Briefing Note: Rototuna Primary School – Accommodation concerns

To: Hon Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education

Date: 12 March 2019
Priority: Low

Security Level: In Confidence
METIS No: 1178439

Key Contact: Sam Fowler
Acting Deputy Head – Capital Works

Messaging seen by Communications team: No
Round Robin: No

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this paper is to provide you with additional information about the redevelopment project at Rototuna Primary School that has been the subject of correspondence from the Board of Trustees Chair. A proposed draft reply is attached.

Summary

- The Ministry of Education is on track to deliver three temporary roll growth teaching spaces for the commencement of term 2, 2019.
- A Capital Works project to deliver a permanent 10 teaching space block is underway.
- To address ongoing roll growth challenges across the Hamilton network, a Roll Growth Strategy will be developed by the Ministry’s Sector Enablement and Support team, in consultation with schools in the network.
- Roll-growth funding is allocated and prioritised through the annual Budget process.
- The project does not include the provision of additional non-teaching space. Any investment in non-teaching space will be prioritised alongside the need for teaching and non-teaching space in other high growth areas.
- Agree that this Briefing will be proactively released.

Agree / Disagree

Kim Shannon
Education Infrastructure Service

Hon Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education
Background

1. In 2017, while planning for the delivery of 3 new teaching spaces at Rototuna Primary School, it became apparent that a longer term solution was needed to accommodate their growing roll. Funding for an additional 7 classrooms was announced in June 2018.

2. Permanent roll growth solutions in existing schools can be complex and can take time to plan and deliver due to constrained sites, and schools needing to continue to operate during construction.

3. The design and consenting activities for the 10 teaching space project will be progressed over the coming months, with construction estimated to commence over the 2019/20 summer break.

4. To alleviate the immediate pressure, three temporary classrooms have been sourced and procurement is close to being concluded for completion of the necessary site work. The Ministry expects the classrooms will be available at the commencement of term two.

5. The Board Chair has expressed concern in regard to delays in progressing the project, and his belief that the school will require a further six to eight teaching spaces, in addition to the 10 planned, by the end of 2020.

6. Rototuna Primary School has a constrained site and adding further additional teaching spaces, at the expense of green space, may not be the best solution.

7. The Ministry's Sector Enablement and Support team will shortly engage with the wider school network in the Hamilton area to facilitate the development of an area Roll Growth Strategy, in order to address ongoing roll growth challenges.

8. Roll-growth funding is allocated through the annual Budget process and the Ministry then prioritises this funding, seeking to respond to those schools with the greatest need for additional accommodation through a combination of temporary and permanent works. The Ministry is also delivering new schools in areas where demand for new places supports this.

Non-teaching space

9. The project provides additional learning spaces but does not expand non-teaching space. Over recent Budgets roll growth investment has been targeted to teaching space and expansion of non-teaching spaces has not been planned or funded [SWC-18-MIN-0183 refers].

10. Master planning for Rototuna Primary School will consider the future delivery of non-teaching space, but any investment in these spaces will need to be prioritised alongside the need for teaching and non-teaching space in other high growth areas.

Next Steps

11. The Ministry will continue to progress the delivery of the three temporary teaching spaces for the commencement of term 2, 2019.

12. A comprehensive delivery programme is being prepared for mid-March, and this will provide the Board and school with clear timeframes and milestones for the delivery of the works.

Proactive Release

13. We recommend that this Briefing is proactively released as per your expectation that information be released as soon as possible. Any information which may need to be withheld will be done so in line with the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982.