

Demand Plan 2026

National Schooling Network



**Te Tāhuhu o
te Mātauranga**
Ministry of Education



Te Mahau

September 2025

Foreword

As communities change, so too do the schooling needs of their children and young people.

We work hard to ensure there is an effective and sustainable school network across New Zealand – we regularly monitor the capacity and projected growth of the school network and work closely with schools, local communities and other agencies across the school network.

Population growth is placing pressure on our school network in specific areas of the country. These high growth areas are all unique and are experiencing growth in different ways. In some areas, we are seeing redevelopment and intensification of existing urban areas, while in other areas entire new communities are being established. There are also parts of the country where the school-age population is trending down.

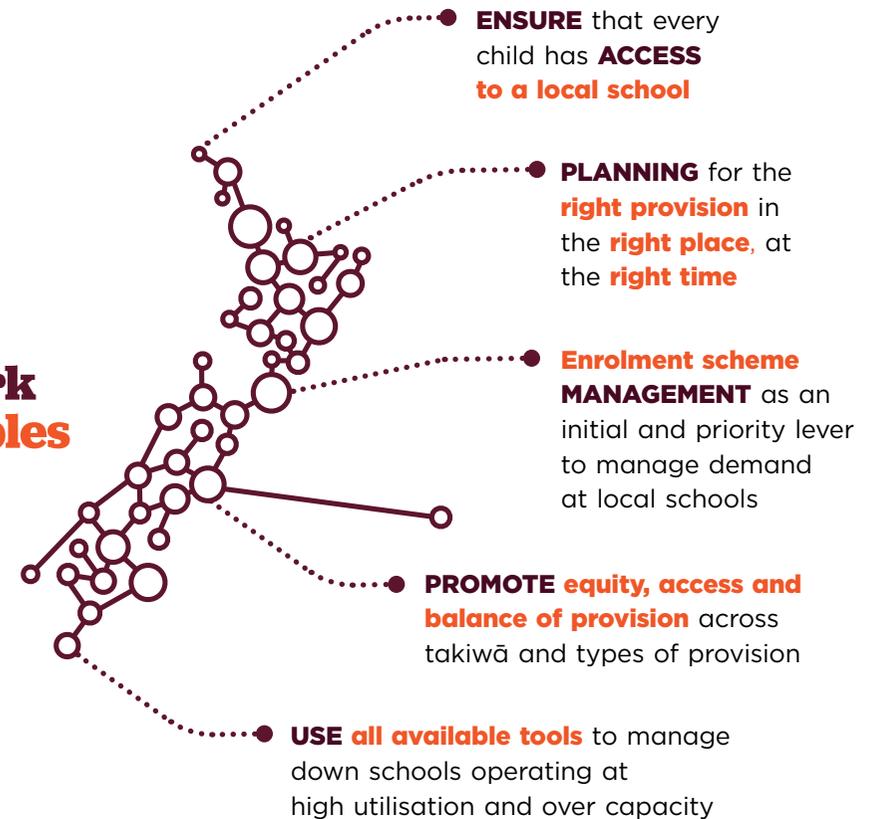
This demand plan identifies trends, patterns and locations of growth and demand and where and when capacity in school networks will be needed across takiwā and the motu.

The demand plan demonstrates a commitment to work with our School Property partners to target the highest demand in school networks; and to coordinate and plan for projected growth and demand.

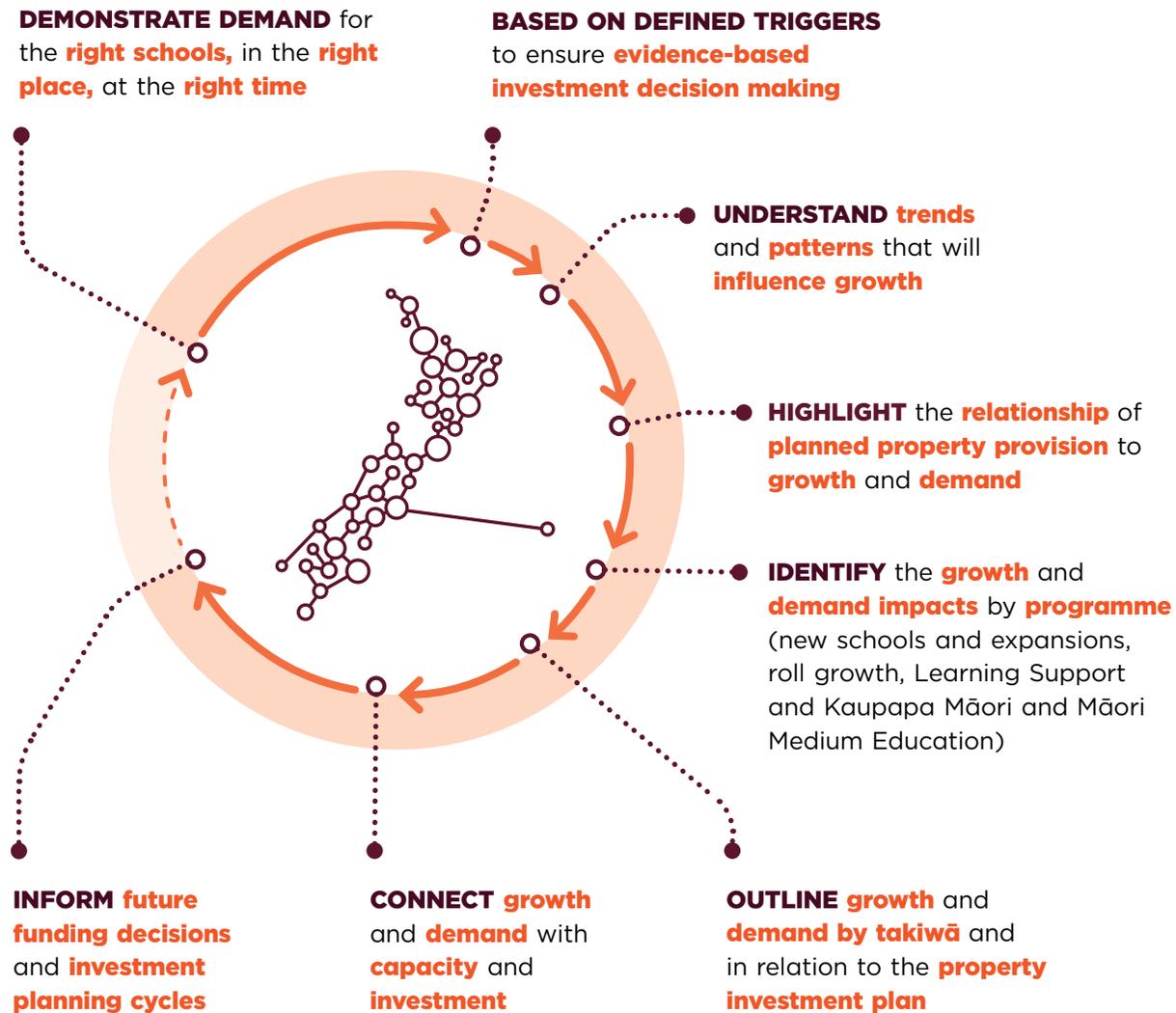
The demand plan is a live, iterative plan that is refreshed annually in line with key growth and demand data and information to inform future investment planning, prioritisation and decision making.

The demand plan underpins and reflects the National Education Network Plan (NENP) that is designed to address the complexity and transformation required across the motu to ensure that sufficient capacity is delivered across the school network in the right place at the right time.

Network principles



Demand Plan Purpose



Frameworks and settings

Schooling network



Purpose and role

- Designing and supporting a schooling network that enables equitable access, pathways and wellbeing for akongā.
- Support and enablement to provide nationally consistent, regionally led services.

Evidence-based approach

- The evidence model is nationally consistent, comprehensive, and updated to support planning, prioritisation and investment decision making.
- Monitoring and tracking of school rolls, roll growth triggers, GIS spatial planning, long term pipeline.

Outcomes (we contribute to)

- Supporting and enabling Takiwā to deliver outcomes for ākongā and their whānau.
- Whānau and communities have confidence that access to and equity in the schooling network meets all akongā needs.
- Communities and whānau can contribute to and can see high quality local education transitions and pathways.

Our planning and settings

Foundation plans



National Education Network Plan:
119 catchment/education plans including NEGP, Te Tira Hou and Statement of Specialist Provision and draft Network Plan for Specialist Settings.

Planning and prioritisation



Planning and prioritising growth programmes to manage critical growth pressures.

Non-property solutions



Enrolment schemes, restructure/change the school network and maintain high utilisation rates at schools.

Property



Setting the growth and demand profile/forecast to inform investment decision making and property projects.

Our functions and activities



Data sources

We proactively manage and plan school networks across New Zealand using a robust, data-informed approach. Our work is collaborative, involving key agencies such as local councils, Kāinga Ora, NZ Transport Agency, and Statistics NZ. Our planning incorporates land use changes proposed through district and regional plan changes, monitoring housing development progress, and assessing the impacts on local school capacity and infrastructure.

We engage with schools to discuss forecast demand and gather their valuable insights and in collaboration with our asset management colleagues, we work to identify the most suitable property solutions when a property solution is required.

Forecasting and modelling

Extending the forecasting of demand for student places and network required dates to a longer term horizon. Modelling across catchments to apply non property and property solutions.

Growth and demand trends and patterns

Monitoring catchments, migration, growth, transitions, schooling change and enrolment patterns to inform planning and investment decision making.

Prioritisation

Identify priority projects through robust demand analysis. Support for priority programmes and catchment planning.

Planning and operations

“Deliberate by design” approaches to the schooling network. Managing the network through effective operations and change management, aligned with planning frameworks to get the network right.

Monitoring and review

Monitoring the network for change, trends, patterns and development. Tracking property delivery to ensure capacity is delivered in the right place at the right time.

