Education Report: Approval to establish Scott Point Primary School in Hobsonville, Auckland

<table>
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<tr>
<th>To:</th>
<th>Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date:</td>
<td>18 February 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Security Level:</td>
<td>In Confidence</td>
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<tr>
<td>Drafter:</td>
<td>Janet Schofield</td>
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<tr>
<td>Key Contact:</td>
<td>Isabel Evans Director Education, Auckland</td>
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<td>Messaging seen by Communications team:</td>
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| Priority: | Medium |
| METIS No: | 1173738 |
| DDI:      | s 9(2)(a) |

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to seek your approval to establish a new Year 1 – 8 school at 11 Scott Road, Hobsonville, that is planned to open at all year levels in Term 1, 2021. The site will include a satellite unit of the Blind and Low Vision Education Network NZ (BLENNZ).

You are asked to:

Note that on 4 July 2018 it was announced that as part of Budget 2018 an education investment package for Auckland would include a new primary school at Scott Point in Hobsonville;

Note that the Ministry of Education has purchased a site at 11 Scott Road, Hobsonville, to accommodate a Year 1 – 8 primary school and to house a satellite unit of BLENNZ;

Approve establishment of Scott Point Primary School on the site, to open for instruction in Term 1, 2021; and

Approve use of the site by BLENNZ for operation of an off-site unit.

Summary

1. The Ministry of Education recommends that you approve the establishment of a new primary school (Years 1 – 8) at 11 Scott Road, Hobsonville, Auckland. It is proposed that the school would be open for instruction at all year levels in 2021.
2. Scott Point is located approximately 11 km north west of central Auckland and is part of the Upper Harbour area, which has experienced rapid growth in recent years. Housing developments at Hobsonville and surrounding areas are well underway.

3. Scott Point is to be developed as a sustainable community to increase the supply of housing, including affordable housing. It will have an integrated transport network.

4. The Special Housing Area development for Scott Point has an estimated yield of 2,700 - 3,000 dwellings in tranche 2 which could generate up to 900 children of primary school age.

5. In addition, the surrounding Special Housing Areas (SHA) currently under development have an estimated yield of 3,500 dwellings which could generate a further 1,050 primary-aged children over the next 15 years.

6. The Ministry has purchased a site comprising 4.05 hectares at 11 Scott Road, Hobsonville. As well as the primary school, the site is to house a satellite unit of BLENNZ.

7. Consultation regarding the establishment of Scott Point Primary School has been carried out under section 157 of the Education Act 1989 (the Act) with schools whose rolls might be affected. No objections were raised.

8. On 4 July 2018 it was announced that $332m was made available through Budget 2018 to meet roll growth pressure in Auckland. It was also announced that this included an education investment package for Auckland and that a new primary school at Scott Point in Hobsonville was to be part of this provision.

9. If you agree to establish the school an Establishment Board of Trustees (EBoT) of 5 members will be appointed.
Recommended Actions

The Ministry of Education recommends that you:

a. note that the Government approved funding for Scott Point Primary School as part of Budget 2018;

   Noted

b. approve the establishment of a Year 1 – 8 primary school under section 146 of the Education Act 1989 (the Act), to be known initially as Scott Point Primary School, and situated at 11 Scott Road, Hobsonville, Auckland;

   Approve / Decline

c. sign the attached New Zealand Gazette notice establishing the school;

d. announce your decision to establish the school by releasing the attached media statement;

e. note that if you agree to recommendation (b) above, the Ministry will exercise delegation to appoint an Establishment Board of Trustees for the school;

   Noted

f. agree to the use of the site by Blind and Low Vision New Zealand (BLENNZ) for operation of an off-site unit pursuant to section 71A of the Act;

   Agree / Disagree

e. sign the attached letters to local MPs and BLENNZ advising your decisions; and

f. agree to proactively release this Education Report as per your expectations that information be released as soon as possible. Any information that might need to be withheld will be done so in line with the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982.

