

Education renewal in greater Christchurch

29 May Decisions Summary Document

Since the 7.1 magnitude earthquake on 4 September 2010, Canterbury has experienced more than 11,000 earthquakes.

The education sector, just like everything else in greater Christchurch, has experienced huge disruption.

Buildings have been damaged and students have had to move to other schools and in some cases to other regions, not to mention the emotional toll it has taken on everyone.

The face and makeup of greater Christchurch has changed and will continue to change and the education sector needs to respond to those changes.

There's no question greater Christchurch will be rebuilt, but just as it will look different once it is rebuilt, so too will the education sector.

Investing in the future

The Government is investing \$1 billion into restoring and renewing the education sector in Canterbury over the next 10 years.

At the end of this process, greater Christchurch will have one of the most modern schooling networks in the country that will serve communities for many years to come, and help each and every child get a great education.

There were already around 5,000 places available in schools across greater Christchurch before the earthquakes, and a further 4,300 children have not re-enrolled meaning there are now 9,300 places available – that's equivalent to the entire student population of Gisborne.

The earthquakes provided us with an opportunity to have a look at all the schools across greater Christchurch and see what we could do better.

We've looked at earthquake damage, population movement and future population growth, building issues, school locations and what opportunities exist to create more modern 21st century schools, with great new facilities that also maximise the use of new technology, including access to ultra fast broadband.

We have a chance to build brighter, more modern schools in better locations, which will ensure all children have access to good, quality education within a reasonable distance of where they live.

Renewing education

In September 2012, Education Minister Hekia Parata announced that the Government is investing \$1 billion into renewing the education sector in greater Christchurch. This investment will include building or rebuilding 15 schools.

The Education Minister also announced plans to consult on proposals to close or merge 38 schools as a part of the education renewal plan for greater Christchurch.

Two of the 38 schools (Hammersley Park and Le Bons Bay) requested voluntary closure and closed on 27 January 2013.



Interim decisions

On 18 February 2013 the Education Minister announced interim decisions for 31 of the 38 schools affected by the Government's education renewal plans.

Throughout this process we have made the consultation time frames longer than is usual and have provided affected schools with extra support including: a Teachers Only Day, an independent facilitator to undertake consultation and prepare the submissions on behalf of the Board of Trustees, and provision for relief staffing one day a week. We also set up an online community forum. At all times during all phases of the consultation process, wellbeing support has been available to schools staff, parents and children. The Ministry's Education Wellbeing Response team will continue to ensure this support remains available as needed.

We appointed three advisory boards made up of local community members, along with former Secretary for Education, Karen Sewell, as a special advisor and former Christchurch Boys' High School Headmaster, Trevor McIntyre, as an executive advisor, to ensure community voices were heard.

The Education Minister has also visited affected schools to hear directly from parents, teachers, students and wider school communities.

The Minister announced that 12 schools proposed for closure or merger should remain open as separate schools, and 19 schools should either close or merge.

Twelve schools have since accepted those interim decisions. The Minister subsequently finalised those decisions and announced them on 27 March.

The five Aranui schools were given until 7 March 2013 to consult on their proposal, while the remaining 31 schools provided feedback to the Education Minister in December.

Interim decisions for the five Aranui schools were announced on 22 May.

Consultation and feedback on interim decisions

The 31 schools affected in the February announcement were given until 28 March 2013 to provide feedback on the interim decisions. Additional support was provided to schools in the form of a paid facilitator and the time allowed was six weeks – longer than the 28 days required. The Education Minister also made a second visit to listen to feedback to those schools who accepted the invitation.

The Ministry of Education carefully assessed each submission, sought updated information where it was available and in some cases undertook further analysis. Detailed reports on each interim decision were then provided to the Education Minister on 19 April 2013.

The reports examined all feedback and submissions made by each board throughout consultation, analysing the effects and implications for different options.

The Education Minister took all of this information into account before making her final decisions.

The reports and information that were available to the Education Minister are available on the Ministry of Education website **www.shapingeducation.govt.nz**.



Summary of final decisions and new proposals

Final decisions for 16 schools and new proposals for three schools were announced on 29 May 2013.

In summary, the decisions were:

- » seven schools in greater Christchurch will close
- » six schools will merge to form three schools

- » three schools that were part of two merge proposals will not merge and will remain open on their current sites
- » three schools that were part of two merge proposals will be subject to consultation on two new proposals.

Schools to close

Glenmoor School

In February 2013, after considering the Board's submission about the proposal along with wider information, including from the Ministry of Education, the Education Minister made an interim decision that Glenmoor School should close.

