

Education Report: Consideration of Closure of Branston Intermediate School (3298)

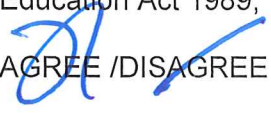
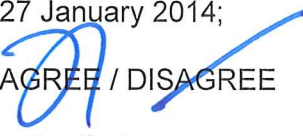
Executive Summary

1. This report seeks your decision on the proposed closure of Branston Intermediate School under section 154 of the Education Act 1989.
2. On 13 September 2012, you announced the proposed closure of Branston Intermediate School, effective from the beginning of 2015, as part of a number of changes to education provision in greater Christchurch. On 28 September 2012 you initiated formal consultation on the proposal.
3. The roll of Branston Intermediate was 180 as at July 2012. The proposal to close the school is based on its roll and under-utilisation, compared to the use that could be made of its location within this area of growth. The proposal involves the possible relocation of South Hornby School onto the site. It is proposed to change the class of Hornby High School to become a Year 7-13 school, accommodating intermediate aged learners in the cluster.
4. The Board of Trustees of Branston Intermediate, with the assistance of a facilitator, has undertaken consultation with its community about the proposal. The Board disagrees with the proposed closure of Branston Intermediate and proposes that the school remains open and recapitates to become a Year 7-9 school. In the Board's submission, strong community support for keeping Branston Intermediate open was evident. Letters of support were received from the Riccarton Wigram Community Board, the New Zealand Association of Intermediate and Middle Schools and Gilberthorpe School. The Board of Hornby High School submitted a letter saying it was supportive of the proposal to change its class to become a Year 7-13 school.
5. The Ministry of Education recommends that Branston Intermediate School should close and Hornby High School change its class to become a Year 7-13 school, as was proposed. The reason for this recommendation is that:
 - a. the Branston Intermediate site is not being fully utilised with the current school roll
 - b. the roll of Branston Intermediate is low for an intermediate school and roll trends do not indicate it will grow in the future
 - c. the site would be better utilised by South Hornby School (July 2012 roll: 302) given the projected growth and learner distribution within the cluster
 - d. learners can be well catered for in a Year 7-13 school setting at Hornby High School.

6. Formal consultation on the proposed change of class of Hornby High School has yet to take place, therefore, if you agree with the Ministry's recommendation, a letter will be developed for your signature to the Board of Trustees of Hornby High School to initiate the 28 day consultation process. This consultation period is shorter than the similar consultation proposed for Hillmorton High School and Linwood College, as Hornby High School has already indicated its support for the proposal to become a Year 7-13 school and the proposed change of class was part of the original proposal to close Branston Intermediate School.
7. If, after considering the information in this report, you decide to close Branston Intermediate School, a letter will be developed to the Board for your signature asking it to provide you within 28 days of the date of your letter, with any further reasons why the school should not be closed and agree that the date of closure should be 27 January 2014 rather than the beginning of 2015 as originally proposed. The reason for this is that an earlier closing date prevents slow roll decline and the possibility that staff will choose to move to other schools over this period.

Recommended Actions

We recommend that you:

- a. **note** the information provided about the responses to the consultation by the Board of Trustees of Branston Intermediate with its school community about the proposed closure of Branston Intermediate;
- b. **note** that the Board of Trustees of Branston Intermediate do not agree with the proposal to close the school;
- c. **agree** that Branston Intermediate should be closed under section 154 of the Education Act 1989;

AGREE /DISAGREE
- d. **agree** that if Branston Intermediate closes, your preferred date for the closure is 27 January 2014;

AGREE / DISAGREE
- e. **note** that once your decision is known a letter to the Board of Branston Intermediate will be developed for your signature. If your decision is to close Branston Intermediate, this letter will give the Board details of the 28 day consultation process;
- f. **note** that if you agree to close Branston Intermediate a letter to the Board of Trustees of Hornby High School will be developed for your signature initiating formal consultation on the proposal to change the class of the school to become Year 7-13;
- g. **note** that if you decide that Branston Intermediate should not be closed, the Ministry will develop appropriate letters for your signature;

- h. **note** that letters to the local Members of Parliament will be developed once your decision is known; and
- i. **agree** that a copy of this report be released to the Board of Trustees of Branston Intermediate.

