

Director's message:



E rau rangatira na tēnā koutou katoa Whangarei – Terenga Paraoa,

Whangarei is experiencing more growth than anticipated. This is an exciting time for Tai Tokerau and we have a part to play to plan for this growth. Supporting education in the Māori medium is a priority for us as we are seeing an increasing demand in this area.

We expect growth will continue and will bring challenges with it. In Whangarei and Ruakaka, we want to support our local communities to accommodate this growth through our existing local schools where we can. We know the important role of schools in our communities and will continue to work collaboratively to deliver results.

As a region, we are planning now so that we have enough space in our existing schools as well as new accommodation where it is needed. This growth plan looks at Whangarei city as well as Ruakaka to the south of the city.

I am very pleased to present the following growth plan for Whangarei and Ruakaka out to 2030. We are committed to ensuring our tamariki and mokopuna have every opportunity to access an equitable education and achieve their aspirations for life long learning.

Mauri ora,

Hira Gage

Whangarei's growth story

The Whangarei and Ruakaka area covers the urban area of Whangarei as well as the semi-rural areas of Marsden and Ruakaka. Historically, these rural areas have been used for agriculture, however they are now transitioning to residential areas. Ruakaka has been the focus of significant growth over the last decade as the city has expanded southwards.

The Whangarei District Council is planning for the population to grow from 89,000 in 2018 to 100,000 in 2028. In the past three years the city has grown by 5,500 people to 89,000. Our own projections show an additional 670-2,290 school-aged students in the Whangarei district by 2030¹.

As well as continued growth in the Ruakaka / Marsden point areas, there are smaller pockets of development planned for the north-western fringe at Three Mile Bush Road, Kamo, Matarau, and also the growing Tikipunga Totara Parklands subdivision (435 sections).

The remainder of growth in this catchment is anticipated to be in the older and more established suburbs through infill, and Council is encouraging this type of growth as the infrastructure already exists. This means we will need to accommodate a growing student population not just in new residential areas, but also in existing suburbs.

Most Whangarei primary schools reached capacity earlier this year and this growth is expected to continue. The secondary network has some capacity currently available but pressure will mount as primary students move into secondary schools.

What have we done so far?

- Ten schools in the catchment have enrolment schemes in place, with one of these at secondary level. We will continue to work with schools to review and implement enrolment schemes to ensure the best use of the schooling network.
- We have invested in 18 additional teaching spaces at primary schools and 11 additional teaching spaces at secondary schools, including redevelopment and additional capacity at Morningside and Hora Hora primary schools, Kamo Intermediate, and Whangarei Girls' High.
- In 2017, \$50 million was allocated for the rebuild of Whangarei Boys' High required as a result of ageing buildings and weathertight issues, including some additional capacity. A \$10 million rebuild of Kamo High School has just been announced which will include additional capacity and a new learning support facility.

Planning for short-term growth (3 years)

If growth projections materialise as expected, by 2021 we expect we'll need to accommodate an additional 560-900 school-aged children in our local schools². We're planning now to accommodate growth in the short-term. Here's how:

- We will continue to work with schools to implement enrolment schemes in the next few years where potential overcrowding may occur.
- At the primary level, additional teaching spaces are required, mostly at existing urban schools where new subdivisions are progressing and some infill development has seen the schools roll increase significantly. As primary students move through to secondary, we expect that network solutions will provide sufficient capacity in the city, however additional capacity in secondary provision in the south is likely.
- We will continue to work with schools to improve both the quality and quantity of Māori medium education to improve pathways and outcomes for students.

- We will also continue to monitor school rolls, and engage with Whangarei District Council to understand the rate of uptake of future residential growth.

Planning for medium-term growth (3-10 years)

We already have plans underway to manage longer-term growth, including:

- Some re-development of existing school sites will be required in the medium term to accommodate the growth we know is coming. We will work with schools to agree a master planning capacity to which the school can be re-developed.
- Additional provision at the secondary level in the Ruakaka area beyond 2030. Over the next 10 years, in order to accommodate this growth, we plan to increase capacity at the existing secondary schools through the provision of additional teaching space.

By implementing the responses we are working on now, and timely delivery of new capacity where it is needed, we expect that we can accommodate this growth adequately.

Beyond 2030

Beyond 2030, we anticipate that some additional primary and secondary provision will be needed near new development areas. The timing of this is uncertain and depends on the rate of uptake of these new developments. The need for additional capacity will be informed by ongoing monitoring against capacity at existing schools, as well as the master planning work currently underway.

Māori medium

In the Whangarei catchment, there are seven kōhanga reo, one composite kura, four primary schools providing education in both the Māori and English medium, and one intermediate with a rumaki unit. These schools have a combined roll of 482 taura enrolled in Māori medium immersion (Levels 1 and 2), with a further 720 learning Māori language in the English medium (Levels 3 and 4).

A key priority for the region is the importance of ensuring high quality and sustainable pathways for students in Māori medium education.

