



**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION**

*Te Tāhuhu o te Mātauranga*

# **Wakatipu Area Strategy Plan**

**September 2009**

## Executive Summary

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The Ministry of Education has developed an area strategy plan in response to population growth in the Wakatipu area. The Ministry predicts that by 2026 the demand for student spaces will lead to a gap in provision compared with current provision. An additional 649 primary students and 450 secondary students are anticipated to reside in the Wakatipu area by 2026.

Community consultation has identified the need for future primary and secondary school provision in the Wakatipu area.

The key aspects of the Wakatipu Area Strategy for implementation are:

- A suitable site to be identified and acquired in the Frankton Flats for the future relocation of Wakatipu High School as a Year 9-13 secondary school with provision for the delivery of Year 7 and 8 technology programmes.
- A suitable site to be identified and acquired in the Frankton Flats for a new primary school when an appropriate number of students reside in the area.
- Queenstown Primary School to be permitted to change to a full primary school (Year 1-8), which will decrease roll growth pressure on Wakatipu High School from 2010 until its relocation.
- Wakatipu High School to accept Year 9-13 students once the change for Queenstown Primary School is approved.
- The rolls of state integrated schools in the area to be allowed to increase in response to the increased numbers of students whose parents elect this form of education for their children.

The timing of the implementation of each of the above proposals will be driven by the rate of growth of the school-age population in the area.

## Population Growth

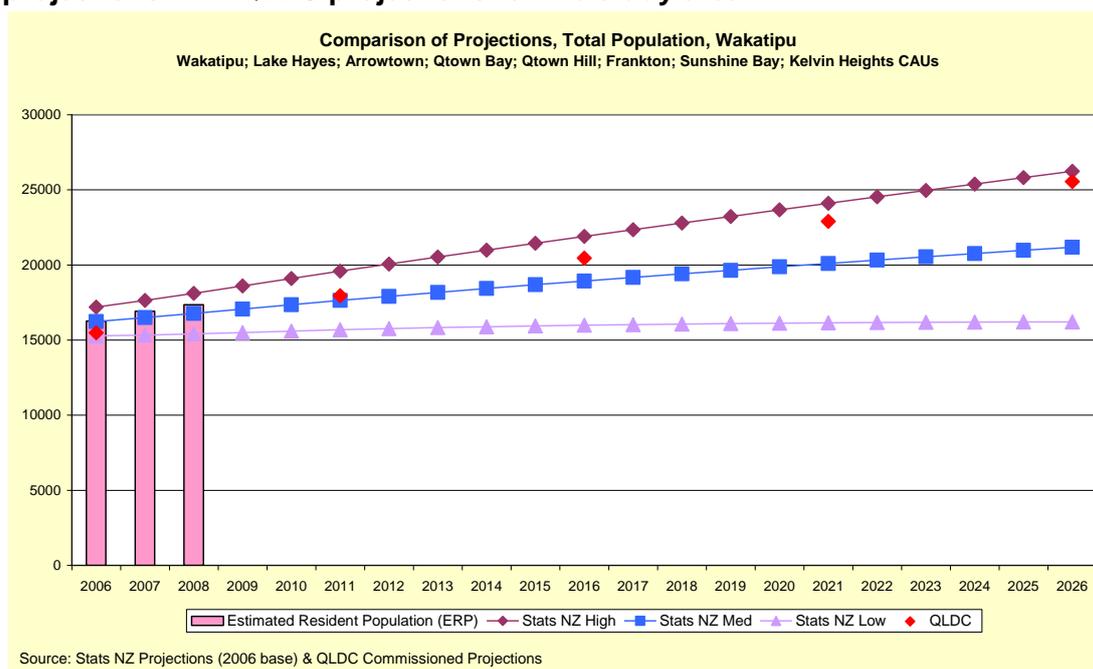
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This area strategy plan is a response to continued population growth in the Wakatipu area. Expansion of the existing schooling provision is required to accommodate a forecast increase in student numbers.