AGREE / DISAGREE



Katrina Casey
Deputy Secretary
Regional Operations

Encls



Hon Hekia Parata
Minister of Education

23/1/13

Education Report: Consideration of Closure of Branston Intermediate School (3298)

Purpose

1. This paper seeks your decision on the proposed closure of Branston Intermediate under section 154 of the Education Act 1989 (the Act).

Background

2. Branston Intermediate School is a decile 3, Year 7-8 intermediate school in the Hornby Learning Community Cluster, in the Wigram electorate. A map of the area is attached as Appendix One. The July 2012 roll of the school was 180 which included 52 Māori, 16 Pasifika, 100 New Zealand European, nine Asian and three other learners.
3. On 13 September 2012 you announced a number of proposals for changes to education provision in greater Christchurch. This announcement included the proposal to close Branston Intermediate School.
4. On 28 September 2012 you wrote to the Board of Trustees of Branston Intermediate School and initiated consultation on the possible closure of the school. That consultation period ended on 7 December 2012.
5. Branston Intermediate School is proposed to be closed on 27 January 2014 and if the change of class is approved for Hornby High School it is proposed that the High School would enrol both Year 7 and 8 learners for 2014.

Reasons for Considering Closure

6. Branston Intermediate School is on a large site that is ideally located to service new areas of residential growth; however the school has a very low roll for an intermediate and is currently operating at 54% of its capacity. This means it is heavily underutilised compared to its potential capacity.
7. The school suffered minimal earthquake damage and is in reasonable condition, but the buildings will require earthquake strengthening involving significant investment of approximately \$7.8 million. The cost per pupil of this investment would be very high.
8. The school is situated in an area of future population growth, therefore the proposal to close Branston Intermediate impacts on the network of schools across the cluster as a whole. It is proposed that if the intermediate closes, the site could be used for a relocated South Hornby School, where the investment in the property would serve a greater number of learners in the area. South Hornby School is currently located on a site in an increasingly industrial area, with difficult access. Relocating this school, as well as rebuilding Sockburn School at an alternative location, will provide well distributed access for primary aged learners in the Hornby area.

9. The provision for Year 7 and 8 learners is proposed to be at Hornby High School, which would change its class to become a Year 7-13 school.
10. Hornby High School itself requires approximately \$8 million in property investment without taking into account the additional learners from Branston Intermediate. If you agree to close Branston Intermediate, and change the class of Hornby High School, it is proposed that the Year 7 and 8 learners would be accommodated in temporary classrooms while new property provision is completed.

Learning Community Cluster Proposal

11. The proposal for the Hornby Learning Community Cluster of schools is as follows:

School	Current Type	Proposal
Branston Intermediate	Yr 7-8	Close school – retain site
Gilberthorpe School	Yr 1-6	Merge with Yaldhurst School
Yaldhurst School	Yr 1-8	Merge with Gilberthorpe School
Hornby High School	Yr 9-13	Change class to become Year 7-13
Sockburn School	Yr 1-6	Relocate to a new site
South Hornby School	Yr 1-6	Relocate onto Branston site
Templeton School	Yr 1-8	Retain

12. Hornby Primary School is also within the Hornby Learning Community Cluster, but was not included in the original proposal for the cluster. Hornby Primary School is proposed to be retained as a Year 1 – 6 school.
13. The Rationale for Change document for Branston Intermediate School is attached as Appendix Two.

