



Education Report: Proposed establishment of new primary school in Milldale

To:	Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education		
Date:	15 February 2021	Priority:	High
Security Level:	In Confidence	METIS No:	1249793
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 Argent Lane, Milldale, Auckland. Milldale 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 Milldale is a large-scale greenfield growth area in North Auckland. Developments in the Milldale precinct are estimated to deliver 4,500 homes over the next 10 years, and result in approximately 1,080 additional primary-age children seeking education. If further future urban land is enabled, an additional 2,800 additional dwellings could be delivered by 2036.
- 2 A 10 year growth plan for the Orewa Whangaparāoa catchment (of which Milldale is a part) is included in the National Education Growth Plan (NEGP). The proposed new primary school would provide initial additional capacity for 370 children and could grow to a roll of 700 student places.
- 3 The Ministry owns a 3.748 hectare site in Argent Lane, Milldale. We are now ready to establish a primary school on this site to cater for the anticipated increase in students.

- 4 On 29 August 2020 you agreed to consult on the establishment of the school [METIS 1230755 refers]. That consultation has been completed.
- 5 The area is currently served by just two primary schools, Dairy Flat School and Wainui School. Both schools are experiencing growing rolls and are close to their capacity. Accordingly it is proposed to establish Milldale School and a new primary school in the nearby area of Orewa North West to cater for the additional growth in this area.
- 6 Funding for a new primary school in Milldale was announced in July 2019 with a budget of \$38.74m initially allocated for construction of stage 1 of the build.
- 7 It is planned that Milldale Primary School will also include a specialist school learning support satellite unit and a Northern Health School Student Support Centre.
- 8 Their educational vision for the school is reflected in its design, policies and practices. If you agree to establish the school the Ministry will appoint members to the Establishment board after that decision is made.

Recommended Actions

The Ministry of Education recommends that you:

- a. **note** that Budget-19 allocated funding of \$38.74 million for a new primary school in Milldale, Auckland;

Noted

- b. **note** that on 29 August 2020 you agreed to consult on establishment of the proposed school with the boards of all schools whose rolls might be affected by the establishment, and that consultation is complete;

Noted

- c. **agree** to establish a Year 1–6 contributing primary school under section 190 of the Education and Training Act 2020 (the Act), to be named Milldale Primary School, and situated at Argent Lane, Milldale, 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;

