As you know, the Ministry of Education has been leading an engagement and consultation process with the schools and communities of Hāwera about what the future provision of Year 7-15 schooling may be.

The Minister of Education has recently received a report from the Ministry detailing the consultation process and has considered the feedback that has been provided.

He has decided to close Hāwera Intermediate and Hāwera High School and establish a new Year 7-15 school in Hāwera. This proposal was preferred by the intermediate and high schools, and the Minister considers it is likely to lead to the best and most equitable outcomes for students in Hāwera in the future.

The new school is expected to open for Term 1 2023. An establishment board for the new school will be selected from experienced members of the community and schooling sector. The Minister expects this board will work closely with the local primary schools to consider how transition from Year 6 to Year 7 may be best managed.

The Minister understands that the primary schools in Hāwera supported the option to retain Year 7 and 8 students, and his decision may be met with mixed feelings. However, he would not expect to see any applications for this type of change from Hāwera primary schools in the next five years, to ensure that the new secondary school is given every opportunity to start well.

The Ministry of Education will be working closely with schools over the coming months to ensure that students and staff are supported through this transitional period.

Any queries about the process, please email: enquiries.whanganui@education.govt.nz

The Minister knows you will support this process to create exciting and equitable opportunities for the students of Hāwera.

2 November 2021