In developing this plan the Ministry has used population projections from Statistics New Zealand and the Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC). The projections both clearly indicate significant growth in the Wakatipu area.

It is clear from Figure One that the population of the Wakatipu area will grow over the next 20 years. However, population projections are 'projections' and are subject to change. The timing of development and resulting population growth remains the difficult variable to predict with any certainty. Such growth is driven from a range of social and economic factors (migration, economy, market forces etc). This highlights the importance of planning and the Ministry's ability to be responsive to change.

**Figure One: Comparison of Statistics NZ 2006 based CAU population projections with QLDC projections for the study area**



The growth in the school age population will require an adjustment to the current schooling network.

## Consultation: Key Findings

A community consultation programme was undertaken in June 2007 and completed in January 2009.

The major findings of the consultation process were as follows:

- A new secondary school (Year 9-13 is preferred) should be built as soon as possible to relieve the pressure on Wakatipu High School.
- The community is very keen to see a continuing and growing close relationship between the Ministry and Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC) which facilitates the co-location of school and community facilities wherever practicable.
- There is widespread concern at the significant unsatisfied demand for places in Early Childhood Education (ECE) facilities in the area.
- Planning should commence for a new primary school (built when student growth demands) with provision made for a co-located community-based ECE centre.
- Sites for new schools must be identified and acquired in a much more proactive manner than has been the case in the past.

- Full service education facilities should be considered for all existing and new secondary schools.
- The integrated Catholic and Christian schools in the area are enabled to expand their maximum rolls.
- Learning pathways should be provided and developed to support Maori education.
- High capacity telecommunications connectivity should be installed across all schools in the network to enable effective sharing of teaching resources and learning of all students and teachers.

## Proposal for schooling provision in the Wakatipu Area

**Figure Two: Indicative timeline showing proposed changes for the schooling network**

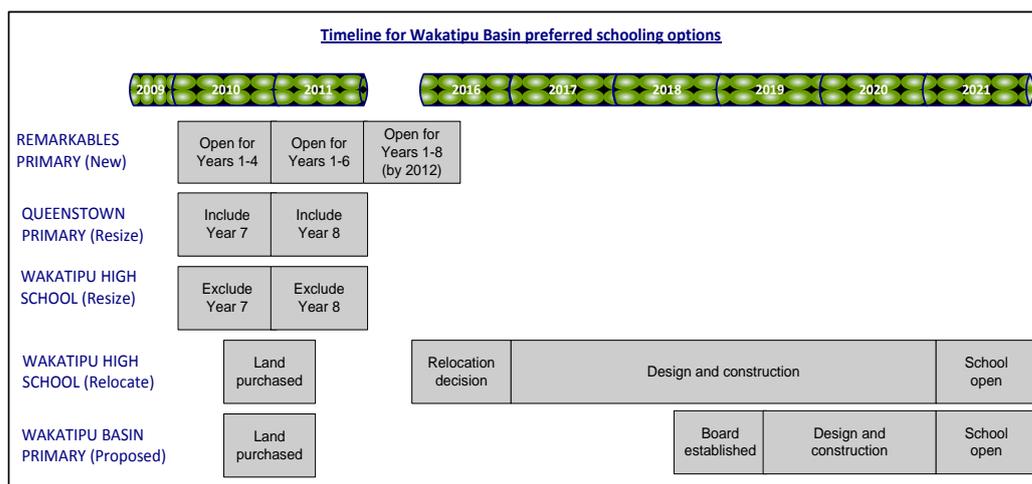


Figure Two shows the timing of each proposed change to the state schooling network in the Wakatipu area. Integrated schools are discussed below.

### Primary Schooling

It is estimated that an additional 649 students in Year 1-8 will require access to a local state or state integrated school by 2026.

The existing schools can absorb some of the future growth through provision of roll growth classrooms.

