

Director's message:



Ashburton has experienced comparatively rapid population growth over the last decade. This growth has been driven mostly by the strength of the local rural economy, leading to growth in both rural and urban parts of the district.

Our local schools in Ashburton are nearing capacity and we have been supporting these schools to manage future population growth. We are working hard to utilise most of our existing infrastructure, so that our children have access to schools that will meet their needs.

I am delighted to present this plan that, like other growth plans across the country, shows how we plan to manage growth in the Ashburton catchment and promote positive educational outcomes for every child.

Ngā mihi,

Coralanne Child

Ashburton's growth story

Ashburton district is one of the country's fastest growing rural districts with a population increase of 22% since 2006¹. Ashburton District Council has adopted long-term projections that follow the medium growth scenario. These projections estimate a district-wide population of 38,000 by 2030, up from 32,000 in 2013. Council recognise that these projections are based on a relatively high level of net migration, without which the population of the district will stabilise and potentially decline.

Changing demographics are also a consideration in the Ashburton catchment, with the urban population historically older than the rural population. By 2043, the population of the 65yrs+ age group is expected to almost double.

Residential development in the north of Ashburton is putting pressure on existing primary schools in the area. The cohort of primary-aged students is larger than we have seen historically. This means there is a new and larger peak of students in the primary network that will move through into the secondary network in the coming years.

The secondary network is currently at capacity. Our own roll projections anticipate rapid growth in secondary rolls from 2021, with an additional 300-500 secondary-aged students living in this catchment by 2028².

What have we done so far?

- We have determined a master planned capacity for each school to assist with our roll growth monitoring and planning.
- Ten schools in the catchment have enrolment schemes in place. We are working with Ashburton College and Ashburton Netherby School to implement a scheme, which are being consulted on. An enrolment scheme was recently implemented at Ashburton Borough School.
- Approximately \$10 million has been allocated to Ashburton Intermediate and Allenton Schools for the replacement and refurbishment of a combined 24 teaching spaces, as well as one new teaching space at Allenton School.
- Approximately \$50 million has been allocated for the redevelopment of Ashburton College.
- We approved a maximum roll increase at one of the Catholic primary schools in the district. This has ensured that access to diverse education provision has kept pace with the growing population.

Planning for short-term growth (3 years)

- Recent growth has exceeded Stats NZ projections. By 2020, our own calculations estimate an additional 190-290 primary and intermediate-aged students will need accommodating in the network. By 2022, we expect an additional 210 secondary-aged students will need accommodating³. We plan to manage this growth through a mix of responses, including enrolment schemes and additional property provision.
- At the primary level, 75 student places are required in the short-term. Roll growth monitoring will determine both the need and the potential timing of these.
- Fifty student places are forecast for Ashburton Intermediate in 2021.
- At Ashburton College, an additional 160 student places are required in the short-term as part of the planned redevelopment to accommodate anticipated growth in the secondary-aged population.
- We plan to work with schools to explore enrolment schemes in the short-term. We are also considering reviewing enrolment scheme boundaries at schools to better manage growth.
- We will continue to monitor roll growth and collaborate with Ashburton District Council to understand the location and timing of future residential development.

Planning for medium-term growth (3-10 years)

Primary and intermediate-aged population projections show a steady increase out to 2030, with between 230-460 additional students needing to be accommodated in the local network. Peak secondary-aged population is anticipated around 2028. Beyond 2028, the high growth scenario shows the secondary-aged population will slowly increase, however the medium scenario shows this cohort declining.

- Additional student places are likely to be required in the medium-term in the urban primary network as well as in the intermediate network. We will continue to monitor school rolls and the effectiveness of enrolment schemes to determine the timing of this.
- Additional capacity is anticipated to be required at Ashburton College. There is a possibility that additional capacity may also be needed at Mt Hutt College following the implementation of an enrolment scheme at Ashburton College.

Beyond 2030

Growth beyond 2030 looks likely to be at a slower pace. We anticipate that by successfully implementing the planning that is currently underway, we will be able to adequately accommodate the projected school-age population beyond 2030.

Māori medium

Māori account for 7% of the Ashburton district population, and we expect this to continue to increase as it has done since 2001. Within the Ashburton district, there is currently no provision for Māori medium education, either through kōhanga reo or formal schooling.

