

Reform of Vocational Education

Hawke's Bay Tairāwhiti Regional Submission

March 2019

Contents

Letter to Education Minister, Hon Chris Hipkins	3
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Hawke's Bay Tairāwhiti Regional Submission	9
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He mihi	11
Our view	13
Introduction.....	15
Alignment to regional priorities.....	17
What is important to us	19

Letters of Support	25
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Annie Aranui MSD Regional Commissioner, East Coast Region, Ministry of Social Development	27
Sir Graeme Avery Chair, Hawke's Bay Community Fitness Centre Trust, Director of Sileni Wines	29
Alan Pollard Chief Executive, NZ Apples & Pears Inc.	31
Mark Aspden Chief Executive, Sport Hawke's Bay.....	33
Michael Henley Chair, Hawke's Bay Winegrowers' Association Inc.	35
Mere Pohatu Regional Manager, Te Puni Kōkiri	37
Reweti Ropiha Chief Executive Officer, Te Hauora o Turanganui a Kiwa	39
Jodie Cook Matapuna Trust	41
Gavin Murphy Chief Executive Officer, Eastland Community Trust.....	43

27 March 2019

Hon Chris Hipkins
Private Bag 18888
Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON 6160

Dear Minister Hipkins

We are writing in response to the consultation discussion document you released setting out proposals for the reform of vocational education.

We have worked together as representatives of the Hawke's Bay and Tairāwhiti regions to carefully consider the proposed changes and the implications for our communities. While we recognise that many of the details are yet to be confirmed, we think that there is merit in much of what is being proposed.

We welcome the recognition that business, industry, iwi and local government need to play an active role in driving skills development and social outcomes for their communities.

We are encouraged by the commitment to explore changes to the funding system to ensure that regional New Zealand is better catered for. Outside of our major centres, access to vocational education in areas such as Wairoa, Central Hawke's Bay and the East Coast, needs to be enhanced.

The Government has identified both Hawke's Bay and Tairāwhiti as two of the six surge regions as part of the Provincial Growth Fund. We have worked with stakeholders in our regions and Government to identify opportunities to increase our prosperity through increased economic opportunity and stronger social capability and capacity.

Our priorities are expressed through our regional development strategies: The Matariki Hawke's Bay Regional Development Strategy and Action Plan for Economic and Social Growth and the Tairāwhiti Economic Action Plan.

Through its presence and local connections, the Eastern Institute of Technology (EIT) is a trusted partner which is deeply integrated into these strategies including developing our workforce, creating new school-industry partnerships, promoting sustainable value-added horticultural production and a cutting-edge apiculture sector, strengthening the tourism workforce and local skill development.

The Government is also making significant investments in our regions that aim to strengthen our transport infrastructure, grow priority and high-value industries such as forestry, tourism and food processing and connect our people with work, particularly young people not in education, employment or training.

We need a well-trained workforce to ensure that we capitalise on the opportunities we identified in our regional growth strategies and the complementary investments that Government is making.

We are concerned that highly centralised decision-making on the scale of the proposed New Zealand Institute of Skills and Technology will not enable the kind of responsiveness we need. Hawke's Bay has a culture of collaboration and responsiveness that has already been delivering value for the knowledge economy, trades pathways, and social inclusion right across the region, from the main centres to the smaller reaches of our regions.

Our regions have demonstrated a strong capability to define our own priorities and Government is backing our future. We have tightly integrated EIT into these efforts as we shape our own future.

It is our view that the reforms will be most effective if they help us to shape our own destiny directing the efforts of one of New Zealand's leading tertiary providers. We support an 'earned autonomy' model as it will allow us to continue to respond to regional needs.

We support the proposal to establish Centres of Vocational Excellence. We see obvious opportunities for centres relating to land-based food and innovation (in the Hawke's Bay) and forestry, horticulture and Māori visual arts (in Tairāwhiti).

We note that you have committed to locating the centralised functions of the new system in one or more regions. We think that the Hawke's Bay and Tairāwhiti regions have the appropriate capabilities to host one or more of these functions. We are keen to discuss with you how our regions can support the success of the new system.

We recognise the far-reaching nature of the proposed reforms. All change has costs. We need to work together to ensure that the transformed system works better for all our communities, learners, whether domestic or international, iwi and employers.

More information setting out the rationale for our response is enclosed for your consideration.

We, the undersigned, look forward to continued engagement with you on how we can make sure that these important reforms deliver for our communities.



Kevin Snee
Chief Executive
Hawke's Bay District Health Board

Stephen Hensman
Chair
Hawke's Bay Secondary Schools'
Principals Association



NAPIER
CITY COUNCIL
Te Kaunihera o Ahuriri

Bill Dalton
Mayor
Napier City Council



Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi
INCORPORATED

Ngahiwi Tomoana
Chair
Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi Incorporated



CENTRAL HAWKE'S BAY



DISTRICT COUNCIL

Carolyn Neville
Chair (CEO)
Business Hawke's Bay

Alex Walker
Mayor
Central Hawke's Bay District Council



EASTERN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
TE AHO A MĀUI

Geraldine Travers
Chair
EIT Council



HASTINGS
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Sandra Hazlehurst
Mayor
Hastings District Council



