



Information Update: Lepperton School – Potential Impacts of recapitation

To:	Hon Erica Stanford, Minister of Education		
Date:	10 September 2024	Priority:	Low
Security Level:	Unclassified	METIS No:	1335405
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Seen by the Communications Team:	No	Round Robin:	No

Request

You have requested further advice about the potential impact if:

1. Lepperton School recapitates, what this may mean for local intermediate(s)/other provision, or
2. Lepperton School and other primary schools recapitate, what this may mean for local intermediate(s)/other provision.

Question one: If Lepperton recapitates, what this may mean for local intermediate(s)/ other provision

1. At present, Lepperton School has property provision for 185 students. The July 1 2024 roll return showed 130 students were enrolled (14 out of zone). The school was operating at 72% of its capacity.
2. While we are unable to project changes in enrolment patterns based on parental choice, if Lepperton recapitates the direct impact on the major providers of Year 7 – 8 education in the area over the next five years could be¹:
 - Highlands Intermediate – an average loss of nine students per year
 - Bell Block School (Year 1 – 8) – an average loss of four students per year
 - Manukorihi Intermediate – an average of three students per year.
3. StatsNZ projects the number of students aged 11 to 12 within the New Plymouth District Territorial Local Authority (TLA) will decline by an estimated 130 students by 2030.
4. Lepperton School, Highlands Intermediate, and Bell Block School have enrolment schemes. Devon Intermediate and Manukorihi Intermediate do not have enrolment schemes. The loss of a small number of enrolments due to the recapitation of Lepperton School would not significantly contribute to any impact on their rolls.

¹ based on leaving data for the past five years, the average percentage transitioning to year 7 provision, and the July 1 2024, the Lepperton School roll



Conclusion

5. The projected decline in the number of students aged 11 to 12 residing in the New Plymouth District will have an impact on all intermediate(s)/other provision.
6. If Lepperton School were to recapitate, there may be little direct impact on intermediate(s)/other provision, due to the low numbers of Lepperton School students currently transitioning to other year 7 schools.

Question two: If Lepperton and other primary schools recapitate, what that means for local intermediate(s)/other provision

7. There are seven Year 1 – 6 schools in North Taranaki, inclusive of Lepperton School, that may recapitate: Lepperton School, Waitara East School, Waitara Central School, Tikorangi School, Huirangi School, Mimi School and Urenui School.
8. Lepperton School, Tikorangi School, and Huirangi School have enrolment schemes. Waitara East and Waitara Central Schools are in the township of Waitara and do not have enrolment schemes. Mimi School and Urenui School do not have enrolment schemes and are geographically isolated from Waitara.
9. Manukorihi Intermediate is the only Intermediate in North Taranaki and is located in the Waitara township. The July 1 2024, year 7 roll at Manukorihi Intermediate was 122 students. The roll has been declining. The Intermediate is presently operating at 73% of its capacity.
10. While we are unable to project changes in enrolment patterns based on parental choice², if all seven neighbouring year 1 – 6 schools were to recapitate and hold their students, Manukorihi would have little or no enrolments over the next five years:
 - Twenty-eight students per year from Waitara East School (77% historically transition to Manukorihi Intermediate).
 - Thirteen students per year from Waitara Central School (89% historically transition to Manukorihi Intermediate).
 - Twenty-two students per year from Tikorangi School (88% historically transition to Manukorihi Intermediate).
 - Twelve students per year from Huirangi School (76% historically transition to Manukorihi Intermediate).
 - Nine students per year from Mimi School (100% historically transition to Manukorihi Intermediate).
 - Eleven students per year from Urenui School (70% historically transition to Manukorihi Intermediate).
11. If the seven schools were to recapitate, there would be an effect on their capacity which may require additional teaching spaces. The table below outlines the potential property required.

School	Teaching Space Capacity	Potential additional teaching spaces required
Waitara East School	104%	2
Waitara Central School	93%	1

² based on the leaving data over the past five years, the average percentage transitioning to year 7, and the July 1 2024, school rolls

Tikorangi School	113%	2
Huirangi School	115%	2
Mimi School	37%	
Urenui School	94%	1

12. Over the past five years, a total of six students have transitioned from these schools to Devon Intermediate. There have been no students transition in the past two years. The recapitating of the North Taranaki Schools (excluding Lepperton School) would have a negligible impact on Devon Intermediate.

Conclusion

13. If Lepperton and other primary schools were to recapitate, there would be a large decline in enrolments at Manukorihi Intermediate which would impact its viability. There would be an impact on surrounding intermediate schools. There would also be potential need for additional property at the recapitating schools.

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