



Education Report: Establishment of Rolleston East Primary School

To:	Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education		
Date:	31 January 2020	Priority:	High
Security Level:	In Confidence	METIS No:	1218145
Drafter:	Philippa Pidd	DDI:	04 463 8241
Key Contact:	Coralanne Child, Director of Education for Canterbury	DDI:	0274 200 251
Messaging seen by Communications team:	Yes	Round Robin:	No

Purpose of Report

This report seeks your approval to establish a new full primary school (Year 1-8) at the Acland Park Development, Rolleston, Christchurch. It is proposed that the school be known initially as Rolleston East Primary School and is currently expected to be open at all year levels in 2022.

Summary

- 1 A new school in East Rolleston was signalled in the National Education Growth Plan (NEGP) with a proposed opening in 2022. The inclusion of Rolleston in the NEGP was in recognition of it as being one of the fastest growing regions in New Zealand.
- 2 It is also proposed that new Year 7-8 technology provision be provided in Rolleston and funding capital for this has been secured. Should the proposed school be approved, we would work with the Establishment Board of Trustees (EBoT) to undertake consultation about the location of the new technology provision.
- 3 The Rolleston township has experienced sustained population growth over recent years and the Selwyn District Council projections estimate this is expected to continue with the population growing to 22,000 in 2021 and 27,000 by 2030.
- 4 Section 157 of the Education Act 1989 (the Act) requires you to consult with the boards of all state schools whose rolls might be affected, before a new school is established. In November 2019 you agreed to this and consultation has now been completed.
- 5 We consulted with 19 schools and received nine responses. All nine supported the proposed new school. Two schools had concerns about proposed changes to current enrolment scheme home zones and one made comment about the timeframe of the consultation.

- 6 If established, the school would initially be known as Rolleston East Primary School, and would be a Year 1-8 full primary school.
- 7 A three hectare site was acquired in July 2019 within the Acland Park development at Rolleston. The site is currently going through the designation process with Selwyn District Council.
- 8 The initial build of the new school would be designed to accommodate 450 student spaces. The school will be master planned for future expansion to accommodate 750 students.
- 9 It is expected that the school would open in 2022. We would closely monitor rolls as well as growth and development in the area and make use of current temporary capacity at existing schools to manage the growth until the school is open.
- 10 If you agree to establish Rolleston East Primary School, an EBoT would be appointed, along with a governance facilitator to support the EBoT.

Recommended Actions

The Ministry of Education recommends you:

- a) **note** the outcomes of consultation undertaken by the Ministry, on your behalf, about new primary education provision in Rolleston;
- b) **agree** to establish, under section 146 of the Education Act 1989, a primary school (Year 1–8) to be known initially as Rolleston East Primary School in the Acland Park Development, Rolleston;
- c) **sign** the *New Zealand Gazette* notice establishing Rolleston East Primary School (Annex 1) and the letters to local Members of Parliament (Annex 2);
- d) **note** that you have already received a draft media statement that you might wish to release about the establishment of the new school;
- e) **note** that the Ministry will initiate the appointment of the school's Establishment Board of Trustees;
- f) **agree** that this report be proactively released in line with your expectation that information be released as early as possible. Any further information that might need to be withheld will be redacted in line with the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982.

Agree / Disagree

Agree / Disagree



Katrina Casey
Deputy Secretary
Sector Enablement and Support

31/1/2020



Hon Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education

6/2/20

Background

1. The Ministry has developed the NEGP, which identifies what we know from a range of sources, about the anticipated location and nature of patterns of growth in school aged children. It also identifies measures that the government might need to consider in order to meet the growth in the period through to 2030.
2. A 10 year growth plan for Rolleston is included in the NEGP, which highlights Rolleston as one of the fastest growing regions in New Zealand. The Ministry was monitoring growth in the Rolleston area prior to the earthquakes as noted in the 2009 Rolleston-Lincoln Area Strategy [METIS 410087 refers].
3. A network planning report was developed in 2015 to determine the timing and scale for a fourth state school in Rolleston, which was Lemonwood Grove School. The report said that four state primary schools were anticipated to provide sufficient capacity to accommodate local demand until around 2023, at which time a school in the south east of Rolleston would be required.
4. Further analysis was conducted in 2018, which found that a fifth state primary school would be required in the network by 2022 to prevent significant overcrowding at the current schools.
5. The Ministry undertook a major community engagement in the wider Rolleston area from September to November 2013 [METIS 833026 refers]. Community feedback was 78.4% in favour of Year 1-8 provision. We are therefore proposing that Rolleston East School be a Year 1-8 primary school with separate governance.

