



Education Report: Consultation on establishment of proposed new primary school in Summerhill, Palmerston North

To:	Hon Jan Tinetti, Associate Minister of Education (School Operations)		
Cc:	Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education		
Date:	15 July 2022	Priority:	Medium
Security Level:	In Confidence	METIS No:	1286781
Drafter:	Darryl Leath, Lead Adviser Network	DDI:	06 757 6477
Key Contact:	Marlene Clarkson, Director of Education for Taranaki, Whanganui, Manawātū	DDI:	9(2)(a)
Messaging seen by Communications team:	No	Round Robin:	No

Purpose of Report

This report requests your approval to consult on the establishment of a proposed new primary school in the Summerhill area of Palmerston North. Consultation is required under section 209 of the Education and Training Act 2020 before a new school is established.

This report is supported by the Director of Education for Taranaki, Whanganui, Manawātū.

Summary

- 1 The Palmerston North catchment has been identified as an area of significant future growth in the National Education Growth Plan (NEGP). The city is projected to increase by an additional 7,000-12,800 people by 2030. The NEGP identified that at least one new school would be required within this catchment to cater for the long-term growth projections.
- 2 There has been intensive residential development in the Summerhill/Aokautere area of Palmerston North, with several large subdivisions completed over the last 20 years and a further 1500 residential dwellings proposed over the short to long term.
- 3 The Ministry proposes that by 2026, a new Year 1 – 8 full primary school is required to support growth in this catchment.
- 4 The Ministry has acquired a preferred site on Ruapehu Drive, and this has been designated for education purposes.

- 5 Seed funding for the planning and design of a new school was allocated through Budget 2021. The proposed school will have a build roll of 350 students, with a master plan roll of 650 students.
- 6 The neighbouring schools, Aokautere School and Turitea School are both near capacity and have implemented enrolment schemes to manage their rolls.
- 7 Additional short term roll growth capacity may be required at Aokautere School before the new school is available.
- 8 We have met with and established a positive relationship with Rangitāne, as mana whenua, regarding the establishment process for this proposed new primary school.
- 9 Section 209 of the Education and Training Act 2020 requires that you consult with the boards of all state schools whose rolls might be affected by the establishment of a new school. If you agree to this proposal, we will complete consultation on your behalf. Once consultation is complete, we will provide a further education report outlining the outcomes of the consultation process and seek your decision to establish the school.

Recommended Actions

The Ministry of Education recommends you:

- a. **note** that the Summerhill/Aokautere area of Palmerston North has been identified as an area of significant future growth, with 1500 residential dwellings to be built in the short to long term;

Noted

- b. **note** that the Ministry has acquired and designated a site for the proposed new primary school, and seed funding for the planning and design of the school was allocated through Budget 2021;

Noted

- c. **note** that we are proposing that the new school be operational by 2027 to meet the forecast growth and demand in the area; and

- d. **agree** that the Ministry consult, on your behalf, with the boards of all state schools whose rolls might be affected by the establishment of the proposed school.

Agree/Disagree

If you agree to consult, you are asked to:

- e. **note** that a further report will be provided to you containing the consultation feedback and seeking a decision on the establishment of the proposed school.

Noted

The Ministry of Education also recommends you:

- f. **agree** that this Education Report be proactively released. 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



Jocelyn Mikaere
Hautū | Deputy Secretary
Te Mahau | Te Tai Whenua

15/07/2022



Hon Jan Tinetti
Associate Minister of Education
School Operations

21/07/2022

Background

- 1 The Palmerston North catchment has been identified as an area of significant future growth in the National Education Growth Plan (NEGP). The city is projected to increase by an additional 7,000-12,800 people by 2030.
- 2 The Summerhill/Aokautere area is located within the Palmerston North – River South planning network. This planning network is one of three within the wider Palmerston North catchment.
- 3 The Palmerston North City Council has identified medium term and long-term developments (1500 homes) within the Palmerston North – River South planning network.
- 4 Based on the number of new dwellings, it is estimated that there may be an additional 300 Year 1 – 8 primary aged students in the network by 2026, and an additional 450 by 2042.
- 5 The NEGP identified that at least one new school would be required within this catchment by 2025 to cater for the long-term population projections. Without a new school, the addition of new students from the planned residential developments would exceed the current capacity in the network.
- 6 We are proposing a new Year 1 – 8 full primary school to open in the Summerhill/Aokautere area in Term 1, 2027. The proposed school would have a build roll of 350 students with a master plan roll of 650 students.