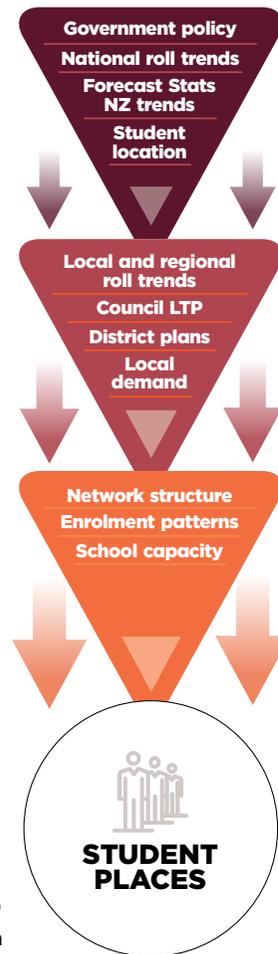
National Schooling Network Methodology

Catchment forecasting and planning for demographic change

Comprehensive, multi-layered forecasting demand for student places



- Government policy**
 - Housing policy
 - National Policy Statement on Urban Development
 - Infrastructure funding
 - Education policy and changes
 - Kāinga Ora programmes
 - City and Regional Deals
 - Policy settings
 - Immigration settings
- Infrastructure planning**
 - Future development strategies
 - Council LTPs/district plans
 - Local demand and development
 - Public and private housing developments
- Forecast demand for student places**
 - Statistics NZ school age population projections
 - School roll data and geocodes
 - Enrolment patterns
 - Existing school portfolio (capacity and utilisation, LS, MME, all schools, all learners)
 - Known planning information



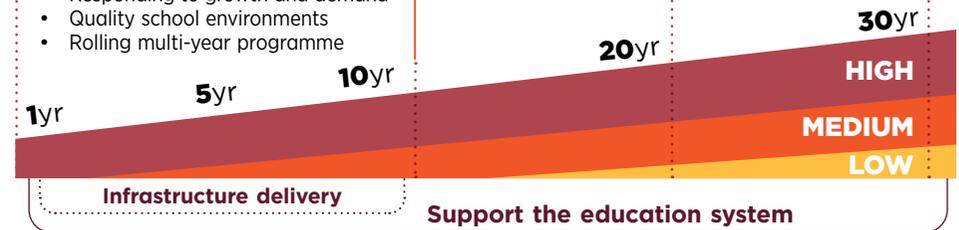
Improving the schooling network for children and young people

Where we are heading: (1-30 yrs+)

- Deliver sufficient capacity in the right place, to the right size, at the right time
- Plan for change that will involve a variety of ways that learning may be delivered within the community
- A programme approach to manage student demand beyond the 10-year horizon
- Equitable access across the New Zealand school network

Where we are now: (1-10 yrs)

- Catchment planning (National Education Network Plan)
- Responding to growth and demand
- Quality school environments
- Rolling multi-year programme



Responding to the demand for student places

	1yr	5yr	10yr	
Enrolment schemes	Enrolment schemes			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make sufficient use of existing assets Implementation of new enrolment schemes and amendments across the regions Manage down out of zone enrolments
Network response	Change network			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Close, merge or relocate schools Change school age range Redirect students to other schools with available SP
Expand provision	Add space			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expansions, new classrooms, short term or permanent at existing schools School redevelopments, often includes roll growth Transitions and pathways for Kaupap Māori, Māori Medium and Learning Support
Land and new schools	Land acquisition and build			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic land acquisitions programme New schools build programme

Context

- **POPULATION GROWTH** is placing pressure on our school network in specific areas of the country. These high growth areas are all unique and are experiencing growth in different ways. In some areas, we are seeing redevelopment and intensification of existing urban areas, while in other areas entire new communities are being established.
- In 2019, the Ministry released the **NATIONAL EDUCATION GROWTH PLAN (NEGP)** to 2030 which identifies how we are planning to deliver sufficient capacity in the school network in the right place at the right time. The NEGP forecast that the 39 high growth catchments will require an additional 100,000 student places to 2030. As of July 2025, we have delivered 43,000 student places in the high growth catchments.
- **IN 2021 NETWORK PLANS** were released for an additional 80 catchments that alongside the NEGP make up the national education network plan. New sentence: As of July 2025, we have delivered 17,800 student places in these catchments.
- Within the schooling network we are **IDENTIFYING A RANGE OF COMPLEX CHALLENGES**, these include historical deficits in teaching spaces at schools, emerging growth, changes in enrolment patterns, and large scale housing developments, particularly in Auckland. The changing macroeconomic climate is impacting on the timing of these developments, which in turn affects our forecasting and modelling across catchments and schools.
- **AS COMMUNITIES CHANGE**, the schooling needs of their children and young people change too. This can require different forms of provision and a reshaping of the local network of schooling alongside the community. Investment can play an important part in regenerating education in these areas by supporting projects that seek improved education outcomes.
- **GROWTH WITHIN A SCHOOL** is viewed within its context in the network and the surrounding catchment of schools and responded to holistically.
- **CHANGING PROPERTY DELIVERY MODEL** Despite significant macroeconomic challenges, progress has been made to streamline school property delivery and procurement. This has resulted in shorter delivery time frames and more cost effective solutions.
- **IN AN ENVIRONMENT OF FISCAL RESTRAINT**, not all network needs are able to be funded in the required timeframes. To manage this risk, a view of demand that is prioritised based on system settings and regional importance is the basis for robust decision making that balances both educational and property drivers.
- The Government has announced new entity separate from the Ministry of Education to manage school property. **THE NEW ZEALAND SCHOOL PROPERTY AGENCY (NZSPA)**, a new Crown agent, will be responsible for planning, building, maintaining and administering the school property portfolio. The Education Network function and responsibility for investment intentions, and decision making within the network will remain with the Ministry.

Population growth is placing pressure on our school network in specific areas of the country.

...we are identifying a range of complex challenges...

Demand Profile

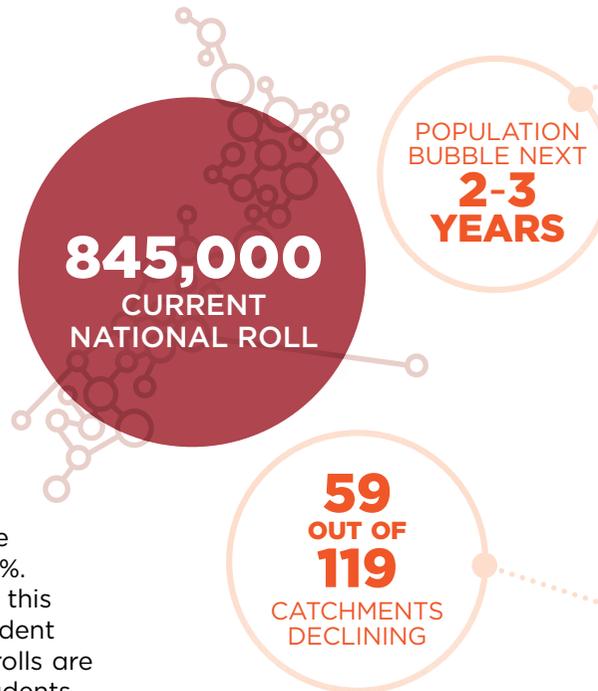
The number of families choosing **HOME SCHOOLING** increased exponentially during Covid, however total home schooling numbers have remained relatively stable since 2022 and are projected to remain stable.

GROWTH IN SCHOOL ROLLS continues to be seen in the priority catchments of Ormiston Mission Heights, Rolleston and Massey Hobsonville Kaipara. However the growth has slowed in 2025 compared to 2024. The Papakura Rosehill Drury catchment recorded the highest growth in 2025 with Hamilton East and Massey Hobsonville Kaipara also experiencing considerable growth in absolute terms in the last 12 months.

As of 1 July 2024, there were **11,510 ORS STUDENTS**. Total ORS rolls have seen consistent growth over the last decade, with an average annual increase of 3.9%. On average, 1.4% of the student population receives this assistance and therefore ORS rolls increase with student population growth. Over the next 5 years, the ORS rolls are projected to increase by 11.1% to a total of 12,792 students, with an average annual increase of 2.1%. As of 1 July 2024, 36% of ORS students attend specialist schools

Nationally, over the last two years **ROLLS HAVE INCREASED** - compared to decline in rolls from 2021 to 2022. Growth of 22,000 students between 2023 and 2025, from 823,000 to 845,000. Much of this growth occurred between 2023 and 2024 with numbers stabilising between 2024 and 2025.

% growth across networks	2022	2023	2024	2025
Composite	1.5%	2.8%	2.2%	1.4%
Primary	-2.2%	0.6%	0.9%	-0.8%
Secondary	-0.1%	2.6%	4.0%	1.8%
Specialist	4.8%	6.0%	3.5%	5.2%
TOTAL	-1.2%	1.5%	2.1%	0.3%



Nationally, a **POPULATION BUBBLE** has entered the secondary sector and will continue to move through the secondary sector in the next 2-3 years. We have seen a corresponding decline in the primary sector as this bubble moves through the system.

IMMIGRATION SPIKED at the end of 2023; however it is projected to **REDUCE IN THE SHORT TERM**. In the 12 months to June 2025, net international migration saw an estimated 11,100 additional 0-19yr olds arrive.

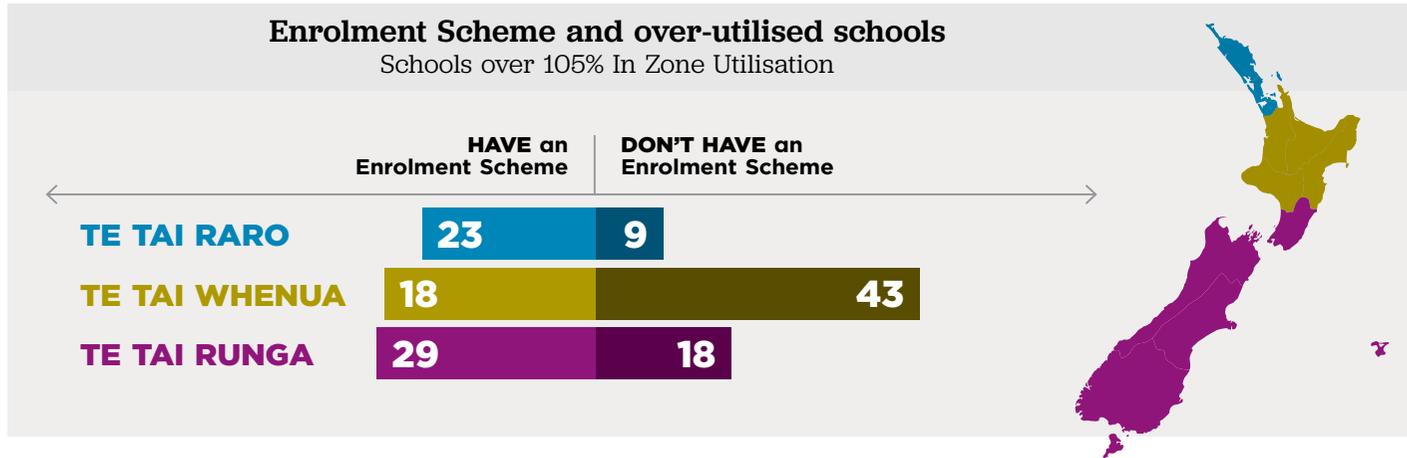
RETENTION RATES at senior secondary year levels declined amid the post-Covid recovery, however retention rates are now steady.

