



Memo

To: Hearing Commissioners for Upper Hutt City Council's Intensification Planning Instrument
From: Ministry of Education Te Tāhuhu o Te Mātauranga ('the Ministry')
Date: 24 April 2023
Subject: **Letter to be Tabled at Upper Hutt City Council's Intensification Planning Instrument Hearing**

The Ministry of Education – Te Tāhuhu o te Mātauranga ('the Ministry') lodged a submission to Upper Hutt City Council's Intensification Planning Instrument ('IPI') for the Upper Hutt City District Plan (submitter S51). The Ministry has chosen not to attend the hearing for the IPI commencing on 26 April 2023, but instead wishes a letter to be tabled at the hearing in lieu of their absence.

The Ministry has reviewed the Council's Evidence Report ('evidence'), dated 06 April 2023 and generally agrees with, and accepts the Council's recommendations. The Ministry's response has been set out below.

In regard to the Ministry's submission points relating to the inclusion of a new definition for additional infrastructure (submission point S51.1) amendments to GRZ-P1 and GRZ-P9 (submission points S51.2 and S51.3) and to include explicit reference to additional infrastructure, the evidence report rejected the Ministry's requests. The key reason for rejecting these points was that Policy 10(b) of the NPS-UD places a duty on the Council to engage with providers of development infrastructure and additional infrastructure (which includes the Ministry) in order to achieve integrated land use and infrastructure planning and there should not be a duplicated requirement in the IPI.

Furthermore, the evidence report also considers that sufficiency requirements of short-, medium- and long-term development capacity in Upper Hutt will be best addressed in the mandatory requirements of updating its Housing and Business Development Capacity Assessment (HBA) (Subpart 1 of the NPS-UD) and preparing a Future Development Strategy (FDS) (Subpart 4 of the NPS-UD).

The Ministry accepts this approach and wishes to work closely with Council in the updating of the HBA and development of the FDS. As the process of developing an FDS is underway at a regional level the Ministry requests appropriate continued engagement on specific elements of this relevant to Upper Hutt City Council as required, including through to Implementation Plan level. This will help the Ministry's Network and Spatial Planning teams to best understand the demands on the school network and where additional infrastructure is needed to support growth within the district. The Ministry looks forward to working with Council to properly plan for growth and the required school network to support it.

There are three other submission points the Ministry wishes to address in this letter. They are as follows:

- Submission point S51.7
- Submission point S51.4
- Submission point S56.5

On submission point S51.7, the Ministry sought to include a new supportive policy (HRZ-P9), the evidence report rejected this request. The Ministry agrees with the recommendation of the Council and supports an approach where identified deficiencies in school capacity can be addressed through the updating of the HBA, FDS process and working together with Council.



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

In relation to the Ministry's submission points regarding the removal of educational facilities referenced in an unrestricted discretionary rule (submission point S51.4) and requesting the inclusion of a bespoke restricted discretionary provision (submission point S56.5), the evidence report rejected this request. In this case, the Ministry accepts the position of the evidence report. The Ministry wishes to note however, that, while the Minister of Education, has requiring authority powers to rely on to designate and plan for future school sites, its preference is for clear provisions that signal to future and existing communities, Council and any future developer that education facilities are anticipated within residential zones.

The Ministry requests that this letter be tabled at the hearing in lieu of attendance.

Please contact the undersigned on behalf of the Ministry if you have any questions or require further clarification.

Ngā mihi nui,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Z. Chisam'.

Zachary Chisam

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