Network considerations

- 7 There are six schools located within the Palmerston North – River South planning network, two contributing primary schools (Year 1 – 6) and four full primary schools (Year 1 – 8).
- 8 Four schools, Linton Camp School, Linton Country School, Tokomaru School, and Opiki School are outside the area of convenience for the areas of growth (Annex 2).
- 9 Two schools, Aokautere School and Turitea School are within the area of convenience for the areas of growth. Both schools operate an enrolment scheme and are catering for large scale growth within their own enrolment scheme zones.
- 10 Aokautere School reported a 1 March 2022 roll of 149 students. The school has five Ministry and one board owned teaching spaces. The 1 March 2022 utilisation of estimated capacity was 99%. Aokautere School implemented an enrolment scheme in 2020.
- 11 Turitea School reported a 1 March 2022 roll of 143 students. The school has five Ministry and one board owned teaching spaces. The 1 March 2022 utilisation of estimated capacity was 95%. Turitea School implemented an enrolment scheme in 2006.
- 12 We have considered providing additional teaching spaces at Aokautere and Turitea schools. However, there is currently limited space at Turitea School and additional land would have to be purchased to accommodate additional teaching spaces. Aokautere also has site constraints and is in a flood plain.

- 13 Short term roll growth teaching spaces would be required at Aokautere School until the spaces at the new school become available.

Consultation

- 14 Before you may establish a new school, section 209 of the Education and Training Act 2020 (the Act) requires you to consult the boards of all state and state integrated schools whose rolls might, in your opinion, be affected by the proposed establishment.
- 15 We have identified the following schools whose rolls might be affected by the proposed establishment:

School ID	School Name	Year levels
2332	Aokautere School	1 – 6
2337	Ashhurst School	1 – 8
2339	Awapuni School	1 – 6
2418	Central Normal School	1 – 6
2350	Cloverlea School	1 – 6
2353	College Street Normal School	1 – 6
1172	Cornerstone Christian School	1 – 13
2365	Hokowhitu School	1 – 6
2370	Kairanga School	1 – 8
2386	Linton Camp School	1 – 8
2387	Linton Country School	1 – 8
191	Longburn Adventist College	7 – 13
2388	Longburn School	1 – 8
465	Mana Tamariki	1 – 13
2400	Milson School	1 – 6
2402	Monrad - Te Kura Waenga o Tirohanga	7 – 8
2406	Newbury School	1 – 8
2937	Opiki School	1 – 8
2416	Our Lady of Lourdes School	1 – 6
4126	Palmerston North Adventist Christian School	1 – 6
2419	Palmerston North Intermediate School	7 – 8
2424	Parkland School	1 – 6
2437	Riverdale School	1 – 6
2439	Roslyn School	1 – 8
2440	Ross Intermediate School	7 – 8
2441	Russell Street School	1 – 6
2449	St James School	1 – 6
2457	St Mary's School	1 – 6
2460	Takaro School	1 – 8
2363	Te Kura o Wairau	1 – 6
2466	Terrace End School	1 – 6
4209	TKKM o Manawatū	1 – 8
3046	Tokomaru School	1 – 8

2467	Turitea School	1 – 6
2479	West End School	1 – 6
2481	Whakarongo School	1 – 8
2484	Winchester School	1 – 6

- 16 To uphold the rangatiratanga of Rangitāne as mana whenua, we will include Ngāti Kauwhata and Rangitāne Iwi in the consultation process.
- 17 We will also consult with all other Iwi and hapū in the wider Palmerston North catchment.
- 18 We would also consult with sector groups, such as New Zealand Educational Institute | Te Riu Roa (NZEI), Post Primary Teachers' Association | Te Wehengarua (PPTA) and the New Zealand School Trustees Association (NZSTA).
- 19 We anticipate consultation could be completed in four weeks, which would allow time for boards to discuss any issues at a board meeting before making a response. Some boards might want to meet with us before making their submission.
- 20 Once the consultation has been completed, we will provide you with a report so you can consider the consultation feedback before deciding whether to establish the new school under section 190 of the Act.