59 out of 119 catchments experienced **ROLL DECLINE** between 2024 and 2025 which is higher than previous years, for a total of 3,300 students across the motu. The catchments with the biggest decline were:

Roll growth ▲	2024-25
Papakura Rosehill Drury	+719
Hamilton East	+488
Massey Hobsonville Kaipara	+465
Manurewa Alfriston Takanini	+424
Waitakere Rutherford Henderson	+362
Rolleston	+316

Roll decline ▼	2024-25
Wellington Central & North	-382
Wellington West	-224
Rotorua	-222
Howick Botany Pakuranga	-198
Gisborne	-138
New Plymouth	-133
Christchurch East	-125

Enrolment Scheme Management



Enrolment Scheme statistics

CURRENT ENROLMENT SCHEME STATUS

As at July 2025

SCHOOLS WITH MORE THAN 10% OUT OF ZONE

REGION		Schools with an ES	Schools without an ES	Total no. of schools	% with ES in place	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
TE TAI RARO	Tai Tokerau	40	111	151	26%	16	15	12	15	15
	Tāmaki Herenga Tāngata	152	47	199	76%	63	65	74	79	82
	Tāmaki Herenga Manawa	129	64	193	67%	67	76	84	95	97
	Tāmaki Herenga Waka	119	61	180	66%	54	58	61	63	64
TE TAI WHENUA	Waikato	119	158	277	43%	61	68	74	77	76
	Bay of Plenty, Wairariki	79	107	186	42%	38	41	42	44	45
	Hawke's Bay, Tairāwhiti	67	106	173	39%	47	46	51	52	53
	Taranaki, Whanganui, Manawatū	81	153	234	35%	50	52	59	61	65
TE TAI RUNGA	Wellington	139	144	283	49%	55	63	69	79	84
	Nelson, Marlborough, West Coast	49	77	126	39%	19	23	24	27	27
	Canterbury, Chatham Islands	212	72	284	75%	73	83	94	93	98
	Otago, Southland	93	135	228	41%	42	47	48	50	54
TOTAL		1,279	1,235	2,514	51%					



Appendix 1:

National Education Network Plans - Update September 2025



National Education Network Plans - Update

September 2025





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Introduction



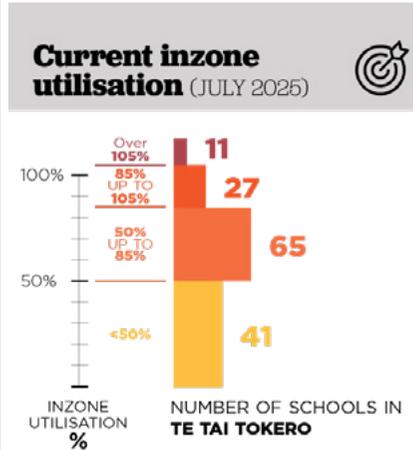
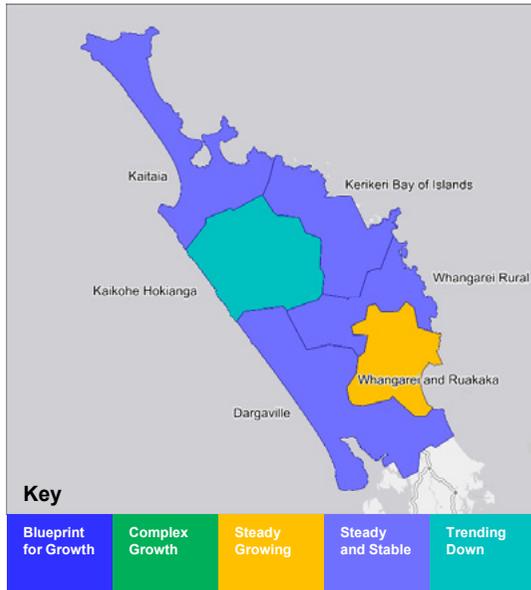
The National Education Network Plan (NENP) covers 119 catchments across the country. Each catchment plan shows where we expect changes in population to influence planning for the schooling network. This document contains high level updates for 2025 for each of the 12 Education Regions.

Maps of each region show the catchments, with their growth profile* indicated by colour, as described below.

Blueprint for Growth	Complex Growth	Steady Growing	Steady and Stable	Trending Down
<p>This is where local government planning includes intensive housing development and expansion into outer urban areas in response to, or causing, a large influx of people to move into a particular area. These are opportunities to master-plan education infrastructure collaboratively across agencies to integrate in new communities.</p>	<p>This is where the area is desirable and there continues to be population growth despite limited room for expansion outwards. Local planning efforts are focused on redevelopment activities, intensification, or urban renewal to increase capacity or in response to other social and economic drivers.</p>	<p>This is where school-aged population growth is less significant but a response is still required. For example, there has been a change in the demographics of the region, with more young families moving into existing suburbs. Local planning efforts are focused on providing services for the demographic change.</p>	<p>This is where the school-aged population is anticipated to remain relatively stable. The school aged population is generally balanced across school rolls, although there may be pockets of growth and decline within catchments.</p>	<p>This is where the school-aged population is anticipated to fall across a catchment. The forecast is an overall reduction in the school age population although there may be pockets of limited growth and stability within catchments.</p>

* Growth profiles from the 2019 NEGP and 2021 NENP – will be updated in 2026 when new Stats NZ data is available

Tai Tokerau



What's influencing population change across the region?

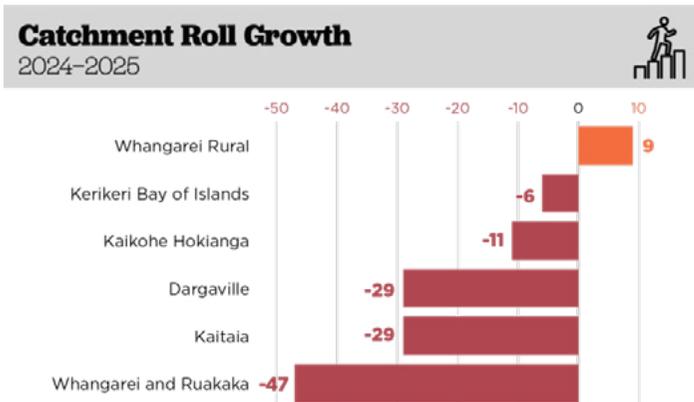
- The new spatial plan for Kerikeri and Waipapa enables significant growth in the short to medium term, which is evident in the private plan changes and realised roll growth in the Kerikeri schools, with flow-on effects beginning to impact Kawakawa.
- The Whangarei Future Development Plan (FDS) enables significant growth in the Northern suburbs and Ruakaka in the short to medium term. Construction has commenced on two developments of 1,200 new dwellings in Ruakaka and southern Whangarei.
- The Dargaville catchment displays two distinct population patterns:
 - Western Area: is a rural setting often remote with Dargaville as the main township, it has a stable population over the last five years.
 - Eastern Area: In contrast, the east has experienced significant growth, with an increase of two hundred plus students over the last five years. This upward trend is expected to continue.
- Mangawhai continues to be influenced by internal migration of families from Auckland, and another new private plan change is going through the processes this year.
- While not population change, there is a growing demand for immersion Māori education across the region, prompting kura to grow to accommodate the demand.

What's already underway to help us respond to population change across the region?

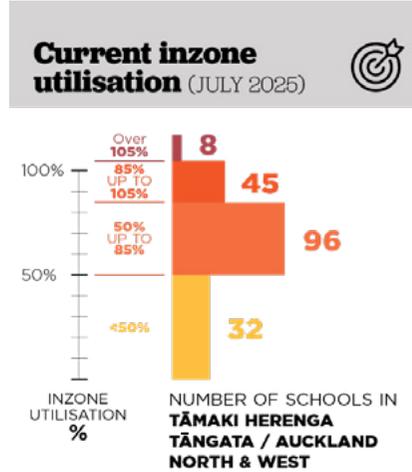
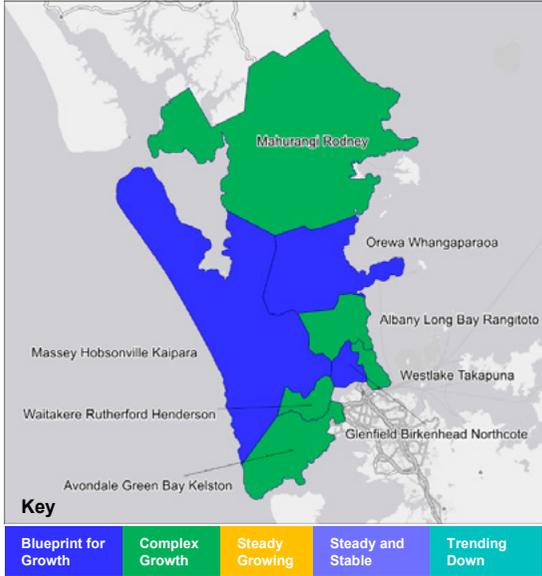
- We are implementing a range of new and amended enrolment schemes across the region to help manage the risk of overcrowding and ensure the schooling network is well-positioned to accommodate future growth as projected by district councils.
- Mangawhai Beach School has received funding to replace temporary classrooms with permanent roll growth spaces, supporting sustained roll growth in the area.