- 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 released



Katrina Casey
Deputy Secretary
Sector Enablement and Support

15/2/2021



Hon Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education

3/3/21

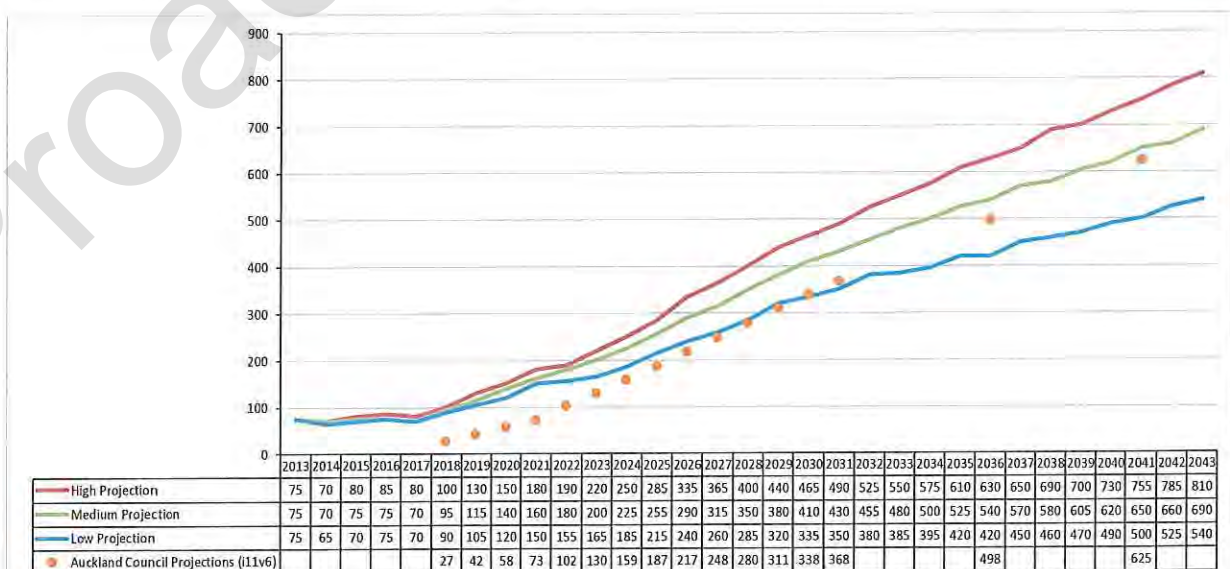
Background

- 1 Milldale is a large-scale greenfield growth area in Orewa, North Auckland. Developments in the area are estimated to deliver 4,500 additional homes over a 10 year period, which could generate an additional 1080 children of primary school age. Furthermore, the Future Urban Land Supply Strategy (FULSS) indicates that additional future urban land will be available somewhere between 2032 and 2036, which would enable the delivery of a further 2,800 dwellings.
- 2 A 10 year growth plan for the Orewa Whangaparāoa catchment (of which Milldale is a part) is included in the National Education Growth Plan (NEGP). Budget-19 allocated funding for a new primary school in Milldale. The proposed new primary school would be built with an initial capacity of 370 student places, and potential to grow to 700 places over time.
- 3 The Milldale area is currently served by Dairy Flat School (Year 1-6) and Wainui School (Year 1-8) however these are rural schools approaching their capacity.
- 4 The Ministry owns a 3.748 hectare site in Argent Lane at Milldale. In addition to the primary school, it is planned that it would have a learning support satellite and a support centre for the Northern Health School on the site.

Population Projections

- 5 Figure 1 shows the Statistics New Zealand (Stats NZ) population projections for children aged 5 to 12, between 2013 and 2043 for the Silverdale North Census Area Unit (506201), which covers the Milldale development.
- 6 Auckland Council projections are included in orange, these are specifically for the Milldale development area.
- 7 These projections indicate a pool of 130 to 220 children for Milldale School in 2023, exceeding 350 by 2030.

Figure 1: Projected underlying population age 5-12 and reported student count in the Silverdale North Census Area Unit, 2013-2043. *source: StatsNZ, Auckland Council*



The proposed school

- 8 It is proposed that the new school would be a Year 1–6 primary school located at Argent Lane, Milldale, Auckland.
- 9 The school would be built with infrastructure; administration, library, resource and hall facilities to accommodate an initial roll of 370 students, with potential to grow to a roll of 700 students.
- 10 The school would be named Milldale Primary School, and it is anticipated that it would open for tuition in January 2023.
- 11 Milldale School would also include a satellite unit and a Northern Health School Student Support Centre.

Consultation

- 12 Under section 209 of the Act (section 157 of the former Act), the Minister of Education is required to consult with the Boards of all state schools whose rolls might be affected before establishing a new school. On 29 August 2020 you agreed to consult over establishment of the school [METIS 1230755 refers].
- 13 We have consulted widely on your behalf, with schools, local Members of Parliament, teacher unions and the NZSTA.
- 14 The schools consulted were:
 - Red Beach School
 - Dairy Flat School
 - Orewa School
 - Orewa Beach School
 - Silverdale School
 - Wainui School
 - Waitoki School
 - Stanmore Bay School
 - Whangaparāoa School
 - Gulf Harbour School
 - Kingsway School
 - Stella Maris Primary School
 - Meraki Montessori School
- 15 Eight responses were received from the consulted schools outlined in the table below.

Consultation Responses	Ministry comment
Red Beach School They were in favour of the establishment of a primary school to deal with the projected growth in the area. They were concerned however about the future of secondary school provision. They wished to express further concern	The Ministry is planning for a new secondary school in the area to cater for the growth. The exact date of opening any new secondary school will be dependent on the speed and uptake of the new developments, acquisition of a