Business Vitality

Karla Lee
Chief Executive
Hawke's Bay Chamber of Commerce



Craig Little
Mayor
Wairoa District Council



Andrea Taaffe
General Manager
younited Students Association



Rex Graham
Chair
Hawke's Bay Regional Council

Nori Parata
Chair
Ngati Porou East Coast Principals Association



Steve Breen
Chief Executive
(GM Economic Development)
Activate Tairāwhiti



Terry Sheldrake
CEO
Chamber of Commerce Gisborne



GISBORNE
DISTRICT COUNCIL
Te Kaunihera o Te Tairāwhiti

Meng Foon
Mayor
Gisborne District Council



Herewini Te Koha
Chief Executive
Te Runanganui o Ngāti Porou



Hauora
Tairāwhiti

David Scott
Chair
Tairāwhiti Hauora

Hawke's Bay Tairāwhiti Regional Submission

A submission on the proposed Reform of Vocational Education from the Iwi, Community and Business Leaders of the Hawke's Bay Tairāwhiti region

He mihi

He hōnore he korōria ki te atua i runga rawa,

He maungārongo ki te whenua,

He whakaaro pai ki ngā tāngata katoa.

Tangi auraki te wariua ki ngā mate,

E ngaro mai ana ki te ao e kore rawa e kite, e kore rawa e rongo,

Tēnei te ngākau whakaingoingō ki a rātou,

Haere atu rā.

Kua mihia ngā manu pō, hoki mai ki ngā manu ao, tēnā koutou katoa.

Nau mai piki mai koutou ki tēnei pae kōrero o ngā rohe o Te Tairāwhiti me Te Matau a Māui

Nei rā o mātou whakaaro, o mātou whakatau mō ngā whakaritenga hou a te kāwana e kōrerotia ana.

Tēnā koutou katoa.

Our view

The regions of Hawke's Bay and Tairāwhiti welcome the proposal from Government to ensure that the needs of learners, employers and communities drive the vocational education system, and truly deliver to the regions of New Zealand.

The proposed changes are well-aligned with our regional economic development strategies: The Matariki Hawke's Bay Regional Economic Development Strategic and Action Plan 2016, the Hawke's Bay Regional Social Inclusion Strategy 2018, and the Tairāwhiti Economic Action Plan.

We see clear advantages in the proposal to create the seamless integration of on the job and provider-based training and ensure strong Local Government, industry, community and iwi participation in defining regional skills needs.

We believe that the establishment of Industry Skills Bodies will give employers a greater leadership role across the entire vocational education system, in setting skills standards and overseeing qualifications and programmes for industry.

A sustainable, better connected vocational education system should offer greater opportunities for the people and whānau within our regions to realise their aspirations. Clearer pathways for learners will promote the skills our regions need to grow, innovate and prosper.

The commitment to unify the vocational education funding system is accompanied by plans for support of strategically important delivery. These changes need to be followed through on to improve our regions' ability to better cater to young people who are not in employment, education or training, and our more remote communities.

To make sure that the benefits of these changes are fully realised, we consider more emphasis needs to be given to supporting what we are already doing well as a region, making sure the planned transition is well-managed, and the changes deliver better outcomes for the people of Hawke's Bay and Tairāwhiti.

We support the concept that any cost savings realised through efficiencies in a new model of vocational education provision or profits made in regional delivery are not lost to the centre, but rather are reinvested in the region.

Our regions have successfully collaborated to define our priorities for regional economic development and note the long track record of the Eastern Institute of Technology (EIT) of responding to the diverse needs of our communities. We commend the approaches

that our regions' stakeholders and EIT have taken to Government as an example of what is possible with strong regional leadership recognising our kaitiakitanga over the community assets of EIT.

The proposals involve extensive change for the current vocational education system and those involved in its success including learners, local communities, iwi, hapū, employers and industry. This process needs to be well-managed to ensure that any disruption to existing training and workforce development plans is minimised, and we retain the highly skilled workforce in the regions that supports education and training.

The change process needs to focus on ensuring that the transformed system works better for all stakeholders, particularly those people of Hawke's Bay and Tairāwhiti who may have had fewer opportunities to engage with vocational education.

Introduction

The regions of Hawke's Bay and Tairāwhiti welcome this opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed reforms of vocational education. This submission outlines our collective view of the changes mooted in the relevant consultation documents and reflects the perspectives and priorities of our regions.

Collaboration is a key feature of the Hawke's Bay and Tairāwhiti regions. Through our regional economic development work we have brought together Māori, local authorities, business and the Crown to identify how we can support the aspirations of our people.

The results of this work, the Matariki Hawke's Bay Regional Economic Development Strategic and Action Plan 2016, the Hawke's Bay Regional Social Inclusion Strategy 2018 and the Tairāwhiti Economic Action Plan, identify how we can work together to create a strong foundation for our economic and social wellbeing.

These plans each identify key roles for vocational education providers and EIT in particular in supporting our people to attain the skills they need to realise their social and economic aspirations and contribute to our capacity for innovation.

EIT plays a critical and valued role for our regions, and we welcome the potential for this role to be expanded and enhanced. EIT forms an important part of the fabric of our regions. Its assets are the results of the collective effort of our communities who have worked together to build, develop and maintain, and in the spirit of kaitiakitanga, are in a real sense the property of our communities.

We see the reform programme as an opportunity to build on the excellent work that EIT does currently, particularly in making sure we provide the right support for people who are not in employment, education and training, strengthening the pathways between secondary education, vocational education and employment and creating a seamless system for learners and employers.

We are concerned about the proposed changes that reduce the capacity of our region to influence our own destiny, impact on opportunities for skilled employment in our regions, and impede our capacity to recruit learners domestically and internationally.

