

**Submission on a publicly notified application concerning Private Plan Change 31 under
Schedule 1 Clause 21, Resource Management Act 1991**

To: Waipā District Council

Name of submitter: Ministry of Education ('the Ministry')

Address for service: C/- Beca Ltd
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Attention: Rose Mayhead

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The specific parts of the application that the Ministry of Education's submission relates to are:

The potential effects associated with construction traffic safety and residential development, given the proximity of the proposed development to the nearby schools. The Ministry seeks to ensure that any potential impacts on the school resulting from the construction and operation of the proposed structure plan are appropriately addressed to ensure the safety of school staff and students.

Background:

The Ministry of Education ('the Ministry') is the Government's lead advisor on the New Zealand education system, shaping the direction for education agencies and providers and contributing to the Government's goals for education. The Ministry assesses population changes, school roll fluctuations and other trends and challenges impacting on education provision at all levels of the education network to identify changing needs within the network so the Ministry can respond effectively.

The Ministry has responsibility for all education property owned by the Crown. This involves managing the existing property portfolio, upgrading and improving the portfolio, purchasing and constructing new property to meet increased demand, identifying and disposing of surplus State school sector property and managing teacher and caretaker housing. The Ministry is therefore a considerable stakeholder in terms of activities that may impact educational facilities and assets in the Waipā district.

The Ministry of Education's Submission:

Upon review of the application and supporting documents, the Ministry wishes to highlight the following matters:

Construction Traffic Effects

The Ministry notes an Integrated Transport Assessment was prepared for this application. This assessment considers construction traffic at a high level, highlighting that additional resource consents will be required for further phases of earthworks and construction. Associated transport-related effects will be better determined and mitigated at this later stage where specific temporary traffic management and measures are to be considered.

The Ministry considers there is potential for construction vehicle traffic to result in adverse effects in terms of safety on the students and teachers at local schools due to the increase in heavy vehicles on the surrounding network. The Ministry is concerned this will increase the safety risk for those walking and cycling to school and students getting in and out of cars at peak pick up and drop off times. The Ministry seeks that local schools be notified of the construction works duration to inform staff, students and families.

Future School Network Impacts

This opens the site for residential development which could enable 285 new dwellings. The T4 growth cell is near many schools in the district. The proposed increase in residential density has the potential to pressure the local school network. Through this submission, the Ministry requests ongoing consultation throughout the course of the development.

Transportation Connectivity

The Ministry supports integrated transport outcomes that enable safe walking and cycling to schools. The Ministry broadly agrees with the proposed walking and cycling provisions throughout PPC31. There is currently no public transport within walking distance to the T4 growth cell. The Ministry notes that the design provided public transport infrastructure to be added later.

Quality pedestrian and cycle connections through the development to existing neighbourhoods and schools, have health and safety benefits for children and reduce traffic generation at pick up and drop off times. Existing and potential future schools, and the communities they serve, should be well serviced by safe and accessible pedestrian and cycling links through the community. This includes safe and convenient connections to existing urban infrastructure. The proposed design has considered connectivity with the wider network, including education facilities in the design of the structure plan, and we support this.

The Ministry's position on PP31:

The Ministry is neutral on PPC31 if the provisions below are accepted.

The Ministry acknowledges that the plan change will contribute to providing additional housing, open space and commercial center to Te Awamutu. The development may require additional capacity in the local school network to cater for this growth as the area develops, potentially driving the need for additional capacity at existing schools in the future.

The Ministry understands the Council must meet the requirements under the National Policy Statement on Urban Development 2020 (NPS-UD) to provide development capacity for housing and business. The Ministry wishes to highlight that Policy 10 of the NPS-UD states that local authorities should engage with providers of development infrastructure and additional infrastructure (schools are considered additional infrastructure), to achieve integrated land use and infrastructure planning. In addition to this, subpart

3.5 of the NPS-UD states that local authorities must be satisfied that the additional infrastructure required to service the development capacity is likely to be available.

The Ministry of Education seeks the following decision from the consent authority:

Should the plan change be granted, the Ministry request the following:

- 1) That suitable measures are included to mitigate potential and adverse construction transport effects on local schools and its students, especially with heavy vehicles travelling to and from the site. These may include:
 - a) Notifying local schools detailed below prior to construction works occurring within 1km of the school;
 - i) Te Awamutu Primary School
 - ii) St Patrick's Catholic School (Te Awamutu)
 - iii) Te Awamutu College
 - b) Specified transport routes, minimising traffic on Teasdale Street.

The Ministry does not wish to be heard in support of their submission.



Rose Mayhead
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(Consultant to the Ministry of Education)
Date: 09/07/2026