

Event backgrounder: Local Government New Zealand Rural and Provincial Meeting

To:	Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education
From:	s9(2)(a) - Programme Director RoVE, Tertiary Education Commission
Date:	1 March 2019
Reference:	E-19-00234

Purpose

1. You are scheduled to meet with the Chief Executives and Mayors from fifty rural and provincial councils on 7 March between 12.30-1.00pm, at the Harbourside Function Venue 4 Taranaki Street, Wellington.
2. Attendees are looking to hear your vision on the Reform of Vocational Education proposals, and how these will benefit the broader skills pipeline in the regions. This event backgrounder provides you with information on key attendees and matters that may be raised.
3. We recommend that this paper be proactively released along with other material when decisions about the consultation on the Reform of Vocational Education are announced.

Information about the workshop and your attendance

4. This is the first of three annual meetings which brings together the CE's and Mayors from provincial and regional councils throughout New Zealand (there are 78 councils throughout NZ in total). The gathering is arranged and chaired by Local Government NZ (LGNZ). Their discussions in relation to the proposed Reform of Vocational Education will likely focus on three areas: regional education/training, employment, and the impact on regions (where appropriate) of the proposed creation of a New Zealand Institute of Skills & Technology.
5. The CE's and Mayors are gathering at 9am and you are scheduled to speak between 12.30 and 1pm. Your speaking slot allows for **10 to 15 minutes** to share your vision for vocational education, followed by an opportunity for questions from the attendees.
6. Aside from the topics mentioned above, participants are also likely to ask questions about the consultation and engagement process, and how they can become involved in this.

Matters attendees may raise with you and proposed responses

7. *How do the proposed reforms for both the new ITP and new skill bodies (ISBs) promote regional development*

One of the key themes of both the ITP and Skills reform proposal is to provide more involvement and input for regional stakeholders regarding skills requirements, which in turn is aimed at providing better outcomes for regional bodies, learners, and industry. At the moment

we have a system where campuses compete with each other for learners, and then compete with industry training organisations to place learners into training. In the future we expect the different parts of the system to work together in a more joined up fashion; to understand and identify regional skill needs, ensure the right qualifications are available, and then delivery training where it's needed at the right time.

8. *Each region is unique with different challenges, how will your proposal recognise these differences and work within them?*

To ensure a strong regional presence, each region would have a Regional Leadership Group to identify local skills needs and link with regional economic development strategies and action plans. The committees would have strong local government and industry participation, and representation of and a strategic partnership with local iwi and Pacific communities.

9. *We have a polytechnic in our area and it's a major contributor to our regional economy. What guarantees can you provide that the proposed reforms won't result in mass disruption, job losses, and less responsiveness to skill needs?*

We admit the proposed changes are significant, far reaching, and disruptive. We are faced, however, with a situation where we don't have the skills we need across a number of regions, and most providers are struggling at a time when they should be prosperous. There is still a lot of work to be done before a decision is made about the overall structure and operation of the new institution, which includes getting everyone's feedback during the consultation process. What we can assume however, is that the learners currently in training now will continue to need support for quite some time, where ever they are. What we are trying to do is allow for more skills, not less – and if the proposed reforms are put in place we believe it will result in a better training system in the regions. Ultimately a more efficient and sustainable institution going forward will be better for everyone.

10. *There is a need for more highly skilled people in the regions, how will your proposals improve the current situation?*

An integrated system could better meet the needs of learners and employers and link provider-based and work-based training. The proposed changes will position the vocational education system to deliver for the future. It will also help to ensure that industry has more of a say in the types of skills needed for industry success, and to ensure that education providers are flexible in providing both work-based and provider-based educational training.

11. *How will you ensure the voice of industry is heard through your proposals?*

In the proposed new system design, the national skills leadership role of ISBs would be complemented by employer and/or industry leadership at a regional level. Employers and industry would have more choice about how they engage with vocational education providers to meet the skill needs of their current and future workforce. They would also have a choice of education providers to work with, rather than having to arrange on-job training via their ITO. Better integration of workplace and provider based vocational education programmes would enable employees to gain the skills that employers and industry need.


12. *How can we get more involved in the consultation and engagement process?*

The Korero Matauranga website (the Education Conversation) lists a number of events we are holding around the country, including community engagement days. We are also currently arranging some industry association forums, and will put information on our website as soon as these are arrangements. We would also strongly encourage you to provide a written submission in response to the proposals.

