



13 OCT 2016

Barry Stevens
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Dear Barry

Thank you for your email of 18 August 2016 to the Ministry of Education (the Ministry) requesting the following information:

- 1. Can the ministry please provide details of their plans for managing primary and intermediate school(s) growth in the Orewa/Silverdale areas given the unprecedented population growth in the area.*
- 2. What forecasting has the ministry used to determine the roll growth for Silverdale Primary School, and the effects of proposed reclassification of Silverdale school to make it a year 1 to year 6 school?*
- 3. What are the forecasted numbers and effects of the proposed reclassification of Silverdale Primary School on surrounding intermediate school(s)?*
- 4. Given the total capacity limit of Silverdale Primary School may be reached (in the next couple of years) even after the last re-zoning change and the proposed reclassification what other plans has the Ministry have to cater for the students in the Silverdale Primary School Zone?*

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

The Ministry is committed to ensuring schools in high growth areas have enough space to enable students to learn effectively. With more than a third of the country's population now living in Auckland, we recognise the importance of managing current and future growth in the region.

As a result of school redevelopments, new schools, and the projects given the go-ahead under Budget 2016, we will deliver more than 17,000 new student places by 2019 across the Auckland region.

The Ministry uses information from Statistics New Zealand for demographic projections of school age populations. We also work with local government agencies to stay informed of property developments and the likely implications of these on regional demographics impacting the schooling network. Thirdly, we triangulate this data with actual school roll data (which is captured on 1 March and 1 July each year).

We are working closely with Auckland Council planning groups, including Panuku Development Auckland and the Development Programme Office, to ensure the Ministry can respond appropriately with additional education capacity in the Orewa/Silverdale area.

The Ministry has three tools available for managing growth within a network of schools. We can implement or amend enrolment schemes, change the year level of schools and build new schools or provide additional classrooms. The Ministry is using a combination of these tools to manage the growth in rolls of schools in the Orewa/Silverdale area. We have been involved in consultation processes over these issues with the local school communities since 2013.

The approach that we have taken when working with schools that are experiencing roll growth is to advise the Board of Trustees of the options available to respond to the growth and to support their decision making about which one they will progress, rather than to impose solutions. Stakeholders within a school's community can participate by providing their views in writing to the school Board. They may also attend any public meetings held by school Boards to consult with their communities. These meetings are publicised on schools' websites and in the notices sections of local newspapers.

To ensure communities have been involved, we require schools to show they have held a robust consultation process with their communities, before the Ministry can implement changes to enrolment schemes and to the year levels they teach.

In the case of Silverdale Primary School, we have supported the school Board to consider how best to address pressure on its roll, by providing data and analysis (refer documents 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9 listed on page three). We provide these documents to schools when they approach the Ministry with requests for additional property, eg extra classroom space, as this indicates that a plan to manage growth may need to be implemented for a particular school. The data and analysis is only finalised and signed-off after approval from the school.

In addition to the data and analysis documents provided to Silverdale Primary School, in 2014 the Ministry engaged consultants to report on the region's schooling network (refer document 6 listed on page three). This report has informed our long-term planning and coordinated response to roll growth across the Hibiscus Coast region.

We have projected that the proposed reclassification of Silverdale School to a Year 1 to 6 school will remove approximately 100-150 students, which makes available four to seven teaching spaces for the increased enrolments at Year 1.

There are no intermediate schools in the Silverdale/Orewa area as local school communities decided during earlier consultation that they would prefer for their children to attend a secondary school through Years 7 to 13. Both Orewa College and Whangaparaoa College cater for students from Year 7.

In respect to question 4, currently approximately 150 Year 7 and 8 students who are in zone for Silverdale Primary School, attend other schools such as Orewa College. Orewa College has capacity to accommodate Year 7 and 8 students from the Silverdale Primary School zone. As the in zone roll of Orewa College increases we can provide extra classrooms to the College.

Orewa College is on a large site and it has capacity to take further classrooms. In comparison, Silverdale Primary School is on a constricted site and we have limited options for providing additional capacity. We are continuing to explore options for a new school in the wider area to cater for future demographic growth.

I am releasing to you, as Appendix A to this letter, the documents listed in the table below, underlying our discussions with the Silverdale Primary School Board of Trustees about plans for accommodating roll growth at their school.

Document Number	Date	Document Description
1	21 March 2016	Approval of Amendment to Enrolment Scheme – Silverdale School
2	2016	Silverdale School – Roll Projections
3	June 2015	Silverdale School – Change of Class and Zone Amendment Analysis
4	June 2015	Silverdale School – Zone Amendment Analysis
5	June 2015	Silverdale School – Roll Projections
6	15 October 2014	Hibiscus Coast Area Schooling Review – Final Report
7	October 2013	Demographic Analysis for Silverdale School
8	3 April 2013	Silverdale School – letter to amend the school zone
9	January 2012	Roll Growth Analysis for Silverdale School
10	January 2009	Roll Growth Analysis for Silverdale School

We have let the school Board know that we are releasing these documents to a member of the public under the Act.

Thank you again for your email. You have the right to ask an Ombudsman to review this decision. You can do this by writing to info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

I trust this information is helpful.

Yours sincerely



Kim Shannon
Deputy Secretary
Sector Enablement and Support

Appendix A