Te Tāhuhu o te Mātauranga
Ministry of Education

Report: Final polytechnics LEG paper and Orders in Council for approval for lodgement

To:	Hon Penny Simmonds, Minister for Tertiary Education		
Date:	11/05/2026	Deadline:	13/05/2026
Priority:	Medium		
From:	9(2)(a) Senior Policy Manager, Tertiary Skills Quality Governance	Phone:	9(2)(a)
Drafter:	9(2)(a)	METIS No:	1355512
Title ok for release?		Yes	

Why are we sending this to you?

- This report provides you with the final Cabinet paper *Orders in Council for the establishment of final polytechnics* for consideration at the 21 May 2026 meeting of the Cabinet Legislation Committee (LEG).

What action do we need, by when?

- We are seeking your approval to lodge the LEG paper and the Orders in Council (Orders) on 14 May 2026.
- Please return this paper signed by 13 May 2026.

Key facts, issues and questions

- We received minor feedback from the Parliamentary Counsel Office (PCO) on the LEG paper during formal consultation (changes highlighted in the annex).
- If you approve these changes, we will lodge the LEG paper on 14 May, and the Orders will be lodged directly by the PCO.

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Alignment with Government priorities

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

Agency and Ministerial consultation and updates to the LEG paper

2. Agencies, apart from the PCO, had no comments or feedback on the draft LEG paper and draft Orders.
3. There were two agencies (Ministry of Youth Development and the Office of The Ombudsman) we consulted with who we didn't list in the first draft of the LEG paper. We have updated paragraph 23 of the LEG paper accordingly.
4. Parliamentary Counsel Office suggested the following minor technical changes:
   a. Update the Standing Order reference in paragraph 16 from 319 to 327 to reflect the numbering in the 2023 edition of the Standing Orders.
   b. Change the text "must not" to "should not" in paragraph 13 as waivers can be granted to the 28-day rule.
5. These changes have been actioned and are highlighted in Annex 1 for your review.

Next Steps

6. If you approve these minor changes, we will ensure the LEG paper and Orders are lodged with the Cabinet Office before on 14 May 2026.
7. On 15 May, we will provide you with draft talking points to support your attendance at the 21 May 2026 LEG meeting.

Annexes

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

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Recommended Actions

The Ministry of Education recommends you:

a. **agree** to the minor changes made to the LEG paper based on agency feedback.

Agree / Disagree

b. **approve** the LEG paper and Orders in Council for lodgement on 14 May 2026 for the Cabinet Legislation Committee meeting on 21 May 2026.

Yes / No

Proactive Release:

c. **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, Tertiary Skills Quality Governance
Te Pou Kaupapahere | Policy

11/05/2026

Hon Penny Simmonds
Minister for Tertiary Education

12/05/26

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