



Report: Draft English learning area for Years 7-13 – next steps

To:	Hon Erica Stanford, Minister of Education		
Date:	7/03/2025	Deadline:	12/03/2025
Security Level:	In-Confidence	Priority:	High
From:	Pauline Cleaver Acting Hautū – Te Poutāhū	Phone:	9(2)(a)
Drafter:	Derek Lyons Julia Novak	METIS No:	1343098

Why are we sending this to you?

- This report provides you with an update on the outcome of the Curriculum Coherence Group's review of the draft English learning area for Years 7-13 and seeks your agreement to next steps in releasing the draft learning area for consultation with the sector and wider public.

What action do we need, by when?

- We are seeking your agreement to further update the draft English learning area for Years 7-13 per feedback received from the Coherence Group prior to releasing the learning area for consultation with the sector and wider public.
- Please return the signed paper by Wednesday 12 March 2025.

Key facts, issues and questions

- The Coherence Group met on 25 and 26 February 2025 to review the draft English learning area for Years 7-13 and identify further changes required. As a result, the Coherence Group has recommended the learning area be restructured.
- In order to incorporate the recommended changes from the Coherence Group and provide the sector with a close to final version for feedback, the learning area will now be released for consultation on 31 March 2025.

Alignment with Government priorities

1. This report aligns with Government priorities to establish a knowledge-rich curriculum grounded in the science of learning.

Background

2. The national curriculum for schooling (The New Zealand Curriculum and Te Marautanga o Aotearoa) is being updated so that it is knowledge-rich, internationally comparable, and clear about what students need to understand, know, and do in each year from Years 0 to 13 and the evidence-based teaching practices to use [SOU-24-MIN-0051 refers].
3. On 27 January 2025, we released the draft Te Reo Rangatira wāhanga ako for Years 7-13 and the Mathematics & Statistics learning area and Pāngarau wāhanga ako for Years 9-13 on the Ministry's Tāhūrangi website for consultation, closing on 28 April 2025.
4. We advised you that further work was required on the draft English learning area for Years 7-13 per feedback received throughout the various reviews undertaken [METIS 1342005 refers].
5. On the week of 10 February 2025, we provided your office with copies of the draft English learning area for Years 7-13 for review. Additional changes were requested by your office and as a result we are working to update the draft English learning area further.
6. The Coherence Group has since met to review the draft English learning area to identify further changes required and has proposed revisions to the structure of the learning area.

Coherence Group review of draft English learning area

7. The Coherence Group met in-person on 25 and 26 February 2025 to work through the draft English content and identify changes required prior to releasing the material for consultation.
8. 9(2)(f)(iv) [REDACTED]
9. In the meeting the Coherence Group recommended the learning area be restructured, fronting knowledge and framing out the schema of knowledge ('know that' and 'know how to'). This means that the Phase 4 and Phase 5 year by year teaching sequence needs to be re-written, and elements re-worked to lay out the knowledge (know that) in relation to the genres (poetry, novels, plays, short stories, film and non-fiction). The current Know and Do statements will be revised, to connect specifically to the teaching sequence and be clear about the knowledge and the practices.
10. The Coherence Group recommended keeping the current structure of Phase 3 English with some changes to the content. The oral language strand will be focused on production of presentation and the other elements will be removed. Content from the written and oral text forms will be used to strengthen the knowledge in the teaching sequence and the range of texts will be revised to be more suitable for the phase. Once changes to Phase 4 and 5 are made, we will need to review Phase 3 to ensure the teaching sequence is cohesive across the pathway. All phases will then need to be reviewed for conciseness of language and repetition.

Revised timeline

11. Table one below provides an updated timeline to advance the changes required to update the draft English learning area per the recommendations of the Coherence Group while meeting the timeline to gazette the content for implementation from the start of 2026.