We believe more weight needs to be given to regional governance, ownership, autonomy and decision-making through the reforms. The regions' stakeholders need to be directly involved in co-designing solutions that work for our people

rather than having models imposed on us. This whole of systems approach needs to embody a commitment from Government to adjust policy, programme and funding settings accordingly.

Our regions have come together to prepare this submission. This response represents the common view of iwi, hapū, local government, business, schools, and health providers about how best to organise vocational education to address the skills and training challenges of our people, communities and businesses.

Alignment to regional priorities

The Matariki Hawke's Bay Regional Economic Development Strategic and Action Plan 2016, the Hawke's Bay Regional Social Inclusion Strategy 2018 and the Tairāwhiti Economic Action Plan embody our aspirations to ensure that our people reach their full potential by building regional economies that are sustainable, inclusive and productive.

These strategies are the product of intensive co-design processes, and their implementation and monitoring is a collaborative process. Our strategies focus on developing our people and the infrastructure, assets and businesses that underpin our economic and social progress.

Our collective approaches at a regional level are consistent with the proposals for a stronger stakeholder voice in the design and delivery of vocational education.

Matariki Hawke's Bay Regional Economic Development Strategic and Action Plan 2016

This plan identifies pathways to employment and the related training to be delivered in a more coordinated way between government, schools, EIT and other training providers. In this sense, the proposals for a seamless vocational education system are consistent with the way we think about economic and social development.

Fostering a spirit of lifelong learning across the region's workforce is a key focus of our Ngā Huarahi Whai Rawa – the pathways through employment priority in the plan. This priority identifies the need to work closely with local businesses to understand the barriers to their career success and clarify the options available to them. As a result, *the proposals for integration of workplace, face to face and online delivery of vocational education and brokerage services for employees and employers are timely.*

Tairāwhiti Economic Action Plan

Similar themes infuse the Tairāwhiti Economic Action Plan. This plan calls for clear vocational pathways so people can progress through training into long-term employment. In this regard, *the proposal to consolidate vocational education within a single regionally-focused provider with the support of a national organisation is welcomed.*

We recognise in this plan that better support systems need to be established to enable the potential for Māori economic development to be realised. In doing so, our plan affirms that *Māori need to be self-determining about the direction and priorities for economic development and have a central role in regional economic governance and management.*

Hawke's Bay Regional Social Inclusion Strategy 2018

This strategy includes a goal of increasing the number of people in skilled employment, education and training. We identify the importance of creating environments and social structures that enable them to make use of their capabilities and resources.

Disadvantage is unevenly distributed in our regions, and institutional racism is a key limiting factor for our Māori communities. *We consider the opportunities for Māori advancement to be underdeveloped in the proposed reforms and recommend further work be undertaken.*

What is important to us

For the reforms to be successful, they need to focus on the economic and social needs of our regions, support our strong track record of local connectedness and responsiveness and allow us meaningful influence, decision-making and ownership of vocational education.

Key economic and social needs

We need to have confidence that any new model addresses the key economic and social development priorities of our regions

The Tairāwhiti and Hawke's Bay regions are major centres of pastoral farming, horticulture, forestry, and food manufacturing. Each region also has specific comparative advantages with high levels of employment growth in industries such as telecommunications and transport services in the Tairāwhiti region and accommodation and food services, construction and professional services in the Hawke's Bay regions.

The regions' businesses are export-intensive, but skills shortages are reported across the spectrum from entry-level work to technical and management skills. Research indicates shortages in construction, machine operation, metal work, food manufacturing, health workers, horticultural workers, ICT, engineering, marketing and accounting.

Underpinning our future prosperity is our capacity to innovate and support our people to realise their aspirations, particularly among young people, our Māori communities and those who experience some degree of socio-economic deprivation.

Overall the regions have a lower rate of attainment of secondary school and advanced technical qualifications, and we have a higher proportion of NEETs, higher unemployment and lower per-capita income when compared to New Zealand as a whole. These differences contribute to higher levels of unemployment in the regions compared to the rest of New Zealand.

Māori make up a higher share of the regions' collective population when compared to the rest of New Zealand. As a result, Māori student success and improving the ability of a regional provider to meet Māori aspirations is core business. Critical to this approach is a dedication towards mātauranga Māori and workforce development.

Furthermore, Māori are geared to play a significant role in the economic life of the region, with many hapū and iwi in a post settlement phase which includes the transfer of assets and resources. For example, the hapū in the Hawke's Bay and Wairoa

regions settled for approximately \$366 million, which has the opportunity to change the economic landscape substantially. In some cases skills acquisition to support the growth and management of these assets are yet to be defined by hapū and iwi, however it is clear that advanced training and education will play a crucial part in Māori meeting their development aspirations. In terms of demographic trends, Māori are also an increasingly critical component of the regions' future workforce and industry.

The people of the regions experience disparities in life outcomes. The New Zealand Social Deprivation Index identifies concentrations of people and communities who experience socio-economic deprivation in the two regions, and particularly in Gisborne, Napier and Hastings (see Figures 1 and 2).

An index developed by the TEC shows that EIT's learners are more likely to have backgrounds associated with higher levels of deprivation than any other ITP. We recognise the great success of EIT in engaging these learners through sound strategies and systems and an underpinning culture focused on learner success and valued community outcomes.

