

03/05/2020

Hon Chris Hipkins  
Minister of Education  
Wellington  
New Zealand

Dear Minister Hipkins

**Re: Classroom upgrade boost for regional economies.**

In these challenging times it is commendable that you are undertaking extensive upgrades of school buildings throughout NZ to support the economy as per your press release dated 30<sup>th</sup> April.

As the newly appointed Chairman of the National Council of NZ Wool Interest (NCNZWI) I would like the opportunity to discuss how we can incorporate NZ wool into your projects. We as the NZ wool industry know and believe that having wool products included would not only support sustainability, it also has numerous health and economic benefits.

Ways wool can be in used in schools:

- Wool insulation
- Wool carpets
- Wool furnishing

Health benefits of wool in a school setting:

- Fire retardant
- Noise absorption
- Moisture regulation

Economic Benefits:

- Supporting NZ cross-bred wool growers
- All above product can be produced in NZ
- Job creation

Inline with wider government policy around the environment and agriculture we see this as a valuable and multi-disciplinary approach to achieve more sustainable approach to construction, using 100% NZ grown and produced products all the while doing the best by our current and future generations.

I look forward to being able to engage with you on this topic and forge a working relationship to have NZ wool included in the upgrading of our schools.

Kind regards



Craig Smith  
**CHAIRMAN**  
+64 27 203 4454  
[craig.smith@devold.com](mailto:craig.smith@devold.com)