

# Hon Chris Hipkins

MP for Rimutaka

Minister of Education

Minister of State Services

Leader of the House

Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services



30 JUL 2019

Ref: OIA00304

K Jarrett

[fyi-request-10467-1eb7159e@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-10467-1eb7159e@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear K Jarrett

Thank you for your email of 6 June 2019 requesting the following information:

- *Information on Land Purchased, proposed to Purchase, negotiating to Purchase, or intending to start process for purchase for New School/s within or in the general area around the new Red Hills Suburb North West Auckland, including*
  - *Physical Location*
  - *Year level/s of proposed schools*
  - *Estimated Maximum Role size*
  - *Estimated Dates of Build start and completion*
- *Zone sharing or encroachment or rezoning for Massey High School, Massey Primary School, Royal Road School, and*
- *Any consultation formally or informally that has occurred with Massey High School, Massey Primary School, Royal Road School.*

Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

As communities change, so do the schooling needs of their children and young people. The Ministry manages school infrastructure and plans for growth and long term population shifts to make sure students have a modern and convenient local school to attend. To do this, consideration needs to be given to population projections, local council information and capacity and enrolment data. The Ministry always consults with local schools and their communities before making significant changes, such as building a new school.

New Zealand's biggest growth area is Auckland. Statistics New Zealand forecasts that by 2030, there will be around 60,000 more school aged children in the Auckland region. As you may be aware, the National Education Growth Plan has recently been announced. Included in the information released on the Ministry website, at the link below, are details of the growth plan specific to Auckland.

<http://www.education.govt.nz/our-work/publications/budget-2019/negp/>

Of particular interest to your request, regarding details of new schools in the Red Hills development area, page 28 of the Auckland Growth Plan outlines that a potential new primary school will be needed in the Red Hills North area close to 2030.

You may also be interested to know that for the wider Massey Hobsonville Kaipara catchment area, current projections are that an additional three primary schools and one secondary school are required to meet growth. Two of these primary schools are likely to be in Whenuapai, and the other in North Massey. The secondary is projected to be in the North-West area. This is additional to the potential school in the Red Hills development, two primary schools which have already been announced and funded, and major Stage 2 developments at three primary schools.

The two primary schools that have already been announced and funded are Te Kura Tuatahi o Matua Ngaru (formerly known as Kumeu Primary School), which opened for students for Term 1 2019, and Scott Point Primary School.

In relation to the three new primary schools and one new secondary school intended for the Massey Hobsonville Kaipara catchment area, beyond those details that are already publicly available and outlined above, I am withholding details of the exact location and details of purchasing land for these schools under the following sections of the Act:

- 9(2)(i) because the withholding of this information is necessary to enable a Minister of the Crown or any department or organisation holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities; and
- 9(2)(j) to enable a Minister of the Crown or any department or organisation holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations. The release of any details related to these schools would adversely affect the ability of the Crown to negotiate the purchase of the land needed for these schools.

I am also not detailing the maximum roll sizes of the new schools intended for the Massey Hobsonville Kaipara catchment area. This is because the Ministry is basing its work programme on projections to 2030 which depend on actual student growth reflecting those projections. Because of this, I am unable to comment on the exact timeframes for purchasing the land and building the four further schools or on their maximum roll sizes. However, it is common practice that once land purchase has been completed and funding allocated for the construction of a new school, it will be publicly announced.

Regarding the part of your request asking for information in relation to the zoning or rezoning and any consultations, formal or informal, with Massey High School, Massey Primary School, Royal Road School, I can confirm that the Ministry:

- Has not engaged Massey Primary regarding changing their zone, formally or informally;
- Has not engaged Massey High regarding changing their zone, formally or informally. It should be noted that Massey High changed its zone as a result of Hobsonville Point Secondary School opening;
- Is currently working with Royal Road School's Board of Trustees regarding the possibility of implementing a zone for the school.

In relation to the work with Royal Road School, the Ministry has produced a suggested draft zone for the Board's consideration and has presented this to the Board.

This draft has been considered for release under the Act, but is withheld in full at this time, under section 9(2)(g)(i) of the Act, to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to Ministers of the Crown or

members of an organisation or officers and employees of any department or organisation in the course of their duty.

I consider that the release of this draft would adversely affect the ability of Ministry officials to provide free and frank advice to Royal Road School regarding the possibility of an enrolment zone. Should an enrolment zone be agreed and finalised, this information could be reconsidered for release.

I have considered the public interest in relation to the information being withheld and consider that the public interest does not outweigh the need for information to be withheld at this time.

You have the right to ask an Ombudsman to review this decision. You can do this by writing to [info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz) or Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'CH', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Chris Hipkins**  
**Minister of Education**