Consultation

Schools

6. Section 157 of the Act requires the Minister of Education to consult with the boards of trustees of all state schools whose rolls might be affected before deciding whether to establish a new school. In November 2019, you agreed to the Ministry undertaking this consultation on your behalf for the proposed new primary school (Year 1–8) in Acland Park Development, Rolleston [METIS 1209920 refers].
7. We undertook consultation with the following 19 schools in December 2019:

Aidanfield Christian School	Ararira Springs Primary	Broadfield School
Burnham School	Clearview Primary	Ladbrooks School
Lemonwood Grove School	Lincoln Primary School	Middleton Grange School
Prebbleton School	Rolleston Christian School	Rolleston College
Rolleston School	Springston School	St Bernadette's School (Hornby)
Waitaha School	Weedons School	West Melton School
West Rolleston School		

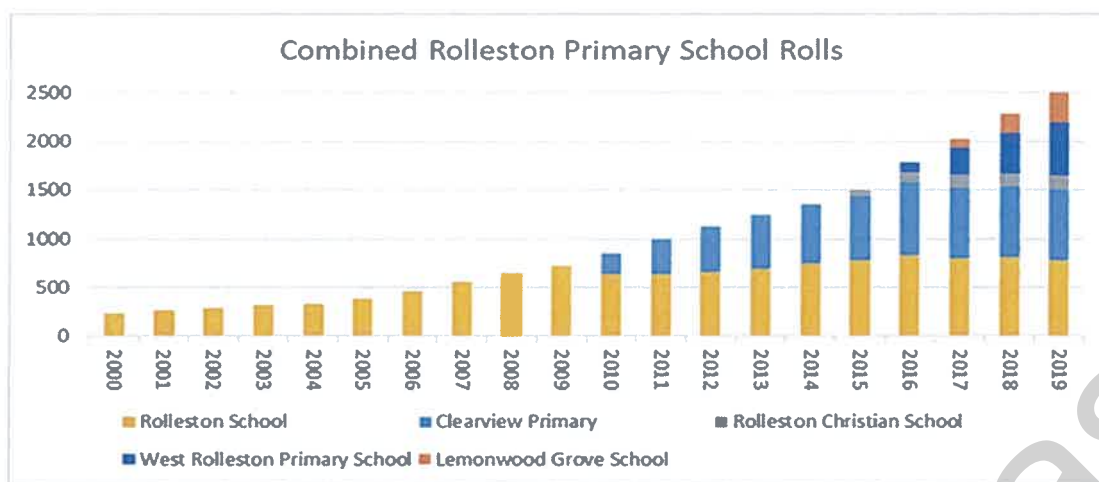
8. Nine submissions were received, with all supporting the proposal for a new school. Two had concerns about the possible effect on their respective enrolment scheme home zone boundaries; and one school commented on the tight timeframe for the consultation. Individual school responses are summarised in Annex 3.

Other Consultation

9. As part of the development of the strategy for education in the Rolleston area (2013-2014) we consulted widely with the local community about possible education provision in the area (METIS 833026 refers). Community feedback was in favour of Year 1–8 primary provision. The two new state primary schools established since this consultation in Rolleston have adhered to this preference; with Rolleston College established in 2017 providing a local Year 9-15 secondary pathway.
10. NZEI was asked if it had any comment on the establishment of this new school. It commented “*NZEI te Riu Roa has no comment to make on this proposal other than to support the Ministry’s decision to recommend that the school be established as a full primary.*”

