

Hon Chris Hipkins

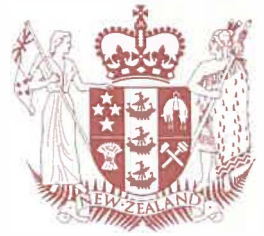
MP for Rimutaka

Minister of Education

Minister of State Services

Leader of the House

Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services



10 JUL 2019

Murray Strong
Crown Commissioner
Unitec Institute of Technology
Private Bag 92025
Auckland 1142

Dear Murray

As you are aware, on 23 July 2018, I dissolved the Unitec Institute of Technology (Unitec) Council under section 195D of the Education Act 1989 and appointed you as Commissioner. Section 195(D)(6) of the Education Act 1989 requires that I review the appointment annually.

While Unitec has made significant progress over the past year under your leadership, Unitec is still reliant on Crown financial support to meet its operating commitments and further work is needed to return Unitec to financial sustainability. As such, I consider it important that a Commissioner remains in place to make the necessary changes and return Unitec to a financially viable position.

I would like to congratulate you and the Unitec leadership team on the good progress that is being made on the implementation of the Unitec Renewal Plan. In particular, I am pleased to note that Unitec is on track to achieving its cost-savings targets while at the same time measurements of both student and staff satisfaction have increased. I encourage you to build off the success achieved to date.

I note that Unitec has now drawn down \$35 million of the \$50 million Crown concessionary loan and you are currently working with the TEC regarding the need for all of the remaining \$15 million. I also understand that you have recently agreed with the TEC the repayment conditions and approach for the Crown concessionary loan.

Thank you again for your work to date as Commissioner of Unitec. I understand you and the Unitec leadership team have developed a strong working relationship with the TEC and I urge you to continue to work closely with the TEC and other officials over the next year as Unitec continues along its recovery path.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'CH', representing Hon Chris Hipkins.

Hon Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education

cc: Tim Fowler, Chief Executive, Tertiary Education Commission