12. Updating the English learning area with the changes required by the Coherence Group ahead of consultation means that the draft learning area will now be released on 31 March 2025. We will then update the learning area based on feedback received through consultation, and gazette in Term 4, 2025.
13. The revised timeline means that the close to final version of the learning area will be consulted on, however, we expect that the delay in consultation will raise concern within the sector. Communications to the sector and wider public informing of the revised timeframe for consultation has been developed and will be shared with key stakeholders directly, and the wider sector through Ministry channels.

Table 1: Revised timeline

Action	Start	Finish
Update learning area based on Coherence Group feedback	Fri 28/02/25	Thu 20/03/25
Coherence Group review and approval	Fri 21/03/25	Mon 24/03/25
Final updates and signoff	Tue 25/03/25	Thu 27/03/25
Minister Approval	Fri 28/03/25	Fri 28/03/25
Consultation on draft English – 7 weeks	Mon 31/03/25	Fri 13/06/2025
Consultation on draft Mathematics & Statistics, Te Reo Rangatira, Pāngarau closes	Current	Mon 28/04/25
Update English learning area based on feedback from consultation	Mon 16/06/25	Mon 21/07/25
Coherence Group review and approval	Tue 22/07/25	Mon 04/08/25
Final updates and signoff	Tue 05/08/25	Mon 25/08/25
Minister approval to Gazette	Tue 26/08/25	Mon 01/09/25
Gazetted announced	Mon 8/09/25	Fri 29/09/25
Gazetted for use	Start of 2026	

14. We considered an option of consulting on the current version of the draft English learning area earlier while updating it in parallel to incorporate the changes required by the Coherence Group, and any other feedback received through consultation, ahead of gazetting in Term 4, 2025.
15. While this option avoids further delay in consultation, it does mean that the sector would see a different learning area for gazetting than the version that is consulted on. We expect this would raise additional questions and would not be conducive with an effective consultation process.
16. The revised timeline for English Years 7-13 will mean that ongoing consultation timelines will no longer align with the timeline for Te Reo Rangatira wāhanga ako for Years 7-13, and the Mathematics & Statistics learning area and Pāngarau wāhanga ako for Years 9-13. However, the gazetting timelines would still align.

Risks

17. Delays to gazetting the curriculum for use past the beginning of 2026 will result in cost impacts to the overall Curriculum and Assessment Change Programme.
18. 9(2)(f)(iv)

However, will not impact the consultation

dates for the remaining learning areas and wāhanga ako in later 2025. 9(2)(f)(iv)

19. 9(2)(g)(i)

Financial Implications

20. 9(2)(f)(iv)

Next Steps

21. We will continue to update the draft English learning area for Years 7-13 per the Coherence Group's feedback in alignment with the updated timeline.
22. Consultation on the draft Te Reo Rangatira wāhanga ako for Years 7-13, and the Mathematics & Statistics learning area and Pāngarau wāhanga ako for Years 9-13 will close on 28 April 2025. Further updates as a result of feedback received will be undertaken in finalising the learning area for implementation.

Recommended Actions

The Ministry of Education recommends you:

- a. **note** that the Curriculum Coherence Group has recommended additional changes be made to the draft English learning area for Years 7-13.

Noted

- b. **agree** that the Ministry undertake further changes to the draft English learning area for Years 7-13 per the recommendations of the Curriculum Coherence Group ahead of releasing for consultation on 31 March 2025.

Agree / Disagree

- c. **agree** to the revised high-level timeline for the English Years 7-13 learning area as outlined in Table one.

Agree / Disagree

Proactive Release:

- d. **agree** that the Ministry of Education release this paper once the draft English learning area for Years 7-13 is released for consultation with any information needing to be withheld done so in line with the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982.

Agree / Disagree

Release

Pauline Cleaver

Hautū Taupua | Acting Deputy Secretary

Te Poutāhū | Curriculum Centre

07/03/2024

Edfed

Choose an item.

Choose an item.

Enca Steford

8,3,25