What else are we planning to do to respond to population change across the region?

- We will continue to monitor population growth, residential development, and school roll trends to inform future demand and guide responses across English medium, Māori medium, and learning support specialist settings.
- Ongoing collaboration with councils on spatial plans and future development strategies will help ensure the education network is well-positioned to accommodate growth.
- In Māori medium education, we are focused on completing pathways within catchments. Planning will begin this year for the new location of Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Ngāringaomatariki.
- In learning support, we are addressing gaps in provision and completing pathways. A satellite unit for Blomfield Special School at Selwyn Park School has been funded this year.
- Enrolment scheme reviews and amendments will continue to be our primary tool for managing growth across the region.



Tāmaki Herenga Tāngata – Auckland North and West



What's influencing population change across the region?

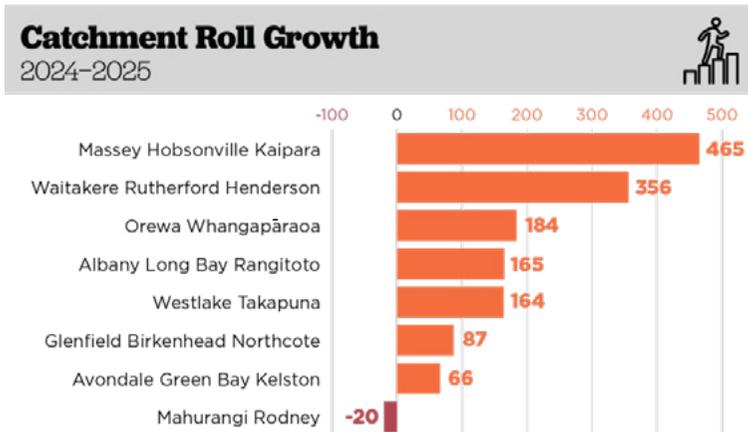
- All but one catchment experienced roll growth in the past year.
- Intensification is enabled by the Auckland Unitary Plan, and private plan changes in parts of the north and west are bringing forward growth in areas that is different to that signalled in Council's Future Development Strategy.
- There are significant areas of Future Urban zoned land in both north and west Auckland, including greenfield areas at Warkworth, Milldale, Whenuapai, Hobsonville, Kumeū and Massey.

What's already underway to help us respond to population change across the region?

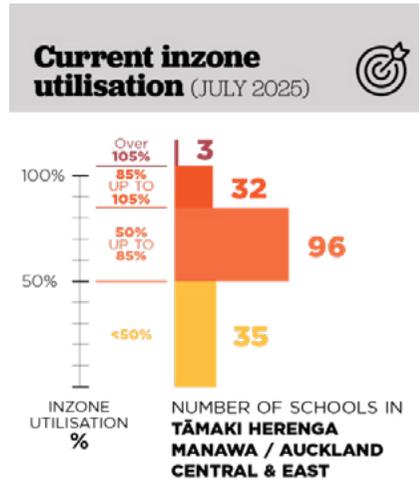
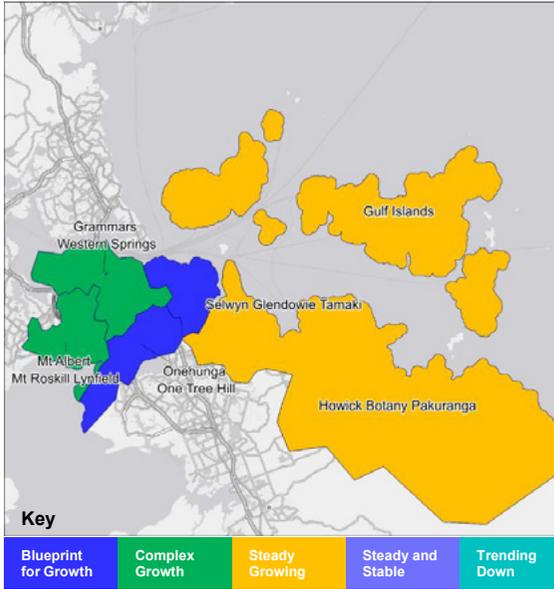
- Seven schools received funding for additional teaching spaces to respond to growth.
- Funding was received for a satellite of Oaklynn Special School at Kelston Intermediate School.
- Site works are underway for a new year 1-8 primary school at Massey Redhills (Te Pae School). Opening date Term 1, 2027.
- We are reviewing 19 enrolment schemes across Tāmaki Herenga Tāngata and are developing new enrolment schemes across the region to relieve the risk of overcrowding and to position the network to respond to the future growth forecast.
- We remain engaged with Auckland Council and other government agencies to inform and be informed about plans for residential growth and intensification.
- Hare Krishna School has a change in year levels to include years 11-13 that is being phased in over 3 years.
- We are planning our specialist settings and network to ensure provision is well located to respond to growth, including options for additional specialist provision in the North of Auckland.
- We are exploring the opportunities identified by Te Tira Hou to build capacity and pathways to support a growing demand for Kaupapa Māori and Māori medium education.

What else are we planning to do to respond to population change across the region?

- Progress further site acquisitions in growth areas and implement plans to increase educational provision as required. This will include growing existing schools and opening new schools. We will support establishment of additional Bilingual and Immersion provision in Te Reo Māori and Pacific languages.
- Investigate options to cater for future demand across Mahurangi and Rodney as we understand that there will be growth beyond 2026.
- Investigate land acquisition for an additional secondary school in west Auckland.
- Investigate options to cater for future demand in Albany.
- Monitor the forecast growth and demand in response to the pace and scale of housing development.
- Enrolment scheme reviews and amendments to continue as a first option to manage growth across the region.
- Monitor rolls for numbers of out of zone students and remind schools of their obligations to consider the longer-term implications of out of zone enrolments, as capacity for in zone students may be needed at a later date.



Tāmaki Herenga Manawa – Auckland Central and East



What's influencing population change across the region?

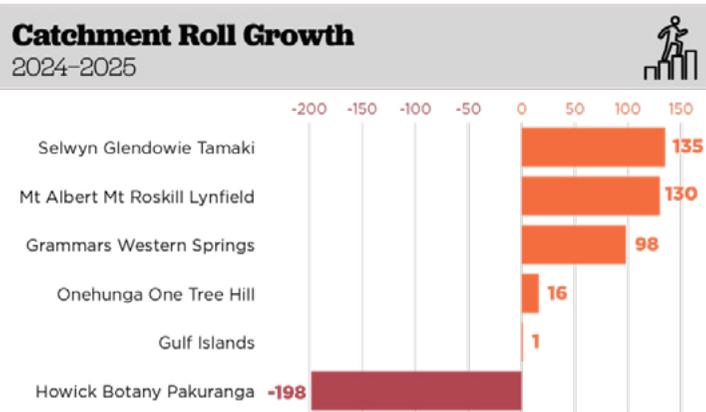
- All but one catchment across the region experienced roll growth, driven by intensification enabled by the Auckland Unitary Plan – a trend that is expected to continue in urban areas.
- Population growth within catchments is uneven, with increasing enrolments at some schools being offset by declines in other areas of the same catchment.
- As larger primary school cohorts progress through the system, roll pressure is increasingly shifting to secondary schools.
- The redevelopment of the Wesley (West) Kāinga Ora neighbourhood has recently been deferred indefinitely which will slow increases in population and school rolls in the Mt Albert Mt Roskill Lynfield catchment.
- Kāinga Ora continues to deliver housing in Roskill South, Owairaka, Waikowhai, Tāmaki and Oranga, driving roll growth in the Mt Albert Mt Roskill Lynfield, Selwyn Glendowie Tāmaki and Onehunga One Tree Hill catchments.
- Early stages of development on the former Unitec site will drive growth in Avondale.

What's already underway to help us respond to population change across the region?

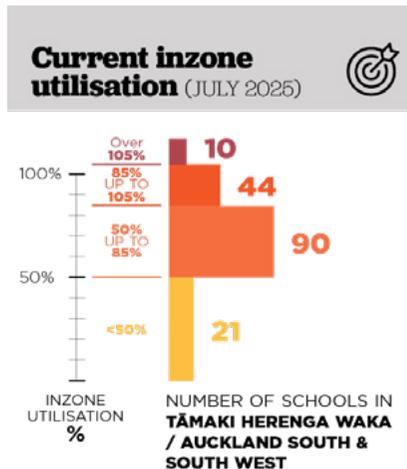
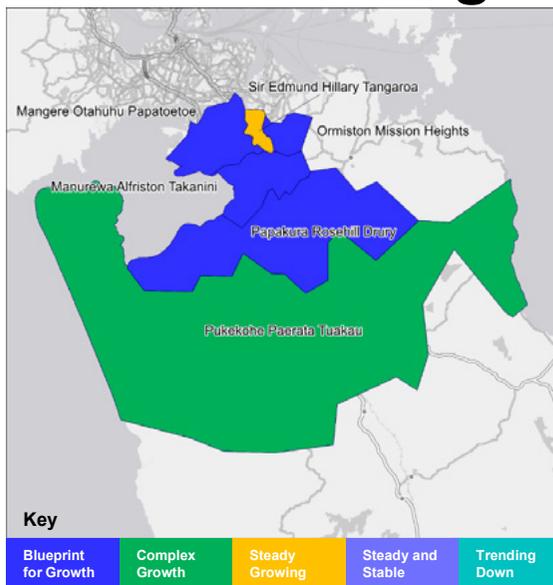
- Additional teaching spaces to respond to growth have been funded for Bucklands Beach Intermediate, Macleans College, One Tree Hill College and Te Kura o Pātiki Rosebank School.
- Funding was received for a secondary school satellite of Central Auckland Specialist School.
- Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Ngā Maungarongo received funding to progress the project at the kura.
- Construction is underway for the relocation of Central Auckland Specialist School to the Wesley Intermediate site.
- Construction will soon begin for the rebuild of Sommerville Special School.
- We are reviewing 68 enrolment schemes across Herenga Manawa and implementing a range of amendments across the region to relieve the risk of overcrowding and to position the network to respond to the future growth forecast.
- The Ministry remains engaged with Auckland Council and other government agencies to inform and be informed about plans for residential growth and intensification.
- We are planning our specialist network and settings to ensure provision is well located to respond to growth.
- We are exploring the opportunities identified by Te Tira Hou to build capacity and pathways to support a growing demand for Kaupapa Māori and Māori medium education.

