



Education report: Proposal for establishment of a new primary school in Cambridge West

To:	Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education		
Date:	15 July 2021	Priority:	Medium
Security Level:	In Confidence	METIS No:	1264296
Drafter:	Maehe Paki – Education Advisor, Network	DDI:	07-850-8975
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Messaging seen by Communications team:	Yes	Round Robin:	No

Purpose of report

This report seeks your approval, under section 190 of the Education and Training Act 2020 to establish a new contributing primary school (Year 1 – 6), at 1881 Cambridge Road in Cambridge.

Summary

- Cambridge is included as a high growth catchment in the National Education Growth Plan (NEGP). The population is predicted to double in size by 2050, to approximately 30,000. Growth analysis of the area has projected that by 2031 the local schooling network will need provision for an additional 400 – 600 primary, and 500 – 1,000 secondary students.
- In late 2020, you agreed to consult under section 209 (2)(a) of the Education and Training Act 2020 with the boards of all state schools whose rolls might be affected by the proposed establishment [METIS 1244811 refers]. This consultation has now been completed.
- Consultation was also undertaken with mana whenua, Ngāti Korokī Kahukura and Ngāti Hauā, and the Cambridge community. Both hapū have strong involvement with local schools through the Kāhui Ako. The hapū also supported the school having a potential dual-medium pathway and expressed desire for hapū representation on the Establishment Board.
- The Ministry owns a 4.0261 hectare site at 1881 Cambridge Road, which the Waipā District Council approved to designate for educational purposes in February 2021. We are now ready for you to establish a primary school on this site to cater for the anticipated population increase.

5. The need for a new school in Cambridge was identified in Budget 2019 and funding was allocated for planning and design of this school in Budget 2021. Funding for construction will be sought in future Budgets.

Recommended actions

We recommend you:

- a. **note** that the need for a new school was identified in Budget 2019 and funding for planning and design was allocated in Budget 2021; **Noted**
- b. **note** that on 28 November 2020, you agreed to consultation with the boards of all state schools whose rolls might be affected by the proposed establishment [METIS 1244811 refers] and that the consultation has been completed; **Noted**
- c. **agree** to establish, under section 190 of the Education and Training Act 2020, a new Year 1 – 6 contributing primary school in Cambridge to initially be called Cambridge West School. **Agree / Disagree**

If you agree, you are asked to:

- d. **sign** the attached *New Zealand Gazette* notice to establish the school;
- e. **sign** the attached letters to local MPs advising your decision; **Sign**
- f. **note** that if you agree to establish the school, the Ministry will exercise its delegation to appoint an establishment board for the new school; **Noted**
- g. **agree** to release the proposed media release; and **Release Not release**
- h. **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**



Helen Hurst
Tumu Te Hāpai ō Rāngai | Te Hāpai ō Rāngai
Deputy Secretary
Sector Enablement and Support



Hon Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education

Background

1. The Future Proof Strategy is for combined growth in Hamilton City, Waikato District, and Waipa District and has earmarked Cambridge as a priority growth area. Growth forecasts in the National Education Growth Plan to 2030 (NEGP) indicate that the local network will need to increase in capacity to accommodate an additional 400-600 primary student places and 500-1,000 secondary student places by 2031.
2. The Council's growth strategy indicates that approximately 75% of growth will be focussed on the northern bank of the Waikato River, which is the location of the proposed school, with the remaining 25% around Leamington on the southern bank.
3. The NEGP includes Cambridge as a high growth area. The plan for the Cambridge catchment in the NEGP included purchasing a site in the north-west boundary of the town, which is experiencing housing development growth.
4. The Ministry has conducted several consultations with the Cambridge schooling network since 2016. This provided the local schooling community the opportunity to contribute to discussions on possible network growth options.
5. A 2016 Site Capacity Review suggested if the Cambridge East School site underwent some reconfiguration, the school could cope with a roll of 550 students. As this would not meet the needs of the neighbouring growth cells, Budget 2019 identified the need for a new primary school in the catchment.
6. If you approve the proposed new primary school, it will be built with an initial capacity of 300 student places, with a proposed second stage of 350. This will align with a total master plan roll of 600 – 650 to match the projected growth and demand.
7. The new school is proposed to open for 2024.