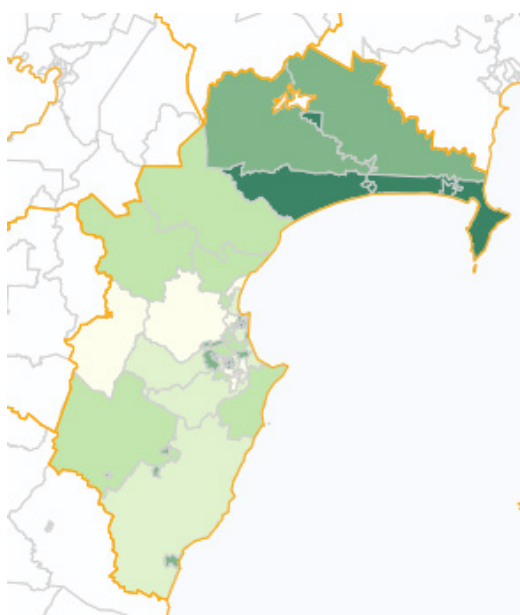


Figure 1
Social deprivation index
Hawke's Bay, 2013

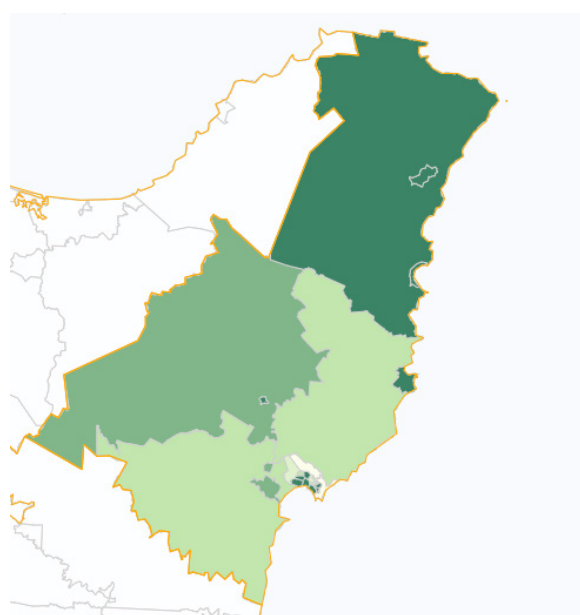


Figure 2
Social Deprivation Index
Tairāwhiti, 2013

Supporting local connectedness

We need to have confidence that any new model supports the successful track record of EIT of local connectedness and responsiveness. Whanaungatanga or developing and maintaining long lasting relationships with stakeholders is central to effective tertiary education provision in the regions. Such relationships shifts the paradigm from provision for, to provision with communities. This requires the provider to acknowledge the significant contribution communities have to offer, and to support community-grown, effective solutions where appropriate.

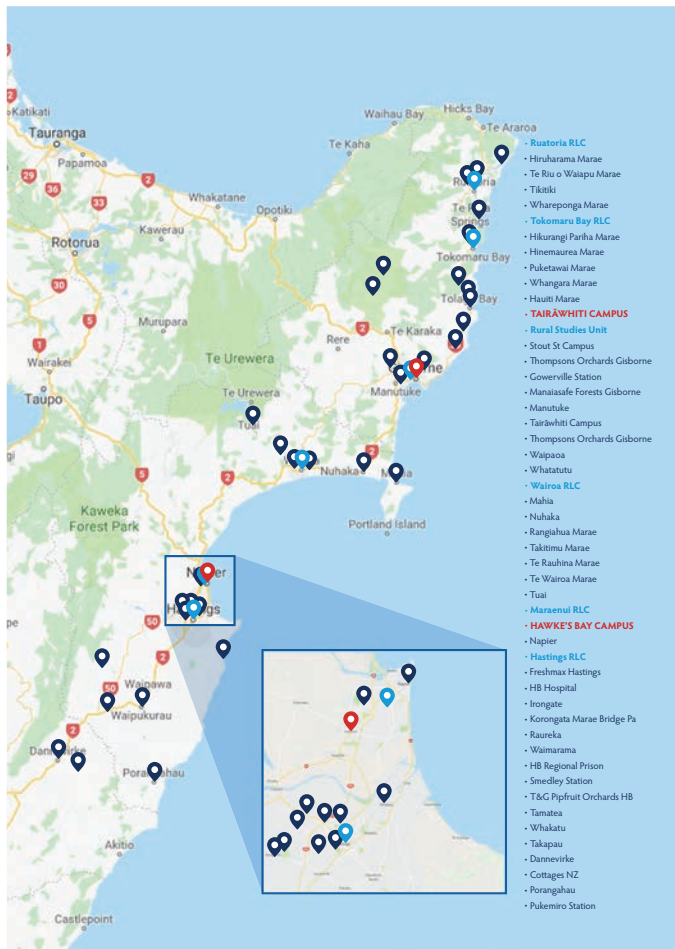


Figure 3
Delivery sites, 2018

We are strongly connected to our providers of vocational education and training. In particular, EIT is deeply engaged at multiple levels with stakeholders in our communities through our regional economic development and social inclusion strategies, innovative cross-regional provision and education and training that is connected to local needs.

The Hawke's Bay and Tairāwhiti regions are home to 201,700 people. The population is centred on the major urban areas of Napier, Hastings, and Gisborne cities. The region is also home to the towns of Wairoa, Waipukurau, Waipawa, and Ruatoria. A major feature of the Tairāwhiti region is the isolated nature of its rural and coastal communities.

The regions collectively cover an area of 25,000 square kilometres. Many industries are highly dispersed with few opportunities for economies of scale, such as some forms of agriculture and forestry.