   Release / Not release

Katrina Casey  
Deputy Secretary  
Sector Enablement and Support

18/12/2019

Hon Chris Hipkins  
Minister of Education

2/3/19
Background

1. Scott Point, Hobsonville is an area of new residential developments and large areas of land that are zoned as Special Housing Area (SHA) developments. It is to be developed as a sustainable community to increase the supply of housing, including affordable housing. It is estimated it will have a yield of 2,700 - 3,000 dwellings in tranche 2, which could include up to 900 children of primary school age. In addition, surrounding SHAs and private developments could generate approximately 1,050 additional Year 1 – 8 students in the Hobsonville area over the next 15 years.

2. Demographic projections demonstrate that the significant increase in school-age children in the area will necessitate the provision of a further primary school by 2021.

3. The Hobsonville area is currently served by the following Year 1 - 8 full primary schools:
   - Hobsonville Point Primary School (Year 1 – 8)
   - Hobsonville School (Year 1 – 8).

4. We are working with these schools to ensure the best use of their sites to accommodate future growth.

5. The Ministry of Education owns a 4.05 hectare site at 11 Scott Road in Hobsonville. The site is planned to accommodate a Year 1 – 8 primary school and a satellite unit of the Blind and Low Vision Network New Zealand (BLENNZ).

6. The new school would be named Scott Point Primary School. It would be built with infrastructure, administration, library, resource and hall facilities for a final roll of 900 with teaching areas to accommodate an initial roll of 650. It is proposed that it be a full primary school to align with the other primary schools in Hobsonville.

7. The BLENNZ satellite unit would be attached to Scott Point Primary School with 25 students identified to potentially attend. Locating the satellite with the new school is a solution to the complexities of distance and travel for both students and staff from BLENNZ. It would provide a variety of teaching and learning opportunities that are responsive to the needs of the students.

8. The BLENNZ satellite would also create increased awareness of blindness and low vision in the community.

9. It is proposed that the new school will open in Term 1, 2021. The Ministry will continue to monitor demographic growth in this area.

10. Under section 157 of the Act the Ministry has consulted on your behalf with the boards of trustees of all state and state integrated schools whose rolls might be affected by the establishment of a new primary school (Year 1 – 8) at 11 Scott Road, Hobsonville.

Demographics

11. We have developed a draft National Education Growth Plan (NEGP) from a range of sources. The NEGP identifies what we know about the anticipated location and nature of patterns of growth in numbers of school aged children. It then identifies measures that the Government might need to consider in order to meet growth in the period through to 2030.
12. The Massey–Hobsonville–Kaipara catchment is identified in the NEGP as an area of significant future growth. This catchment is expected to have an additional 6,229 school-aged students by 2033 (4,728 primary and 1,501 secondary students). This will be made up of an increase in the underlying population and additional students moving into the area and living in the new SHAs.

13. There are three approved SHAs in the Hobsonville area, all of which will affect the roll of Scott Point Primary School.

SHA development in the Hobsonville area

Scott Point
14. The SHA at Scott Point is zoned for a range of housing options with an estimated yield of 2,700–3,000 dwellings over the next 10 years.

Sunderland
15. Situated in the north eastern part of Hobsonville Point, Sunderland has a dwelling yield of 211 houses and is an area zoned for a range of affordable housing options.

Catalina
16. A SHA has been established at Catalina Bay with development of up to 400 dwellings.

Summary
17. In total, these developments could generate around 3500 dwellings over the next 15 years. Taking into consideration the range of housing that is proposed in the surrounding areas, they could generate an additional 1,950 children of primary school age.

Demographic Analysis

Population projections
18. Figure 1 shows underlying population projections from Statistics New Zealand (age 5-12) for the Census Area Unit of Hobsonville (2009 inter-censal release). The projected population growth is for 401 additional learners in this age group between 2013 and 2020, based on the medium growth projection. This growth is expected to continue with a further 422 learners by 2031. These projections do not include the effects of the significant growth in the Auckland Council Proposed Unitary Plan, nor the SHAs.
Figure 1: Projected underlying population age 5-12 and reported student count in the Hobsonville CAU, 2010-2031.

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<th>Year</th>
<th>Match student count</th>
<th>July student count</th>
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19. In addition to these projections, the Catalina, Sunderland and Scott Point SHAs could add approximately 1,200 Year 1 – 8 learners with Hobsonville Land Company development potentially adding a further 750 Year 1 – 8 learners by 2025.