Consultation

Schools

8. Section 209 of the Education and Training Act 2020 (the Act) requires that you consult the boards of all state schools whose rolls might be affected before deciding whether to establish a new school.
9. The Ministry has undertaken this consultation on your behalf. Nine schools were consulted, and responses were received from seven of these schools. The Cambridge Principals' Association also held an open forum where we engaged in conversation and addressed concerns about the proposed school. The feedback received, and specific issues raised are outlined in Annex 1. Overall, there was a positive response to the proposal.
10. The concerns raised at the meeting included the proposed year levels, whether they would be consulted about enrolment schemes, the provision of support for students with special needs and whether space for Resource Teachers: Learning and Behaviour (RTLb) would be provided. The response to our feedback was very positive.

11. Consultation also took place with Te Kura o Ngāti Hauā to gauge their support for the establishment of this new school. The kura was supportive of the proposal, provided it is not a kura kaupapa Māori immersion school. There was limited support should the school become a dual medium school, particularly if tuition was offered at Level 1 (80-100% in te reo).

Other consultation

Consultation with iwi

12. The Ministry also consulted with Ngāti Korokī-Kahukura and Ngāti Hauā on 11 May 2021 about the proposed establishment of the new school. Both hapū hold mana whenua status over the area, and Waikato-Tainui are the iwi entity that advocate for local mana whenua within the region.
13. As a result of the consultation, Ngāti Korokī-Kahukura and Ngāti Hauā confirmed their desire to be involved with the naming of the school and to ensure their stories are embedded into the curriculum.
14. The hapū also supported the school having a potential dual-medium pathway and expressed desire for hapū representation on the establishment board.

Consultation with the community

15. The Ministry consulted widely with the local community at a public forum held on 12 May 2021, which was well-attended.
16. There is general support from the community for the establishment of a contributing primary school.
17. Concerns were raised around the current enrolment zones in place within Cambridge. The community were assured that all enrolment zones will be addressed prior to the proposed opening of the school in 2024.
18. The community also sought involvement in the design and naming of the school and were assured that the establishment board would be responsible for this through their ongoing engagement and consultation with mana whenua and the community.
19. The Ministry also consulted with the New Zealand Educational Institute (NZEI) and there were no objections to the proposed establishment of a new primary school in Cambridge West.

Network implications

Population projections

20. The NEGP outlines that the Cambridge catchment will require the capacity to accommodate an additional 400 – 600 primary and upwards of 500–1000 secondary students by 2031.
21. To provide the student places required in the network, the NEGP signals the network needs a new primary school to be open by 2024, with initial capacity to accommodate 300 student places.

22. There are four contributing (Year 1 – 6) primary and three full (Year 1 – 8) primary schools, including one state integrated school in the Cambridge area. Current growth in the Year 1 – 6 population has been above the highest growth projections made by the National Institute of Demographic and Economic Analysis (NIDEA).
23. The table below shows the schools in the area, and their current and likely future rolls. There were 44 additional student places at Goodwood School and 44 additional places at Cambridge East School, both funded in Budget 2019.

Current providers of year 1–6 education in area adjacent to new school site

School	Capacity	July 2020 Actual	2021 proj	2022 proj	2023 proj	2024 proj	2025 proj
Cambridge East School	449	429	459	462	462	469	479
Cambridge School	336	383	379	384	371	339	322
Goodwood School	299	360	396	414	427	430	449
Te Miro School	75	31	35	38	43	48	51
Hautapu School	230	189	205	206	203	206	209
Leamington School	572	573	607	608	610	624	633
St Peter's Catholic School	250	173	175	175	175	175	175

Proposed location and property

24. If you agree to establish the school, the proposed initial build roll will be 300 students. We have completed site acquisition and the site has been designated for educational purposes. The next stages in development include project planning, site master planning, design and construction.
25. Later capacity will be achieved through a second development stage (Stage 2), which is proposed for completion in 2028.
26. A map showing the new school site within the school network is attached (Annex 2).

Capital costs

27. A site purchase was funded in Budget 2019 as part of the NEGP Budget bid.
28. Budget 2021 has provided funding for the design and enabling works of this new school. Once the school has been designed and the construction costs are determined, funding to construct this new school will be sought in a future Budget.

