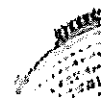


Appendix A

beehive.govt.nz - New area school for Taihape

Page 1 of 1



Trevor Mallard

11 MAY 2005

New area school for Taihape

Following a 28-day consultation period, Education Minister Trevor Mallard announced today his decision regarding the new area school for Taihape.

"I have carefully considered the information that the boards of Taihape College and Taihape School presented to me regarding my decision to close both schools.

"The Ministry of Education has consulted affected boards on my behalf.

"After considering all the information provided to me I am satisfied that Taihape College and Taihape School should both close and a new area school be established on the Taihape School site. The Taihape College farm is also to be retained as the property of the new area school.

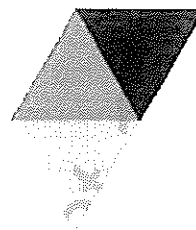
"The closures will be gazetted shortly to take effect on 26 January 2005.

"I'd like to thank everyone who has been involved in this process. There is a strong future for the new area school and I fully believe that it will provide a quality education for local kids that is sustainable well into the future," Trevor Mallard said.

Trevor Mallard Education

13 50002 01 0001

Document 8



Briefing Note: Taihape Area School – access to farm property

To:	Hon Chris Hipkins		
Date:	10 November 2017	Priority:	Medium
Security Level:	In Confidence	METIS No:	1090384
Drafter:	[REDACTED]	DDI:	[REDACTED]
Key contact and number:	Rob Giller, Deputy Head, EIS 027 839 9290	Round robin:	No

Summary

- On 9 November, Ian McKelvie, MP for Rangitikei, emailed you and Hon Trevor Mallard about concerns previously addressed with Taihape Area School regarding access to a farm property.
- The farm was previously associated with Taihape College, which closed in 2004.
- In 2014, the farm was included with property declared surplus to educational purposes and passed over to Land Information New Zealand for disposal in line with the provisions of the Public Works Act 1981.
- In 2016, Taihape Area School advised us that it was using the farm to support delivery of its agricultural programmes.
- We are in the process of finalising a lease to ensure the school has ongoing, uninterrupted access to the farm for the foreseeable future.
- We are also discussing with the school and the wider network, opportunities to strengthen and secure the provision of agricultural education for the wider region.

KIM SHANNON
Deputy Secretary
Education Infrastructure Service

to 1/11/2017

Background

1. State schools occupy Crown-owned land and buildings.
2. When a school closes, the Ministry is obliged to pass on any land it does not require for educational purposes to Land Information New Zealand (LINZ) for disposal in line with the provisions of the Public Works Act 1981.
3. In 2014 we declared land associated with Taihape College, including a farm property, surplus to educational requirements.
4. In 2016, Taihape Area School advised us that it had expected the farm to have been retained to support its agricultural programmes. Unfortunately the land had already passed over to LINZ for disposal and is currently being held in relation to the Mōkai Pātea treaty claim.
5. We met with the former Education Minister, Hon Tim Macindoe, and local MP, Ian McKelvie earlier this year to discuss these matters. Following the meeting:
 - o our secondary-tertiary team met with the school to discuss its long-term vision for the delivery of agricultural programmes
 - o we agreed to establish a lease with LINZ to provide the school with uninterrupted access to the farm to support the delivery of its programmes.

Risks and mitigations

6. Correspondence from Taihape Area School and local MP, Ian McKelvie, has previously implied that the school has "ownership" of the farm property, which is not the case.
7. We understand that the school expected to have ongoing access to the property to support its educational programmes based on discussions with the then Education Minister and current Speaker of the House, Hon Trevor Mallard.
8. Unfortunately there had been no formal "re-assignment" of the property following the closure of Taihape College, and we were unaware that the Area School was using it for educational delivery. Had this been understood prior to 2014, the land would not have been placed in disposal.
9. Now that the land is no longer owned by the Ministry, we have taken all possible steps to ensure no interruption to the school's educational activities.

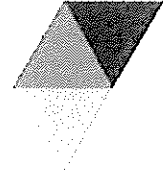
Next steps

10. We expect to finalise a lease between the Ministry and LINZ within the next two weeks. This will provide the school with ongoing access to the farm for the duration the property is held in the Landbank, which could be several years.
11. Once we know the outcome of the treaty settlement with Mōkai Pātea, we will be able to put in place a long-term solution for the school and the wider network.
12. Our aim will be to ensure students in the region have access to the best possible educational opportunities by exploring a range of options including potential partnerships with local industry or the need for specialist facilities.

Document 9



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
TE TĀHUHU O TE MĀTAURANGA



19 AUG 2019

9(2)(a)

Dear [REDACTED]

On 13 June the Ministry of Education received your request for the following information:

- *The information MoE holds from 2014 relating to the decision to dispose of the Taihape College Farm.*

Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

I am providing you with emails held by the Ministry of Education from the year 2014, which relate to the disposal of the land of the former College farm.

I am withholding names and contact information under section 9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect their privacy. I note it was unclear whether your request was made in your capacity as Board Chair of Taihape College, as such I have redacted contact information you may already know. This material is not substantive to the information within the emails. I have also redacted out of scope information.

On 11 May 2004, the closures of both Taihape Primary and Taihape College and the formation of Taihape Area School were announced on the Beehive website.