The Hakatere Kāhui Ako has set an achievement challenge of raising Māori student achievement and is engaging with Waikato University to realise this. The Kāhui Ako has engaged a lead teacher to work across all the schools to lead this mahi, which includes developing culturally responsive and relational pedagogy, gathering baseline data from students, whānau and teachers, and engaging in shadow coaching and observation to change practice. The Kāhui Ako is actively working to strengthen the quality of Māori language in education provision that will be demonstrated by learner outcomes.

Learning Support

We know we have increasing demand from students accessing specialist learning support facilities. Ashburton College currently has 12 ORS learners, however we know there are also 30 ORS learners aged 5-12 years living in the Ashburton area. The redevelopment of Ashburton College has incorporated the need for specialist learning support spaces to address this increase in demand.

¹ Ashburton District Council, Long Term Plan 2018-2028

^{2,3} Regional network analysis, 2018

Ashburton: Steady Growing

New Zealand Education Growth Plan to 2030

The Ashburton catchment, south of Christchurch, is made up of 20 state and 3 state integrated schools. There are 9 state contributing primary schools, 8 state full primary schools, a state intermediate, a Y9-13 secondary and a Y7-13 secondary school. There are also 2 state integrated full primary schools, and a state integrated composite Y1-10 school. As at July 2018, this catchment had a combined **school roll of 5,145 students**. There are 46 ORS students, and no students enrolled in Māori Medium education.

What's Driving Growth

Additional learners moving into the region



Recent growth in primary school rolls has been a combination of the 'bulge' moving through the primary age group, combined with migration into the district.

Parent choice influencing utilisation



Some schools have experienced roll growth not as a result of a growing local community, but because parents are choosing to by-pass their local school to attend a school further away.

Here's what's already underway that's giving us a head start to meet growth in the region



Ten schools have enrolment schemes, and we will explore enrolment schemes with other schools. This ensures we are making the best use of the existing capacity across the network.



Roll growth funding has been provided to two schools. Planning has been undertaken to determine where additional capacity will be required.



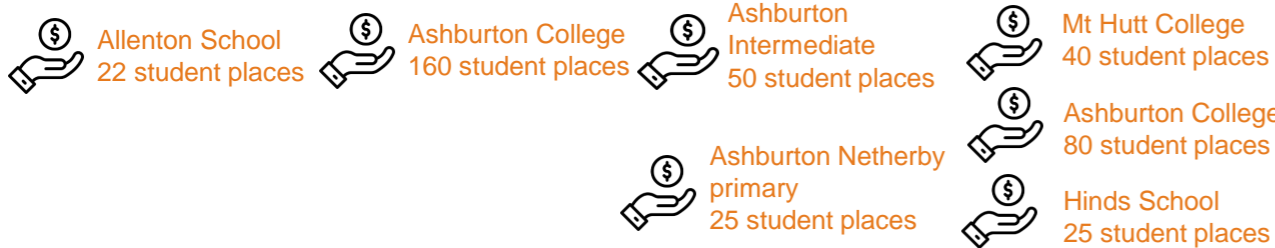
The maximum roll of the Catholic primary school in Ashburton was increased in 2016 in response to growing demand from the community for this type of special character provision.

Growth Plan to 2030

2019

2022

2030



Enrolment zones

- » Ashburton College and Ashburton Netherby are consulting on draft proposals.
- » An enrolment scheme at Ashburton Borough School has recently been approved.



Additional Learners moving into region

- » Approximately 230 – 460 additional primary aged students and 300 - 500 secondary aged students will require access to a local state school over the next 10 years.



Roll growth funding

- » Two primary schools have received roll growth funding over recent years; and more is projected for Ashburton College and possibly Mt Hutt College as the primary-age cohort moves through into the two secondary schools in the district.



Parent choice influencing Utilisation

- » We will continue to monitor the effectiveness of enrolment schemes to determine the timing of future provision of additional places at the primary level.



Expanding Provision Type

- » There is currently no provision for Māori medium education, either through kōhanga reo or formal schooling.
- » The Hakatere Kāhui Ako has set an achievement challenge of raising Māori student achievement and is engaging with Waikato University to realise this. The Kāhui Ako is actively working to strengthen the quality of Māori language in education provision that will be demonstrated by learner outcomes.
- » The redevelopment of Ashburton College provides an opportunity to support local provision of specialist learning support spaces to meet current and future demand.