Attendees of note

13. There are a number of invitees that have connections to the tertiary education sector, a number of which we have included information about below. A full list of attendees is included as Appendix One.
- **Dave Cull** is the President of Local Government New Zealand, and also the Mayor of Dunedin. He has opposed the proposals publically.
 - **Steve Ruru**, Chief Executive (CE) of of Southland District Council, is a Ministerial appointment to the council of Te Wananga o Aotearoa.
 - **Tim Shadbolt**, Invercargill's Mayor, is a strong advocate for Southern Institute of Technology, and has publically opposed the Reform of Vocational Education proposals (please see Appendix Two).
 - The former Mayor of Whanganui, **Annette Main**, is a council member of Universal College of Learning.
 - The Chair of Eastern Institute of Technology (EIT) is a council member of Hastings District Council, and you have Mayor **Sandra Hazlehurst** and CE **Nigel Buckle** attending. EIT Ministerial appointee **Jacoby Poulain** is also a Councillor for the Flaxmere Ward.
 - **Janie Annear** is the Deputy Chair of Ara Institute of Canterbury and was three-term mayor of Timaru District council –current Mayor **Damon Odey** and CE **Bede Curran** are also attending.
 - While the Chair of Waikato Institute of Technology (**Barry Harris**) is not attending, he used to be the CE of Greater Wellington Regional Council and Hamilton City Council, so is bound to have Waikato District Council connections.

s9(2)(a)



Programme Director - RoVE
Tertiary Education Commission

1 March 2019

Hon Chris Hipkins

Minister of Education

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Appendix One: Invitee list and media commentary

14. The full list of invitees is included below:

First Name	Last Name	Position	Organization
Donna	Favel	Mayor	Ashburton District Council
Peter	Reveley	Councillor	Ashburton District Council
Hamish	Riach	Chief Executive Officer	Ashburton District Council
Stuart	Wilson	Councillor	Ashburton District Council
Garry	Howard	Mayor	Buller District Council
Sharon	Mason	Chief Executive	Buller District Council
John	Booth	Mayor	Carterton District Council
Jane	Davis	Chief Executive	Carterton District Council
Monique	Davidson	Geo	Central Hawke's Bay District Council
Alex	Walker	Mayor	Central Hawke's District Council
Tim	Cadogan	Mayor	Central Otago District Council
Sanchia	Jacobs	Chief Executive Officer	Central Otago District Council
Owen	Pickles	Chief Executive Officer	Chatham Islands
Alfred	Preece	Mayor	Chatham Islands
Bryan	Cadogan	Mayor	Clutha District Council
Steve	Hill	Chief Executive	Clutha District Council
Bruce	Vollweiler	Councillor	Clutha District Council
Shaun	Clarke	Ceo	Far North District Council
Tracy	Hicks	Mayor	Gore District Council
Stephen	Parry	Chief Executive	Gore District Council
Nigel	Bickle	Chief Executive	Hastings District Council
Sandra	Hazlehurst	Mayor	Hastings District Council
Toby	Adams	Deputy Mayor	Hauraki District Council
Langley	Cavers	Chief Executive	Hauraki District Council
John	Tregidga	Mayor	Hauraki District Council
David	Clapperton	Chief Executive	Horowhenua District Council
Michael	Feyen	Mayor	Horowhenua District Council
Victoria	Kaye-simmons	Councillor	Horowhenua District Council
Winton	Dalley	Mayor	Hurunui District Council
Julia	Mclean	Councillor	Hurunui District Council
Rebecca	Amundsen	Deputy Mayor	Invercargill City Council
Clare	Hadley	Chief Executive	Invercargill City Council
Tim	Shadbolt	Mayor	Invercargill City Council
Winston	Gray	Mayor	Kaikoura District Council
Angela	Oosthuizen	Ceo	Kaikoura District Council
Louise	Miller	Chief Executive Officer	Kaipara District Council
Jason	Smith	Mayor	Kaipara District Council
Krisnasamy	Gurunathan	Mayor	Kapiti Coast District Council
Wayne	Maxwell	Chief Executive	Kapiti Coast District Council
Dave	Cull	President	LGNZ
Graham	Smith	Mayor	Mackenzie District Council

