

Branston Intermediate School – Rationale for change

This document has been prepared to assist discussions with parents and communities about proposals for education renewal for greater Christchurch.

Why is change needed?

A strong education network is vital for the renewal of greater Christchurch.

The extent of damage and ongoing impact of people movement in the wake of the 2010 and 2011 earthquakes mean it cannot be restored to the way it was.

We need to accept in areas that have been depopulated we will have to do things differently, which will inevitably mean some change to services. The viability of existing individual schools and increased demand for new schools are a key consideration going forward.

The earthquakes, while devastating, have provided an opportunity beyond simply replacing what was there, to restore, consolidate and rejuvenate to provide new and improved facilities that will reshape education, improve the options and outcomes for learners, and support greater diversity and choice.

Education renewal for greater Christchurch is about meeting the needs and aspirations of children and young people. We want to ensure the approach addresses inequities and improves outcomes while prioritising action that will have a positive impact on learners in greatest need of assistance.

With the cost of renewal considerable, the ideal will be tempered by a sense of what is pragmatic and realistic. Key considerations are the practicalities of existing sites and buildings, the shifts in population distribution and concentration, the development of new communities and a changing urban infrastructure.

Innovative, cost effective, and sustainable options for organising and funding educational opportunities must be explored to provide for diversity and choice in an economically viable way.

Discussions with schools, communities and providers within learning community clusters have and will continue to be key to informing decisions around the overall future shape of each education community. Ways to enhance infrastructure and address existing property issues, improve education outcomes, and consider future governance will form part of these discussions which are running in parallel to consultation around formal proposals.

“We have a chance to set up something really good here so we need to do our best to get it right” – submission to Directions for Education Renewal across greater Christchurch.

Why is it proposed my school close?

People movement and land and or building damage as a result of the earthquakes are the catalysts for change across the network across greater Christchurch.

Many school buildings suffered significant damage, school sites have been compromised and there were 4,311 fewer student enrolments across greater Christchurch at July 2012 compared to July 2010¹.

Even before the earthquake there were around 5,000 spaces already under utilised in the network.

Branston Intermediate is on a large site that is ideally located to service new areas of residential growth. However, the school has a very small roll for an intermediate and is currently only operating to 54% of its roll capacity which makes it a heavily under utilised school compared to its potential capacity.

While the school has minimal earthquake damage and is in reasonable condition, its buildings require earthquake strengthening which will require significant investment. The investment required would make it one of the most expensive schools to repair and remediate on a cost per learner basis.

Rather than spend a large amount of money on a facility that will only benefit a small number of learners across two year groups, the Ministry proposes to close Branston Intermediate and relocate South Hornby School onto the Branston site. South Hornby School is a year 1-6 contributing primary located in close proximity.

Relocating South Hornby School onto the Branston Intermediate site would allow for significantly better utilisation of the site, and provision of modern facilities for a significantly larger number of learners. Existing students in both schools would still have access to a school in their community. It also provides an opportunity to provide a full primary service near to areas of new residential development on a site that is large enough to meet future expected growth in the area.

Land

Surrounding land is predominately CERA technical category 1 (TC1).

While geotechnical considerations are unlikely to be a significant factor at this site, preliminary assessments suggest further investigation will be required if further development is undertaken on this site.

Buildings

The buildings on the Branston Intermediate site have suffered some degree of earthquake damage. This covers a wide spectrum from minor cracking to ceiling and wall finishes to repointing of brick work.

Some buildings will also require earthquake strengthening. Detailed Engineering Evaluations (DEE's) have commenced and are scheduled to be complete mid 2013; these reports will confirm the exact scale of this work.

Buildings on site have also been flagged for weather tightness remediation.

¹ This figure includes international fee-paying students.

Indicative Ten Year Property Costs*

Indicative Ten Year Property Costs for Branston Intermediate	\$7.9 million
<i>Note: This figure may vary from amounts previously presented and may be subject to change when more detailed assessments are completed.</i>	

The above costs are predominately structural strengthening remediation works.

**These preliminary cost estimates are based upon information, data and research carried out by external parties. They are dependent on the information and assumptions included. While these results may vary as further information and/or assumptions are modified, these preliminary estimates will continue to provide the initial basis for the cost of these projects.*

Cost estimate information

For condition assessment – a physical site inspection was undertaken of every building to evaluate the anticipated maintenance requirements at each school for the next 10 years.

For assessing earthquake damage – the recording and quantifying of earthquake damage and indicative repair costs from all events was undertaken. These reports were reviewed by professional loss adjustors and are being used to support the Ministry's insurance claim.

For assessing structural strengthening – Information gathered via a national desktop study and during site visits by project managers and engineers has informed indicative assessments around strengthening which have been, or are being confirmed through the Detailed Engineering Evaluation (DEE) process. All follow up site specific invasive investigations are being carried out by qualified engineers who interpret the findings and recommend further testing as appropriate.

