-failure.

- Retention of the aspirations of the koroua and kuia of Ngāti Ira and revitalisation of the customs and traditional knowledge of its hapū.

- Te Kura o Waioweka is a member of Ngā Kura ā Iwi o Aotearoa. Our kaupapa aligns with Ngā Kura ā Iwi and fully support the focus on our learners achieving Te Tihi o Angitu (cultural autonomy, intellectual independence and holistic wellbeing).

The Te Kura o Waioweka Board of Trustees will be constituted under section 94 of the Act.

Dated at Wellington this 20th day of November 2019.

Hon Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education
Dear Anne

I am pleased to advise that I have approved a proposal from the Board of Trustees of Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Waioweka for the re-designation of Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Waioweka from a kura kaupapa Māori to a designated character school (kura-ā-iwi) under section 154A of the Education Act 1989. The kura will operate under its new designation from Term 1, 2020. At that time the kura will change its name to Te Kura o Waioweka.

Te Kura o Waioweka will operate with the following designated character:

- **To nurture each individual learner, through Mana Ahureatanga, Mana Mātauranga and Mana Orangotangotanga.**
- **The development of learners' knowledge of Ngāti Îrangi, Te Whakatōhea and strengthening relationships and connections with their whānau, hapū and ā-iwi.**
- **To instil the values of whānau, manaaki, wairua, tiaki, aroha and pono as the guiding lights that will permeate throughout the kura.**
- **To strive for the highest quality of learning and achievement allowing for individual differences in learning, to allow for those with special needs and to provide learning situations of non-failure.**
- **Retention of the aspirations of the koroua and kuia of Ngāti Îra and revitalisation of the customs and traditional knowledge of its hapū.**
- **Te Kura o Waioweka is a member of Ngā Kura ā Īwi o Aotearoa. Our kaupapa aligns with Ngā Kura ā Īwi and fully support the focus on our learners achieving Te Tīhī o Angitu (cultural autonomy, intellectual independence and holistic wellbeing).**

This redesignation concludes a decade-long transition that the kura has made towards implementation of a kura-ā-iwi curriculum, and participation in the national network of kura-ā-iwi.

Yours sincerely

Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education
Dear Tamati

I am pleased to advise that I have approved a proposal from the Board of Trustees of Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Waioweka for the re-designation of Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Waioweka from a kura kaupapa Māori to a designated character school (kura-ā-īwi) under section 154A of the Education Act 1989. The kura will operate under its new designation from Term 1, 2020. At that time the kura will change its name to Te Kura o Waioweka.

Te Kura o Waioweka will operate with the following designated character:

- **To nurture each individual learner, through Mana Ahuretatanga, Mana Mātauranga and Mana Orangatonutanga.**
- **The development of learners’ knowledge of Ngāti Iratanga, Te Whakatōhea and strengthening relationships and connections with their whānau, hapū and iwi.**
- **To instil the values of whānau, manaaki, wairua, tiaki, aroha and pono as the guiding lights that will permeate throughout the kura.**
- **To strive for the highest quality of learning and achievement allowing for individual differences in learning, to allow for those with special needs and to provide learning situations of non-failure.**
- **Retention of the aspirations of the koroua and kuia of Ngāti Ira and revitalisation of the customs and traditional knowledge of its hapū.**
- **Te Kura o Waioweka is a member of Ngā Kura ā Iwi o Aotearoa. Our kaupapa aligns with Ngā Kura ā Iwi and fully support the focus on our learners achieving Te Tihī o Angitu (cultural autonomy, intellectual independence and holistic wellbeing).**

This redesignation concludes a decade-long transition that the kura has made towards implementation of a kura-ā-īwi curriculum, and participation in the national network of kura-ā-īwi.

Yours sincerely

Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education
Ms Kaye Tai  
Chairperson  
Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Waioweka Board of Trustees  
48 Waioeka Pa Road  
R D 1  
ŌPŌTIKI 3197

Application to re-designate Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Waioweka

Dear Kaye

Thank you for your Board's application for the re-designation of Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Waioweka as a designated character kura-ā-iwi.

Having considered all the information provided to me following consultation on your proposal, I have agreed to re-designate Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Waioweka as a designated character school (kura-ā-iwi).

I am also prescribing a change of name to Te Kura o Waioweka. The board will operate under the standard constitution specified in section 94 of the Education Act 1989.

If you have any questions about this decision, please contact Hana Crenge, Senior Advisor Network at the Ministry of Education's Rotorua office. Hana can be contacted on (07) 349-7396 or at Hana.Crenge@education.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely

Chris Hipkins  
Minister of Education