at the zoning of Orewa College and the effect it had on the community at the time it was implemented.	secondary school site and the Ministers agreement
Orewa School No comment or feedback regarding the establishment of the proposed school in Milldale.	
Wainui School No objection to the establishment of Milldale Primary School.	
Waitoki School No objection to the establishment of a new school. They did wish to raise that in their opinion there was a more pressing need to establish a school or schools for students Year 7 and up. The reasons given were the limited college options as the Orewa College zone now excludes most students from Waitoki, and Kaipara College only accepts students from Year 9. Students therefore, had to stay at their primary school for Year 7 and 8, meaning they could not access the complete range of experiences that a college can offer.	The Ministry is planning for a new secondary school in the area to cater for the growth. The exact date of opening any new secondary school will be dependent on the speed and uptake of the new developments, acquisition of a secondary school site and the Minister's agreement
Gulf Harbour School No objections and viewed the establishment of the school as a positive for the new Milldale community.	
Kingsway School No objections and offered their support.	
Stella Marris School They viewed the establishment of the school as positive but expressed concerns regarding the schooling of students above Year 6. They would like further consideration to be given to pushing forward with the proposed Stella Maris College to cater for Year 7-13 students.	The Ministry is planning for a new secondary school in the area to cater for the growth. The exact date of opening any new secondary school will be dependent on the speed and uptake of the new developments, acquisition of a secondary school site and the Minister's agreement.
Meraki Montessori School responded acknowledging the letter but gave no comment.	

- 16 The following iwi were also consulted:
- Ngāi Tai
 - Te Patukirikiri
 - Ngāti Pāoa
 - Te Ākitai Waiohua
 - Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whātua
 - Ngāti Whanaunga
 - Te Kawerau a Maki
 - Ngāti Whātua o Kaipara
 - Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei
 - Ngāti Wai
 - Ngāti Manuhiri
 - Ngāti Te Ata - Waiohua
 - Ngāti Maru.
- 17 No responses were received by the Ministry from the iwi who were consulted.
- 18 The Post Primary Teachers' Association and the New Zealand Education Institute were contacted but provided no feedback.

Financial implications

- 19 Funding for a new primary school in Milldale was announced in July 2019, with a budget of \$38.74m initially allocated for construction of stage 1 of the build.

Transport implications

- 20 We currently provide school transport to the neighbouring schools (Wainui School and Dairy Flat School). School transport will be assessed based on school transport criteria, and the number of eligible school transport students enrolled at the newly established school and the neighbouring schools impacted.
- 21 Transport entitlement zones will also need to be updated as this will impact school transport entitlements. School bus routes will be amended to ensure the least amount of disruption to eligible students from all schools involved. We might need to consider a phase out/grand-parenting scheme, however this will be addressed based on up-to-date data at the time in preparation for the opening of the school.

Establishment Board

- 22 Every new school has an Establishment Board. The Establishment Board 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.
- 23 The process of appointing the Establishment Board has been delegated to the Ministry. To facilitate the development of the school in a timely manner, if you agree to establishment, nominations for the Establishment Board will be sought from the local communities.

- 24 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.
- 25 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.

Risks

- 26 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 considered to be very low as the projections indicate that an additional school will be required by 2023. The second stage of the school build can be phased as appropriate.
- 27 We will continue to monitor demographic growth in this area in order to respond to future residential developments and population growth.

Conclusion

- 28 We recommend establishment of Milldale Primary School for the following reasons:
- Milldale is an area of projected significant population growth
 - The existing local primary schools will be beyond capacity by 2023
 - Population projections indicate a pool of 130 to 220 children for Milldale School in 2023, exceeding 350 by 2030.

Next steps

- 29 If you approve this establishment, you are asked to sign the attached letters (Annex 1) and *New Zealand Gazette* notice (Annex 2).
- 30 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.
- 31 A draft media statement will be provided should you wish to make a media release.

Proactive Release

- 32 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

Proactively Released

Hon Chris Hipkins

MP for Remutaka

Minister for COVID-19 Response

Minister of Education

Minister for the Public Service

Leader of the House



Hon Mark Mitchell
MP for 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 Argent Lane, Milldale, Auckland.

The school will be named Milldale 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, Milldale 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 Chris Hipkins

MP for Remutaka

Minister for COVID-19 Response

Minister of Education

Minister for the Public Service

Leader of the House



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 Argent Lane, Milldale, Auckland.

The school will be named Milldale 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, Milldale 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

A blue ink signature of Chris Hipkins.

Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education

Proactively Released

Hon Chris Hipkins

MP for Remutaka

Minister for COVID-19 Response

Minister of Education

Minister for the Public Service

Leader of the House



Notice for New Zealand Gazette

New School Establishment

Pursuant to Section 190 of the Education and Training Act 2020, I hereby establish at Argent Lane, Milldale, Auckland, a Year 1 - 6 contributing primary school, named Milldale Primary School.

Dated at Wellington this 3rd day of March 2021

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

Hon Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education