After considering all feedback on the interim decision, the Minister's final decision was to close Glenmoor School. This decision was based on the school's small roll, which is considered unlikely to increase in the near to medium future, regardless of whether the Highfield Park development proceeds. It was also based on the relatively high cost to repair and earthquake strengthen the school's buildings, and the fact that nearby schools have the capacity to enrol more children. This closure will take effect on 27 January 2014. The nearest state primary schools children from Glenmoor School could attend include Mairehau School, Papanui School and Paparoa Street School.

Greenpark School

In February 2013, after considering the Board's submission about the proposal along with wider information, including from the Ministry of Education, the Education Minister made an interim decision that Greenpark School should close.

After considering all feedback on the interim decision, the Minister's final decision was to close Greenpark School. This decision was based on the school's small roll and the significant investment that would be required to modernise the school buildings. This closure will take effect on 27 January 2014. The nearest state primary schools children from Greenpark School could attend include Springston School, Tai Tapu School, and Lincoln Primary School.

Kendal School

In February 2013, after considering the Board's submission about the proposal along with wider information, including from the Ministry of Education, the Education Minister made an interim decision that Kendal School should close.

After considering all feedback on the interim decision, the Minister's final decision was to close Kendal School. This decision was based on the school's small roll, the investment required to repair, strengthen and modernise school buildings, and the fact that nearby schools have the ability to enrol more children. This closure will take effect on 27 January 2014. The nearest state primary schools children from Kendal School could attend include Burnside Primary School, Isleworth School, Roydvale School and Wairakei School.



Richmond School

In February 2013, after considering the Board's submission about the proposal along with wider information, including from the Ministry of Education, the Education Minister made an interim decision that Richmond School should close.

After considering all feedback on the interim decision, the Minister's final decision is that Richmond School will

close on 27 January 2014. This decision was based on the school's small, declining roll and its proximity to the red zone, which makes the roll unlikely to grow in the near to medium future. The nearest state primary schools children from Richmond School could attend include Banks Avenue School, Christchurch East School, Linwood North School, Shirley School and St Albans School.

Intermediates to close

Branston Intermediate School

In February 2013, after considering the Board's submission about the proposal along with wider information, including from the Ministry of Education, the Education Minister made an interim decision that Branston Intermediate School should close.

After considering all feedback on the interim decision, the Minister's final decision was to close Branston Intermediate School. This decision was based on the school's low roll and the significant investment required to repair and strengthen its buildings. This closure will take effect on 27 January 2014

The Minister also decided to change the class of Hornby High School to become a Year 7-13 composite school from the beginning of Term 1, 2014. This decision will enhance Year 7-8 students' access to specialist resources and provide greater flexibility for wider curriculum delivery.

Linwood Intermediate

In February 2013, after considering the Board's submission about the proposal along with wider information, including from the Ministry of Education, the Education Minister made an interim decision that Linwood Intermediate should close.

After considering all feedback on the interim decision, the Minister's final decision was to close Linwood Intermediate School. This decision was based on the school's low roll, the low roll of all schools within the cluster, the investment required to repair and strengthen its buildings and the opportunity this presents to enhance education within the cluster. This closure will take effect on 27 January 2014

The Minister also decided to change the class of Linwood College to become a Year 7-13 composite school from the beginning of Term 1, 2014. This decision will enhance Year 7-8 students' access to specialist resources and provide greater flexibility for wider curriculum delivery.



Manning Intermediate

In February 2013, after considering the Board's submission about the proposal along with wider information including from the Ministry of Education, the Education Minister made an interim decision that Manning Intermediate School should close.

After considering all feedback on the interim decision, the Minister's final decision is that Manning Intermediate School will close on 27 January 2014.

The decision was based on the school's low roll, surplus capacity in other local schools, and the significant investment required to repair and strengthen its buildings.

The Minister also decided to change the class of Hillmorton High School to become a Year 7-13 composite school from the beginning of Term 1, 2014. This decision will enhance Year 7-8 students' access to specialist resources and provide greater flexibility for wider curriculum delivery.

Schools to merge

Burwood School and Windsor School

In February 2013, after considering the Board's submission about the proposal, along with information from the Ministry of Education, the Education Minister made an interim decision that Burwood School and Windsor School should merge.

After considering all feedback on the interim decision, the Minister's final decision was to merge Burwood School and Windsor School. This decision was based on Burwood School's proximity to the residential red zone and the resultant fall in the local school-age population, and also the significant cost to remediate property at both schools. This merger will take effect on 27 January 2014.