20. The Auckland Unitary Plan highlights the wider area for significant growth. Including Hobsonville Point, Scott Point and the southern parts of Whenuapai, the total number of dwellings projected using SHA yields and information from Hobsonville Land Company\(^1\) could reach up to 6,500 dwellings within a 30 year timeframe.

21. The Ministry will continue to monitor demographic growth in this area to be able to respond to future residential developments and population growth.

Consultation

22. Under section 157 of the Act, the Minister of Education is required to consult with the Boards of schools whose rolls might be affected before establishing a new school. The Ministry has consulted widely on your behalf, with schools, local Members of Parliament, teacher unions and the NZSTA.

23. The Boards consulted were those of:
   a. Colwill School
   b. Hobsonville Point Primary School
   c. Hobsonville School
   d. Huapai District School
   e. Marina View School
   f. Riverhead School
   g. Taupaki School
   h. Waitakere School
   i. Whenuapai School.

24. The Ministry received only one response to its consultation from NZSTA raising a query about the potential difficulty in finding local trustees given that Hobsonville Point Primary School is also new (it opened in 2013).

Financial implications

Capital funding
25. Capital funding for Scott Point Primary School was part of the Schools Growth Package in the 2018 Budget and was announced in July 2018. The package was total of $332m to meet roll growth pressure in Auckland. The capital budget for Scott Point Primary School is $22.798m with a further budget for Furniture and Equipment of $1.435m (FY 19/20).

26. The build roll is 650 (comprising Years 1 – 8) plus the BLENNZ unit, which has a proposed roll of 25. The BLENNZ unit would also include a Sensory Resource.

\(^1\) Now Homes.Land.Community, a subsidiary of Housing New Zealand, with responsibility for residential home development in Greater Auckland.
27. The design and build contract is planned to be awarded in early 2019 with the new school to be open for Term 1, 2021.

Transport implications

28. There are no identifiable substantive transport implications associated with establishment of the school, given the public transport available in the area.

Establishment Board of Trustees

29. Every new school has an EBoT. The EBoT responsibilities include employment of the principal and staff in the school, setting the school’s strategic direction in consultation with parents, staff and learners, and providing input into the new school design process. The EBoT is also responsible for overseeing the management of personnel, development of the curriculum, property, finance and administration.

30. To facilitate the development of the proposed school in a timely manner, nominations were sought for the EBoT while the section 157 consultation was underway. Nominations are also being sought from local colleges and schools, education sector representative organisations and the local iwi. They were made aware that the EBoT would only be required if approval for the establishment of the new school was given.

31. The process of appointing the EBoT has been delegated to the Ministry. Once nominations have been assessed against the criteria for appointment, appointment of five members will be made under section 98(1)(a)(i) of the Act.

32. Should you agree to the establishment of the school, we will also commence the appointment process for a Governance Facilitator to support the EBoT to become an effective governance body and to prepare the school for opening.

33. There has been considerable interest from individuals within the community to be involved in the EBoT for the new school and a number of nominations have been received.

34. The Secretary would instruct the EBoT to develop an enrolment scheme as the projected population growth presents an ongoing risk of overcrowding without a scheme. The Ministry will work closely with the EBoT to ensure that the proposed home zone will meet the new school’s needs so that it is viable, as well as ensuring that the impact on existing schools in the network is managed.

Off-site location - BLENNZ

35. As well as the primary school, the site is expected to house a satellite unit of BLENNZ, with 25 potential students identified to attend. BLENNZ had a total of 43 enrolled students in 2018 and currently operates an off-site unit at James Cook High School.

36. The proposed satellite is a solution to the complexities of distance and travel for both students and staff and would provide a variety of teaching and learning opportunities that are responsive to the needs of the students. The BLENNZ satellite would also create increased awareness of blindness and low vision in the community.
37. Use of an off-site location by a school must be approved under section 71A of the Act. Although the power to give such approval has been delegated to the Secretary for Education, you retain the power also, and it would be appropriate for you to give that approval at this time as it is part of the build plan. The Ministry issues a standard format Property Occupancy Document variation for use of a school site for a satellite class, which meets the prerequisite for approval.

