Te Tāhuhu o te Mātauranga
Ministry of Education

Report: Draft LEG paper and polytechnic Orders in Council for approval prior to consultation

To:	Hon Penny Simmonds, Minister for Tertiary Education		
Date:	28/04/2026	Deadline:	29/04/2026
Priority:	High		
From:	9(2)(a) Senior Policy Manager, Tertiary Skills Quality and Governance	Phone:	9(2)(a)
Drafter:	9(2)(a)	METIS No:	1355511
Title ok for release?		Yes	

Why are we sending this to you?

- This paper provides the finalised draft LEG Cabinet paper *Orders in Council for the establishment of final polytechnics* (Annex 1) ready to begin Ministerial and agency consultation. It also provides the draft Orders in Council (Orders) for the establishment of the final three polytechnics for your approval to include with the LEG paper for consultation (attached as Annexes 2-4).
- Additionally, a draft email is provided to send to your Cabinet colleagues (Annex 5).

What action do we need, by when?

- We are seeking any feedback you may have on the draft Orders, and approval to progress Ministerial and agency consultation on the LEG paper and the Orders.
- Please return the signed paper in the morning of 29 April 2026 so we can begin consultation on the same day.

Key facts, issues and questions

- This version of the LEG paper is ready for your office to circulate for Ministerial consultation and is unchanged from the first draft we provided you [METIS 1355461 refers] as you had no feedback.
- The Parliamentary Counsel Office has drafted the Orders, and they are almost identical to the Orders you made to establish the first 10 polytechnics in November of 2025, except for the polytechnics' names.

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Alignment with Government priorities

1. This report supports the ongoing implementation of the redesign of the vocational education and training (VET) system, which is one of your priorities for the Tertiary Education portfolio.

Next Steps

2. Once we receive your approval to begin Ministerial and agency consultation, both will begin in parallel on 29 April 2026.

3. The next steps and dates are as follows:

Date	Process step
29 April – 6 May	Ministerial and agency consultation begin in parallel
11 May	Feedback incorporated and final LEG paper and Orders to Minister for approval for lodging
14 May	LEG paper lodged with the Cabinet office by 10.30am
21 May	LEG Committee meeting

Annexes

Annex 1 Draft LEG paper – *Orders in Council for the establishment of final polytechnics* [attached separately]

Annex 2 Education and Training (Western Institute of Technology at Taranaki) Order 2026 [attached separately]

Annex 3 Education and Training (Whitireia and WelTec Institute of Technology) Order 2026 [attached separately]

Annex 4 Education and Training (Northland Polytechnic) Order 2026 [attached separately]

Annex 5: Draft text for cover email to Ministerial colleagues

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Recommended Actions

The Ministry of Education recommends you:

a. **note** that, as you had no feedback on the draft LEG paper, this version is unchanged and ready for Ministerial and agency consultation

Noted

b. **note** that the Orders in Council follow the same format as the Orders that established the first ten polytechnics at the end of 2025

Noted

c. **indicate** any feedback on the attached Orders in Council

Yes / No

d. **agree** to progress Ministerial and agency consultation on the draft LEG paper and Orders in Council

Agree / Disagree

Proactive Release:

e. **agree** that the Ministry of Education release this paper once it has been considered by you with any information needing to be withheld done so in line with the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982.

Agree / Disagree

9(2)(a)

Senior Policy Manager
Te Pou Kaupapahere | Policy

28/04/2026

Hon Penny Simmonds
Minister for Tertiary Education

28/04/26

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Annex 5: Draft text for cover email to Ministerial colleagues

Dear colleagues,

I will soon be lodging a Cabinet paper (*Orders in Council for the establishment of final polytechnics)* for the 21st May 2026 meeting of the Cabinet Legislation Committee (LEG). I am consulting with you on the attached draft of this paper.

The paper recommends making three Orders in Council that establish the final polytechnics and implement the Government's redesign of the vocational education and training system. These follow on from Cabinet decisions in March 2026 to establish the Western Institute of Technology at Taranaki, Whitireia and WelTec Institute of Technology and Northland Polytechnic. Each of the polytechnic Orders are essentially identical to the Orders made to establish the first 10 polytechnics in 2025, except for confirming the institutions' legal names.

The Orders attached are:

- Education and Training (Western Institute of Technology at Taranaki) Order 2026
- Education and Training (Whitireia and WelTec Institute of Technology) Order 2026
- Education and Training (Northland Polytechnic) Order 2026

The Orders will formally establish each polytechnic on 1 October 2026, and the intended operational date is 1 January 2027.

I would be grateful if you could provide any feedback on the draft Cabinet paper to my office by 6 May 2026. I understand that the Ministry of Education is also consulting with relevant government agencies on these drafts.

[Sign off]



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