The regions benefit from major campuses in Napier (Taradale) and Gisborne (Tairāwhiti) and several regional learning centres that cater to the needs of people living in remote rural areas (see Figure 3).

Through its presence and local connections, EIT is deeply integrated in regional effort to develop our key workforces, create new school-industry partnerships, promote sustainable value-added horticultural production and a cutting-edge apiculture sector, development of the tourism workforce and local skill development.

While technology plays an important role in catering to learners who are distant from our main campuses, a physical presence and staff with an intimate knowledge of the communities that they serve are vital. Any new funding model that is developed must take into consideration the additional cost of supporting these rural isolated communities where economies of scale cannot always be achieved.

Empowering our guardianship role

We need to have confidence that any new model allows us meaningful influence, decision-making and ownership over the significant assets and capacity we have developed.

The concept of kaitiakitanga underpins how we think about the communities we represent and serve, and the way we have come together as two separate but intimately connected regions to develop and grow and support each other.

Kaitiakitanga conveys a sense of guardianship over valued items which can be understood not as a process of ownership but an individual and collective role in safeguarding ngā taonga tuku iho (treasures that have been passed down) for the present and future generations.

This sense of guardianship extends more broadly to the obligations we have to protect and preserve the unique identity of our people, the central role that iwi, hapū and whānau play in our communities, the environment that sustains our people and industry, and the economic and social progress we have made.

The physical and financial assets, relationships, partnerships and collaborations, history, reputation and brand of EIT form an important part of the fabric of our regions. As such they are valued items that our communities have worked together to build, develop and maintain, and are in a real sense the property of our descendants.

We need to be able to exercise our guardianship role in a meaningful way. Meaningful guardianship is underpinned and inextricably tied to the capacity to make decisions about the things that matter to us.

An 'earned autonomy' model would support this capacity effectively. Objective assessments of the past performance of providers should inform how much latitude each provider has in terms of their capital and operational budgets, staffing decisions and support systems.

In the context of vocational education that autonomy would build on the sense of ownership that the regions' stakeholders have of EIT. We need to be able to shape how our preeminent provider of higher education and training meets the needs of communities and business. This sense of ownership is reflected in the way the people of Hawke's Bay and Tairāwhiti identify with EIT as a preferred source of education and training.

We need to continue to have access to high quality vocational education and training that will allow our communities to quickly adjust to changing economic and social conditions and look forward to a strong role in helping to shape vocational education for our regions.

Letters of Support



MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Te Manatū Whakahiato Ora

East Coast Regional Office, Cnr Vautier & Dalton Streets, Napier 4110, Private Bag 6015, Napier 4142 • Facsimile: 0-6-974 4188

22 March 2019

UNCLASSIFIED

Chris Collins
Chief Executive
Eastern Institute of Technology
Private Bag 1201
Hawkes Bay Mail Centre
Napier 4142

Tēnā koe,

Eastern Institute of Technology (EIT) & the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) East Coast

I would like to acknowledge the strong well established relationship EIT and MSD East Coast region has formed as we deliver services to communities from Ruatoria to Central Hawkes Bay.

EIT's willingness to work in innovative ways to address local needs and maximise opportunities for whanau has been a hallmark of our relationship. A recent example of this is the Ka Hao Te Rangatahi programme in Ruatoria. Training has been developed to deliver the key skills required for the management of land in a way that protects and enhances biodiversity and mitigates erosion while investing in the achievement of rangatahi. The innovative programme is an example of EIT and a community working together to deliver for local young people so that they thrive, develop a pathway to employment and become advocates for mana whenua.

Keeping decision making close to stakeholders and whanau is crucial for timely responses to local needs. EIT adapt its delivery model to meet the needs of employers and the dynamics of a diverse pool of MSD clients. In addressing an unexpected gap in labour demand brought about by climatic factors, EIT developed and delivered a horticultural programme to maintain the engagement of a group of casual employees. The programme added value to the workers and their employer while maintaining their connection with the horticultural sector which would have otherwise been compromised.

The East Coast region has its base in primary industry. We acknowledge that the future of work will be very different. EIT has been forward thinking in its research and contribution to the regional discussion and strategy development to prepare employers and learners for the future. MSD East Coast regions acknowledge this intelligence as we consider how we prepare whanau for a dynamic and uncertain labour market.



The East Coast region is a large geographical area made up of small, rural communities and main centres. EIT has developed a local community response in all areas through well connected campuses and by taking delivery to marae and community venues. As MSD also links with these communities the opportunities to work collectively for the benefit of whanau are on-going.

MSD East Coast Region is aware of the drivers for change in the vocational education space. However it is important to us and the people that we serve that the relationships and positive partnership built with EIT remain intact.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'A' followed by a long, horizontal flourish.

Annie Aranui
MSD Regional Commissioner
East Coast Region



25 March 2019

Eastern Institute of Technology
Attn: Chris Collins, CEO
501 Gloucester Street
Taradale, Hawkes Bay 4112

Dear Chris

RE: ITP RE-STRUCTURE PROPOSAL HEARING

The Workshop held at EIT by the Tertiary Education Commission last year, very clearly supported the importance of the Diploma and Degree courses of EIT for the agribusiness sector in the region, especially for apple and wine growing. For wine, students can work locally in the industry while studying, as many have done at Sileni.

The workshop also confirmed the connectivity of EIT to other business and work sectors and the appropriateness of courses to meet their needs.

I wish to turn to the real importance of EIT maintaining its current degree courses and modus operandi in the region.

