



Title:	Consultation on updated draft Cabinet paper responding to the School Property Inquiry		
Report No:	2024-0259		
Date:	26 August 2024	Security Level:	IN CONFIDENCE
Minister and Portfolio:	Hon Erica Stanford, Minister of Education		
CC:	Hon Nicola Willis, Minister for the Public Service		

Purpose To provide you with an updated draft of your Cabinet paper responding to the Ministerial Inquiry into School Property and to recommend you now undertake consultation with your colleagues.

Timeframes In its Quarter 3 Action Plan for New Zealand, the Government has committed to Cabinet taking decisions on the School Property Inquiry by 30 September. You are aiming to take this paper to the Expenditure and Regulatory Review Committee (EXP) meeting on 17 September and then to Cabinet on 23 September. To meet this timeframe, we recommend the following actions:

- Thursday 29 Aug – Tuesday 10 Sep – Ministerial and Agency consultation
- Wednesday 11 Sep – Officials provide revised paper incorporating any proposed changes
- Thursday 12 Sep – Paper lodged for EXP.

Updates to the paper We provided you with our initial advice, and key decisions to be made on 5 August (2024 - 0232 refers) and an updated version of the paper on 12 August (2024-0244 refers). Following further discussion with officials from the Ministry of Education and the Treasury, the paper has been updated and now:

- Notes the future possibility of using an infrastructure holding company for education;
- Includes additional information on the role of school boards;
- Includes additional information on the importance of network planning;
- Provides more information on the immediate steps which have been taken by the Ministry of Education, in response to the Inquiry, including an appendix of work underway;
- Clarifies the timing of implementation and the importance of engagement with staff, and timing for when the investment panel could be convened;
- Notes that both the Ministry of Education and the Treasury can provide advice on additional costs for establishment of the proposals in the paper;
- Clarifies that the monitoring function of the proposed Schedule 4A company could sit with either the Treasury or Ministry of Education and work will be done on this as part of implementation.

Next steps We suggest that you proceed to ministerial consultation on this paper. Concurrently we will formally consult other agencies.

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