



Education Report: Proposed establishment of Orewa North West Primary School in Sunnyheights Road, Orewa

To:	Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education		
Date:	10 February 2021	Priority:	High
Security Level:	In Confidence	METIS No:	1248828
Drafter:	Gavin Holland, Senior Advisor Network	DDI:	9(2)(a)
Key Contact:	Isabel Evans, Director of Education for Auckland	DDI:	
Messaging seen by Communications team:	Yes	Round Robin:	No

Purpose of Report

This report seeks your decision on establishment of a proposed new Year 1-6 primary school at Sunnyheights Road, Orewa, Auckland. Orewa North West Primary School is planned to open for instruction at all year levels in Term 1, 2023.

We recommend you approve establishment of the school.

Summary

1. The North West of Orewa, Auckland, is an area with new residential developments and large areas of land that are zoned *single house* under the proposed Auckland Unitary Plan. This area is part of the Orewa Whangapāroa catchment in the Auckland Growth Plan as part of the National Education Growth Plan (NEGP). This area is anticipated to grow by up to 4,200 – 5,000 dwellings by 2030. Overall, in the Orewa Whangapāroa catchment we forecast an additional 1,489 students by 2021, many of these will be accommodated at existing schools.
2. The proposed new school will add significant additional capacity to the network and assist in accommodating the projected roll growth at local schools from planned developments in the area.
3. Funding for a new primary school in Orewa North West was announced in June 2017 with a budget of \$25m allocated for construction. This was part of a \$240m package to provide further capacity to meet roll growth in Auckland. Additional funding for this school was identified in the Legacy review and is being sought through Budget 2021.

4. Consultation regarding the establishment of Orewa North West Primary School was carried out in 2018 under section 157 of the Education Act 1989, replaced by section 209 of the Education and Training Act 2020 (the Act), with all schools whose rolls might be affected by establishment of the proposed school.
5. During the consultation process, concerns were raised about the proposed location of the school and the demographic analysis undertaken by the Ministry.
6. In response to these concerns we met with schools and other members from the community several times including a large meeting in March 2019. At these meetings we provided a range of information including population forecasts, roll projections, enrolment distribution maps and general information on the proposed school.
7. There have been delays in establishing the school as it has taken time to get the designation of the site for educational purposes. The Ministry's application was taken to the Environment Court in November 2019, and agreed conditions were submitted to the Environment Court in October 2020. The Environment Court issued the consent order confirming the agreed conditions in December 2020 and the site has now been designated for educational purposes
8. We recommend the establishment of a new primary school (Year 1-6) at Sunnyheights Road, Orewa, Auckland. The Orewa North West Primary School is planned to open for instruction at all year levels in 2023.

Recommended Actions

The Ministry of Education recommends that you:

- a. **note** that in 2018 on your behalf we consulted with the boards of all schools whose rolls might be affected by the establishment of a new primary school in Orewa North West.

Noted

- b. **note** that there have been delays in establishing the school as it has taken time to get the designation of the site for educational purposes, and that designation is now completed;

Noted

- c. **agree** to establish a Year 1 – 6 contributing primary school under section 190 of the Education and Training Act 2020, to be named Orewa North West Primary School, situated at Sunnyheights Road, Orewa, Auckland;

Agree Disagree

- d. **sign** the attached *New Zealand Gazette* notice establishing the school;

- e. **note** that if you agree to recommendation (c) above, the Ministry will exercise its delegation to appoint an establishment board for the school;

Noted

- f. **sign** the attached letters to local MPs advising your decision and;

- g. **agree** to proactively release this Education Report as per your expectations that information be released as soon as possible. Any information that might need to be withheld will be done so in line with the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982.

