



Title:	Ministerial consultation on draft Cabinet paper responding to the school property inquiry		
Report No:	2024-0244		
Date:	12 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 that you now discuss your proposals with the Minister of Finance and the Minister for Infrastructure and undertake consultation with your colleagues.

Timeframes In its Q3 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 Social Outcomes Committee meeting on 11 September and then to Cabinet on 16 September. To meet this timeframe, we recommend the following actions:

- Wednesday 14 Aug – you provide any feedback on the Cabinet paper for incorporation
- Thursday 15 Aug – Wednesday 28 Aug – Ministerial and Agency consultation
- Monday 2 September – Officials provide revised paper incorporating any proposed changes
- Thursday 5 September – Paper lodged for SOU.

Updates to the paper We provided you with our initial advice, and key decisions to be made on 5 August (2024 - 0232 refers). Following our subsequent meeting with you on 7 August and further discussion with officials from the Ministry of Education and Treasury, the paper has been updated and now:

- provides an overview of the scale and scope of the school property portfolio and compares it to other government asset portfolios. It also sets out work that the Ministry of Education has underway to bring immediate improvements to the property portfolio;
- emphasises the appointment and role of the proposed Transition Board and its initial status as a Ministerial Advisory Group;
- notes that further work is needed on the functional split between the Ministry of Education and the new asset management and project delivery entity and clearly assigns the Ministry’s role to the new Functional Chief Executive and the Transition Board.

Next steps As noted, we suggest that you discuss your proposals with the Minister of Finance (proposed Shareholding Minister in the new company) and the Minister for Infrastructure (where there are significant overlaps) as part of your wider ministerial consultation on this paper. Concurrently we will formally consult other agencies. Alongside your feedback we will make further edits to reduce the paper to meet the 10-page cabinet paper rule.

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