

Govt responds to Ministerial Inquiry into School Property

4 October 2024

Recommendations

- Recommendation 1: Establish a new entity (the 'school property entity'), separate from the Ministry of Education, to assume ownership and asset management responsibility for the school property portfolio.
- Recommendation 2: Clarify roles and responsibilities for the funding, planning and delivery of school property
- Recommendation 3: Review and simplify the current funding model for state schools
- Recommendation 4: Implement clear processes for regular reporting and priority-setting to promote accountability, transparency, clarity of expectations, and value for money
- Recommendation 5: Establish a Transition Board and Transition Unit to oversee and coordinate the establishment of the new school property entity
- Recommendation 6: Undertake a range of immediate actions during the transition period to simplify the operating model and ensure value for money.

What's to come (relates to recommendations 3, 4, and 6)

The Government has directed the Ministry of Education to continue to drive improvements to school property management including work under way to:

- Deliver improved communications
- Shift toward cost-efficient and repeatable designs
- Take a portfolio approach to investment
- Implement a data-driven, evidence-based prioritisation framework
- Provide targeted infrastructure planning for Kaupapa Māori and Māori medium education, and specialist learning support
- Increase the use of alternative forms of construction (e.g. In Q1 2024, over 60% of new growth places were initiated as offsite manufacturing, up from under 20% in Q4 2023)

2024 (relates to recommendations 2 ,4, and 5)

The Government has directed that

- A Functional Chief Executive (FCE) be established at the Ministry of Education. This role will provide focussed leadership of school property functions, deliver better performance in the short-term and prepare for future change.
- An Investment Panel made up of external members (including from the commercial and private sector) is established to support the FCE.

2025 (relates to recommendations 1, 2, and 4)

Cabinet will take decisions to make better use of resources, including:

- The separation of school property policy from operational delivery
- Transitioning to an operating model focussed on school property project delivery and asset management.