1. My Trust has a strategic partnership with EIT to establish a Centre of Excellence in Human Performance at the soon to be opened EIT Institute of Sport & Health at the Regional Sports Park in Hastings. Excellence in personal health and wellbeing of all citizens and in sports performance of talented youth of the region.

This partnership involves a lead role of EIT research and teaching staff in a major obesity reduction research study in children of 3 years to 8 years of age in Early Childhood Education Centres and Primary Schools across the region.

Other support from research and teaching staff will be provided to Trust Athlete Development programmes for specialist sports science testing and assessment.

Further, it is planned for EIT research and teaching staff to collaborate with sports medicine physicians and physiotherapists at the Sports Medicine Centre at the EIT Institute to conduct research into prevention of sports and workplace injuries.

The Trust provides a practical environment for EIT applied research and teaching, as well as opportunity for undergraduate students to be involved in delivery of the programmes at and from the Institute.

2. The Trust and EIT also plan establishment of an Innovation Hub at the EIT Institute to open the minds of last year secondary students and tertiary students for opportunities of new products in the business of sport and health. Mentoring of students will be by business leaders in the region, with analysis of product ideas of students and further insights provided by the various Schools of EIT. Emphasis will be placed on equipping students for jobs of the future within this innovation environment.

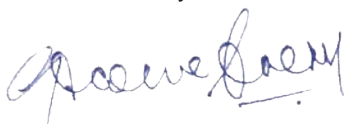
Product concepts that pass the rigours of thorough market research and testing, will be offered to NZ and international businesses for sale of Intellectual Property rights.

Neither of these two endeavours will be possible if EIT were no longer able to deliver Degree courses and associated research activity, which I understand is not within the scope of the proposed new ITP structure.

May I therefore make a very strong plea for EIT not only to be able to retain its current activities and local identity, but also to enable it to do so from new legislation to create a Dual Sector Institution structure - such as EIT with an applied research and learning University such as AUT.

The outcomes from the strategic partnership of EIT and our Trust will be unparalleled in regional NZ. We urge the Commission not to 'throw the baby out with the bath water'

Yours sincerely



Sir Graeme Avery, Chair
Hawkes Bay Community Fitness Centre Trust
Director of Sileni Wines

27 March 2019

To whom it may concern

Letter in support of EIT submission, reform of vocational education (ROVE)

New Zealand Apples and Pears Inc is the Industry association that represents all apple and pear growers and industry post-harvest operators nationally. It is a levy funded organisation that works on behalf of its members to, amongst other things, ensure that capability and capacity exists within the workforce and that the skills and training deployed via education providers is fit for purpose and adaptable enough to keep pace with our rapidly growing and increasingly sophisticated sector.

Hawkes Bay is our largest growing region accounting for 66% of our total production, returning approximately \$530m per annum in direct returns back into the region and somewhere between \$1.6b and \$2.6b annually in indirect benefit via suppliers, logistics and wages and salaries.

Our industry must ensure that we have access to the right people with the right skills and motivation to fill the types of permanent roles that the industry will need in 5, 10, 20 years' time and beyond.

That means firstly ensuring that the image of the industry truly reflects reality. Our industry is highly sophisticated, adopting world best science and practices to deliver only the highest quality fruit to the world. It is no coincidence that we have been named the world's most competitive apple industry for the past four years – that is a function of world leading exclusive varieties; sustainable production practices that produce quality fruit with limited/targeted chemical intervention; ethical labour practices that ensure that we can get the fruit off the trees at the optimum time for optimum value; sophisticated post-harvest technology that ensures that only the best fruit gets to the consumer; and consumer centric marketing programmes.

Secondly, our industry needs a consistent, responsive and adaptable education system that understands our needs, whether that is through attraction strategies at senior school level; to industry training and extension services; to tertiary study at under graduate and post graduate level. Our expectation from these reforms is an education provider/network who will work with us to enable this pipeline nationally, and who can develop the relationship with our industry much further than has been achieved to date to support our growth nationally and globally.

The Eastern Institute of Technology (EIT) has been providing training solutions for our industry for a number of years through the delivery of programmes of learning in fruit production at various levels on the NZQA framework. That has had mixed success. However, more recently EIT has worked closely with our industry to deliver outcomes that are more closely aligned with our future needs, particularly via the revised Diplomas in both Fruit Production and Post-Harvest production management systems.

We would support a regional structure with EIT as the lead provider, subject to a regional governance structure including industry and other key stakeholders to ensure that EIT remains customer focused and responsive and works with key stakeholders to deliver relevant programmes that will support regional growth and prosperity.

With this proviso, we support EIT's submission.

Kind regards



Alan Pollard
Chief Executive
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applesandpears.nz



20 March 2019

Chris Collins
Chief Executive
Eastern Institute of Technology
Gloucester Street
Taradale

Dear Chris

Letter of Support

I am writing to you in connection with the Government's proposed Reform of Vocational Education and in particular to record our support for EIT as a valued partner of Sport Hawke's Bay and a key contributor to the Hawke's Bay region.

As you know, our organisations interact in a range of ways and we have always enjoyed a very positive working relationship with EIT. We are also well aware of the extremely significant contribution EIT makes to the wider community.