What else are we planning to do to respond to population change across the region?

- We will continue to monitor population growth, residential development trends, and trends in school rolls to inform future actions.
- We will grow existing schools, open new schools if required, and support the establishment of additional Bilingual and Immersion provision in Te Reo Māori and Pacific languages.
- Investigations continue for a site for a new primary school to cater for the development at the Unitec site.
- Enrolment scheme reviews and amendments to continue as a first option to manage growth over the region.
- Monitor rolls for numbers of out of zone students and remind schools of their obligations to consider the longer-term implications of accepting out of zone enrolments, as capacity for in zone students may be needed at a later date.



Tāmaki Herenga Waka – Auckland South and Southwest



What's influencing population change across the region?

- All but one catchment has had roll growth, with significant growth in Papakura Rosehill and Drury.
- Intensification is enabled by the Auckland Unitary Plan and there is likely to be continued intensification across urban areas and private plan changes bringing forward growth ahead of time compared to Auckland Council's Future Development Strategy.
- There are significant areas of Future Urban Land in the sub-region, including greenfield areas at Takanini, Hingaia, Drury, Paerata, Pukekohe and growth is continuing in Pokeno.
- Development in Drury has not progressed as quickly to what was previously forecast.
- There are a higher number of students per household than we see traditionally.
- The redevelopment of the Ōtaki o te Wai (Middlemore) Kāinga Ora neighbourhood has been deferred indefinitely which will impact on the forecast demand in school rolls from development in that immediate area.

What's already underway to help us respond to population change across the region?

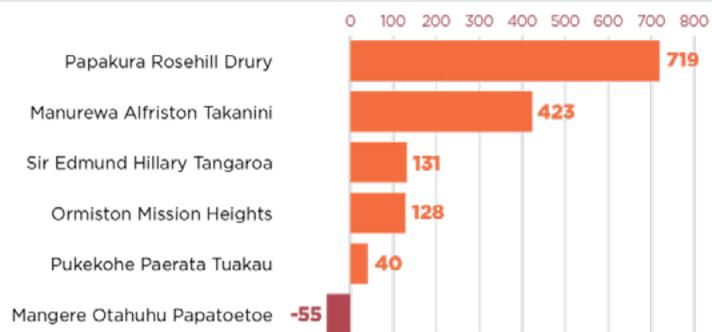
- Thirteen schools received funding for additional teaching spaces to respond to growth.
- Funding was received for a satellite of Rosehill Special School at Papakura Normal School.
- Three kura received funding.
- We have acquired land for a new primary school in Pokeno.
- We are planning to open a new primary school (Te Kura Rau Iti) in Flatbush in 2026 and a new junior college at Chapel Downs in 2027.
- We are reviewing 33 enrolment schemes across Herenga Waka and are developing a range of new enrolment schemes across the region to relieve the risk of overcrowding and to position the network to respond to the future growth forecast.
- We continue to engage with Auckland Council and other government agencies to inform and be informed about plans for residential growth.
- We are planning our specialist settings and network to ensure provision is well located to respond to growth.
- We are exploring the opportunities identified by Te Tira Hou to build capacity and pathways to support a growing demand for Kaupapa Māori and Māori medium education.

What else are we planning to do to respond to population change across the region?

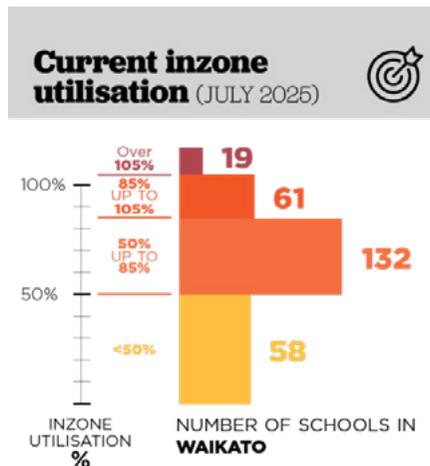
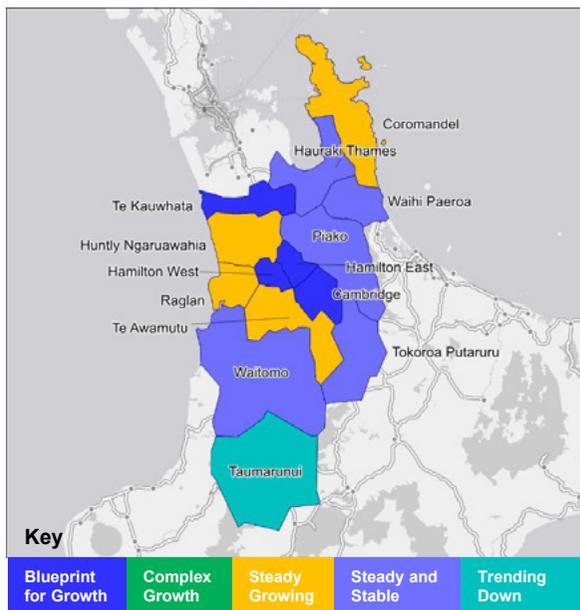
- Progress further site acquisitions in growth areas, and implement plans to increase educational provision as required. This will include growing existing schools and opening new schools. We will support establishment of additional Bilingual and Immersion provision in Te Reo Māori and Pacific languages.
- Investigate additional land acquisition for schools in Drury as development progresses.
- Enrolment scheme reviews and amendments to continue as a first option to manage growth in the region.
- Expansion/redevelopment of existing schools to respond to growth in student numbers due to public and private developments.
- Monitor rolls for out of zone students and remind schools of their obligations to consider the longer-term implications of accepting out of zone enrolments, as capacity for in zone students may be needed at a later date.

Catchment Roll Growth

2024–2025



Waikato



What's influencing population change across the region?

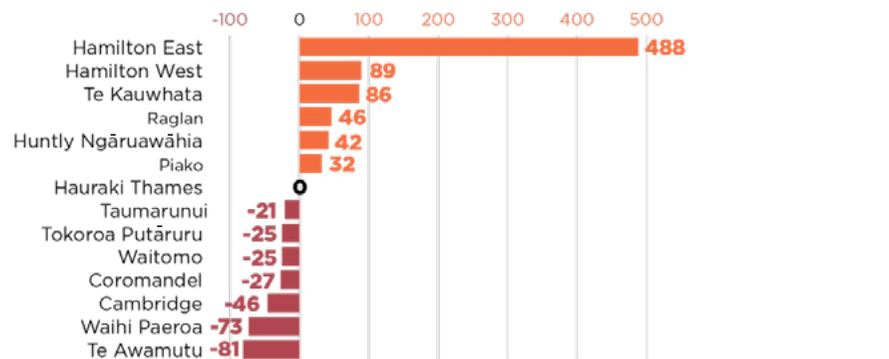
- Population migration from Auckland continues due to more affordable housing and flexible working arrangements.
- Hamilton and surrounding districts are a popular destination for families.
- Infill housing continues in central Hamilton.
- Residential developments have slowed in Cambridge and Te Awamutu and this is contributing to a decline in the school aged population.

What's already underway to help us respond to population change across the region?

- Completed zoning of every State Primary and Intermediate school in Hamilton to better balance the network and identify potential future roll growth requirements.
- Development at Rototuna Junior and Senior High Schools in Hamilton North has been completed with an extra 800 spaces created.
- Site planning is underway for the two new primary schools in the new Peacocke subdivision in the Melville area of Hamilton.
- We are progressing additional classrooms from Budget 25 to manage roll growth (including KME/MME and Learning support).

Catchment Roll Growth

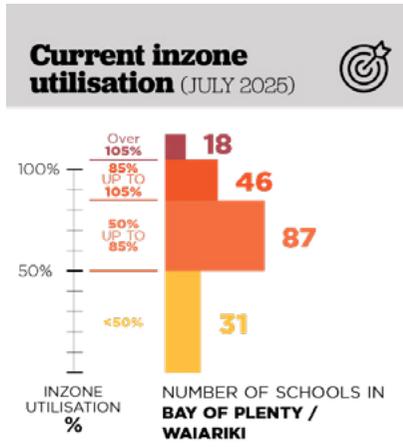
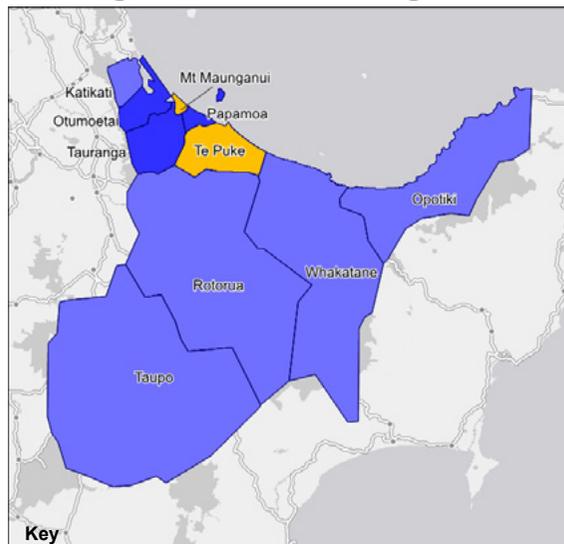
2024-2025



What else are we planning to do to respond to population change across the region?

- We are pursuing site acquisition in the Rotokauri area of Hamilton to manage future growth.
- Specific focus on new enrolment schemes in Matamata and Ngāruawāhia to balance this network of schools.
- Enrolment scheme reviews and amendments to continue as a first option to manage growth over the region.
- Increasing the number of Learning Support teaching spaces at local Specialist Schools
- In areas facing population decline we will support individual schools with low enrolments to remain viable, while actively assessing any need for structural schooling changes such as mergers or closures.
- Continue working with all our local government and territorial partners on spatial planning and future development strategies.