The Taihape Area School opened on 28 January 2005, initially operating from the old Taihape College site while its permanent site at the former Taihape School was being developed. The move to its present site occurred in October 2009.

In 2012, it was determined under section 70A of the Education Act 1989, that the former College land, including the farmland was no longer required for educational purposes. Hence, the beginning of the disposal process.

As these emails note, no information was supplied to the Ministry to support the Board's ownership of the school farm. The new documentation that is mentioned was the original 11 May 2004 declaration as noted above. I acknowledge that this is a source of confusion.

I would like to note this intention would not have been sufficient for the property to have remained with the new school. When a school closes, the former Board's assets transfer to the Crown. A decision must then be made on whether an asset is still required for the purposes of education. In this case, it was deemed that the farmland was not.

As you will likely know, the Office of Treaty Settlements (OTS) purchased the farm on 23 May 2017 from Land Information New Zealand, so it could be held for the delivery of future Treaty

OIA: 1194336

National Office, Mātauranga House, 33 Bowen Street, Wellington 6011
PO Box 1666, Wellington 6140. Phone: +64 4 463 8000 Fax: +64 4 463 8001

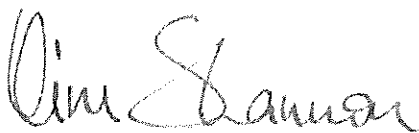
education.govt.nz

settlements. The farm was offered to OTS for consideration under the Māori Protection Mechanism, as required under Stage 3 of the Crown Property Disposal Process.

We have negotiated a three year licence with the Crown Landbank to allow Taihape Area School use of the farmland. This will expire on 31 August 2020, with the opportunity to renew the lease.

Under section 28(3), you have the right to refer this response to an Ombudsman. You can do this by emailing info@ombudsman.parliament.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kim Shannon', written in a cursive style.

Kim Shannon
Head of Education Infrastructure Service

9(2)(a)

From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Friday, 14 February 2014 1:01 p.m.
To: 9(2)(a)
Subject: Taihape Area School - farm land enquiry - caretaker's house enquiry

Categories: I Disposals

Hi 9(2)

I have left a present for you up in NP office – the historical story of the ex-Taihape College farm land, which is Crown owned and currently in disposal. We are proceeding with the disposal; however the situation needs to be carefully explained to Taihape Area School, who appear to have a misunderstanding with the ownership – they currently think that the land is for their use and may have been going to be transferred to their name – however the documents I have researched show that they were informed at the time, the land was unable to be transferred as it was Crown owned once the Taihape College Board of Trustees dissolved and as such was going into the disposal process with the other Crown owned assets.

Out of scope

We need to carefully communicate this information to prevent future misunderstandings and to arrange for the ex-Taihape College land and buildings to go through the disposal process (vacated unless they have a rental/lease arrangement with our disposal agents) and to minimise disruption on the operations of TAS.

Yours sincerely,

9(2)(a) | **School Property Officer - Whanganui**
Education Infrastructure Service | Ministry of Education
93 Ingestre Street, Whanganui | Private Bag 3012, Whanganui 4500
DDI: 9(2)(a) | email: 9(2)(a)@minedu.govt.nz

"Partnering with schools to make informed property choices and asset management decisions."

Please also note that Jenny mentioned that if the Ministry continues with the proposed disposal of this farm they won't hesitate to take matters further. So, it may well be the case that we require to get legal advice before doing anything more with this. The last thing we want is to have this raised to higher levels or become a media issue until MoE is 100% certain of our position.

Regards

9(2)(a)

Regional Property Advisor – Wellington Central/ Lower Hutt Area
Education Infrastructure Service
Ministry of Education

9(2)(a) / Mob: 9(2)(a) 9(2)(a) @minedu.govt.nz | www.minedu.govt.nz
Level Two | 19 Market Grove | Lower Hutt | PO Box 30177 | Wellington 5010 | New Zealand

Think before you print

From: 9(2)(a)
Sent: Monday, 24 February 2014 9:33 a.m.
To: Asti Miln
Cc: 9(2)(a)
Subject: RE: Taihape College - disposal of farm land

Hi 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your patience.

We have located the ownership documents and substantial other proof that definitively states the land should be in disposal - and to quote a colleague "the school's only claim to their belief that they own this land is based on some paperwork that they've never been able to track down and send to the Ministry. So, unless they can come up with that paper trail I really don't see how they're going to support their claim as it seems to be contrary to every other document and advice they've been given over the years."

Please proceed with the disposal. This news will be communicated to Taihape Area School by their current property advisor, 9(2)(a) who I have cc.ed to this email.

Yours sincerely,

9(2)(a) | **School Property Officer - Whanganui**
Education Infrastructure Service | Ministry of Education
93 Ingestre Street, Whanganui | Private Bag 3012, Whanganui 4500
DDI: 9(2)(a) | email: 9(2)(a)@minedu.govt.nz

"Partnering with schools to make informed property choices and asset management decisions."

From: 9(2)(a) [mailto:9(2)(a)@darroch.co.nz]
Sent: Thursday, 20 February 2014 12:35 p.m.
To: 9(2)(a)
Subject: Taihape College

Hi 9(2)

Can we continue with the disposal of the land?