There are a number of points which Sport Hawke's Bay wishes to ensure are considered as part of this review process:

1. A significant number of our staff have EIT qualifications – both degree level and otherwise. We would find it more difficult to recruit staff, particularly for "starting out" roles, if EIT for any reason ceased to offer some or all sport related qualifications.
2. EIT appears to us to have a great ability to assess and react to regional needs. This requires a very significant degree of autonomy, both for the organisation in general and the Chief Executive in particular. This potentially extends at one end to the nature and content of courses, through to relatively minor decisions such as the ability to offer scholarships. We would be concerned if the reforms materially restricted this autonomy.
3. Because EIT contributes so much to our community both the organisation and its students get reciprocal benefits from businesses in the community. For example, we are always happy to take EIT students on placement as part of our strong relationship and we know other organisations do likewise. That obviously helps contribute to those students being work ready at the conclusion of their studies. Any diminishing of the role that EIT plays in the community could in turn reduce the reciprocal benefits from the community, which would be likely to diminish the student experience.
4. EIT is, to our knowledge, a very stable organisation which manages its affairs very well. One aspect of that is having a locally based governing Council with real decision-making ability. We cannot see any reason to remove this aspect of the structure, at least while EIT continues to perform well.

Sports House, Pettigrew Green Arena, 480 Gloucester Street
PO Box 7537, Taradale, Napier 4141



5. The EIT brand is very strong in Hawke's Bay. Any change to that name should in our view be made only if it is driven locally.

I reiterate that Sport Hawke's Bay fully supports EIT. I would summarise this letter by saying that in our view significant decision making authority over matters fundamental to the running of EIT must be retained locally in order to lessen any risk of these reforms ultimately reducing EIT's standing in, or contribution to, the Hawke's Bay region.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'ma2', followed by a horizontal line.

Mark Aspden
Chief Executive
Sport Hawke's Bay





HAWKE'S BAY WINE
NEW ZEALAND

18 March 2019

Chris Collins
Chief Executive, EIT

Dear Chris,

Review of Vocational Education – Impact on EIT and Wine Sector Education

I am writing to register my grave concerns about the future of wine sector education in the context of Government's announced Review of Vocational Education ('Review').

As you know, EIT provides world-class vocational and especially degree & postgraduate-level education tailored to the wine industry. Both the diploma and degree-level wine and viticulture course offerings of EIT are recognised domestically and internationally as being of a very high standard. Hawke's Bay graduates of EIT's wine sector programmes are the mainstay of the professional ranks of the Hawke's Bay wine industry, the second-largest wine region in New Zealand.

Moreover, EIT's wine sector graduates are sought-after across the country and EIT's training provides a springboard for many of its graduates to travel the world making wine and growing grapes, making and marketing wines and in doing so, fostering international links with the Hawke's Bay and New Zealand wine industries which are instrumental in the long-term success of our sector. Beyond that, EIT trains a large and increasing number of foreign wine sector students and the relationships that these students form with New Zealand play a critical role in the development of new export markets for New Zealand wines.

I am gravely concerned that the Review jeopardises EIT's ability to deliver its range of wine sector education programmes, both in the classroom and in the field. The Hawke's Bay wine industry is critically reliant on an ongoing supply of graduates from EIT's wine sector programmes, the quality of whom has been proven over decades.

Whilst I understand Government's need to resolve issues of underperforming institutions in the education sector, EIT is not one of these, in fact quite the opposite. From a New Zealand wine sector perspective, EIT is clearly performing strongly in terms of the quality of its graduates. More broadly, it is well-known that EIT is financially sound and plays a strong and essential role in the social and cultural development of the Hawke's Bay community across the many dimensions of EIT's broad scope.

P O Box 1174, Hastings 4156

www.hawkesbaywine.co.nz

(06) 876 3418 / 022 096 4755



HAWKE'S BAY WINE
NEW ZEALAND

Hawke's Bay Winegrowers' Inc. has always striven to support EIT as the sole regional provider of vocational and higher wine sector education, and by direct involvement in the governance of EIT via memberships on its Council and its sector reference groups. In return, EIT has delivered outstanding graduates while enhancing the wine sector not just in Hawke's Bay but throughout New Zealand. Any Review would be fatally flawed if it were not to recognise and sustain these successful outcomes.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Henley
Chair, Hawke's Bay Winegrowers' Association Inc.

21 Poutū-te-rangi 2019

Jan Mogford
EIT, Gisborne

Tēnā koe

Letter of Support

I am writing this letter in support of the Eastern Institute of Technology's (EIT) response to the consultation discussion document released by the Minister of Education setting out proposals for the reform of vocational education.

Our specific concern is how the proposed reforms will affect EIT's ability to respond to local needs, particularly those of Māori. EIT is a pre-eminent provider of vocational education; renowned for their high rates in Māori participation, levels of achievement, and qualifications awarded. Integral to their success and reach within the region are their off-campus learning centres, dedicated to learners living in remote areas. Further, they are the only ITP where Māori students are achieving at the same rate as non-Māori; parity of achievement has long been an aim of government.

With this in mind the suggestion of highly centralised decision-making, as set out in Proposal 2, is concerning and will limit the level and depth of responsiveness that EIT and the community need to continue in our shared success.

Māori development is all encompassing, and it relies on services' ability to respond and react to the needs of Māori throughout Aotearoa.

EIT have been thorough and consistent in their efforts to meet the unique needs of Te Tairāwhiti, researching and reviewing improvements and opportunities; going above and beyond to help our Māori learners and workers to not only achieve – but to excel.

We encourage that the distinct social, cultural and economic characteristics of the region continue to be serviced by a first-rate higher education and training provider with an acute understanding of its people.