Release Not release



Katrina Casey
Deputy Secretary
Sector Enablement and Support

10 / 2 / 2021



Hon Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education

3 / 3 / 21

Background

- 1 Funding for a new primary school in Orewa North West was announced in June 2017 with a budget of \$25m allocated for construction. This was part of a \$240m package to provide further capacity to meet roll growth in Auckland. Additional funding for this school was identified in the Legacy review and is being sought through Budget 2021.
- 2 We own a 2.53 hectare site in Sunnyheights Road, 2.3km from Orewa Beach School and 1.3km from Orewa School. The site is planned to accommodate a Year 1-6 primary school. The proposed school will be built with infrastructure including administration, library, resource and hall facilities to accommodate an initial roll of 420 students growing to 600. If approved, the school is planned to open in Term 1, 2023.
- 3 This site is the proposed location for the new primary school. A Council hearing for the Orewa North West School site designation (Notice of Requirement for Designation) was held in July 2019. The Hearing was presided over by Independent Commissioners.
- 4 Auckland Transport and Orewa School made written submissions in opposition to the proposed school, and a public hearing was held to hear their submissions. In its recommendation, Independent Commissioners confirmed that there was a requirement for the school. They were satisfied with its location and that alternative sites for the school had been adequately considered. On behalf of the Minister the Ministry reviewed the Commissioners' recommended designation conditions and mostly agreed with their recommendations, however modified or deleted a small number of traffic and transport-based conditions to align with recent designation conditions in Auckland.
- 5 Auckland Transport appealed the Ministry's application to the Environment Court in November 2019 and were joined by Auckland Council. All parties subsequently entered into discussions and negotiations over the conditions, and the final set of agreed conditions were submitted to the Environment Court in October 2020. The Environment Court issued the consent order confirming the agreed conditions in December 2020. The Ministry is to confirm with Auckland Council the timing for getting the designation and agreed conditions incorporated into the Auckland Unitary Plan.

Population Projections

- 6 The National Education Growth Plan (NEGP) identifies what we know, from a range of sources, about the anticipated location and nature of patterns of growth in numbers of school aged children as well as identifying measures that the Government may need to consider in order to meet the growth in the period through to 2030.
- 7 Orewa North West is in the Orewa-Whangaparāoa catchment of the NEGP. Orewa North West is an area with new residential developments zoned *single house* under the Auckland Unitary Plan. In total, the West Hoe Heights Special Housing Area (SHA) and other private developments could generate around 1,200 additional Year 1-6 students in the area.

- 8 The state school population in this area has gradually increased over the past five years and is projected to follow a similar trend until 2023. From 2023, the population is projected to increase at a faster rate. The announcement of the West Hoe Heights SHA and other developments in the Orewa West Structure Plan mean that additional capacity will be needed in the state schooling network.
- 9 The SHA area alone includes 800 dwellings, with other known developments totalling 4,200 dwellings scheduled for delivery by 2030. Overall, in the Orewa-Whangaparoa catchment we forecast an additional 1,489 students by 2021, some of these will be accommodated at existing schools. However, we currently forecast needing an additional 579 primary student spaces to accommodate this growth.
- 10 The new school will add significant additional capacity to the network and assist in accommodating projected roll growth from planned developments in the area.
- 11 The Orewa area is currently served by Orewa School (Year 1-6) and Orewa Beach School (Year 1-6). Orewa School has significant site constraints which prohibit further development to add further capacity. Orewa North School does have capacity to grow but it is located within the original area of Orewa and is not well placed to cater for the new population growth.

Consultation

- 12 Under section 157 of the Education Act 1989 (which has been replaced by section 209 of the Education and Training Act, 2020), the Ministry consulted in 2018 on your behalf with boards of all state and state integrated schools whose rolls might be affected by the establishment of a new primary school (Year 1-6) at Sunnyheights Road, Orewa, Auckland.
- 13 During the consultation process concerns were raised about the need for a new school located in closer proximity to the Millwater and Stillwater developments. We are also planning to open a new school at Milldale which will cater for some of this growth.
- 14 Due to the concerns raised during the consultation process, we met with schools and other members from the community several times including a large meeting in March 2019. At this meeting we provided a range of information including population forecasts, roll projections, enrolment distribution maps and general information on the proposed school.
- 15 Silverdale School was mistakenly missed off the mailing list that requested submissions on the proposed school. We have apologised to the school. Once the mistake was realised, an extension to the submission deadline was provided to this school.