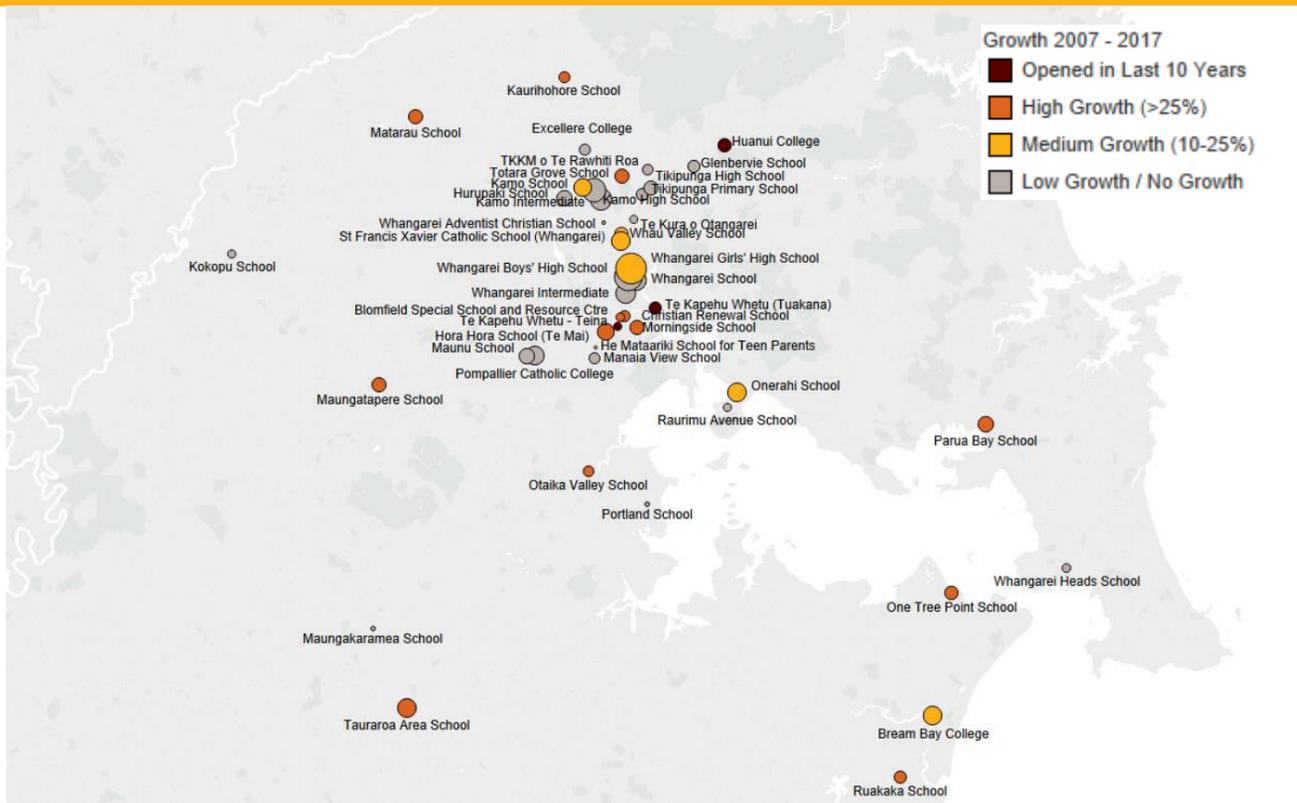
Learning Support

The Blomfield Special School base site has a roll of 47, and a further 69 in satellites at other schools. There are satellites at several schools across the catchment, as well as further afield. We are planning to build a new satellite space north of Whangarei which is likely to draw some of its roll from the rural areas to better support learners in the mid-north area.

^{1,2} SNZ Population Projections 2017 release, v2, 5-17yr olds (High and Medium scenarios)

Tai Tokerau: Whangarei/Ruakaka Steady Growing

New Zealand Education Growth Plan to 2030



This growth plan covers the urban Whangarei and semi-rural Marsden and Ruakaka areas within the Tai Tokerau region. In this catchment, there are 44 schools including: 36 state, 7 state integrated, and 1 private school; 18 contributing primary schools, 10 full primary, 2 intermediates, 4 composite schools, 8 secondary schools, 1 special school and 1 teen parent unit. As at July 2018, this catchment had a combined school roll of **14,570 students**, including 847 Māori Medium students and 249 ORS (Ongoing Resourcing Scheme) students.

What's influencing the Growth Plan

Lifestyle choice



Whangarei and Ruakaka are growing as businesses are becoming more flexible and able to operate remotely, complemented by the lifestyle offered by the area.

Cost of living



People are relocating to this area seeking lower living costs outside the major urban centres. This is also being driven by the ability of businesses to operate remotely, and the lifestyle offered by the area.

Large scale residential developments



Marsden Point and Ruakaka are predicted to grow by 29% by 2023, with 1,120 new dwellings built over the next five years.

Here's what's already underway that's giving us a head start to meet growth in the region



Enrolment schemes are in place in the highest growth primary schools and at Bream Bay College in Ruakaka. There is limited opportunity for non-property responses to accommodate future growth.



A major re-development of Whangarei Boys' High School has recently been announced with funding of \$50 million allocated. A \$10 million rebuild of Kamo High School will also be undertaken.



We are monitoring capacity in both secondary and primary schools.

Growth Plan to 2030

2019

2022

2030



Additional 250 student places required



Additional 250 student places required



Additional 250 student places required

Ongoing monitoring of rolls



Enrolment zones

- » Primary Schools in the highest pressure areas have enrolment schemes and so does Bream Bay College at Ruakaka.
- » We will continue to work with other schools to review and implement enrolment schemes in the catchment.



Re-development

- » Some re-development of existing school sites will be required in the medium term to accommodate the growth we know is coming. We will work with schools to agree a master planning capacity to which the school can be re-developed.



Roll growth funding

- » Roll growth pressure in the primary network means additional teaching space is required to accommodate known growth.
- » We anticipate that additional provision in the south of the catchment will also be required at the secondary level as primary students move through into secondary.
- » We will continue to monitor growth and provide additional teaching space as required.



Establish New Schools

- » Current schools and sites can be expanded to accommodate future roll growth.



Expanding Provision Type

- » Learning support services will be monitored and a satellite is planned for Oromahoe and another in the future in Dargaville.
- » We are looking to expand access to Māori Medium pathways to the south of Whangarei.
- » We will continue to work with schools to improve both the quality and quantity of Māori-medium education to improve pathways and outcomes for students.