



# Office of Hon Hekia Parata

Minister of Education

23 JUL 2015

Dee-Ann Brown  
Chair  
Ngā Parirau Mātauranga Trust

Tēnā koe Ms Brown

Thank you for your letter and draft Remedial Plan of 17 July 2015, and the additional information provided on Wednesday 22 July.

I am satisfied that the strategies outlined in the Remedial Plan, along with the new governance and management structure, present a realistic opportunity of success in providing the Kura's students with an education that meets their needs. As you know, this has been my overriding concern throughout this process, and the only reason I have afforded the Trust the opportunity to continue at this point.

The membership of the new Board, supported by the Advisory Group, and the appointment of Mr Chris Saunders as Interim Education Director, give me sufficient confidence in the expertise and capability of the new governance and leadership team to have a significant positive impact on the Kura's operation and remediation leading up to the Specialist Audit in October.

I have carefully considered the proposed Remedial Plan. I recognise that this is a plan that will keep the Kura open while the Board addresses critical deficiencies identified in the Specialist Audit; not a plan to address long term sustainability.

I also recognise that, in the timeframe available, the Remedial Plan was unlikely to be able to go much further than to set out the remedial strategies formulated, and confirm the key personnel who would see those strategies given effect. The Remedial Plan does respond to the specific findings of the Specialist Audit, and I note that some of the key issues identified have already been addressed and remedial action taken.

I expect that the Remedial Plan will continue to be developed to identify the specific actions and timeframes for things to be completed.

I am therefore approving the Remedial Plan on the terms set out in my letter of 4 July 2015. This also includes, in the event of termination of the Agreement, the Trust having agreed to realising the value of the land and chattels to reimburse the Crown for as much of the funds invested in the Kura as possible.

Your Remedial Plan involves securing external resources over and above the Kura's normal operations. You have advised that the total additional costs of the Remedial Plan, over and above normal operations, are currently budgeted to be \$129,000. The Remedial Plan budget you have provided shows that these are in the area of accountancy and audit fees, and additional advisory fees. In approving the Plan I am also arranging for the Ministry to provide one-off additional funding up to this amount if

necessary, for the remainder of the school year to assist with these extra costs. This is not ongoing funding.

I note some intended expenditure from the Trust may be on fencing to be undertaken for the purposes of supporting curriculum delivery. I expect that unless it is to address health and safety matters or a necessity for the educational delivery of the Kura that you will defer this expenditure. The additional funding must be used only for the specific costs for which it is agreed. I request you to work with officials from the Ministry of Education to finalise this matter as appropriate.

To ensure the Remedial Plan is providing the students with the educational opportunities they need, and is able to be conducted within the finances available, I will need reassurance during the remediation period that acceptable progress is being made. You will therefore need to keep the Ministry regularly informed of progress, and of any significant matters as the Trust becomes aware of them. I reserve the right to terminate the Agreement before the October audit should I not be satisfied that the remedial work is progressing adequately.

In my letter of 4 July I asked you to agree to a Ministerial nomination to the Board for the kura. I would like to advise that my nomination to the Board will be Ms Karen Sewell. Ms Sewell is a former Secretary for Education and Chief Executive of the Education Review Office and of the New Zealand Qualifications Authority as well as having had a long career as a school Principal. She will bring to the Board considerable skill and experience in education. Her appointment will be to the end of this year and because she is my nomination, the Ministry of Education will cover the costs associated with her involvement. I ask that you formalise her appointment.

Turning to the Specialist Audit, to be conducted in October 2015, this will be on the same basis as the audit conducted in March 2015 and will also involve the Education Review Office. Its purpose is to determine whether the Board is meeting the requirements and Performance Measures specified in the Agreement. I wish to make it clear that its purpose is not to determine how well the Remedial Plan has been effected.

The first audit raised concerns over long term financial stability, and the October audit will review this. Accordingly, to be able to make a decision about the Kura beyond 2015, I will need the Board to have developed a budgeted sustainability plan for 2016 and beyond for the auditors to review in October.

After receiving and considering the October Specialist Audit report, I will decide whether to continue the Partnership School Agreement with the Trust beyond 2015.

Thank you for the effort put into developing this Remedial Plan in such a short timeframe and thank you for the commitment you have demonstrated into improving the lives of these young people. I wish you success with this important responsibility.

Heoi anō



Hon Hekia Parata  
**Minister of Education**