



# LET'S GET WAIKATO SWIMMING!

Waikato Swimming & Water Safety  
Strategy Plan 2021-2024



LEARN TO SWIM  
& Water Safety

## OUR STORY

At Swimming Waikato, we work to inspire participation, to progress competitive swimming and to deliver leadership on behalf of our communities. Our vision to Get Waikato Swimming, is a hugely collaborative effort alongside our army of volunteers, coaches, teachers and our family of supporters and stakeholders.

Through the delivery of initiatives and development opportunities, we are making giant leaps in the development of over 2,500 members, as they stride towards their individual swimming and water safety goals. In early 2021 we took our first bold steps in the delivery of our school learn to swim and water safety support program that with the backdrop of Covid-19, still managed to provide 6,292 individual school lessons including 114 Primary School Teachers.

**OUR VISION** - Get Waikato Swimming!

**OUR KEY GOAL** - To increase swimming participation and water safety education at community level for a long lasting, safer, and healthier Waikato

### Major Community Swimming & Water Safety Goals

- To save the lives of those most vulnerable in and around water
- To improve the access to and the quality of LTS & WS opportunities for primary school pupils
- Enhance the quality of swimming experiences for participants specifically through the development of effective professional development opportunities of teachers
- Growing awareness of the multiple benefits of swimming (physical and mental wellbeing)
- To reaffirm the connection and relationship between local primary schools and swimming clubs

### Operational Goals - Development of swimming & water safety in schools

- Supporting the delivery of swimming and water safety for primary school pupils in the Waikato
- Facilitate and promote professional development and mentoring for teachers in swimming education
- Delivery of Swimming New Zealand teacher qualifications for teachers
- Provide schoolteachers with ongoing support and mentoring
- Coordinate programmes for schools to identify talented swimmers and facilitate links to local swimming clubs

## OUR WHY?

Despite New Zealand being a water-loving nation, we do not have a good track record when it comes to water safety, 114 New Zealanders drown each year on average; this is one of the worst drowning rates in the developed world (Water Safety New Zealand, 2010b).

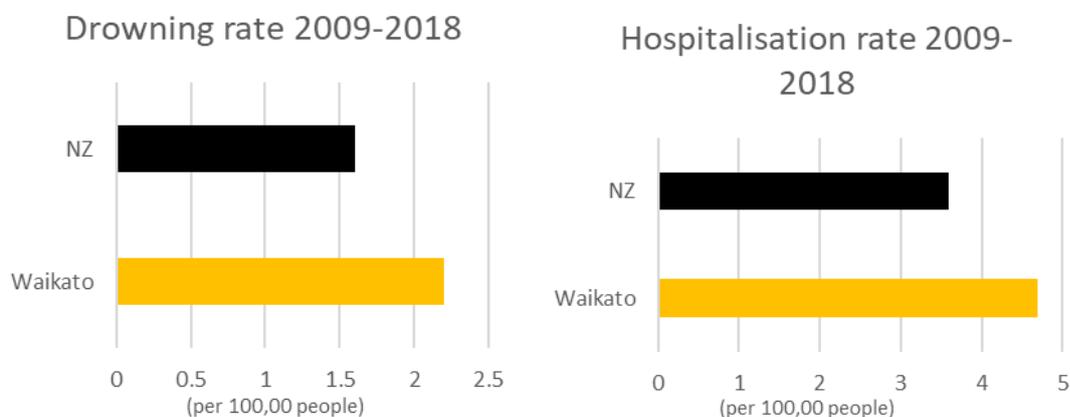
New Zealand is still in the unenviable position of having one of the higher drowning rates (1.5 per 100,000 for 2020) in the OECD, almost twice that of Australia.

Recent data also show that children's swimming ability has been decreasing, with worryingly low percentages of students being able to perform basic swimming tasks that are essential for water safety: In 2008, just one in five 10-year-olds can swim 200m—the benchmark Water Safety New Zealand considers necessary to swim and survive in the water. (Water Safety New Zealand, 2008, p.1)