Financial implications (operations)

29. If you decide to establish Cambridge West School, the estimated operational cost to the Crown for a roll of 500 is estimated at \$2.682m per annum.
30. The proposed school would be entitled to an establishment grant based on the predicted opening roll. This grant is to be used for establishment administration, teaching, learning, and library provision. The establishment grant amounts for various roll sizes are listed in the table below:

Roll estimate	Estimated staffing and funding cost for first year	Estimated Establishment funding*
250	\$1,477,000	\$486,844
500	\$2,682,000	\$765,540
700	\$3,671,000	\$1,044,236
*we use the projected roll when all year levels are present for the Establishment funding calculation. The funding is calculated based on the 2021 funding rates. These rates change every year.		

31. To build this new school construction funding will be required. Budget 2021 provided funding for the design of the school. Once designed, we will be able to determine the construction will cost and will seek this funding in a future Budget.

Transport

32. The opening of Cambridge West School will affect the eligibility of 21 students, who will no longer be able to access School Transport Assistance (STA) to Hautapu School due to Cambridge West School becoming their closest school.
33. Further to these students losing eligible transport to Hautapu School, approximately 10 students out of these 21 will live too close to the new Cambridge West School to access transport assistance.
34. For the 21 Hautapu School students who will no longer be eligible for STA to Hautapu School, these students will be able to access the existing service. The duration of this phase will need to be decided upon.
35. If the new school is established, the Ministry may review the bus operation currently servicing Hautapu School and providing, where policy is met, a service for the new Cambridge West School. It is more than likely that the current bus route for Hautapu School, where it is in the Transport Eligibility Zone of the new Cambridge West School, will be curtailed.
36. This transport information is according to the March 2021 roll return data and may be subject to change depending on student movement.

Establishment Board

37. Every new school has an establishment board (EBOT). The EBOT responsibilities include developing a vision and strategic direction for the school, creating policies and processes and the employment of the principal and staff. The EBOT will also continue consultation with parents, staff and learners, and provide input into the new school design process.
38. You have delegated the process of appointing the EBOT to the Ministry. To facilitate the development of the school in a timely manner, if you agree to establishment, nominations for the EBOT will be sought from the local community.
39. The Ministry will also commence the appointment process for a Governance Facilitator to support the EBOT to become an effective governance body and to prepare the school for opening as an effective learning organisation. It is proposed that this be completed towards the end of 2021 so that the EBOT is in place for 2022.

Risks

40. Hautapu Primary School is sited 5.2 km from the new site and is a smaller rural school. Its 1 March 2021 roll was 192. There is some risk that the establishment of the new school may negatively impact on its roll. However, it was felt that with the expected growth in the area, the school will recover from any initial roll loss and has the potential for growth.
41. There is a risk that if there is a delay in the establishment and opening of the new school further strain will be added to the schools that are currently experiencing roll growth. The Ministry will monitor the development closely to ensure the proposal is developed within the expected timeframe to mitigate this.

Next steps

42. The Ministry recommends that you establish Cambridge West School to accommodate the growth in the local network. If you agree, the school is proposed to open in 2024.
43. The Ministry will appoint an EBOT on your behalf, and a Governance Facilitator to support the EBOT as it works to establish the school.
44. If you approve establishment, you are asked to sign the attached *New Zealand Gazette* notice to give effect to this, also sign the attached letters to local MPs, and agree to the release of the attached media statement (Annexes 3 – 5).

Proactive release

45. We recommend that this education report be proactively released as per 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: Consultation feedback
- Annex 2: Map of the Proposed Cambridge West School and the Local School Network
- Annex 3: *New Zealand Gazette* notice
- Annex 4: Letters to local MPs
- Annex 5: Media release

Proactively Released

Proactively Released

1. Section 209 of the Education and Training Act 2020 requires the Minister of Education to consult the boards of all state schools whose rolls might be affected before deciding whether to establish a new designated character school.
2. The Ministry has undertaken this consultation. Nine schools were consulted with and responses were received from seven. A summary of the submissions is included in the table below:

