

## Event backgrounder: Minister Hipkins' meeting with Workforce Development Council (WDC) chairs

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<b>To:</b>	Hon Hipkins, Minister of Education
<b>From:</b>	9(2)(a), Manager Delivery & Projects
<b>Date:</b>	9 May 2022
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### Purpose

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1. You are scheduled to meet with all the WDC chairs on Tuesday 10 May 2022 via zoom. The Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) has been asked to provide you with an event backgrounder to help inform your discussions.
2. This backgrounder provides you with a short summary of progress on a WDC collaborative project to develop a shared data platform, along with a very brief status update on each of the six WDCs' activities. Biographies of the WDC chairs are also appended to this paper.
3. We recommend that you release this Event Backgrounder in full.

### About the Ohu Mahi WDCs

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4. WDCs were established in October 2021 to give industries greater leadership and influence across vocational education.
5. The six WDCs have been approved for \$2.5 million to undertake a collaborative project to develop a shared data platform. The objective of this project is to create a unified data platform that will help all six WDCs better understand the impact of COVID-19 on their industries, the actions that they will need to take to assist in the recovery, as well as providing reliable data to support the creation of workforce development plans.
6. A working prototype of the platform was due for completion at the end of April, with the completed platform due to be launched in December 2022. Alongside providing the WDCs with the ability to understand industries in-depth, the shared data platform will also be available for industry and the Regional Skills Leadership Groups (RSLGs) to use.

### Hanga-Aro-Rau (Manufacturing, Engineering and Logistics)

7. Hanga-Aro-Rau WDC represents industries including manufacturing; processing; extractives and drilling; transport (heavy and commercial); postal; warehousing and related engineering.
8. Hanga-Aro-Rau has commenced engagement with various stakeholders, including RSLGs. RSLG engagement has identified opportunities for further collaboration and partnership over

2022-23 and beyond, acknowledging the rich membership of Te Tiriti partners, Māori, iwi, hapū and whānau in the RSLGs, as well as industry and business leaders.

9. Hanga-Aro-Rau's ability to understand and balance the regional perspective against what they know nationally will support how they focus priorities for the next two years. They are in the process of establishing an Industry Skills Group (anticipated for May 2022).

### **Muka Tangata (People, Food and Fibre)**

10. Muka Tangata WDC represents industries including dairy, sheep, beef, deer, pork, poultry, and other livestock farming; arable farming; horticulture; viticulture and winemaking; forestry, silviculture and harvesting; fishing, aquaculture and seafood processing; equine and racing; sports turf management; veterinary; and food and fibre support industries.
11. Through the Food and Fibre Futures project, engagement with their industries in regions across Aotearoa will provide them with a sound base for further sector engagement and direction of their work, as well as underpin their Workforce Development Plans.

### **Ringa Hora (Services)**

12. Ringa Hora WDC works with industries including advisory services; aviation; cleaning services; business services; contact centres; financial services; hospitality; local government; real estate; retail; security services; state sector; and tourism and travel.
13. One of Ringa Hora's main activities in 2022 and 2023 is to identify those industry stakeholders who traditionally have not been well served by the vocational education system – for example Pacific Peoples, Māori, and disability groups that are not part of national or large industry associations or forums. Ringa Hora will work with industry to identify and fill in gaps in membership of existing industry groups and forums, and where needed, support the setup of new Industry Advisory Groups or forums.
14. Ringa Hora will also initiate a project on 'Impact Reporting', with the aim of developing a total impact reporting tool capturing the fiscal, economic and wellbeing outcomes of investments they are involved with.

### **Toi Mai**

15. Toi Mai WDC represents sectors including creative; technology; entertainment; hairdressing and barbering; makeup artistry; skincare; journalism; radio and television; broadcasting; gambling; and sports and recreation.
16. Toi Mai plans to engage with the Future of Work Forum, Industry Transformation Plans, the Climate Commission and the cross-government Strategic Futures Group. Toi Mai also plans to join the Tokona ki Te Raki (Ngāi Tahu Futures Lab) lead initiative to 'End Streaming in New Zealand'. Staying abreast of this work will help fulfil Order in Council responsibilities.

### **Toitū te Waiora (Community, Health, Education and Social Services)**

17. Toitū te Waiora WDC represents industries including care services; disability services; education and educational support services; funeral services; health services; public order safety; regulatory services; skin and nail therapy services; social services; and urban pest control.

18. The Toitū te Waiora engagement plan is a living document developed by their Kahui Māori business unit to ensure true partnership is built into all engagement activities. It sets out their methodology, principles, and scope of engagement.

### **Waihanga Ara Rau (Construction and Infrastructure)**

19. Waihanga Ara Rau WDC represents industries including construction; concrete; plumbing; infrastructure; water; gas; electricity; telecommunications; and roading.

20. Waihanga Ara Rau is taking on a significant volume of work with TEC COVID-19 response projects. These initiatives will support their sectors to recover from COVID-19 and align strongly with the organisation's kaupapa. However, the WDC will need to closely monitor project delivery to ensure it doesn't compromise the quality or timeliness of their existing work programme.

21. The project initiatives include the industry equity project (previously Women in Trades); electricity supply and three waters; and the workforce information platform.

9(2)(a)

Delivery Directorate  
Tertiary Education Commission  
09 May 2022



**Hon Chris Hipkins**

Minister of Education

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