



## Submission on the Mackenzie District Council – Proposed Plan Change 25.

To: Mackenzie District Council

**Name of submitter:** Ministry of Education Te Tāhuhu o Te Mātauranga ('the Ministry')

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**This is a submission on the Proposed Mackenzie District Plan Change 25<sup>1</sup>**

### Introduction/Background

The Ministry of Education (the Ministry) is the Government's lead advisor on the New Zealand education system, shaping direction for education agencies and providers and contributing to the Government's goals for education. The Ministry assesses population changes, school roll fluctuations and other trends and challenges impacting on education provision at all levels of the education network to identify changing needs within the network so the Ministry can respond effectively.

The Ministry has responsibility not only for all State schools owned by the Crown, but also those State schools that are not owned by the Crown, such as designated character schools and State-integrated schools. For the Crown-owned State school, this involves managing the existing property portfolio, upgrading and improving the portfolio, purchasing and constructing new property to meet increasing demand, identifying and disposing of surplus State school sector property and managing teacher and caretaker housing.

The Ministry is therefore a considerable stakeholder in terms of activities that may impact on existing and future educational facilities and assets in the Mackenzie District.

### The Ministry's submission is:

The Ministry has a particular interest in the parts of the Proposed District Plan that, either directly or indirectly, have the potential to impact on the Ministry's interests, such as the management and operation of existing educational facilities or the establishment of new educational facilities. Proposed Plan Change 25: Rural Lifestyle Zones which will be discussed further below.

The provisions sought by the Ministry are listed in **Appendix 1** to this feedback.

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<sup>1</sup> Terms marked with an \* above are terms used in relation to the proposed PC that are from the Operative Plan, but which are proposed through PC to be amended and are within scope of PC. Changes from the operative definition are shown using ~~strikethrough~~ or underlining.

**The Ministry seeks the following from the Mackenzie District Council:**

That the requested amendments, additions, or retentions to the District Plan, as set out in **Appendix 1**, be considered through the proposed plan process, including within the reporting planners s42a and subsequent hearing.

The relief sought is shown in red underscore and ~~red strikethrough~~.



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**Daly Williams**  
(Signature of person authorised to sign on behalf of the Ministry of Education)

**Date: 26 January 2024**

Appendix 1: Plan Change 25 - Rural Lifestyle Zones

ID	Section of the Proposed District Plan	Proposed Provision	Support/ Oppose/ Neutral/ New Provision	Reason for Submission	Relief Sought
Part 1: Introduction and General Provisions					
PART 3 – AREA-SPECIFIC MATTERS					
RURZ – Rural Zones					
RLZ – Rural Lifestyle Zone					
1	RLZ-O1	<b>Zone Purpose</b>  The Rural Lifestyle Zone provides primarily for living opportunities in a rural environment and other compatible activities that support and are consistent with the character and amenity values of the zone, including small scale primary production activities.	Support in part.	The Ministry supports RLZ-O1 and acknowledges that the primary purpose of the Rural Zone is to provide for primary production and that educational facilities should only be established where they will be consistent with the character and amenity values of the zone.	Amend as follows:  <b>Zone Purpose</b>  The Rural Lifestyle Zone provides primarily for living opportunities in a rural environment and other compatible activities that support and are consistent with the character and amenity values of the zone, including small scale primary production activities <u>and activities that have an operational need to locate within the zone.</u>
2	RLZ-O2	<b>Character and Amenity Values</b>  The Rural Lifestyle Zone is a desirable rural living environment, which: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>contains predominantly detached residential units on large lots that provide on-site amenity;</li> <li>does not exceed available capacities for servicing and infrastructure;</li> <li>maintains a predominance of open space over built form; and</li> <li>maintains the character and amenity values of rural areas.</li> </ol>	Support	The Ministry supports RLZ-O2 and acknowledges that educational facilities, should only be established where there is an operational need for them to be located in the Rural Lifestyle Zone.	Retain as proposed
3	RLZ-P4	<b>Other Non-Residential Activities</b>  Avoid other activities and buildings not provided for in RLZ-P1, RLZ-P2 and RLZ-P3, unless: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>any adverse effects of the activity do not compromise the character and amenity values of the surrounding area;</li> <li>the nature, scale and intensity of the activity is compatible with the character and purpose of the zone; or</li> <li>the activities and buildings relate to infrastructure that has a functional need or operational need to establish in the zone</li> </ol>	Support	The Ministry supports RLZ-P4 as a policy and acknowledges that educational facilities may have an operational need to be established in the Rural Lifestyle Zone.	Retain as proposed
4	RLZ-R10	<b>Educational Facility</b>  <b>Activity Status: Permitted</b>  <b>Where:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The education activity is undertaken within a residential building and is ancillary to a residential activity.</li> </ol>	Support in Part	The Ministry supports these rules in part to manage the operation of educational facilities in the Rural Lifestyle Zone. However, the Ministry considers that educational facilities should be provided for where there is a potential for a population to support them, including in the Rural Lifestyle Zone. This will support active modes of transport and reduce trip lengths and times. Educational facilities	Amend as below:  <b>Educational Facility</b>  <b>Activity Status: Permitted</b>  <b>Where:</b>

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		<p>2. The maximum number of children in attendance at any one time is six, excluding any children who live on site.</p> <p><b>Activity status when compliance is not achieved with R10.1 and R10.2: Discretionary</b></p>		<p>should be enabled in this zone as they are considered essential social infrastructure.</p> <p>The Ministry request that some flexibility be provided in relation to building flexibility, type of education service and number of children in attendance.</p> <p>The Ministry also request that the maximum number of people on site is removed as this provides unreasonable restrictions on educational facilities.</p> <p>The Ministry request an activity status of Restricted Discretionary for educational facilities in this zone. This provides flexibility without unreasonable restrictions for education facilities that may be best placed within Rural Lifestyle Zones to serve the education needs of these rural areas.</p>	<p><del>1. The education activity is undertaken within a residential building and is ancillary to a residential activity.</del></p> <p><del>2. The maximum number of children in attendance at any one time is six, excluding any children who live on site. The activity complies with RLZ-S1 – RLZ-S9.</del></p> <p><b>Activity status when compliance is not achieved with R10.1 and R10.2: Discretionary Restricted discretionary</b></p> <p><u>Matters of discretion are restricted to:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li><u>Adverse effects on the rural amenity values of adjoining rural</u></li><li><u>properties and the surrounding area are managed or</u></li><li><u>mitigated; and</u></li><li><u>The character and quality of the surrounding area is not</u></li><li><u>compromised; and</u></li><li><u>They contribute to the health and wellbeing of people in the</u></li><li><u>surrounding area; and</u></li><li><u>The scale, form and design of any building means the</u></li><li><u>amenity values of the surrounding area are maintained; and</u></li><li><u>Road safety and efficiency is maintained; and</u></li><li><u>6. The activity has an operational or functional need to be located in the Rural Lifestyle Zone.</u></li></ol>