Proposed location and property

- 21 A preferred site has been acquired between 137 and 147 Ruapehu Drive, Summerhill, Palmerston North (Lot 85 DP 88421). The site is vacant and is currently designated for education use.
- 22 Seed funding for the planning and design of a new school on Ruapehu Drive, Summerhill, Palmerston North was allocated through Budget 2021.
- 23 Estimated capital costs for the school build will be presented in a final report along with the results of the consultation.

Risks and Mitigations

- 24 A new school in the Palmerston North – River South planning network will have an impact on schools within the Palmerston North City planning network, particularly those with existing enrolment scheme boundaries within the area being considered for the new school. There is the risk that members of the respective school communities may be unhappy if they are affected by zone changes. We plan to mitigate this through clear and accurate communication to whānau, throughout the process, in the event that enrolment schemes need to change. Communications will highlight future growth within the Palmerston North City planning network and the impact of zone changes.
- 25 At present, we are preparing a report to the Minister asking to consult on the possible closure of Linton Country School. Whilst Linton Country School has been identified as outside the area of convenience for the areas of growth identified in this report, there is a risk that the possible opening of a new school may be seen as contradictory to the closing of another school in the catchment. We plan to mitigate this through clear and accurate communication to the community. Communications will highlight future growth areas and the dominant travel routes of those residing in those areas.

Next steps

- 26 If you agree, we will consult with the boards of all schools whose rolls might be affected by establishment of the school. We will also consult with sector bodies, local Iwi and hapū, and community groups as appropriate.
- 27 Following consultation, we will prepare a final report with estimated capital costs for the school build, the results of the consultation for your consideration and ask for your decision on the establishment of the new school.

Proactive Release

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

Annex

- Annex 1: Letters to local Members of Parliament and Rangitāne Iwi
- Annex 2: Map of the area and local schooling provision

Annex 1: Letters to local Members of Parliament and Rangitāne Iwi

Proactively Released

Hon Jan Tinetti

Minister of Internal Affairs
Minister for Women
Associate Minister of Education



Ian McKelvie
Member of Parliament for Rangitikei
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

Tēnā koe Mr McKelvie

I am pleased to inform you that I am beginning consultation on the establishment of a proposed new primary school in Summerhill, Palmerston North.

Under section 209 of the Education and Training Act 2020, I am required to undertake consultation with the boards of all the state schools whose rolls might be affected before establishing a school.

Once this consultation has been completed, I will consider a further report from the Ministry of Education containing all consultation feedback. I hope to then be in a position to make a decision on establishment.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jan Tinetti'.

Hon Jan Tinetti
Associate Minister of Education (School Operations)

Hon Jan Tinetti

Minister of Internal Affairs
Minister for Women
Associate Minister of Education



Adrian Rurawhe
Member of Parliament for Te Tai Hauāuru
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

Tēnā koe Adrian

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Associate Minister of Education (School Operations)

Hon Jan Tinetti

Minister of Internal Affairs
Minister for Women
Associate Minister of Education



Danielle Harris
Tanenuiarangi Manawatū Incorporated
140 – 148 Maxwells Line
Palmerston North 4412

Tēnā koe Danielle

I am pleased to inform you that I am beginning consultation on the establishment of a proposed new primary school in Summerhill, Palmerston North.

I understand you have already had early conversations with the Ministry of Education and they will continue to seek your views throughout this process.

Under section 209 of the Education and Training Act 2020, I am required to undertake consultation with the boards of all state schools whose rolls might be affected by the proposal before establishing a school. Once this consultation has been completed, I will consider a further report from the Ministry of Education containing all consultation feedback. I hope to then be in a position to make a decision on establishment.

Please contact Darryl Leath at darryl.leath@education.govt.nz if you have any questions about this process.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Nāku noa, nā

Hon Jan Tinetti
Associate Minister of Education (School Operations)

Hon Jan Tinetti

Minister of Internal Affairs
Minister for Women
Associate Minister of Education



Wiremu K Te Awe
Te Rangimarie Marae
Rangiotu 4477

Tēnā koe Wiremu

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Thank you for your ongoing support.

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Associate Minister of Education (School Operations)

Hon Jan Tinetti

Minister of Internal Affairs
Minister for Women
Associate Minister of Education



Christopher N Whaiapu
Ngati Hineaute Hapu Authority
PO Box 7161
Palmerston North

Tēnā koe Chris

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Associate Minister of Education (School Operations)

Annex 2: Map of the area and local schooling provision