Bay of Plenty Waiariki



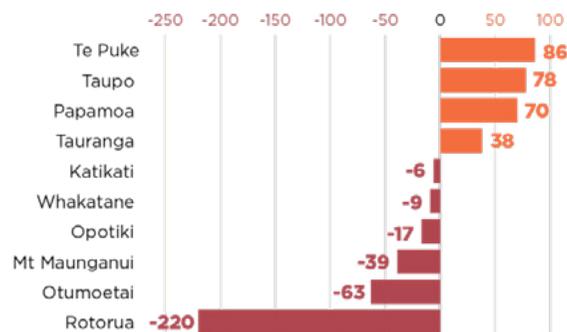
What's influencing population change across the region?

- The Te Puke catchment continues to grow with planned residential developments ongoing, this is resulting in anticipated increases in the school-aged population.
- Taupō catchment is continuing to be a popular destination for families with this reflected in an increase in enrolments.
- Pāpāmoa continues to have strong school-aged population growth due to continuing development of higher density housing areas.
- The Tauranga population has continued to grow steadily, around 6% growth in the school aged population, and is projected to continue to see strong growth over the next 30 years.
- The decline in student numbers in the Rotorua catchment is not expected to continue with student numbers returning to steady and stable into the medium term.

What's already underway to help us respond to population change across the region?

- The expansion of Pāpāmoa College is complete and Mount Maunganui College is nearing completion with additional spaces for up to 500 students added at each school.
- A number of significant roll growth projects are underway or completed recently including schools in Tauranga's CBD, Mount Maunganui and Te Puke and a number of kura across the region.
- Completed zoning of every State school in Taupō to better balance the network and identify potential future roll growth requirements.
- Specific focus on new enrolment schemes in Rotorua to better balance the network and identify surplus space.

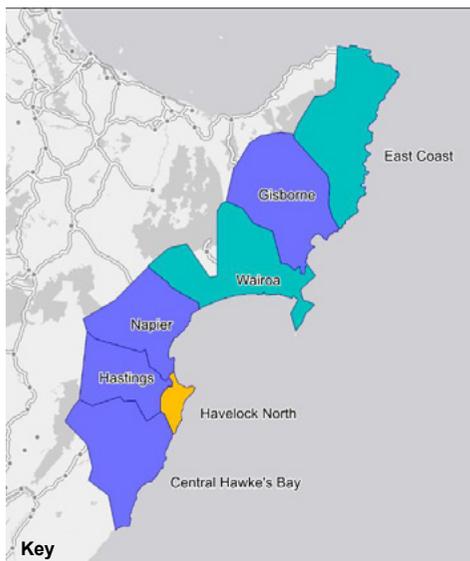
Catchment Roll Growth 2024-2025



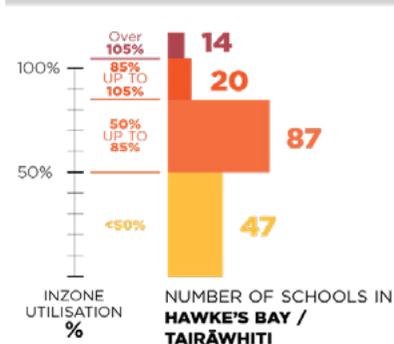
What else are we planning to do to respond to population change across the region?

- Continue working with all our territorial and central government partners on spatial planning and future development strategies for growth, including the Smartgrowth partnership in Tauranga city.
- Acquire land for a future secondary school in the Western Corridor growth area and the relocation and expansion of Tauriko School.
- We continue to monitor development and plan for growth within the wider Tauranga catchment.
- Actively manage enrolment schemes to balance student numbers where there are underutilised schools in the network/catchment.
- Make recommendations for provision of additional classrooms where a school is significantly over utilised from in-zone growth.

Hawke's Bay Tairāwhiti



Current inzone utilisation (JULY 2025)



What's influencing population change across the region?

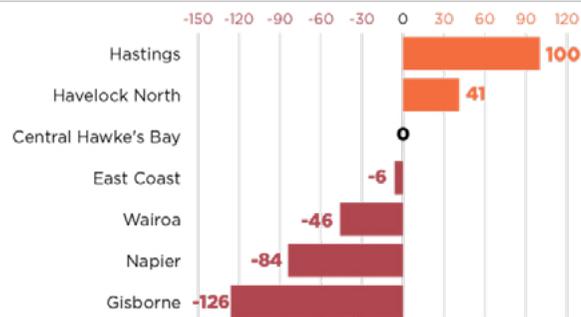
- Small residential developments have continued across the Hastings and Havelock North catchments.
- Gisborne catchment is experiencing a decline in student numbers which could be due to families moving out of the region for job opportunities.
- Māori students in the Tairāwhiti / Gisborne District now make up 69% of the total number enrolled in schools and kura.
- Declines in student numbers are also evident across the Napier, Wairoa and East Coast catchments. This could also be due to families moving out of the region for job opportunities and the impact of Cyclone Gabrielle on housing availability in Wairoa and the East Coast.

What's already underway to help us respond to population change across the region?

- Most schools in Hastings have enrolment schemes and despite an increase in student numbers this catchment has available capacity across multiple schools. Will continue to monitor.
- TKKM o Te Wānanga Whare Tapere o Takitimu (relocated in 2024) has provision to cater for 400 ākonga.
- Six roll growth teaching spaces have been funded in Budget 25 for TKKM o Ngāti Kahungunu Ki Heretaunga (Hastings).
- Closure of Cobham School (Gisborne). Cobham will become the home for a newly established Wharekura, TKKM o Hawaiki Hou which will provide for 108 students.
- TKKM o Horouta Wānanga (Gisborne) received construction funding for 200 spaces – to enable relocation to its new site adjacent to Te Poho-o-Rawiri Marae.
- Removal of excess teaching spaces (5) at Tiaho School, Wairoa as part of a redevelopment.

Catchment Roll Growth

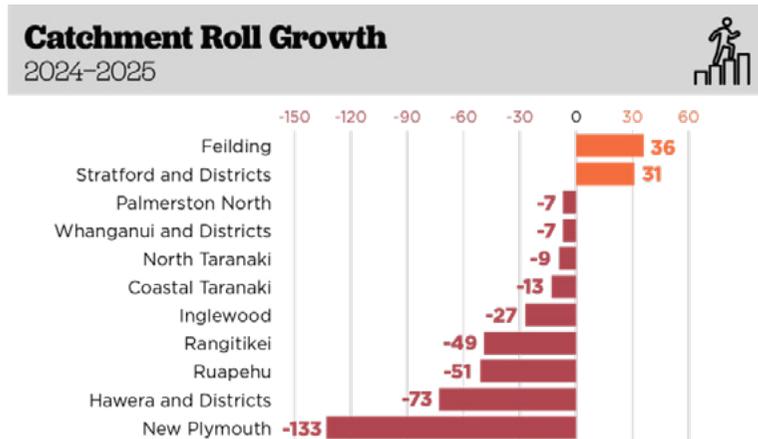
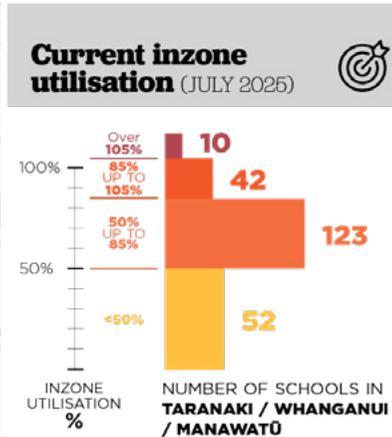
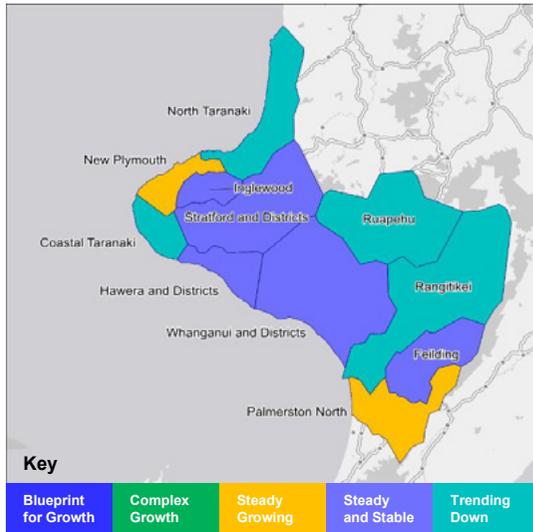
2024–2025



What else are we planning to do to respond to population change across the region?

- Implement enrolment schemes in Central Hawkes Bay to spread demand across the catchment.
- Actively manage enrolment schemes to balance student numbers where there are underutilised schools in the network/catchment.
- Investigate options to reduce excess capacity within the Gisborne Network to respond to population decline and the increase in Kaupapa Māori provision.
- Continue working with all our local government and territorial partners on spatial planning and future development strategies.

Taranaki Whanganui Manawatū



What's influencing population change across the region?

- The catchments of Feilding, and Stratford and Districts are experiencing some growth in student numbers. This could be due to the development of more affordable housing which is drawing families to these areas.
- North Taranaki (Waitara), whilst overall student enrolment numbers are stable, Waitara township has seen an increase in enrolments. This is reflective of the development of affordable housing options including Iwi led developments.
- Palmerston North and Whanganui continue to have a stable school aged population, and this is expected to continue in the short term.
- The decline in students numbers in New Plymouth and Hawera and Districts is due to a decline in primary school enrolments, while secondary enrolments remain steady.
- The decline in student numbers in Rangitikei and Ruapehu may be due to less employment opportunities and the availability and quality of housing.