16 The feedback from the consultation process is outlined in the table below.

Consultation feedback	Ministry comment
<p>Orewa Primary School Is opposed to the proposed school and expressed concern about the demographics used, the decision-making process and the consultation undertaken.</p> <p>Concerned about the impact on its roll which is supported by high number of out of zone students due to the limited number of in zone students.</p> <p>Considers that it has the site capacity to cater for additional network growth.</p>	<p>The Ministry met with this school, and others, regarding its concerns about the proposed school.</p> <p>Orewa Primary School can enrol further out-of-zone students and we will work with the school to increase its in-zone roll. The proposed school will also be required to operate an enrolment scheme.</p> <p>Orewa Primary School has site constraints and it is considered that the expected growth is likely to exceed the space that is available.</p>
<p>Silverdale School There is capacity at Orewa Primary School to cater for population growth.</p> <p>The demographic data used by the Ministry is not current and needs to be reviewed.</p> <p>The consultation process undertaken has been flawed and not met the requirements of the Education Act.</p>	<p>Orewa Primary School has site constraints and it is considered that the expected growth is likely to exceed the space that is available.</p> <p>A reassessment of the demographics was undertaken and indicated the continued need for a new school.</p>
<p>Red Beach School Opposes the proposed school. Is concerned about the potential impact on Orewa Primary School.</p>	<p>Orewa Primary School can enrol further out-of-zone enrolments and we will work with the school to increase its in-zone roll.</p>
<p>Orewa Beach Primary School (Previously Orewa North Primary School) Concerned how close the new school is to itself and Orewa Primary School and how it will impact on their zones.</p> <p>Concerned the working name is too close to its and could potentially be confusing for the community.</p> <p>Considers that the new school would be better suited to the Millwater Developments in the Silverdale School area.</p>	<p>The proposed location is appropriate to serve the areas under development. The proposed school will be required to operate an enrolment scheme and enrolment patterns will continue to be assessed by the Ministry.</p> <p>It is likely that the name will be changed once an establishment board of trustees is appointed.</p> <p>The Ministry is monitoring developments in these areas.</p>
<p>Orewa Kāhui Ako The data is inaccurate, and the process flawed with little understanding of local factors such as house prices, age etc.</p> <p>Other schools in the Kāhui Ako are under pressure and those catchments need addressing.</p> <p>Inadequate consultation process.</p>	<p>A reassessment of the demographics was undertaken and indicated the continued need for a new school.</p> <p>The Ministry is monitoring developments in these areas.</p> <p>The standard consultation process was followed and upon receiving submissions with concern a meeting was arranged</p>

<p>Suggestion that the proposed school is delayed until the pressure on existing schools within zone growth is addressed and the population in this catchment occurs.</p>	<p>where further data and information could be shared.</p> <p>The growth in this network has been the subject of ongoing monitoring, it is important that the proposed school is established before the anticipated growth occurs.</p>
<p>Hibiscus Coast principals There is no real urgency for a new school in the Orewa North West area. The data is outdated and needs to be reviewed.</p> <p>The consultation process for the new school has been flawed and not met expectations and legal requirements.</p>	<p>A reassessment of the demographics was undertaken and indicated the continued need for a new school.</p> <p>The standard consultation process was followed and upon receiving submissions with concern a meeting was arranged where further data and information could be shared.</p>

- 17 We consider that the proposed location is appropriate to serve the areas under development and the new school will provide for the anticipated increase in school aged population.
- 18 The New Zealand Educational Institute and the New Zealand School Trustees Association were given the opportunity to provide feedback but provided no comment.

Property

- 19 The proposed school will cater for an establishment roll of 420 students and grow to 600 with additional capacity planned for up to 700 students across Year 1-6 should it be needed in the future.
- 20 The initial stage will involve development of 18 teaching spaces, hall, library and administration block. Stage 2 will involve the development of a further 12 teaching spaces (total of 30 teaching spaces).
- 21 Other school infrastructure includes a sports field, hard-standing courts, car parking, footpaths and a pickup-drop-off zone to be located off Sunnyheights Road.

Financial implications

- 22 Funding for a new primary school in Orewa North West was announced in June 2017 with an initial budget of \$25m allocated for construction. This was part of a \$240m package to provide further capacity to meet roll growth in Auckland. Additional funding for this school was identified in the Legacy review and is being sought through Budget 2021.