EVENT BACKGROUNDER: ROVE MEETING WITH PRIMARY INDUSTRY LEADERS

Suzette	Van Aswegen	Ceo	Mackenzie District Council
Michael	Ford	Deputy Mayor	Manawatu District Council
Richard	Templer	Chief Executive	Manawatu District Council
Helen	Worboys	Mayor	Manawatu District Council
John	Dalziell	Elected Member	Masterton District Council
Chris	Peterson	Elected Member	Masterton District Council
Lyn	Patterson	Mayor	Masterton District Council
Kathryn	Ross	Chief Executive	Masterton District Council
Don	Mcleod	Ceo	Matamata-Piako District Council
James	Thomas	Deputy Mayor	Matamata-Piako District Council
Jan	Barnes	Mayor	Matamata-Piako District Council
Bill	Dalton	Mayor	Napier City Council
Wayne	Jack	Chief Executive	Napier City Council
Rachel	Reese	Mayor	Nelson City Council
Richard	Jordan	Deputy Mayor	New Plymouth District Council
Craig	Stevenson	Chief Executive	New Plymouth District Council
Aileen	Lawrie	Chief Executive Officer	Opotiki District Council
Lyn	Riesterer	Deputy Mayor	Opotiki District Council
Ross	McNeil	Chief Executive	Rangitikei District Council
Andy	Watson	Mayor	Rangitikei District Council
Clive	Manley	Chief Executive	Ruapehu District Council
Don	Cameron	Mayor	Ruapehu District Council
Mark	Alexander	Councillor	Selwyn District Council
Jeff	Bland	Councillor	Selwyn District Council
Sam	Broughton	Mayor	Selwyn District Council
Debra	Hasson	Councillor	Selwyn District Council
Malcolm	Lyall	Deputy Mayor	Selwyn District Council
David	Ward	Chief Executive	Selwyn District Council
Waid	Crockett	Chief Executive	South Taranaki District Council
Phil	Nixon	Mayor	South Taranaki District Council
Jenny	Shattock	Mayor	South Waikato District Council
Paul	Crimp	Chief Executive	South Wairarapa District Council
Pam	Colenso	Councillor	South Wairarapa District Council
Brian	Jephson	Deputy Mayor	South Wairarapa District Council
Viv	Napier	Mayor	South Wairarapa District Council
Colin	Olds	Councillor	South Wairarapa District Council
Steve	Ruru	Chief Executive	Southland District Council
Gary	Tong	Mayor	Southland District Council
Sven	Hanne	Chief Executive	Stratford District Council
Neil	Volzke	District Mayor	Stratford District Council
Tracey	Collis	Mayor	Tararua District Council
Blair	King	Chief Executive	Tararua District Council
Susan	Edwards	Community Development Manager	Tasman District Council
Richard	Kempthorne	Mayor	Tasman District Council
Gareth	Green	Chief Executive Officer	Taupo District Council
David	Trewavas	Mayor	Taupo District Council
Sandra	Goudie	Mayor	Thames-Coromandel District Council
Rob	Williams	Ceo	Thames-Coromandel District Council

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Bede	Carran	Chief Executive	Timaru District Council
Damon	Odey	Mayor	Timaru District Council
Dynes	Fulton	Deputy Mayor	Waikato District Council
Allan	Sanson	Mayor	Waikato District Council
Kirstyn	Barnett	Councillor	Waimakariri District Council
Wendy	Doody	Councillor	Waimakariri District Council
Sharyn	Cain	Deputy Mayor	Waimate District Council
Craig	Rowley	Mayor	Waimate District Council
Jim	Mylchreest	Mayor	Waipa District Council
Craig	Little	Mayor	Wairoa District Council
Steven	May	Chief Executive Officer	Wairoa District Council
Gary	Kircher	Mayor	Waitaki District Council
Fergus	Power	Chief Executive	Waitaki District Council
Phil	Brodie	Councillor	Waitomo District Council
Sue	Smith	Councillor	Waitomo District Council
Mike	Williams	Deputy Mayor	Western Bay Of Plenty District Council
Tony	Bonne	Mayor	Whakatane District Council
Stephanie	O'Sullivan	Chief Executive	Whakatane District Council
Kym	Fell	Chief Executive	Whanganui District Council
Hamish	McDouall	Mayor	Whanganui District Council
Rob	Forlong	Chief Executive	Whangarei District Council
Sheryl	Mai	Mayor	Whangarei District Council

Appendix Two: Media commentary

15. Tim Shadbolt has made several comments about the proposals in the media, including the following:

"It will be devastating quite frankly; we are being punished for being successful," he said.

"It will have an impact on international students, and we have travelled all around the world recruiting, also the loss of our assets and our cash reserves."

He said he would fight against the proposal, which is open for public consultation until March 27, and said it wasn't the first battle SIT had faced.

"They tried to take \$8 million out of our budget, as they said we didn't need the money whereas other institutions were running at a loss and that was about ten years ago."

16. Dave Cull has publically announced that he is behind Otago Polytechnic and will ensure his communities concerns are represented throughout the consultation process.

"The proposed merger risks undoing a lot of good work and would see Otago Polytechnic potentially being subservient to an organisational structure that may not understand or care about our local needs," Mr Cull said.

"We need to ensure that our polytechnic can maintain its individual character and specialisations, as this is one of the main drawcards for local and international students alike, and what sets it apart from so many others."

The timing was poor as major projects such as the new hospital and central city and tertiary precinct upgrades were about to start, Mr Cull said.

"We need Otago to remain autonomous, and flexible and responsive to local needs.

"I've been in touch with Phil Ker to let him know the city is behind them and will be doing all we can to make our community's views heard loud and clear."