Network Implications

11. Post-earthquake residential development in the catchments of Clearview, Rolleston, Lemonwood Grove and West Rolleston has been rapid, with 2,498 consents issued between 2014 and June 2018. A recent Selwyn District Council update identified capacity for a further 4,621 dwellings from zoned land within the existing catchments of the schools in the area. Residential growth is being translated into growth of the rolls at all schools, placing sustained pressure on the network.
12. The school network in Rolleston comprises seven full primary schools, one state integrated primary school, one secondary school and Waitaha Special School. Relationships between the individual school principals is positive, and there is a very positive Kāhui Ako (Ngā Peke o Tauwharekākaho) operating within the township.
13. The permanent capacity of Rolleston School and Clearview Primary School has been calculated based on their permanent teaching space counts, October 2017 rolls by year level, and March 2018 Ongoing Resourcing Scheme (ORS) count.
14. Overall, the combined October 2017 rolls of the four state schools in Rolleston (1,985) and the combined permanent capacities of these schools (which is 2,684) resulted in an overall utilisation rate of 74%.
15. The number of students enrolled at primary schools in Rolleston was 239 in 2000, growing steadily until 2010. Following the Canterbury earthquakes of 2010/2011, the combined roll of Rolleston primary schools grew by 30% from 2010 to 2012 and has continued to grow to 2,495 in 2019. This represents a growth of almost three times the roll in 2010 (growth of 194% between 2010 and 2019) as shown in the chart below.



16. Data from the Selwyn District Council indicates that the majority of the growth will be within the current catchments of Clearview Primary School and Lemonwood Grove School, and subsequently will be within the Rolleston East School catchment. To carve out a catchment for the new school, it would open with an enrolment scheme. This would mainly affect Clearview School and Lemonwood Grove School, as their home zones would reduce. Some changes to enrolment schemes would be implemented to align with the opening of Rolleston East School, and others might follow as growth continued to place pressure on the capacity at these schools.
17. Rolleston has a ratio of 0.4 students per household, so based on the building consents there could be an additional 1,917 Year 1-8 state school students once all planned developments are complete.
18. Further analysis of the current Rolleston network is provided in Annex 4.

Property Implications

19. To meet the timeline for opening the new school in 2022, it is proposed that the master planning stages of the design and build processes would be streamlined. This truncated master planning process was successful in the 2017 development of Lemonwood Grove School.
20. A three hectare site has been purchased within the Acland Park development in the south east of Rolleston (refer to Annex 5: Map of Rolleston Schools). The site is currently going through the designation process with Selwyn District Council.

Financial Implications

21. Funding for this primary school was included in the Rolleston catchment of the NEGP and has been included in Wave 2 funding from Budget 2019. Actual costs would depend on decisions about the final school design.
22. We plan for the initial build capacity to be 450 students, with the school being master planned to allow for expansion to 750 students. Should a decision be made that technology provision will also be on the new school site an additional six teaching spaces have been planned to support this provision.

Establishment Board of Trustees (EBoT)

23. Every new school has an EBoT. The process of appointing the EBoT is delegated to the Ministry. Should you agree to the establishment of the school then nominations would be sought, assessed, and appointments made under Section 98(1)(a)(i) of the Act.
24. In recognition of the timeframe for the EBoT to prepare for the opening of Rolleston East Primary School in 2022, advertising for registrations of interest for the EBoT would take place in March 2020.
25. We would also commence the appointment process for a governance facilitator to support the school to become an effective governance body and to prepare the school for opening as an effective learning organisation.

Other considerations

Technology Provision

26. Lincoln Primary School is 10 kilometres away and is a provider of Year 7-8 technology to two of the full primary schools in Rolleston. Of the other two primary schools in the area, one sends students to Breens Intermediate and one to Hornby High School, with both of these providers being in Christchurch City.
27. We would support the EBoT to enter consultation with Rolleston Schools to decide what future technology provision would look like in Rolleston. Provision has been made for that to be at the new proposed school should that be the outcome of the engagement process.

Risks and Mitigations

28. There is a risk that the local population, and therefore rolls, will grow faster than anticipated. If there are also building delays that result in a deferred opening date, this could mean that there is a risk of overcrowding at neighbouring schools. To mitigate this, we will make use of existing temporary classrooms at Clearview Primary School. We will continue to monitor growth and enrolments in the area and will plan for further contingencies if needed.
29. There is also a risk that there would be insufficient demand for the new school. We consider this risk to be very low, as high rates of growth continue to be predicted for the area. We meet regularly with the Selwyn District Council to share information, and as far as possible align our respective strategic planning.
30. The development and amendment of existing enrolment schemes, as part of establishment of new provision, could lead to community concerns about choice and options for families. This is not unusual but can be highly emotive and difficult for boards to manage. We would work closely with all the boards concerned during this process, and would assist with clear and consistent information for the wider community.