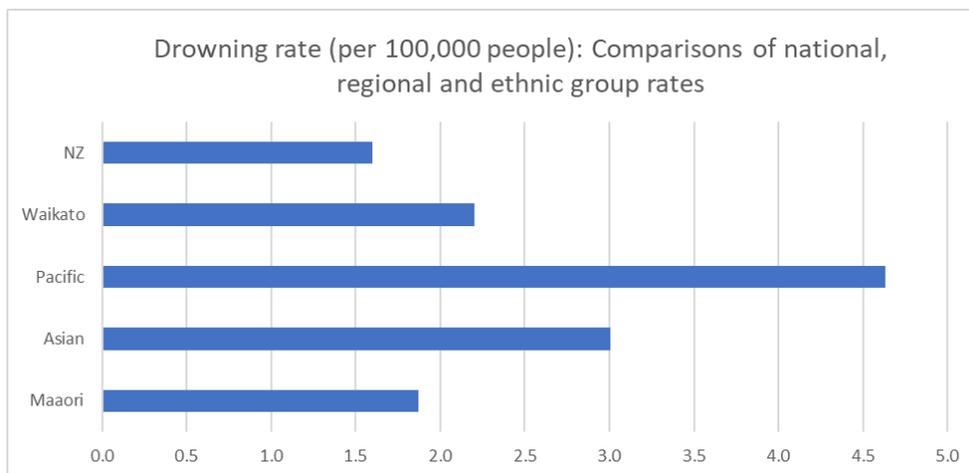
### Drowning Trends

#### Reporting from Waikato Regional Water Safety Strategy 2019-2023

Waikato has been selected by Water Safety New Zealand for the development of a regional water safety strategy due to the high rates of drownings and hospitalisations from water incidents. Statistics below are sourced from Water Safety New Zealand's database, Drownbase, and cover the 2009-2018 period.

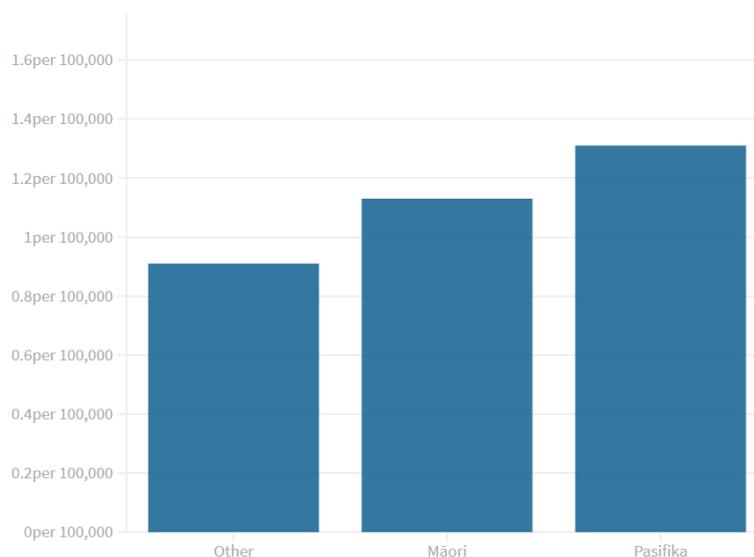


**The Waikato region has the third highest drowning rate nationally**, as well as the highest river drowning rate, with an average of four river drownings a year over the last 10 years (2009-2018) totalling 40 rivers drownings. The next likely environment is beaches with almost half the total number of drownings (24).



The number of preventable fatal drownings around the country’s coast has increased in the last five years – a sobering fact for those working hard to save lives,” That’s the real tragedy of it, we’re not really getting the problem solved ... we need to do something else to turn the tide, if you like, of the trend.” *New Zealand Surf Life Saving (NZSLS) chief executive Paul Dalton.* [New Zealand's coastal drowning statistics are getting worse, not better | Stuff.co.nz](#)

**Total beach and coastal fatal drownings by ethnicity**



Source: New Zealand Surf Life Saving • National Beach and Coastal Safety Report

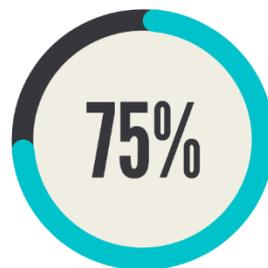


## CURRENT BARRIERS TO SCHOOL LTS & WS OPPORTUNITIES

According to research carried out by Sally Robertson, research assistant at the New Zealand Council for Educational Research, access to pools is one aspect of providing swimming programmes, but students also need to have access to capable swimming teachers. While the majority of learning-to-swim programmes were taught by classroom teachers, over a third were taught by external swimming instructors, and around 10 percent by parents.

***“Access to pools is one aspect of providing swimming programmes, but students also need to have access to capable swimming teachers.”***

Just under a quarter of schools (nationally) that offer learn-to-swim programmes reported that none of their teachers had been trained in the last five years. Almost half of those offering learning-to-swim programmes said they needed help training staff from their own school. Some of the barriers to accessing staff training were the costs involved, the demands on teachers’ time and sourcing training for those in isolated locations.



