Education Report: Consultation about establishment of proposed new primary school in Rolleston

To: Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education

Date: 1 November 2019

Priority: High

Security Level: In Confidence

METIS: 1209920

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Messaging seen by Communications team: No

Round Robin: No

Purpose of Report

This report requests your approval that we undertake consultation on the establishment of a proposed new primary school and a Year 7 – 8 technology centre in Rolleston. Consultation is required under section 157 of the Education Act 1989 (the Act) before a new school is established.

Summary

1. A 10 year growth plan for Rolleston is included in the National Education Growth Plan (NEGP), which identifies this area as one of the fastest growing regions in New Zealand.

2. Rolleston has been experiencing rapid growth since 2010, heavily influenced by a post-quake need for housing. Engagement with schools and the community post-earthquake confirmed the desired educational pathway as Year 1 – 8 full primary schools and Year 9 – 13 secondary schooling. Year 7 – 8 students currently travel to schools outside the township for technology provision.

3. A new primary school in Rolleston is planned which will have an initial build capacity of 450 students and master planned for a roll of 750. This also includes the Rolleston Year 7 – 8 technology centre.

4. Before a new school may be established, consultation must be undertaken under section 157 of the Education Act 1989 with the boards of trustees of all state schools whose rolls might be affected by the establishment of a new school. Should the school be established and an establishment board of trustees appointed, they will undertake engagement with the community about various aspects of the school such as its vision statement.
5. As future planning processes and communication has already been occurring with all schools in Rolleston, we propose to undertake consultation with this wider group.

6. We seek your agreement to undertake this consultation on your behalf. Once the consultation has been completed we will provide you with a report so you can consider any issues raised before deciding whether to formally establish a new school under section 146 of the Act.

Recommended Actions

The Ministry of Education recommends you:

a. **note** that a new primary school in Rolleston is planned which will have an initial build capacity of 450 students with a master plan of 750 students;

b. **note** that this includes a Year 7 – 8 technology centre with six teaching spaces;

c. **note** that before establishing a school you must consult with the boards of all state schools whose rolls might be affected by the establishment;

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

e. **note** that following the consultation a further report will be provided to you for your decision about the establishment of the proposed school;

f. **agree** that this Education Report be proactively released once a final decision is made about the school. Any information that might need to be withheld will be done so in line with the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982.

Coralanne Child
Deputy Secretary
Sector Enablement and Support

Hon Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education

2/11/19
Background

1. Rolleston has been experiencing rapid growth since 2010, heavily influenced by a post-quake need for housing. Engagement with schools and the community post-earthquake confirmed the desired educational pathway as Year 1 – 8 full primary schools and Year 9 – 15 secondary schooling. Year 7 – 8 students currently travel to schools outside the township for technology provision.

2. During 2018 and 2019 we developed the National Education Growth Plan (NEGP) that identifies what we know from a range of sources about the anticipated location and nature of patterns of growth in school-aged children in the period through to 2030. The NEGP also identifies measures that the government might need to consider in order to meet this growth.

3. The NEGP highlights Rolleston as one of the fastest growing regions in New Zealand. The rate of growth has increased in the last few years and this is anticipated to continue into the short to medium term.

4. The Selwyn district is part of the greater Christchurch High Growth Urban Area, with the district expected to increase in population from 58,000 in 2018 to 81,000 in 2030. Council projections estimate Rolleston will grow to a population of 22,000 by 2021 and 27,000 by 2030. Based on 2013 census information, the town has a young demographic, with a higher proportion of the population under the age of 15 years (27%), and fewer people over the age of 65 years (7%).

5. There are currently seven state full primary schools, one state integrated primary school and one secondary school within the Rolleston catchment. All schools are part of the Ngā Peka o Tauwharekākāhō (Rolleston) Kāhui Ako.

6. We have been working with all schools in the area for the past six years on future planning. This process has included community and sector engagement in 2013 to ascertain community preferences and aspirations for future education, and to help inform a new growth plan for the area. Consequently, West Rolleston School was opened in 2016, Lemonwood Grove School opened in 2017 along with Rolleston College. Rolleston Christian School was integrated in 2015.

7. Since 2013, we have continued to consult with and inform the sector in regards to growth in the area through regular updates and meetings with individual schools. This has been to ensure there is a common understanding of growth, how we plan for it, and, as far as possible, a collaborative approach to future education solutions.

8. In 2018, the state primary school network in Rolleston had 2,700 permanent student places. There were an additional 900 student places across the wider Kāhui Ako. Additional temporary capacity remains onsite at two schools in Rolleston to accommodate growth while recently established schools were opened. It is expected that ongoing growth in the south and east of Rolleston will increase rolls in Rolleston beyond the current permanent capacity by 2021. The location of the growth means this growing demand cannot be met through enrolment schemes and roll growth classrooms alone, due to the constraints of the region and schools’ site capacities.