Heoi anō, nā



Mere Pohatu, Regional Manager Ikaroa-Rawhiti

Te Puni Kōkiri (Ministry of Māori Development) Tairāwhiti - Gisborne
Te Puni Kōkiri House, 299 Gladstone Road
PO Box 140 Gisborne 4040, New Zealand
Waea (Ph) 0800 875 447 Waea Whakaahua (Fax) 0800 875 329
Imera (email) tpk.tairawhiti@tpk.govt.nz Paetukutuku (Web) www.tpk.govt.nz



20 March 2019

Hon Chris Hipkins
Private Bag 18888
Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON 6160

Dear Minister Hipkins,

Please receive this letter endorsing the Eastern Institute of Technology (EIT) and their contribution to Vocational and Degree Education within the Tairāwhiti.

Turanga Health is a Maori Health Provider set up by the three Iwi of Turanganui A Kiwa (Ngai Tamanuhiri, Rongowhakaata, Te Aitanga A Mahaki) and delivers a range of primary health services in the community and in the home.

Over the last 5 years Turanga Health has engaged a working relationship alongside EIT that has encapsulated involvement with onsite and offsite education, participation in strategic design of programme delivery and the opportunity to configure education responses to local needs.

This relationship provides the enabler for Turanga Health to excel with their primary purpose and acknowledges the role of EIT and their contribution.

Turanga Health request that the “process of reform” takes in to consideration the value and qualities EIT has brought to the community of Tairāwhiti. We ask that this is not lost.

Please, if there are matters of confirmation or clarification, I make myself available.

Naku noa na,



Reweti Ropiha

CEO

Te Hauora o Turanganui a Kiwa





MATAPUNA TRAINING CENTRE

Whakamanatia Te Tangata | Empowering People

118 Disraeli Street, Gisborne NZ | PO Box 476, Gisborne NZ | Telephone: (06) 868 6094 | Facsimile: (06) 868 7104 | Email: train@matapuna.co.nz | Web: www.matapuna.co.nz

27 March 2019

Hon Chris Hipkins
Private Bag 18888
Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON 6160

Dear Minister Hipkins

Matapuna Training Centre support the Eastern Institute of Technology's (EIT) submission on the reform of vocational education. Matapuna representatives attended the information and consultation opportunities that have been provided in the Gisborne region and have read the proposal online.

Matapuna Training Centre is a Private Training Establishment that works in a cooperative manner with all of the other Youth Guarantee providers in Tairāwhiti via Ako Tairāwhiti which sees all tertiary providers represented including EIT.

Matapuna believes that the regional leadership group will be a critical element in ensuring regions are able to be flexible and cater to the needs. The merge of EIT with Tairāwhiti Polytechnic aligned the Tairāwhiti region with Hawkes Bay for tertiary vocational education delivery. The two regions are disparate in terms of the student make up and the economic indicators etc. Matapuna believe that in order for regional needs to be well met we cannot be clustered into a large regional decision making body.

Matapuna support the proposed review of tertiary provision and believe that the proposals provide opportunities to ensure students' needs are met, that there is greater alignment between the needs of employers and local economies and the local education provision, as well the consistency of tertiary vocational education provision across regions and the country should improve.

There is an extensive amount of work required to ensure that the vision of the proposed changes is able to be realised, there are also areas where more information is required as many are not outlined well enough. In principal Matapuna support the proposal and EIT's submission.

Yours Sincerely

Jodie Cook
Matapuna Trust

22 March 2019

Hon. Chris Hipkins
Private Bag 1888
Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON 6160



Dear Minister,

Re: Reform of vocational education feedback

Eastland Community Trust is writing to you to provide feedback on the reform of vocational education. We confirm our support for EIT and our other local tertiary education providers to help students in our region attain the skills they need to realise their social and economic aspirations and for employers to meet their workforce requirements.

We believe access to vocational education in many regions outside of our major centres, such as Tairāwhiti Gisborne need to be enhanced to offer these resources. Our support for this approach is identified in the priorities expressed through our regional economic development strategy, the Tairāwhiti Economic Action Plan.

It is important we have a well-trained workforce to ensure that we capitalise on the opportunities we have identified and are realising through our regional growth strategy for a prosperous region. We are concerned that highly centralised decision-making on the scale of the proposed New Zealand Institute of Skills and Technology will not enable the kind of responsiveness we need to achieve our goal of a prosperous region. Therefore, we support regionally based, determined provision of collaboration, skills and training at EIT. Also, we have concern with some aspects of the proposed changes, particularly those changes that reduce the capacity of our region to influence our own destiny, impact on opportunities for skilled employment in our regions and impede our capacity to recruit learners domestically and internationally. We believe more weight needs to be given to regional governance, ownership, autonomy and decision-making through the reforms. The region's stakeholders need to be directly involved in codesigning solutions that work for our people rather than having models imposed upon us. This whole of systems approach needs to embody a commitment from Government to adjust policy, programme and funding settings accordingly.

Our region has demonstrated a strong capability to define our own priorities and Government is backing our future. It is our view that reforms will be most effective if they help us to shape our own destiny along with the efforts of one of New Zealand's leading tertiary providers, therefore we support an 'earned autonomy' model as it will allow us to continue to respond to regional needs.

We need to continue to have access to high quality vocational education and training that will allow our communities to quickly adjust to changing economic and social conditions and look forward to a strong role in helping to shape vocational education for our region.

Regards,

Gavin Murphy
Chief Executive Officer

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& attractive community