**% of schools in the Waikato region  
that have access to school pools.**

Over half of schools that offered learning-to-swim programmes identified that they needed assistance with funding for their programmes or pools. Schools often mentioned the high costs associated with pool maintenance, transport costs, pool hire and swimming instructors.

Over a third of schools stated that they needed assistance maintaining or upgrading the pool they used. It’s worth noting that the Ministry of Education **does not fund**:

- Pools in new schools, or
- The replacement of pools at the end of their economic life.



Almost 30 percent of schools said they needed more or better water safety equipment/material, and a quarter said they needed help with transport options to a pool. Some schools felt the government should contribute more because of the importance of learning to swim and because teaching learning to swim is compulsory at primary level. The New Zealand Curriculum says: ... it is expected that all students will have had opportunities to learn basic aquatic skills by the end of Year 6 ... (Ministry of Education, 2007, p. 22)

*Robertson, S (2010), 'Teaching young people to learn to swim, A community effort'*

**Schools who are less positive about their ability to ensure children who can swim competently, attributed the barriers below:**

- They identified a need for professional development for their teachers ·
- Their pool facilities are inadequate to meet student needs (whether unheated, too shallow, too short, etc).
- Irregular or infrequent access to a pool. Also, other pool access issues such as the cost of travel to lessons and their distance from a pool
- Lack of parental support and having students who are unenthusiastic about swimming and who consistently leave their togs at home
- Having a short swimming season
- The need to focus on other aspects of the school curriculum, to ensure students achieve in what may be regarded as more core curriculum areas.

*Lisa McCauley and Brendon Ward, Assessing Student Swimming and Aquatic Skills. Report Prepared For: Ministry of Education and Water Safety New Zealand, 2001*



## Closure of the Sport Waikato Energizer Program –

Project Energize- Project Energize was a programme that aimed to increase children’s physical activity levels, improve their nutritional status and ultimately their overall health. The programme began at Sport Waikato in 2005, funded by the Waikato District Health Board and was established in Wellington in 2016. The programme enabled Energizers to work with schools, teachers and parents to coordinate and deliver physical activity sessions (including swimming and water safety), nutritional advice and help implement health and fitness programmes within primary school.

[Ditching fitness programme in schools will have long-term effects on health - expert | RNZ News](#)



## Existing Water Safety programmes and initiatives

At the time of publication of the Waikato Regional Water Safety Strategy 2019-2023, there were only five Water Skills for Life (Water Safety Education programme) registered providers in the Waikato region. Providers are based in Waitomo, Otorohanga, Waipa, and Raglan. This leaves six districts (of 10) in the Waikato region without access to Water Skills for Life education.



“The New Zealand curriculum specifies that all children should get the opportunity, through school, to learn basic aquatic skills by the end of Year 6. Whether schools provide that opportunity in their own school pool, at a neighbouring school pool, or a community facility is up to them.”

*Ministry of Education on Swimming & Water Safety in Schools*



A key recommendation from Water Safety NZ’s Community Engagement consultations (2018-2019).

**Education should:** *Start from a young age, with more emphasis on teaching swimming in schools.*

*Capturing our tamariki in schools is crucial to developing strong water culture for the future.*