9. In July 2019, you announced the acquisition of a 3ha site within the Acland Park development in Rolleston for the purpose of a new school.
10. A new primary school in Rolleston is planned which will have an initial build capacity of 450 students and master planned for a roll of 750. This also includes six teaching spaces for the Rolleston technology centre which will provide local access for Year 7 – 8 students across the Kāhui Ako.

Model of New Provision

11. The 2013 engagement feedback informed the schooling structure for education delivery into the future. Community preference was that the long-term structure of education delivery should be Year 1 – 8 primary schooling and Year 9 – 13 secondary schooling.

12. In addition to confirming its preference for the structure of future schooling, the community also identified some key themes for how it wanted to see the schooling network develop in response to population growth. The key themes are summarised in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Key themes arising from community engagement for schooling network development in Rolleston

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key theme</th>
<th>Primary</th>
<th>Secondary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Schooling structure</td>
<td>Year 1 – 8 full primary schooling</td>
<td>Year 9 – 13 secondary schooling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>• Maintain high quality educational outcomes</td>
<td>• Provision for Year 7 – 8 technology within Rolleston</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Special education provision with specialist unit or satellite units of a special school</td>
<td>• Students should be able to access special school facilities within Rolleston</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Provision of bilingual education</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Keep current primary schools from growing too big</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Consultation Process

13. Before a new school may be established, section 157 of 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. We would consult with the eight primary schools in the area and Rolleston College, as all meet that criterion and all have been involved in collaborative future planning discussions to date.

14. Engagement in 2013 also tested whether or not future schooling provision should be delivered as new stand-alone schools, or under alternative governance structures, such as a second campus of an existing school or through a combined board of trustees. This was explored as a way of reinforcing community cohesion, a key theme identified by the community, through common governance and strategic oversight. There was not strong support for having additional schooling as a second campus of another school, or having a combined board of trustees at the time.
15. We have identified the following schools whose rolls might be affected by the proposed establishment, listed in in Table 2 below.

Table 2: Schools whose rolls might be affected by establishment of the proposed school

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Year levels</th>
<th>2019 roll</th>
<th>Enrolment scheme</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Burnham School</td>
<td>1 – 8</td>
<td>157</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clearview Primary</td>
<td>1 – 8</td>
<td>730</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lemonwood Grove School</td>
<td>1 – 8</td>
<td>296</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rolleston Christian School (integrated)</td>
<td>1 – 8</td>
<td>146</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rolleston College</td>
<td>9 – 15</td>
<td>685</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rolleston School</td>
<td>1 – 8</td>
<td>777</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weedons School</td>
<td>1 – 8</td>
<td>161</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Melton School</td>
<td>1 – 8</td>
<td>440</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Rolleston Primary School</td>
<td>1 – 8</td>
<td>546</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

16. We would also consult with local iwi.

17. We anticipate consultation could be completed in four to six weeks, which would allow time for boards to discuss the issue at a board meeting before making a response. Some boards might also consult with their school community.

18. Should you agree to the establishment of the school and an establishment board of trustees is appointed, they would undertake engagement with the community about various aspects of the school, including its vision.

19. The Ministry seeks your agreement to undertake consultation on your behalf under section 157 of the Education Act 1989. Once the consultation has been completed, we will provide you with a report so you can consider any issues before deciding whether to establish the new school under section 146 of the Act.

The Proposed School

20. It is proposed that the new school will be a Year 1 – 8 full primary school within the Acland Park development in Rolleston. It is proposed that the school initially be known as Rolleston East Primary School, and that it would open for tuition in Jan 2022. The site is approximately 1.6 km from Rolleston College, in the south-east quadrant of the township (refer to Annex 1).

21. The initial build is proposed for 450 students, with a master plan of 750 students. These roll figures arise from the most recent Selwyn District Council projections, which include housing developments initiated since Statistics NZ’s 2017 update of 2013 census data and roll projections based on those data.

22. The proposed school is within the current enrolment scheme home zones for Clearview Primary and Lemonwood Grove School. Despite the opening of Lemonwood Grove School in 2017, the roll of all Rolleston primary schools have continued to grow. Lemonwood Grove recently received funding to begin building Stage 2 but an additional new primary school is needed to cater for student population growth in Rolleston.
Financial Implications

23. Funding for this primary school was included in the Rolleston catchment of the NEGP and will be made available once the site has been designated.

24. Financial information will be provided in the next report. This will include more build details.

Next steps

25. If you agree, the Ministry will consult with the boards of all state schools whose rolls might be affected by establishment of the school, as is required by legislation. We will also consult with local iwi.

26. Following consultation we will prepare a final report for your consideration and decision.

Proactive Release

27. It is intended that this Education Report be proactively released once you have made a final decision on the proposed school establishment. 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: Map of Rolleston and schooling provision
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