31. There is a community expectation that the proposed new school will be open in 2022. The sale and purchase has been completed for the site in Acland Park Development. We have begun the site designation process, which can take several months to complete. At this stage we are planning to get construction of the new school underway by the end of 2020, if you approve establishment. We would keep you informed as this work progresses and develop a communications and stakeholder plan to manage key timeframes and risks such as delays to construction.

Next Steps

32. If you approve this establishment, you are asked to sign the *New Zealand Gazette* notice (Annex 1) and the attached letters to local MPs (refer to Annex 2). A draft media release has also been forwarded to your office (METIS 1218256).
33. An EBoT would be appointed along with a governance facilitator to support the EBoT as it works to ready the school to open in 2022.
34. We will work with the EBoT around the design for the new school, which has a planned capacity of 450 student spaces plus the possible addition of six teaching spaces for Year 7-8 technology provision.
35. It is expected that the school will open in 2022. A timeline will be established once a building programme is in place and we will keep you informed of progress. Options to open part of the school would be considered if needed, and the building programme allows for this. We will closely monitor rolls as well as growth and development in the area, and utilise current temporary provision as needed to meet the demand.

Proactive Release

36. It is intended that this Education Report be proactively released in line with your expectation that information be released as early as possible. Any further information that might need to be withheld will be redacted in line with the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982.

Annexes

Annex 1 – Notice for the *New Zealand Gazette*

Annex 2 – Letters to MPs

Annex 3 – Summary of responses to consultation

Annex 4: Current Rolleston Network

Annex 5 - Map of Rolleston Schools

Annex 1: Notice for the *New Zealand Gazette*

Proactively Released



New Zealand Gazette Notice

New School Establishment

Pursuant to section 146 of the Education Act 1989, I hereby establish a Year 1-8 primary school, to be known as Rolleston East Primary School, in Rolleston, Selwyn District.

Dated at Wellington this

day of

2020.

Hon Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education

Proactively Released

Hon Chris Hipkins

MP for Rimutaka

Minister of Education

Minister of State Services

Leader of the House

Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services



Hon Amy Adams
MP for Selwyn
Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON

Dear Mrs Adams

I am pleased to inform you that I have approved the establishment of a Year 1-8 full primary school in Rolleston, Selwyn District.

The school will be known initially as Rolleston East Primary School. The initial build (Stage One) will provide capacity for 450 students with later development of Stage Two bringing full capacity for the school to 750 students.

Shortly, I will formally establish the new school by notice in the *New Zealand Gazette*.

Rolleston East School is proposed to be sited in Rolleston near the new residential subdivisions to the south east of the Rolleston town area. It is planned that the school will open for Year 1-8 students from Term 1, 2022.

Yours sincerely

Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education

Hon Chris Hipkins

MP for Rimutaka

Minister of Education

Minister of State Services

Leader of the House

Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services



Rino Tirikatene
MP for Te Tai Tonga
Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON

Dear Rino

I am pleased to inform you that I have approved the establishment of a Year 1-8 full primary school in Rolleston, Selwyn District.

The school will be known initially as Rolleston East Primary School. The initial build (Stage One) will provide capacity for 450 students with later development of Stage Two bringing full capacity for the school to 750 students.

Shortly, I will formally establish the new school by notice in the *New Zealand Gazette*.

Rolleston East School is proposed to be sited in Rolleston near the new residential subdivisions to the south east of the Rolleston town area. It is planned that the school will open for Year 1-8 students from Term 1, 2022.