## OUR PRIMARY SCHOOL INITIATIVE

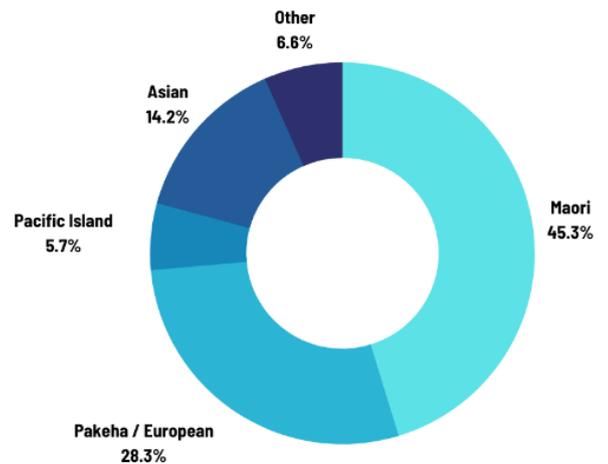
### CURRENT FUNDING PARTNERS -

- Sport Waikato – Tu Manawa Funding
- WEL Energy Trust

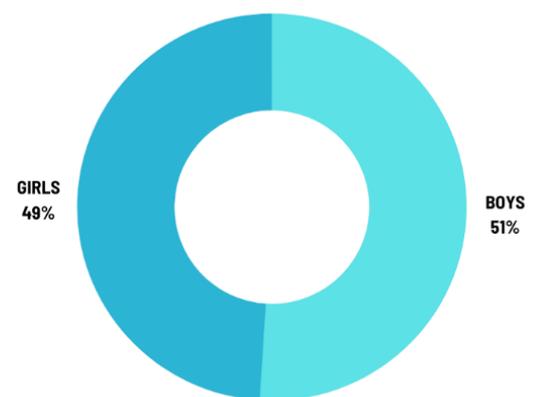
### CURRENT PARTICIPANT RANGE -

- Primary School Children – between years 1 & 8 (Ages 5 to 12)
- Decile 1-5 school teachers

### ETHNIC MAKE-UP



### GENDER MAKE-UP



6,400+

INDIVIDUAL  
LESSONS TO DATE

114

114 TEACHER'S  
SUPPORTED TO DATE

From Feb-July 2021 and impacted  
with Covid-19 restrictions



## HOW SCHOOLS ACCESS SUPPORT -

Our dedicated Swimming & Water Safety Officer will be in regular contact with all schools to promote our initiative and the benefits it can offer.

Schools will also be directed to the Swimming Waikato website where they will have access to a dedicated School, Learn to Swim & Water Safety page. This page will provide all details regarding what we can offer and how they can easily request support.

All enquiries and booking have been simplified via online e-forms, allowing for easy, quick, and manageable applications.

All information and FAQ's can be located by following the link below, there is also a video that can be accessed via our YouTube account.

[Learn to Swim & Water Safety - Swimming Waikato](#)

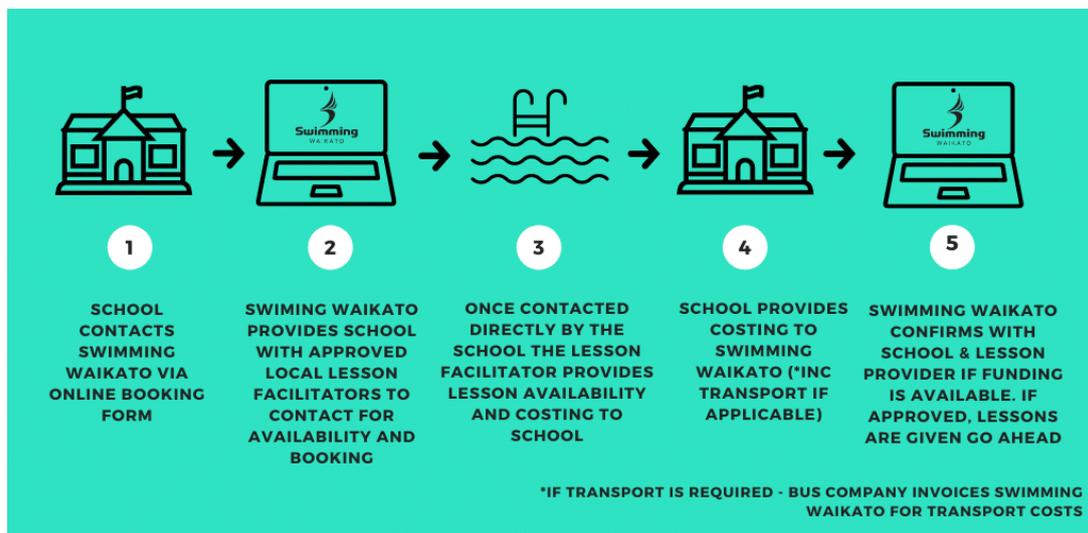
[School Swimming & Water Safety Video](#)

## SWIMMING WAIKATO

SCHOOL LEARN TO SWIM & WATER SAFETY

## LESSON BOOKING

SCHOOLS CONTACTING SWIMMING WAIKATO DIRECTLY



[WWW.SWIMMINGWAIKATO.CO.NZ](http://WWW.SWIMMINGWAIKATO.CO.NZ)



LEARN TO SWIM  
& Water Safety

## OUR LESSON DELIVERY PROGRAM -



With the utilisation of the **Water Skills For Life**, a recognisable and respected LTS & Water safety programme, we aim to provide a robust swimming and survival skills program for our local primary schools.

Water Skills for Life is aimed at teaching 5 – 13-year-olds the skills they need to help keep themselves safe in, on and around water. The new skills are the building blocks for the safe enjoyment of the many aquatic pursuits our country has to offer and are also the essential basis for participating in all aquatic sports.