The merged school will initially operate on both the Burwood School and Windsor School sites. It is expected that the merged school will operate on just the Windsor School site from the beginning of 2016 when new facilities are established and the site can accommodate all of the school's children.

Phillipstown School and Woolston School

In February 2013, after considering the Board's submission about the proposal along with information from the Ministry of Education, the Education Minister made an interim decision that Phillipstown School

and Woolston School should merge on the Woolston School site. After considering all feedback, the Minister's final decision was unchanged from the interim decision.

The final decision to merge Woolston School and Phillipstown School was made based on the oversupply of primary places in the area, the earthquake damage to Phillipstown School, and the other property related issues that need to be addressed at the two schools. It is more cost effective to provide a modern learning environment at one school than repairing, strengthening and modernising buildings at each school separately; and Woolston School is well placed in the network to provide for primary education.

This merger will take effect on 27 January 2014. The merged school will operate from the Woolston School site from Term 1, 2014.

Lyttelton Main School and Lyttelton West School

In February 2013, after considering the Board's submission about the proposal, along with information from the Ministry of Education, the Education Minister made an interim decision that Lyttelton Main School and Lyttelton West School should merge.

After considering all feedback on the interim decision, the Minister's final decision is to merge Lyttelton Main School and Lyttelton



West School, and that this merger will take effect on 5 May 2014, the beginning of Term 2, 2014. This decision was made because Lyttelton does not have a sufficiently large enough school age population to support two separate primary schools, the schools are less than one kilometre apart and both have low rolls. In addition, the opportunity to merge and rebuild on the Lyttelton Main School site allows more children to access modern learning environments in new school buildings.

The merged school is likely to operate on two sites (St Joseph's School and Lyttelton West School) until additional land has been purchased and property development is completed at the Lyttelton Main School site. It is expected that the merged school will operate on just the Lyttelton Main School site from Term 3, 2015.

Schools to remain on current sites

Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Waitaha and Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Te Whānau Tahi.

After carefully reviewing the feedback presented, the Minister has decided to confirm the interim decision that Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Waitaha and Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Te Whānau Tahi will not merge and will remain open. Following consultation, it was also decided that they will both continue, as separate entities, on their current sites.

The initial proposal and the Minister's interim decision were focused on increasing access to immersion Māori medium education across Christchurch, and raising Māori achievement. It is clear that there is significant potential, with about 450 students of a potential pool of about 8,500 Māori students participating either in kura or bilingual units at this time.

The proposal was aimed at increasing provision for that potential pool. However, the Minister was not persuaded that the demand was demonstrated sufficiently, nor the commitment of a founding whānau community at this time. Accordingly, after careful consideration, she decided to retain both Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Te Whānau Tahi and Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Waitaha in their current locations, and in so doing, expect that they will actively work to fill their roll to its full capacity.

South New Brighton

In February 2013, after considering the Board's submission about the proposal, along with information from the Ministry of Education, the Education Minister made an interim decision that South New Brighton School and Central New Brighton School should merge.

After considering all feedback on the interim decision, the Minister's final decision was that South New Brighton School and Central New Brighton School will not merge and that South New Brighton School will remain open as a separate entity. The decision was based on analysis of submissions from all of the New Brighton schools, and Ministry demographic information that indicated that only a small proportion of children at the merged school would be from Central New Brighton School. Given this, putting both schools through a merger process was not considered to be in the best interests of the Brighton schooling network.

The Minister has now initiated further consultation about the future of Central New Brighton School. This consultation includes the possible closure of Central New Brighton School or the possible merger of Central New Brighton, Freeville and North New Brighton Schools on the North New Brighton School site.



New Proposals for New Brighton Schools

In February 2013, after considering the Board's submission about the proposal along with analysis from the Ministry of Education, the Education Minister made an interim decision that Central New Brighton School and South New Brighton School should merge. The Minister also made an interim decision to merge Freeville School with North New Brighton School on the North New Brighton site.

After considering all feedback on the interim decision, the Minister has decided that Central New Brighton School and South New Brighton School will not merge.

The Minister also decided to initiate further consultation on two proposals for the future of Central New Brighton School, and to defer her final decision on the proposed merger of Freeville School and North New Brighton School on the North New Brighton School site as part of this consultation. This decision is deferred because the two schools form part of the two new proposals.

The proposals for consultation are:

» **Option One – Merger of Central New Brighton School, Freeville School, and North New Brighton School on the North New Brighton School site.**

Should the Minister's decision be to merge the three schools, it would be effective 5 May 2014 (the beginning of Term 2). Her decision will be a final decision and no further consultation will be necessary. Children would attend school on the Freeville School and North New Brighton School sites from Term 2, 2014. It is expected that the new merged school buildings would be completed and all children would attend school on the North New Brighton School site from 2016.