Consulted group	Consultation Comment
Cambridge Middle School (CMS)	No issues raised, but supportive of the need to limit the schooling to Year 6, as it aligns with the significant work CMS completed with the Ministry over the past 2 years in preparation for future growth in Cambridge.
Cambridge Principals' Association	Requested more clarification on decision to restrict schooling to Year 6 and the impact of this new school on CMS and Cambridge High School. Would also like the new school to join the Kāhui Ako, to have a satellite special needs unit and the provision to host an RTLB in permanent accommodation and to allow for an additional RTLB.
Cambridge Primary School (CPS)	Requested more clarification on decision to restrict schooling to Year 6; would like to be involved in setting the zoning for the new school, for it to have a satellite special needs unit and the provision to host an RTLB in permanent accommodation and to allow for an additional RTLB.
Hautapu School	Concerned about the impact on their school roll given the location of the proposed school and the impact on their staffing. Would like to be involved in determining the zoning for the school and understand why a new High School wasn't included for Cambridge in anticipation of growth in the area.
Leamington School	Asked that the new school be restricted to taking children within their zone for the first 10 years and not permitted to take out of zone students; CPS be restricted in extending their zone into Leamington for 3 years. Would also like the new school to join the Kāhui Ako, for it to have a satellite special needs unit and the provision to host an RTLB in permanent accommodation.
Cambridge East School	Requested more clarification on decision to restrict schooling to Year 6 and the impact of this new school on CMS and Cambridge High School. The school also asked for the new school to have a satellite specialised high learning needs unit for Year 1 – 6.
Te Kura o Ngāti Hauā	Supported a new school provided instruction is in English. Opposed to an immersion kura and would like to be consulted on dual medium.

Annex 2: Map of proposed Cambridge West School and the Local School Network

Proactively Released

Map of Proposed Cambridge West School and the Local School Network



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



New Zealand Gazette Notice

New School Establishment

Pursuant to Section 190 of the Education and Training Act 2020, I hereby establish at 1881 Cambridge Road, Cambridge, a Year 1 - 6 contributing primary school named Cambridge West School.

Dated at Wellington this 19th ^{August} day of 2021.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'CH'.

Hon 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



Hon Louise Upston
MP for Taupō
Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON

Ref: CH6042

Dear Ms Upston

I am pleased to advise you that I have established a new contributing primary school (Year 1 – 6), in Cambridge, under section 190 of the Education and Training Act 2020. The school will be called Cambridge West School and is expected to open for 2024.

Nominations for an Establishment Board of Trustees will be sought, and when appointed, this board will work with the Ministry and local community to prepare the new school for opening.

As you will be aware, Cambridge is an area of growth, and the establishment of this 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

Hon Chris Hipkins

MP for Remutaka

Minister for COVID-19 Response

Minister of Education

Minister for the Public Service

Leader of the House



Hon Nanaia Mahuta
MP for Hauraki - Waikato
Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON

Ref: CH6041

Dear Nanaia

I am pleased to advise you that I have established a new contributing primary school (Year 1 – 6), in Cambridge, under section 190 of the Education and Training Act 2020. The school will be called Cambridge West School and is expected to open for 2024.

Nominations for an Establishment Board of Trustees will be sought, and when appointed, this board will work with the Ministry and local community to prepare the new school for opening.

As you will be aware, Cambridge is an area of growth, and the establishment of this 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 handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'CH'.

Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education

Proactively Released

Draft media release

New Cambridge school expected by 2024

Cambridge is to get a new primary school in the west of the township, with construction expected to be completed for opening in 2024, Education Minister Chris Hipkins announced today.

“The recent consultation, with iwi, other schools and the local community, shows there’s strong support for a new school to manage the demands of a growing population.

“Cambridge West Primary School will initially provide 300 places for year 1 – 6 students, with capacity to expand the roll to 600 – 650.”

Chris Hipkins says he is calling for nominations for an Establishment Board of Trustees, that will work with the community to design the school, its vision and values, and how it will operate.

Budget 21 allocated funds for planning and design of the school, with the intention that construction on the Cambridge Road site would commence by 2023.

Ends

Why does Cambridge potentially need a new school?

Cambridge is one of New Zealand’s growth areas, with the population expected to double in 30 years, to 30,000. Over the next decade, the local schooling network is likely to need to cater for 400-600 more primary students and 500-1000 secondary students.

You can read more in the National Education Growth Plan for Cambridge:

<https://www.education.govt.nz/assets/Documents/Ministry/Budgets/Budget2019/NEGPWaikato/Waikato-HB-growth-plans.pdf>

What is the next step in the school’s development?

Nominations will be sought for an Establishment Board that will work with the community on what is needed for the new school, and how to best reflect this in its design, and vision and values.

Ends