Water Skills for Life is the national standard for aquatic education in New Zealand primary schools (children in years 1 to 8), and is made up of seven skill sets that contain 27 core skills, it establishes broad fundamental competencies for life-long water safety.

It gives children the skills and knowledge they need to assess risk and make smart decisions around water so they can stay out of trouble and survive should they get into trouble.

Children are taught Water Skills for Life at their school, either by their school teacher or by a swim teacher at a community pool. Schools can decide how they teach their students Water Skills for Life.

Swimming Waikato will work closely with our national federation on the utilisation of this program, working in collaboration to the betterment of our communities.



## OUR LOCALLY LED DELIVERY MODEL –

For this project to reach far into our wide-reaching communities it is important that this initiative is locally led. The connection with those already familiar with their communities, supported by their understanding of their local environment, will be a huge advantage to this project.

It is also key to utilise all available local resources such as lesson providers, transport and of course, aquatic facility providers. Knowing that many schools do not have access to an on-site pool or cannot afford to maintain and operate an on-site facility, we must be able to locate appropriate, affordable, and convenient venues for lesson delivery.

It will also be important to work alongside local Iwi and include them in the discussions to create solutions and champions within their Iwi. More specifically a locally led approach could enable community driven messages in schools for children and youth and empower locals to educate visitors about their location's risks. Locally led solutions could also help identify existing organisations with capability within their communities to delivery water safety services.

All available support throughout the region will be conducted by our **Swimming & Water Safety Officer**, working to connect our schools with pre-existing, locally sources resources and opportunities. It is our belief that this method will significantly reduce excessive travel throughout the region by a team of facilitators and will enable communities to utilise existing resources, people, and know-how, without the need to air-drop in support throughout our vast region.



## Stage. 1

Territorial Local Authority:

**Hamilton City**



Territory	Decile	Year 1-6	Year 1-8
Hamilton City	1	951	1010
Hamilton City	2	1298	1433
Hamilton City	3	1337	2620
Hamilton City	4	1601	1686
Hamilton City	5	3505	4913
<b>Hamilton Total</b>		<b>8692</b>	<b>11662</b>

SCHOOLS	TEACHER PARTICIPANTS	No of individual lessons completed
Silverdale Primary	17	714
Koromatua School	10	405
Aberdeen School	16	1109
Frankton Primary	23	1482
Hamilton West School	26	703
Melville Primary	9	451
Vardon Primary	7	785
Forest Lake Primary	6	643
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>6292</b>

### Local Swimming Clubs

- Hamilton Aquatics
- Fairfield Swimming Club
- St Paul's Swimming Club

### Current Service Providers

- Hamilton City Council (Off-site)  
- Waterworld & Gallagher Aquatic Centre
- Hamilton Aquatics (In-school)

**Start Date** – February 2021

**Current Status** – Ongoing

**Funding** – Tu Manawa via Sport Waikato



## Stage. 2

Territorial Local Authority:

**Waikato District**



<b>Territory</b>	<b>Decile</b>	<b>Year 1-6</b>	<b>Year 1-8</b>
Waikato District	1	694	950
Waikato District	2	693	836
Waikato District	3	791	1052
Waikato District	4	689	1187
Waikato District	5	695	879
<b>Waikato District Total</b>		<b>3562</b>	<b>4904</b>

### Local Swimming Clubs

Huntly Swimming Club

### Current Service Providers

- Belgravia Leisure (Off-site)  
- Huntly Aquatic Centre & Ngaruawahia Aquatic Centre

**Start Date** – Term 4, 2021 (Pending Covid Restrictions)

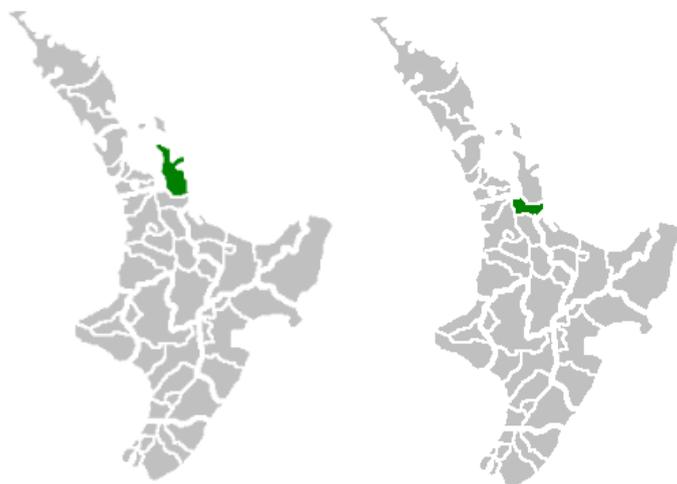
**Current Status** - Pending Covid Restrictions