For assessing weather tightness – cost estimates were developed as part of a national survey of all school buildings. Further detailed assessments were carried out on buildings identified through this exercise.

People

Branston Intermediate had a July 2012 roll of 180, which is less than the roll in 2010 and 2008. This roll is considered small for an intermediate school.

Rolls of schools in the cluster: Total July rolls 2008, 2010, 2012²

School Name	Type	Authority	2008	2010	2012
St Bernadette's School (Hornby)	Full Primary (Year 1-8)	State: Integrated	151	140	141
Gilberthorpe School	Contributing (Year 1-6)	State	111	98	104
Hornby Primary School	Contributing (Year 1-6)	State	144	149	143
Sockburn School	Contributing (Year 1-6)	State	215	155	131

² July School Rolls are total July rolls, excluding international fee paying students.

School Name	Type	Authority	2008	2010	2012
South Hornby School	Contributing (Year 1-6)	State	297	304	302
Templeton School	Full Primary (Year 1-8)	State	343	339	346
Yaldhurst Model School	Full Primary (Year 1-8)	State	129	116	123
Primary Total			1,390	1,301	1,290
Branston Intermediate	Intermediate (year 7 and 8)	State	233	191	180
Intermediate Total			233	191	180
Hornby High School	Secondary (Year 9-15)	State	452	471	426
Secondary Total			452	471	426
McKenzie Residential School	Special School	State	29	29	29
Waitaha School	Special School	State	18	20	32

Student Distribution Patterns³

Based on July 2012 student address data:

Years 7-8

Seventy four percent of year 7-8 students living in the Hornby cluster catchment attended a state school, 23% were enrolled at state integrated schools and a further 3% at private schools.

Years 9-15

Seventy five percent of year 9-15 students living in the Hornby cluster catchment attended a state school, 22% were enrolled at state integrated schools and a further 3% were enrolled at private schools.

Note: Information on year 9-15 students has been included to reflect the option for Hornby High School to become a year 7-15 secondary school if Branston Intermediate were to close.

³ Analysis includes all crown 'funded' students only, i.e. regular, regular adult, returning adult & extramural. It reflects the student's home address – which bears no relationship to the school they were enrolled at. Not all student records were address matched.

Schools with the highest number of year 7-8 students living in the Branston Intermediate cluster catchment.

School	Authority	# students ⁴	% ⁵
Branston Intermediate	State	169	33%
Kirkwood Intermediate	State	61	12%
Templeton School	State	57	11%
St Bernadette's School (Hornby)	State: Integrated	31	6%
Middleton Grange School	State: Integrated	20	4%
St Thomas of Canterbury College	State: Integrated	19	4%
Russley School	State	16	3%
Our Lady of Victories	State: Integrated	16	3%
Yaldhurst Model School	State	10	2%
Riccarton School	State	9	2%

Just under half (46%) of year 7-8 students living in the Hornby cluster catchment attended one of the three local state schools providing year 7-8 education.

About a third, (169) of the 515 year 7-8 students living in the Hornby cluster catchment were enrolled at Branston Intermediate.

Schools with the highest number of year 9-15 students living in the Branston Intermediate cluster catchment.

School	Authority	# students ⁶	% ⁷
Hornby High School	State	370	35%
Riccarton High School	State	135	13%
St Thomas of Canterbury College	State: Integrated	83	8%
Lincoln High School	State	74	7%
Villa Maria College	State: Integrated	73	7%
Burnside High School	State	62	6%
Hagley Community College	State	39	4%
Middleton Grange School	State: Integrated	35	3%
Hillmorton High School	State	28	3%
Christchurch Boys' High School	State	23	2%

There were 1,068 year 9-15 students residing in the Hornby cluster of which 35% (370 students) were enrolled at Hornby High School.

⁴ Number of all year 7-8 students in the cluster that attend a given school

⁵ Percentage of all year 7-8 students in the cluster that attend a given school

⁶ Number of all year 9-15 students in the cluster that attend a given school

⁷ Percentage of all year 9-15 students in the cluster that attend a given school

Population change⁸

There were 3,011 students living in the Hornby cluster catchment in March 2010 compared to 2,985 in March 2012 (based on March address matched roll data)⁹.

This indicates that no significant school age population change has occurred over this period.

While there has been no significant change in total student numbers over the past two years, there are several large scale greenfield residential developments (Wigram, Masham) proposed within this cluster, which are projected to result in around 2,000 additional households by 2021¹⁰.

Household numbers are projected to grow by a further 1,000 by 2041.

Note: The timing of growth is influenced by a number of factors such as economic and social determinants many of which remain uncertain following the earthquakes.