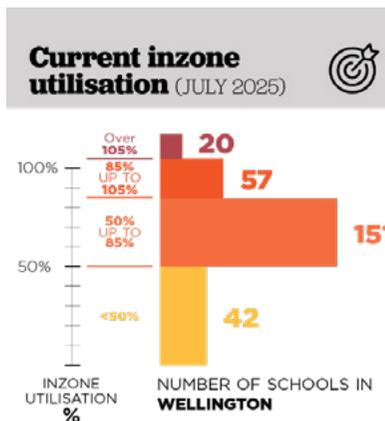
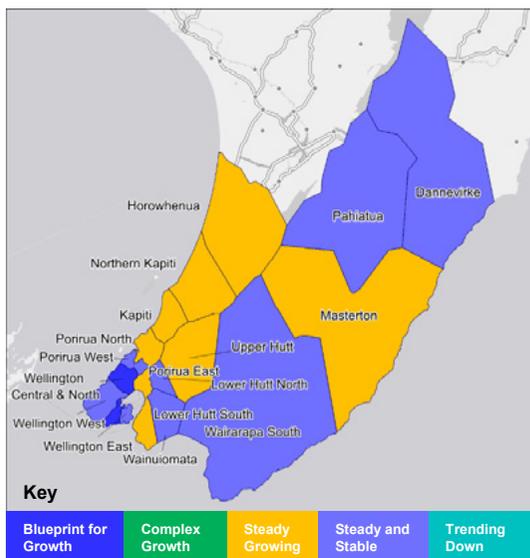
What's already underway to help us respond to population change across the region?

- Across the region we continue to see growth in whānau desire for Kaupapa Māori education.
- A new Kura was established in Feilding with 60 places for ākonga. We are planning for additional kura in North Taranaki.
- We are progressing additional classrooms from Budget 25 to manage roll growth in KME/MME Kura.
- Enrolment schemes have been implemented in Palmerston North, Inglewood and Waitara to better balance the network and identify potential future roll growth requirements.
- Across the region there has been growth in the number of students identified as having additional learning needs.

What else are we planning to do to respond to population change across the region?

- We are planning for growth in ORS supported students, including the possibility of a new specialist school in the region.
- Continue working with all our local government and territorial partners on spatial planning and future development strategies.
- Meet with the respective Iwi Trusts to gain an understanding of future Kaupapa Māori needs in the catchment.
- Continue to plan for roll growth Māori Medium and Kaupapa Māori Education across the region.
- Enrolment scheme reviews and amendments to continue as a first option to manage growth over the region.

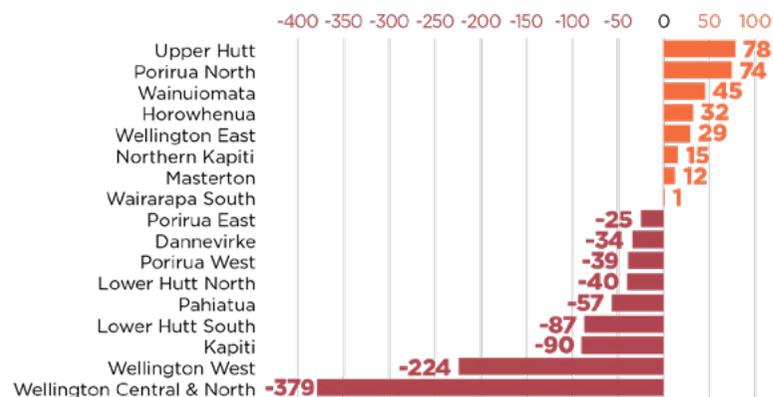
Wellington



What's influencing population change across the region?

- At a regional level, primary school enrolment patterns have followed the general trend of decline, following a recent peak. In contrast, secondary enrolments are anticipated to be peaking in 2025/2026, after which they are anticipated to begin a decline, as seen in the primary age cohort.
- Within catchments, parental choice remains a major influence over individual school roll trends. With a smaller school age population, greater choice becomes available as schools with enrolment schemes which were unable to accommodate out-of-zone enrolments, now have space available as their in-zone enrolments decrease.
- Porirua North and Northern Kapiti (Waikanae) catchments have large scale greenfield developments at various stages of planning. These future communities will require access to schooling.
- Within the Horowhenua catchment significant residential development is planned in and around Levin.
- In addition to greenfield developments, intensification within established communities will have an influence on the existing school networks. There has been in-fill residential development, resulting in 2-3 level townhouse and apartment developments. We expect this will continue over the medium to long term as development opportunities arise and as infrastructure upgrades occur to support this development.

Catchment Roll Growth 2024-2025



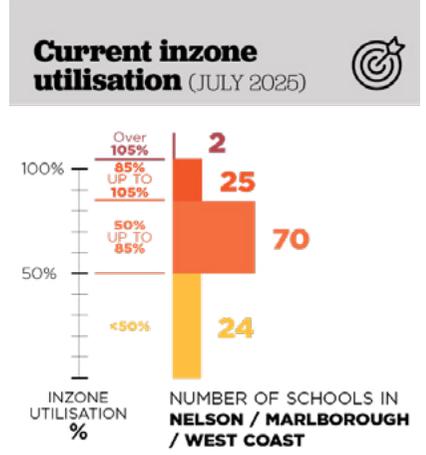
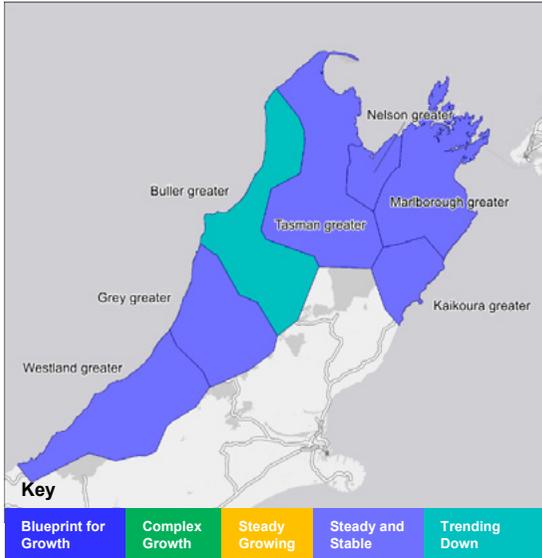
What's already underway to help us respond to population change across the region?

- Enrolment schemes remain the primary response to managing the network of schools, particularly where enrolments are occurring from students living in other school catchments. For example, we are working on the enrolment schemes for the schools in the Upper Hutt catchment to manage growth. We are anticipating growth to be at manageable levels some time in 2026.
- Several roll growth projects, combined with re-development of existing school property have been undertaken or are in delivery at secondary schools across the region.
- We are working with Councils and developers to inform our planning of responses to growth anticipated in the Porirua North, Waikanae and Levin areas.
- We are working with Councils and developers in relation to land acquisition for future primary schools in Porirua North and Levin.

What else are we planning to do to respond to population change across the region?

- We are in discussion with whānau and landowners for sites for new Kura in Porirua and in Levin.
- We will continue to monitor enrolment patterns across school networks, working with schools to share information about enrolment patterns, local student populations and residential development. This information assists schools with their planning and enrolment scheme management.
- We are developing responses to address schools that are over-utilised through a combination of enrolment schemes and additional capacity where it is needed to support enrolment of local students.

Nelson Marlborough West Coast



What's influencing population change across the region?

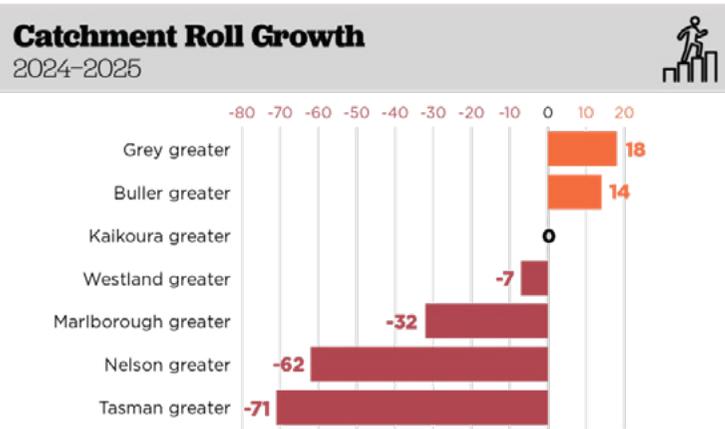
- In most catchments across Nelson Marlborough West Coast the school aged population is steady and stable. The Buller district was projected to decline. However, we are seeing population shifts across the Nelson Marlborough West Coast region that have not been previously forecast.
- Working arrangements, education choices and housing affordability have changed in unanticipated ways following the COVID-19 pandemic, resulting in unpredicted increases in enrolments at some schools.
- Growth in the mining, dairy, tourism and hospitality sectors is creating jobs and partly responsible for high levels of internal migration south. Census 2023 showed Marlborough (8.7%), Nelson (8.0%) Tasman (7.5%) and the West Coast (7.5%) had the most people who previously lived in the North Island as reported in the 2018 Census – behind only Otago (9.9%).
- Tasman has experienced some of the fastest population and housing growth in the country. Census 2023 results show the population grew by 10.3% and the Council's growth projections show all age groups in Tasman are projected to experience growth over the next 10 years.
- There are pockets of growth in the Nelson-Richmond conurbation, particularly in the West and South of Richmond, due to housing expansion and intensification.
- The Māori school-aged population is growing significantly, both in numbers and as a proportion of the overall school aged population, resulting in greater demand for Kaupapa Māori and Māori medium provision.

What's already underway to help us respond to population change across the region?