38. The Board of BLENNZ will need to enter into an agreement with the Secretary for Education before the unit begins operation.

Risks

39. There is a risk that the population growth projected for this area will occur more slowly than forecast and that the school will not be fully utilised for some years. However, this risk is considered to be very low as the projections indicate that additional capacity will be required by 2021. Construction of housing is already underway in Scott Point and further construction at Hobsonville Point has been brought forward.

40. We will continue to monitor demographic growth in this area to ensure we are able to respond to future residential developments and population growth.

Next steps

41. If you approve this establishment, you are asked to sign the attached letters (Annexes 1 and 4), *New Zealand Gazette* notice (Annex 2), and to agree to issue a media statement (draft statement attached as Annex 3).

42. An EBoT will be appointed, and a governance facilitator appointed to support the EBoT as it works to ready the school to open in 2021.

Proactive Release of this Report

43. It is intended that this Education Report be proactively released in line with your expectation that information be released as soon as possible. Any information that might need to be withheld will be done so in line with the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982.

Annexes

Annex 1: Letters local MPs
Annex 2: Notice for the *New Zealand Gazette*
Annex 3: $s 9(2)(f)(iv)$
Annex 4: Letter to the Board of the Blind and Low Vision Network NZ
Annex 1: Letters to local MPs
Hon Paula Bennett  
MP for Upper Harbour  
PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

Dear Hon. Bennett,

I am pleased to advise that I have approved the establishment of Scott Point Primary School as a Year 1 – 8 full primary school under section 146 of the Education Act 1989.

The school will open at 11 Scott Road, Hobsonville. At this point it is intended that the school will open at all year levels in Term 1, 2021.

As you will know, Hobsonville is a growing area, and the new school will meet projected population growth from the current and proposed Special Housing Areas and private developments in the area.

A satellite of the Blind and Low Vision Network New Zealand (BLENNZ) will be part of the new school.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Hipkins  
Minister of Education
Hon Kelvin Davis  
MP for Te Tai Tokerau  
PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

Dear Kelvin,

I am pleased to advise that I have approved the establishment of Scott Point Primary School as a Year 1 – 8 full primary school under section 146 of the Education Act 1989.

The School will open at 11 Scott Road, Hobsonville. At this point it is intended that the school will open at all year levels in Term 1, 2021.

As you will know, Hobsonville is a growing area, and the new school will meet projected population growth from the current and proposed Special Housing Areas and private developments in the area.

A satellite of the Blind and Low Vision Network New Zealand (BLENZ) will be part of the new school.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Hipkins  
Minister of Education
Annex 2: New Zealand Gazette Notice
Hon Chris Hipkins

Proactively Released

New Zealand Gazette Notice

New School Establishment

Pursuant to section 146 of the Education Act 1989, I hereby establish a Year 1 - 8 primary school, to be known as Scott Point Primary School, at 11 Scott Road, Hobsonville, Auckland.

Dated at Wellington this day of 2019

Hon Chris Hipkins
Minister of Education
Mr Nathaniel Louwrens  
Chairperson 
Board of Trustees  
Blind and Low Vision Network NZ  
Private Bag 801  
Manurewa  
MANUKAU 2243

Dear Nathaniel

Approval of use of an off-site location under section 71A(2) of the Education Act 1989

I am writing to you regarding the Special Education satellite unit planned to be built as part of the new Scott Point Primary School in Hobsonville, Auckland.

I have approved the establishment of Scott Point Primary School, which at this stage is planned to open for instruction in Term 1, 2021.

Subject to the relevant Property Occupancy Document variation being agreed between your Board and the Board of Scott Point Primary School, I confirm approval under section 71A(2) of the Education Act 1989 for the Board of Trustees of the Blind and Low Vision Education Network NZ to operate the special education off-site (satellite) unit at Scott Point Primary School, once open for instruction, for the provision of education to eligible students.

Before beginning operation your Board will need to enter into an agreement with the Secretary for Education regarding this use. Please arrange this through the Ministry's Auckland Office.

I wish you well in the operation of this satellite unit.

Yours sincerely


Chris Hipkins  
Minister of Education