» **Option Two – Closure of Central New Brighton School, and merger of Freeville School and North New Brighton School on the North New Brighton School site.**

Should the Minister's interim decision be to close Central New Brighton School, she would invite the Board to provide her with any reasons it has in favour of the school remaining open before she makes a final decision. If she makes a final decision to close Central New Brighton School, it would be effective from 5 May 2014 (the beginning of Term 2). She would also make a final decision about the proposed merger of Freeville School and North New Brighton School at this time.

Should the Minister's final decision be to close Central New Brighton School and merge Freeville School and North New Brighton School, affected Brighton school children could attend the merged school on the North New Brighton School site or South New Brighton School.

The decision to consult on these new proposals was based on analysis of submissions from all of the Brighton Schools, and Ministry demographic information that indicated that only a small proportion of children at the merged school would be from Central New Brighton School. The Minister considered that given this would be the case, putting both schools through a merger process was not in the best interests of the Brighton schooling network.



Enrolment schemes

Some of the school closure/merger decisions will result in changes to enrolment schemes. The Ministry has worked to ensure that all students can attend a local school, and this has meant

that special temporary enrolment schemes have been put in place from 29 May 2013. A review of all enrolment schemes in greater Christchurch will be undertaken in 2014.

Technology provision

The Ministry has considered the schools that are currently accessing technology provision from schools that are closing/merging. Alternative technology provision has been planned and affected schools will be contacted directly.

Four schools currently providing technology provision for year 7 and 8 students are directly affected by final decisions: Branston Intermediate, Linwood Intermediate, Manning Intermediate and Phillipstown School.

These schools offer technology provision for their own students as well as students from other schools.

It is proposed that the Branston Intermediate provision be maintained on the Branston site but managed by

the Board and Principal of Hornby High School. It is also proposed that the provision for technology at Linwood Intermediate move to Linwood College, and the provision at Manning Intermediate move to Hillmorton High School.

Technology provision will be maintained on the Phillipstown site and be managed by the Board and Principal of the newly merged school.

All of these are short-term arrangements, whilst local schools and Learning Community Clusters work with the Ministry to develop longer-term plans for future technology provision.

This will include considering alternative patterns of provision across greater Christchurch.

Early childhood education

The Ministry has worked with five affected ECE providers to develop plans for continuation of their services. The Ministry has agreed that the services on the Glenmoor, North New Brighton and Phillipstown sites will remain where they are.

The service on the Lyttelton West site will remain where it is until the school moves to the Lyttelton Main site. The service on the Kendal School site only has a temporary lease, and Ministry officials are exploring long-term options for this service.

Special education

Only one school which has satellite provision for children enrolled at a special school is affected by the proposals - Glenmoor School, which currently hosts seven children enrolled at Ferndale Special School.

We will work with the schools to develop individual transition plans to ensure that these children continue to have suitable provision after Glenmoor School closes in January 2014.



Māori medium education

The Ministry has developed plans to ensure that children in the five affected schools which offer provision of Māori medium education are able to continue this after the changes.

The Ministry is already working on a longer-term strategy for Māori medium education across greater Christchurch.

Closed school sites

The Ministry will work with LINZ to actively manage the disposal process of school sites to ensure, where practicable, they do not remain empty for long periods of time.

The Ministry will move fast once decisions are announced to work with other agencies to explore innovative use of empty school sites.

Support for the transitions

Employee Assistance Programme (EAP) will be available from their office in Mandeville street, Christchurch or via phone **0800 327 669** on 30 May 2013 and thereafter.

A package of wellbeing support is available to schools and staff. The Ministry's Education Wellbeing Response (EWR) team will work with schools to tailor individual school wellbeing plans.

Each closing and merging school will have a change manager who, along with the school Board and principal, will be meeting with and providing information to schools.

Families will be kept informed as plans are developed so that they know what they need to do and when they need to do it.

Staff are encouraged to discuss their situation with their employer and seek advice from their union, or if not a union member, with an appropriate advisor.

Plans will be put in place to ensure transitions are well managed and further information for parents and caregivers about supporting children is available from their school, online at **www.tki.wellbeing.org.nz** or by contacting the Ministry.

For more information

Visit **www.shapingeducation.govt.nz**, call the Ministry of Education on **0800 746 338** or email: **shaping.education@minedu.govt.nz**