**Funding** – Tu Manawa via Sport Waikato



### Stage. 3

Territorial Local Authorities:  
**Thames-Coromandel, Hauraki District**



<b>Territory</b>	<b>Decile</b>	<b>Year 1-6</b>	<b>Year 1-8</b>
Thames-Coromandel	1		0
Thames-Coromandel	2	179	261
Thames-Coromandel	3	117	148
Thames-Coromandel	4	543	760
Thames-Coromandel	5	759	1068
<b>Thames-Coromandel Total</b>		<b>1598</b>	<b>2237</b>

<b>Territory</b>	<b>Decile</b>	<b>Year 1-6</b>	<b>Year 1-8</b>
Hauraki District	1	50	73
Hauraki District	2	273	333
Hauraki District	3	504	584
Hauraki District	4	17	265
Hauraki District	5	246	313
<b>Hauraki District Total</b>		<b>1090</b>	<b>1568</b>

#### Local Swimming Clubs

- Thames Swimming Club
- Coromandel Swim Club
- Waihi Swimming Club
- Whangamata Swimming Club
- Paeroa Swimming Club
- Mercury Bay Swimming Club

#### Service Providers - TBC

- Thames & Coromandel Council (Off-site & On-site)  
- Huntly Aquatic Centre & Ngaruawahia Aquatic Centre
- Waihi Swimming Club, Thames Swimming Club

**Start Date** – 2022, Pending Covid Restrictions & Funding

**Current Status** – TBC, Pending Covid Restrictions &

**Funding** – Lottery Funding TBC



#### Stage. 4

Territorial Local Authorities:

**Waitomo, Otorohonga & Waipa District**



<b>Territory</b>	<b>Decile</b>	<b>Year 1-6</b>	<b>Year 1-8</b>
Waitomo	1	56	77
Waitomo	2	20	32
Waitomo	3	400	543
Waitomo	4	103	189
Waitomo	5	219	240
<b>Waitomo Total</b>		<b>798</b>	<b>1081</b>

<b>Territory</b>	<b>Decile</b>	<b>Year 1-6</b>	<b>Year 1-8</b>
Otorohanga	1	35	49
Otorohanga	2	56	76
Otorohanga	3	0	0
Otorohanga	4	261	344
Otorohanga	5	0	0
<b>Otorohanga Total</b>		<b>352</b>	<b>469</b>

<b>Territory</b>	<b>Decile</b>	<b>Year 1-6</b>	<b>Year 1-8</b>
Waipa	1	0	0
Waipa	2	120	147
Waipa	3	38	75
Waipa	4	371	409
Waipa	5	587	1160
<b>Waipa Total</b>		<b>1116</b>	<b>1791</b>

#### Local Swimming Clubs

- St Peter's Swimming Club
- Swim Waipa, Te Awamutu
- Swim Waipa, Cambridge
- Cambridge Swimming Club
- Te Kuiti Swimming Club
- Otorohanga Swimming Club
- Piopio Swimming Club

**Start Date** – Term 1 2023 (Dependant on Funding Availability)





## Stage. 5

Territorial Local Authorities:

### South Waikato & Matamata-Piako

Schools: 13

<u>Territory</u>	<u>Decile</u>	<u>Year 1-6</u>	<u>Year 1-8</u>
South Waikato	1	405	423
South Waikato	2	853	1209
South Waikato	3	420	550
South Waikato	4	250	280
South Waikato	5	216	271
<b>South Waikato Total</b>		<b>2144</b>	<b>2733</b>

<u>Territory</u>	<u>Decile</u>	<u>Year 1-6</u>	<u>Year 1-8</u>
Matamata Piako	1	405	423
Matamata Piako	2	728	1209
Matamata Piako	3	420	550
Matamata Piako	4	211	280
Matamata Piako	5	216	271
<b>Matamata Piako Total</b>		<b>1980</b>	<b>2733</b>

### Local Swimming Clubs

Matamata Swimming Club  
 Morrinsville Swimming Club  
 Te Aroha Swimming Club  
 Tokoroa Swimming Club  
 Putaruru Swimming Club

**Start Date** – Term 1 2024 (Dependant on Funding Availability)