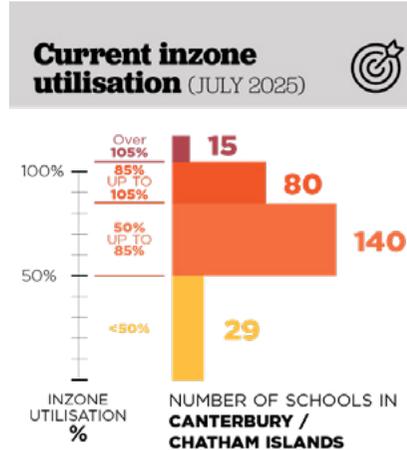
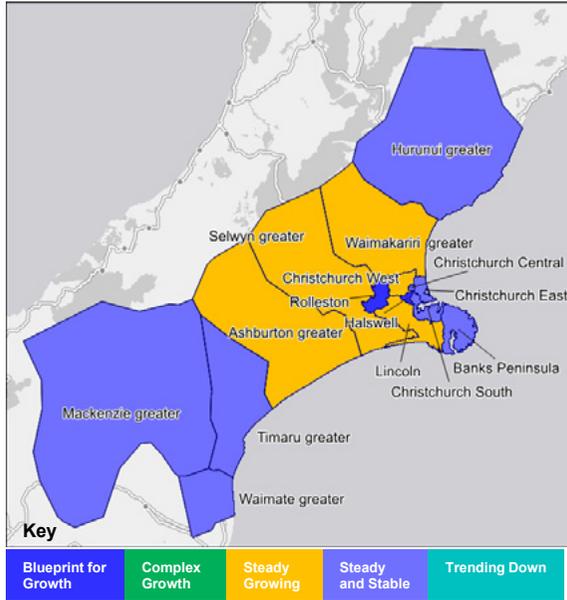
- Recapitation (increasing to Y1-8 from Y1-6) at Wakefield School in 2024 and Appleby School in 2025.
- Addressing the priority property needs of Marlborough Boys' and Girls' Colleges and Bohally Intermediate following the end of the Te Tātoru o Wairau | Blenheim schools rebuild project.
- Working with Iwi on Kaupapa Māori and Māori medium provision. New kura, Te Pā Wānanga at Ōmaka Marae in Blenheim. We are supporting and application for a new kura, Te Kura Motuhake o Arahura at Arahura Marae near Hokitika. Additional teaching spaces at Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Tuia te Matangi in Richmond. New Level 1 MME pathways in Nelson.
- A satellite for Maitai Specialist School is in construction at Nayland College in Stoke. Redevelopment of the Maitai Specialist School base site at a new location in Richmond. We are supporting an application for a new satellite in Motueka.

What else are we planning to do to respond to population change across the region?

- Relocation of Ranzau School to a new school in Richmond West to manage growth in the Waimea catchment.
- A Marlborough satellite of Maitai Specialist School in Blenheim, and a Transition Education Centre in Nelson.
- Monitor rolls and respond to changes, primarily through management and implementation of enrolment schemes.
- Work with Councils as they plan for housing intensification and expansion, forecasting what this will mean for the schooling network in these communities.



Canterbury Chatham Islands



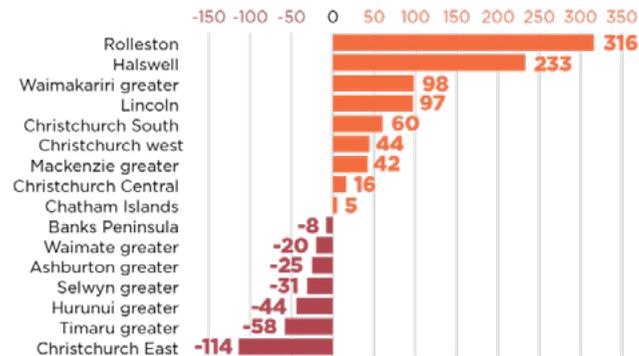
What's influencing population change across the region?

- Significant growth is underway across the Selwyn District, including Rolleston and Lincoln.
- Primary school rolls within Rolleston and Lincoln grew by 6% each year from 2020 to 2024 and grew by 4% in 2025.
- This growth has been driven by large scale greenfield residential developments, which have also driven significant growth in the Halswell area, as well as in the Waimakariri District. Much of this growth is due to the proximity of these development areas to Christchurch City.
- Within Christchurch City, there has been an increase in infill residential development, typically driven by large numbers of small-scale intensification projects. This has resulted in rapid population growth in several urban areas within the city.
- Further greenfield growth in satellite towns and further in-fill/intensification in urban areas is expected over the short to medium term. Most rural areas of Canterbury are stable or experiencing a low level of growth. There is potential for significant residential growth in Ashburton and Timaru, but the scale and timing of uptake of enabled housing development is uncertain at this time.

What's already underway to help us respond to population change across the region?

- A new primary school will open in Rolleston in 2026, as will the second campus of Rolleston College.
- Large scale expansions have been completed or are in progress at schools in Rolleston, Lincoln, and Woodend. Multiple small to medium scale expansion projects have been approved and funded within urban areas of Christchurch City.
- Sites have been purchased for additional primary provision in Prebbleton and Halswell, and new primary schools will open on these sites in 2027. Work is underway to investigate future sites for new schools in areas of greenfield growth.
- Enrolment schemes are in place at 81% of state schools, and at 69% of state integrated schools in the region. This has helped to manage the risk of overcrowding at individual schools and supports the best use of the network of schools. Regular review and amendment of enrolment schemes ensures they remain fit for purpose in meeting the requirements of the Education and Training Act.
- Additional capacity is being made available at each of the state schools identified as being over 105% utilised. At each of these schools, additional teaching space is either available through temporary solutions, or has been funded for construction.
- The Ministry continues to work with Proprietors of State Integrated schools to identify the demand and opportunities for expansion of Integrated provision to support the wider network, particularly in growth areas. Several Maximum Roll Increases have been recently approved, with the larger of these increases staged over several years.

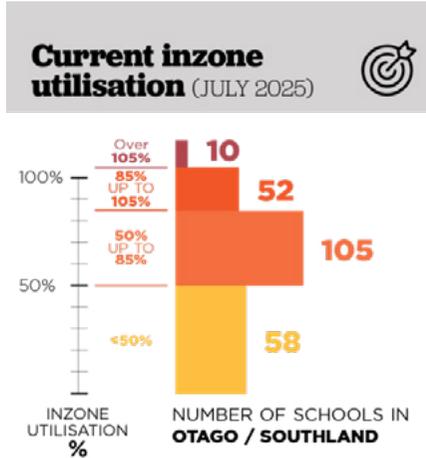
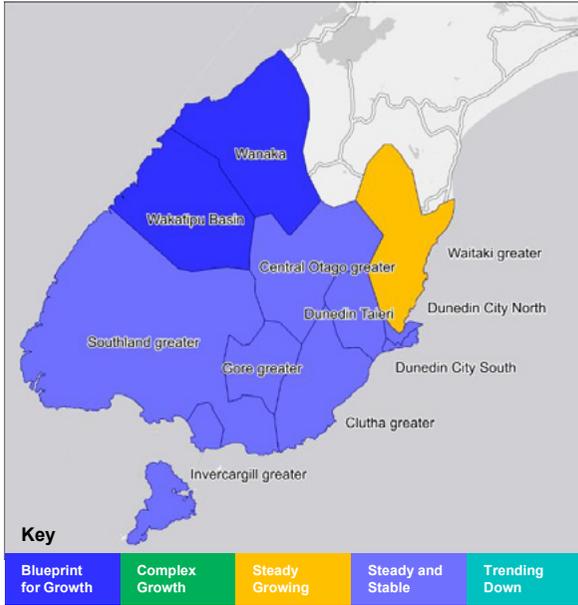
Catchment Roll Growth 2024-2025



What else are we planning to do to respond to population change across the region?

- Continue to monitor population growth, residential development trends, and trends in school rolls to inform future actions. Continue to engage with local Councils to inform and be informed by council plans for residential growth.
- Progress further site acquisitions in growth areas, and implement plans to increase educational provision as required. This will include growing existing schools and opening new schools. We will support establishment of additional Bilingual and Immersion provision in Te Reo Māori and Pacific languages.
- Review enrolment schemes regularly to ensure students have access to a local state school, and to ensure best use of capacity available in the network.

Otago Southland



What's influencing population change across the region?

- Significant growth is underway and planned for Wakatipu Basin (Queenstown). In Wakatipu Basin, state and state-integrated schools saw their rolls grow an increase of 14.1% between 2021 and 2025.
- In the same timeframe, in Wānaka, state and state-integrated schools saw their rolls grow by 12.9%.
- In Dunedin, the Future Development Strategy is proposing growth in the Taieri area, Corstorphine and Caversham within the short and medium term (next 10 years), and parts of Brockville over the next 30 years.
- There continues to be significant growth in the Wakatipu Basin and Wānaka catchments, and learners' projections across Otago Southland look stable due to stability or steady growth in the rest of the region: Central Otago, Dunedin City North, Clutha and Waitaki.

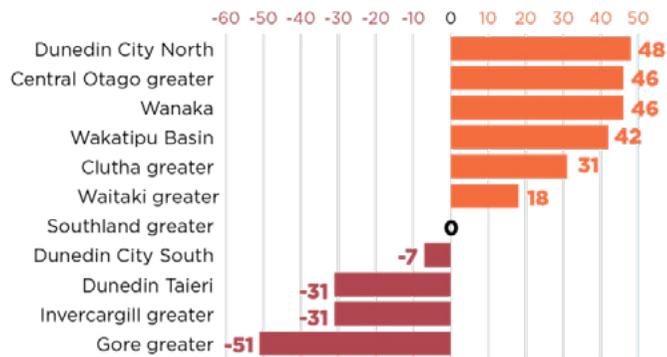
What's already underway to help us respond to population change across the region?

- Te Kura Whakatipu o Kawarau (Y1-8) in Queenstown opened in 2022.
- Stage 2 of Te Kura Whakatipu o Kawarau is now approved for additional teaching spaces due to the scale and pace of growth in Queenstown. The opening roll of 160 has increased by 233 students or 145.6%.
- Te Kura O Take Kārara (Y1-6) in Wānaka opened in 2020 and has ensured there is continued capacity in the primary network.
- We have initiated processes to acquire further land to accommodate projected student growth in the Wakatipu Basin and are in discussion with developers in Kingston for a new primary school site.
- We have delivered additional classrooms to Dunstan High School in Central Otago.
- We are working to support Māori Medium education pathways across the region with possibilities to initiate kohanga reo provision in Queenstown and potential investment in TKKM o Ōtepoti.
- The Ministry continues to work with state-integrated proprietors to identify the demand and opportunities for expansion of Integrated provision to support the wider network, particularly in growth areas.

What else are we planning to do to respond to population change across the region?

- Investigate additional land acquisition for a secondary school in Queenstown and a primary school in Hāwea.
- Continue to work with Queenstown Lakes District Council as they update the information around new developed areas and timing based on their current spatial plan.
- Continue to actively monitor rolls for out of zone students and communicate with schools to support them meet their obligations and consider reduction in the number of out-of-zone places offered.

Catchment Roll Growth 2024-2025





**Te Tāhuhu o
te Mātauranga**
Ministry of Education



**Te Kāwanatanga
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