Yours sincerely

Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education

Annex 3 – Summary of responses to consultation

School	Comment
Lincoln Primary School	<p>No issues with the provision of a new school in east Rolleston.</p> <p>They would like to participate in stakeholder discussions relating to technology provision on this new site as it will have a direct impact on the technology they provide to their partner schools and also significant staffing implications for them.</p>
Weedons School	Weedons Board of Trustees acknowledges the letter sent December 2019 in regards to the proposed new primary education provision for Rolleston. They do not wish to make a submission but wish the Ministry and the establishment board every success.
West Melton	Support this decision and see no impact on their own school.
Broadfield School	They thanked us for the email giving them opportunity to be part of the consultation around this new school. It is noted that it is disappointing the timeframe and timing of the consultation. The school supports the new school.
Springston School	The only concern around this new school would be around any impact on our current enrolment zone. We would prefer to not see any reduction in our zone.
Prebbleton School	No objection as it is considered that the new school would have little impact.
Aidanfield Christian School	No issues with the establishment of the school as proposed and wish the Ministry well on their journey to support the growing Rolleston area.
Lemonwood Grove School	In favour of the proposed new school and look forward to it being built. They raised questions around zones etc. when the school is closer to opening. However they are comfortable with the approach that the Ministry is taking with the current zone review and believe that this will be adequately dealt with when the new school opens.
Rolleston Christian School	The school's Board appreciates the need for a new school in the area. They would like to have a maximum roll increase review for their own school as part of managing the network. In addition to this they would like to be part of the consultation for the Technology provision. The response went on to discuss wider issues in the Rolleston area. Their response has been forward to the education advisor of the school to address.

Annex 4: Current Rolleston Network

All current schools in Rolleston have enrolment schemes. All four current state primary schools received letters in June 2019 directing them to begin discussions around amending their enrolment schemes to reduce overlapping areas and prepare for the likely arrival of a new school. The Ministry engaged the services of a consultant to assist the schools with this discussion in Term 4 2019, with a view to community consultation in Term 1 2020 and implementation Terms 2-3 of 2020.

An amendment to the West Rolleston Primary zone is likely to be required to direct additional students towards Clearview Primary and Lemonwood Grove schools.

Residential growth in Rolleston School catchment is largely complete. However, local demand may exceed capacity at the school, and a reduction in the south western portion of the zone is required to bring the roll within permanent capacity, clarify the boundaries, and allow the removal of temporary space.

Prior to opening of the new school, Clearview Primary will experience a sustained need for the temporary capacity on site. Following the opening of the new school in East Rolleston, Clearview Primary may experience roll decline. This will need to be managed by staged amendments to enrolment scheme boundaries. Clearview Primary and Lemonwood Grove schools will require another zone amendment in 2021 (effective start 2022) to align with the Rolleston East School home zone.

The final configuration of enrolment schemes would provide each of the five schools (including Rolleston East School) around 20% of the total local student network.

The table below shows that the utilisation of capacity in the state schools is increasing rapidly towards 100%.

The approval of Stage 2 at Lemonwood Grove School will relieve pressure at that school for a time, but significant population growth is forecast for Lemonwood Grove School, which will make good use of the Stage 2 capacity.

Additional residential growth is underway near the site purchased for the new state primary school in the east of Rolleston. This residential growth includes properties at all stages of development, with a large number of sections recently or soon to be released, and a large number of houses currently under construction. This growth is of a scale that cannot be accommodated at the existing schools, even given the addition of Stage 2 capacity at Lemonwood Grove School.

Table 1: Capacity, Roll and Utilisation of Rolleston Schools

School Name	School Type	Open	Permanent Capacity	Peak Roll			Utilisation of Permanent Capacity		
				2017	2018	2019	2017	2018	2019
Rolleston School	Primary Year 1-8	Pre-1990	803	819	826	802	102%	103%	100%
Clearview Primary School	Primary Year 1-8	2010	731	742	748	741	102%	102%	101%
West Rolleston School	Primary Year 1-8	2016	750	313	443	571	42%	59%	76%
Lemonwood Grove School	Primary Year 1-8	2017	400	111	201	331	28%	50%	83%
Rolleston Christian School*	Primary Year 1-8	2015	300	125	134	152	42%	45%	51%
Rolleston College	Secondary Year 9-15	2017	1100	221	433	685.6	20%	39%	62%
Total State Primary				1985	2218	2445	74%	83%	91%
Total State (Primary + Secondary)				2206	2651	3130.6	58%	70%	83%

*State integrated school – not included in state primary school total.

While a large amount of land planned for residential growth near Lemonwood Grove School has been developed, an equivalent amount of land close by remains to be developed.

The residential developments located close to the Rolleston East site are located a significant distance from the existing schools, and access for families in these developments to the existing schools might be challenging.

Annex 5: Map of Rolleston Schools

Proactively Released

Schools in Rolleston

Also showing the location of the Rolleston East Site

