

Modular Building Bulletin



Issue 1
April 2017

Welcome to the first edition of the modular building bulletin. This bulletin has been established to provide information and updates on the modular building programme.



In July 2015, a national contract was signed with Interlink, a consortium made up of Portacom, Brewer Davidson and Opus to supply modular buildings to schools around New Zealand to meet roll growth demand.

The delivery of the modular building projects is managed by the Capital Works team in Wellington. Going forward, a Delivery Manager will be appointed to all new projects and be the key liaison between schools, property advisors and Interlink.

To keep up with demand, Interlink have established two factories, one in Christchurch and one in Auckland. The Auckland factory will produce up to 2.5 teaching spaces per week, while the Christchurch factory will produce up to 1 teaching space per week.

Once the work in the factory is complete, Interlink will transport the building to the school, connect up the services and build the decks. Within a few weeks the buildings will be ready for students and teachers to use.

The key benefits of the modular buildings are:

- The buildings are constructed in a factory away from the school, to minimise disruption to the school.
- The project is managed by the Ministry in partnership with Interlink, reducing the time the school needs to spend on buildings.
- The buildings have a number of standardised features and components resulting in these buildings being able to be delivered faster than a traditional, bespoke building process.

The next six months will be an exciting time for the modular building programme. Multiple projects, with another 33 teaching spaces, will be completed on schools all over the country.

Achievements so far

The programme has now completed its first year and the achievements include:

Completed projects	15	Completed teaching spaces	48
Projects in progress	46	Teaching spaces in progress	94
Total projects	61	Total teaching spaces	142

In partnership with Interlink, we have recently secured a multi-proof consent (multiple use approval) for the standard design of the building modules which is issued by Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE).

What this means is that local authorities around the country will no longer need to individually consent these modules, thereby reducing consenting timeframes. Earthworks and foundations will still be consented in the normal way.

5 MONTHS
Average time from first project meeting to receiving final plans

34 DAYS
Average time from receiving final plans to approval to start delivery

6 MONTHS
Average time from 'approval to proceed' to occupation

High quality classrooms being delivered faster than a traditional design and build projects.

Kaikoura Primary School

The first real test of the building strength as they performed extremely well in the recent earthquake.



The November earthquake in Kaikoura was the first time the modular buildings were tested in real time seismic activity. The building stood up to the test and performed extremely well, and was actually used as emergency accommodation. The only damage reported was minor damage to the spouting.

Methven Primary School

“Our children and our teachers feel incredibly fortunate to work and learn in these spaces.”

A double teaching space and a triple teaching space modular building were completed in February and December 2016 respectively at Methven Primary School.



“We have taken possession of a triple modular building and a double modular building within the past six months. Our children and our teachers feel incredibly fortunate to work and learn in these spaces. The buildings look stunning and fit sympathetically into their surroundings.

The size, quality of the build, and fit-out far exceed anything the school could have achieved if we had opted to do our own design-build. The learning spaces themselves are exceptional; every consideration has been given to ensure that they are truly conducive to teaching and learning. The flexibility of the spaces allows our contemporary pedagogy to flourish.”

Chris Murphy - Principal, Methven Primary School

Alfredton School

“The modular classroom we have on site has so far proven to be fantastic!”

Alfredton School, a small school located in the lower North Island recently received a single modular building.



“The modular classroom we have on site has so far proven to be fantastic! It is warm, bright, colourful and welcoming. We have enjoyed the entire process of the work and felt involved with all major decisions along the way.

I particularly liked that we were able to work with colours and have some choices around exterior work so the room could be the best fit it could be for our school.

The team from Interlink were fantastic and worked hard to make sure that the school understood what was happening and why.

The building itself is very modern and has full access to all school wide systems. No corner has been cut in terms of making sure the building has a modern feel, sustainable use and meets with Innovative Learning Environment standards. Our school is really enjoying the room.”

Anita Phillips - Principal, Alfredton School



Site visits

If you are interested in visiting a modular building in your area, or one of the factories, please contact Jessica Keltie on:

EIS.Transportables@education.govt.nz