Queenstown School will enrol Year 7 students from 2010 and Year 8 students from 2011. This will decrease roll growth pressure on Wakatipu High School. Further, the

uptake of Year 7-8 students will offset the loss of Year 1-6 students when Remarkables Primary School opens in 2010.

Remarkables Primary School will open in 2010 and will have a capacity for 460 students by 2012. This will absorb some of the growth in the primary school age cohort in the short to medium term.

Projected future population growth will require an additional primary school to be built in Frankton Flats after 2020. It is proposed that a new primary school be built in the vicinity of projected population growth to future proof the schooling network for long-term growth.

### **Secondary Schooling**

It is estimated that an additional 450 Year 9-13 students from the Wakatipu area will need access to a state or state integrated school by 2026.

The recapitation of Queenstown Primary School and the resulting loss of students in Year 7 and 8 will assist Wakatipu High School in operating from its present site in the interim without the need to lease adjacent buildings.

However, in the medium to long term the current Wakatipu High School site in Queenstown will not be large enough to accommodate the growth in its roll. Future population growth is expected to occur predominantly in Frankton Flats.

The purchase of land in Frankton Flats and the subsequent relocation of Wakatipu High School is seen as the best option for the secondary network.

### **Integrated schools**

Increases in maximum rolls at St Joseph's School will reduce the numbers of students who would otherwise attend other state schools in the Wakatipu area.

The Catholic Education Office has indicated a desire to grow capacity at St Joseph's School over two sites. Land for a second site has been purchased at Speargrass Flat.

Southern Lakes Christian School is a non-denominational private Christian school located in temporary accommodation in Frankton. The school has recently leased a site in Frankton and the Ministry is aware its proprietor intends seeking integration into the state system.

### **Monitoring**

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Given the uncertainty around population growth, it is important that the Ministry monitor growth regularly to ensure that there is enough capacity within the schooling network to cater for an increase in population.

The Ministry propose to track growth on an annual basis (see Appendix One).

Communication between the Ministry and key stakeholders will provide a mechanism to link with the local community and assist in identifying trigger points for roll growth classrooms (short term) and the establishment or relocation of schools (longer term).

## Implementation

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The Ministry will:

- work with the QLDC to monitor population change.
- work with boards of trustees of schools where capacity needs to increase to meet the intentions of this area strategy.
- work with boards of trustees of state integrated schools and their Proprietors where the maximum roll needs to increase to meet the intentions of the area strategy.

The Ministry will monitor and update growth on an annual basis (see Appendix One). This information will be shared with key stakeholders. It will provide information about how growth is tracking toward trigger points for roll growth classrooms (short term) and the establishment or relocation of schools (longer term).

Purchasing land for future school sites will ensure that the Ministry can respond in a timely fashion should there be periods of rapid population growth.

## Appendix One: Monitoring of growth over time

The purpose of this section is to describe how growth in the study area can be monitored. Tracking measures that indicate growth of the population in the study area will be important feedback to those implementing the Area Strategy.

Below are suggested measures of growth that could be used as part of the monitoring process. These measures would be reported annually to an stakeholders.

### ***Building Consent Data***

Building consent data provides a measure of how building activity is happening in an area and is an indicator of potential roll growth within a school's catchment.

Statistics NZ release building consent data by Census Area Unit on a quarterly basis.

### ***Roll data and capacity***

A comparison of roll data against school capacity provides a direct measure of how much pressure a school or school network is experiencing.

March roll data for intermediate and secondary schools and October roll data for primary schools will compare 'peak' rolls against capacity.

### ***Estimated resident population (30 June)***

Statistics NZ provides estimates of total populations at census area unit level. These estimates can be compared against projections used in planning. Where the resident population estimate is different to the projections, implementation can be adjusted accordingly.

### **Summary**

<b>Measure</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>Released</b>
Building consents	Statistics NZ	Quarterly
Roll data <i>March data for intermediate &amp; secondary; October for primary</i>	March roll return; ENROL	Annually, March, October
Estimated resident population	Statistics NZ	Annually, 30 June

Communication of the trends will take place annually in November.