The Ministry will continue to work with agencies such as Christchurch City Council and CERA on projected population change.

What would proposed closure mean for the school and its community?

As at July 2012 there were 515 year 7-8 students residing in the Hornby cluster.

Just over a third (36%) or 184 of these students lived within a 1 km radius of current year 7-8 state school provision (Branston Intermediate, Templeton School, Yaldhurst Model School).

This would reduce to 176 students (34%) if Branston Intermediate were to close and Yaldhurst Model School were to merge with Gilberthorpe School (as is also being proposed) and Hornby High School became a year 7-15 secondary school, which is an option.

Closing Branston Intermediate would enable funding to be invested in the nearby schools where the majority of the learners would most likely go, and into the network generally to provide modern learning environments for a larger number of students

Relocating South Hornby School onto the Branston site would provide an opportunity to provide a full primary service near to areas of new residential development on a site that is large enough to meet future expected growth in the area.

It would also allow for significantly better utilisation of the site and provision of new modern facilities for a significantly larger number of learners without unduly inconveniencing those currently attending either school.

Safe and inspiring learning environments are key to meeting the New Zealand Property vision for greater Christchurch schools, which means:

- Ensuring any health and safety and infrastructural issues are addressed

⁹ March data has been used for the comparison across the period 2010 to 2012, as no relevant historical July student address data exists.

⁹ Note this is a count of student address data points, not total school roll.

¹⁰ Source: Greater Christchurch Household Scenarios 2011-2041, Prepared for the UDS Partners, March 2012. Figures quoted are based on the 'BAU Quick Scenario' household projections and are compared to pre-earthquake 2011 household data.

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- Taking into account whole of life cost considerations, to allow cost over the life of the asset, rather than initial capital cost to drive repair or replacement decisions
 - Enabling all entitlement teaching spaces to be upgraded to meet the 'Sheerin' Core modern learning environment standard – which has a strong focus on heating lighting, acoustics, ventilation and ICT infrastructure upgrades.

This will include provision of appropriate shared facilities across schools within a cluster that can be used by both schools and the community and other agencies as appropriate.

The Ministry will ensure appropriate provision for learners within this cluster to support any changes that may result from consultation.

The Ministry will provide information around enrolment options to families and provide required support.

The provisions of the respective employment agreements will apply.

If a decision to close is made the school property will go into a disposal process.

How would the proposed closure of my school fit into the overall plan for my learning community cluster?

Renewal focuses on the cluster of provision within an education community and the collective impact of people movement and land and building damage across the entire provision within the cluster.

The future of your learners should continue to feature in the wider cluster discussion.

In the first instance this is because the cluster may have thoughts around alternative options that will meet the overarching needs of this cluster to not only revitalise infrastructure but also enhance educational outcomes across this education community that it wishes to contribute during consultation.

The cluster will also need to consider how learners might be accommodated in the future should a decision be made to close the school. The cluster would want to consider how enhanced provision that might be required to support moving student populations might look.

How would the proposed closure of my school fit into the overall plan for the network as a whole?

The proposed closure of Branston Intermediate is one of several proposed changes for the Hornby cluster. Other proposed changes include:

- The merger of Yaldhurst Model School and Gilberthorpe School
- Relocation of South Hornby School to the Branston Intermediate site
- Relocation of Sockburn School to a new site in the Wigram development.

These proposed changes are intended to provide a spatially sensible and sustainable primary school network that reflects the areas of growth in the Hornby cluster.

Changing Hornby High School from a year 9-15 secondary school to a year 7-15 secondary school is one option for consideration should the proposed changes be adopted.

Facts and Figures

School Rolls are confirmed total 1 July rolls, excluding international fee paying students.

Student Distribution data is drawn primarily from the address matched July 2012 School roll return dataset (excluding international fee paying students). Where March 2010 and March 2012 student address data has been used, the use of these datasets is indicated.

Individual student records have been cleaned of all sensitive data and address matched (geocoded) to street addresses. Not all student records were address matched, as some records were not able to be geocoded, and student records identified with a privacy risk indicator have been excluded from the data. Across all schools in greater Christchurch, approximately 95% of records were address matched.

Where a school has an enrolment scheme, this is legally defined in a written description and is available from the relevant school. School enrolment scheme “home zones” or “school zones” are legally defined in the written description, and the display of any enrolment zone in a map is only a visual representation of the written description. School enrolment schemes, enrolment zones, and associated maps are reviewed periodically

Land and infrastructure information has been drawn from a variety of sources as outlined above.

Utilisation: The amount of student space being used (peak roll) as a percentage of the total student spaces available. Total student space has been based on the number of classrooms as at February 2012.

Peak rolls used: Primary – the October 2011 roll

Secondary and Intermediate – the March 2012 roll return

Relevant reports and documentation will be provided.

Contact us

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