Transport implications

- 23 There are no identifiable substantive transport implications associated with the establishment of the school, given the public transport available in this area.

Establishment Board of Trustees

- 24 Every new school has an Establishment Board. The Establishment Board's responsibilities include employment of the principal and staff in the school, setting the school's strategic direction in consultation with parents, staff and learners, and providing input into the new school design process.
- 25 The process of appointing the Establishment Board has been delegated to the Ministry. Once nominations have been assessed against the criteria for appointment, appointments will be made under clause 3(1)(a)(i) of Schedule 22 of the Act.
- 26 The Ministry will also commence the appointment process for a Governance Facilitator to support the Establishment Board to become an effective governance body and to prepare the school for opening as an effective learning organisation.
- 27 Should you agree to the establishment of the school, we will develop an enrolment scheme, as the projected population growth presents an ongoing risk of overcrowding without a scheme. We will work closely with the Establishment Board to ensure that the proposed home zone will meet the new school's needs so that it is viable, as well as ensuring that the impact on existing schools in the network is managed.

Risks

- 28 There is a risk that the population growth projected for this area will occur more slowly than forecast and that the school will not be fully utilised for some years. However, this risk is low as the projections indicate that an additional school will be required by 2023. Stage 2 of the development of the school can be phased in as appropriate.
- 29 We will continue to monitor demographic growth in this area in order to respond to future residential developments and population growth.
- 30 Local schools and principals might reiterate their opposition to the school and criticise the decision. Our projections continue to show a high level of growth in the area. If local schools and principals do voice their concerns, we are able to respond.

Conclusion

- 31 We recommend establishment of Orewa North West Primary School for the following reasons:
- Orewa is an area of projected significant population growth outlined in the NEGP.
 - Population projections indicate that there is demand for additional student spaces and the demand is projected to increase more rapidly than at present from 2023.
 - Existing schools do not have sufficient capacity to absorb projected growth, and sites will not allow sufficient development to do so.

Next steps

- 32 If you approve this establishment, you are asked to sign the attached letters (Annex 1) and *New Zealand Gazette* notice (Annex 2).
- 33 An Establishment Board will be appointed, and a governance facilitator appointed to support the Establishment Board as it works to ready the school to open in 2023.
- 34 A draft media release will be provided should you wish to announce this decision in the media.

Proactive Release

- 35 It is intended that this Education Report be proactively released in line with your expectation that information be released as soon as possible. Any information that might need to be withheld will be done so in line with the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982.

Annexes

- Annex 1: Letters local MPs
- Annex 2: Notice for the *New Zealand Gazette*

Proactively Released

Hon Mark Mitchell
MP Whangaparāoa
Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON

Dear Mark

I am pleased to inform you that I have recently established a new primary school to be located in Sunnyheights Road, Orewa, Auckland.

The primary school will be initially known as Orewa North West Primary School and will be a contributing primary school (Years 1 – 6). The school is planned to open in January 2023.

As you will be aware, Orewa is an area of anticipated high growth with ongoing residential developments. The new school will provide for the anticipated increase in the primary school aged population.

The Ministry of Education will continue to monitor the capacity of all schools in the area to ensure that students continue to have access to quality education.

Yours sincerely



Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education

Hon Kelvin Davis
MP for Te Tai Tokerau
Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON

Dear Kelvin

I am pleased to inform you that I have recently established a new primary school to be located in Sunnyheights Road, Orewa, Auckland.

The primary school will be initially known as Orewa North West Primary School and will be a contributing primary school (Years 1 – 6). The school is planned to open in January 2023.

As you will be aware, Orewa is an area of anticipated high growth with ongoing residential developments. The new school will provide for the anticipated increase in the primary school aged population.

The Ministry of Education will continue to monitor the capacity of all schools in the area to ensure that students continue to have access to quality education.

Yours sincerely



Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education

Proactively Released

New School Establishment

Pursuant to section 190 of the Education and Training Act 2020, I herEstablishment Boardy establish a Year 1 - 6 contributing primary school, to be known as Orewa North West Primary School, at Sunnyheights Road, Orewa, Auckland.

Dated at Wellington this 3rd day of March 2021.



Hon Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education