



Te Pūkenga

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26 June 2024

Tim Fowler
Chief Executive
Tertiary Education Commission
PO Box 27048
Wellington 6141

By email: tim.fowler@tec.govt.nz

Tēnā koe Tim

Requirement for Te Pūkenga to obtain specialist help

Thank you for your letter dated 14 June 2024 requiring Te Pūkenga to obtain specialist help under section 332 of the Education and Training Act 2020.

We acknowledge the concerns you have raised about the long-term financial sustainability and forecast financial position of Te Pūkenga business divisions up to and including 2026. Te Pūkenga is committed to delivering on the expectations of the Minister for Tertiary Education and Skills to disestablish Te Pūkenga and create a financially sustainable regional vocational education system.

We understand the importance of addressing the financial challenges facing some of Te Pūkenga business divisions and we continue to actively develop and implement plans to improve their financial performance. This work has been ongoing at Te Pūkenga during both the establishment and now disestablishment phase and is at the fore of our underlying commitment to the long-term sustainability and success of vocational learning for ākonga in Aotearoa. We want to reassure you that we are treating this matter seriously and with the utmost urgency.

Although we agree with the Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) that we do not have the capacity to deliver this work ourselves within the set timeframe provided, we are disappointed with the assertion that Te Pūkenga does not have the required capability to deliver this work. Te Pūkenga kaimahi have extensive experience in cost out and asset sales over the last decade, with a number of people across the network having dealt with such activities prior to and during the establishment of Te Pūkenga.

We are open to working collaboratively with the TEC and external specialists to ensure that we have the necessary support to develop and implement comprehensive plans to achieve financial sustainability for all Te Pūkenga business divisions. This mahi will include the disposal of assets deemed surplus to the ongoing operations and effective delivery in regional campuses in a continuation and ramping up of the previous capital asset disposal plans.

We agree that this work is an important precursor to standing up any new entities that may replace Te Pūkenga, and hope that the information and analysis resulting from this work will inform the approach required to assure the long-term sustainability of the tertiary network for ākonga and kaimahi throughout Aotearoa.

We look forward to working with you constructively on this important work. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further questions.

Ngā mihi

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sue McCormack', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Sue McCormack

Heamana ō-naianeī o te Kaunihera o Te Pūkenga | Te Pūkenga Council Acting Chair

cc. Gus Gilmore, Chief Executive, Te Pūkenga

Bill Moran, Council Member, Te Pūkenga

Jeremy Morley, Council Member, Te Pūkenga