Consultation under Sections 154 and 157 of the Education Act 1989

14. Before making a decision about closing a school, the Minister must consult with the Board of the school concerned and with the Boards of state schools whose rolls may be affected. Sections 154 and 157 of the Act require this consultation.

Consultation with the Board of Branston Intermediate

15. On 13 September you called a meeting of all schools affected by the proposals around closure and mergers. You also wrote to the Boards of the schools on 28 September 2012, and you met with the Board of Branston Intermediate School to discuss the proposal on 7 November 2012.
16. The Ministry also held three information workshops on the consultation process for Board Chairs and facilitators for the schools engaged to undertake the consultation. It was made clear to the Boards at these meetings that no decision about closure had been predetermined. Regular contact has been maintained with a representative Board member and the Principal.

17. The Board appointed a facilitator to undertake consultation on its behalf. This was submitted to the Ministry by 7 December 2012 and you were provided with a copy on 14 December.
18. In addition to the Board's formal submission, you also received two letters from members of the public about the proposed closure of Branston Intermediate School.
19. The feedback from the Board of Branston Intermediate School is summarised as follows:
 - Branston Intermediate School should remain open on its current site.
 - Branston Intermediate plays a strong role in the local community.
 - It could become a Year 7-9 school.
 - The choice of an intermediate option was important to the community.
 - The Board is concerned about having Year 7-8 learners at Hornby High School as it believes learners will be exposed to negative social interactions, peer pressure and bullying by the older learners at Hornby High School.
 - There are a number of large greenfield property developments in the surrounding area which will help grow the roll of Branston Intermediate.
 - Branston Intermediate is a fiscally responsible school.

Consultation with the Boards of schools whose rolls might be affected

20. On your behalf, the Ministry undertook consultation with the Boards of Gilberthorpe School, Hornby High School, Hornby Primary School, Sockburn School and South Hornby School. The feedback which the Ministry received was as follows:
 - a. **Gilberthorpe School**

The Board of Gilberthorpe School was concerned at the potential lack of choice of Year 7 and 8 options if the proposal went ahead. Concern was also expressed that high school options would be narrowed if all students in the cluster were going to Hornby High School at Year 7-8.

Concerns were expressed for the safety of intermediate aged learners being on the same school site as older learners.

Questions were asked about technology provision for client schools.
 - b. **Sockburn School**

The Board of Sockburn School suggested that its school should be recapitated as a Year 1-8 school if the proposal to close Branston Intermediate School goes ahead.
 - c. **Hornby High School**

The Board of Hornby High School consulted with its community and reported that it was supportive of the proposal to change its class to become a Year 7-13 school.

Ministry Comment

21. As at July 2012, Branston Intermediate had a roll of 180 learners. This is a roll decline from 233 learners enrolled in July 2008, 191 in July 2010 and an increase from 166 in 2011.
22. The Board's submission stated that a strong community exists around the school, with the school as its hub. The Ministry acknowledges this and it is also supported by the quotes from parents and other community members. Strong support was also expressed in the community survey that was attached to the Board's submission. The Ministry expects that, should you decide to close Branston Intermediate, the strong community support will continue to be available for learners.
23. The Board submits that it provides well for the educational and pastoral needs of Year 7-8 learners. While the Ministry acknowledges this is the case, it also expects that all schools meet the individual needs and aspirations of their learners and of their community. This means that, on its own, it is not sufficient reason to support the school remaining open.
24. The Ministry believes that the educational and pastoral needs of learners would also be met in the proposed new structure. If the change is approved it will work with the Learning Community Cluster as a whole to ensure that planning for the individualised learning and pastoral needs of each of the school's learners is undertaken. This will help ensure that these needs are met at their receiving school.
25. In the Board's submission, the possibility of younger learners being bullied by older learners at Hornby High School was raised as a concern. Under National Administration Guideline 5 (NAG 5), Boards are required to provide a safe physical and emotional environment for learners. Area schools and Year 7-13 schools throughout the country can and do provide suitable and safe environments for their learners.
26. The latest Education Review Office report for Hornby High School states that:

Relationships between students and staff and among students are respectful, supportive and inclusive. Classroom cultures are helping students to focus well on learning. Students report that they feel safe and included.
27. Branston Intermediate School is providing well for its Māori and Pasifika learners, including providing a bicultural unit on site, which delivers Māori medium provision at levels 2, 3 and 4.
28. If you agree to close Branston Intermediate, the Ministry will work with the schools in the Hornby Learning Community Cluster to ensure that this provision is supported in a new schooling structure.
29. Technology provision for the Branston Intermediate client schools will be arranged as part of the educational provision for the Hornby Learning Community Cluster.

30. The Ministry has also investigated the option of closing Branston Intermediate and retaining Hornby High School as a Year 9-13 school with the other schools in the cluster being recapitated to become Year 1-8 schools. Recapitation of the schools in the cluster would involve the construction of extra classrooms at each school and would have Year 7-8 spread across the cluster. The Ministry considers that in this situation education for these year groups would be better strengthened through Year 7-13 provision at Hornby High School.
31. Your original proposal was for Branston Intermediate to close at the beginning of 2015. The Ministry recommends that, if you agree to closure, you change your preferred date of closure to 27 January 2014. The reason for this is that an earlier closing date prevents slow roll decline and the possibility that staff will choose to move to other schools over this period.

Alternative Schooling Options and Quality of Education Provision

32. The Education Review Office (ERO) last reviewed Branston Intermediate in July 2010. In its report, ERO reported that:

School achievement information shows that students make progress over the two years they are at the school. Māori students achieve at similar rates to other students. Pacific student achievement is below that of their peers and many need additional English language support. A number of students are achieving below expected levels for their age in literacy and numeracy. The school has good systems for identifying these students and has targeted programmes in place to support them.

The principal has established a number of links with the local area, including a curriculum community focus group made up of local community and business members. She also has contact with local iwi, Pacific and other cultural support organisations to support students' learning and wellbeing.

ERO, the board, principal and teachers have identified areas for review and development to improve learning and teaching for students. These include:

- *extending of high quality teaching practices so that all students benefit;*
- *reviewing management arrangements, the organisation of classes and special programmes to ensure that students' needs are well met; and*
- *incorporating more bicultural and other cultural perspectives as part of the students' learning experiences.*

33. If Branston Intermediate was to be closed, education provision for Year 7-8 learners is proposed to be available at Hornby High School if the proposal to change the class of that school is progressed. A summary of education provision at this school is attached as Appendix Three.

Priority Learners

34. The July 2012 roll for Branston Intermediate of 180, included 29% Māori and 9% Pasifika learners.
35. The school has a bilingual unit, which delivers Māori medium provision at levels 2, 3 and 4.

36. In relation to the promotion of Māori student achievement, ERO reported that:

The principal, teachers and trustees have actively sought the views of Māori in the community and have appointed Māori staff to support the achievement of Māori students.

In particular, the principal and teachers have:

- *maintained the Akomanga Reo Rua (bilingual class) that supports the transition of Years 7 and 8 bilingual students into the secondary school environment;*
- *demonstrated respect for Māori protocols and tikanga through the use of Te Taumutu Rūnanga in association with whānau;*
- *provided meaningful support and acknowledgement of the school's kapa haka group; and*
- *provided a range of leadership opportunities for Māori students.*

These positive initiatives are likely to contribute to continued improvement in the achievements of Māori students over time.

37. ERO noted areas for future action in relation to Māori and Pasifika learners as follows:

Recognising Māori potential in the bilingual class. *Students in the bilingual class display a range of abilities. The principal and bilingual class teacher should now review the class programme to ensure that the learning needs of all students are being met over time.*

Pacific students. *In 2010, the Pacific student roll has grown. Many of these students have individual learning plans through the ESOL class. The principal and teachers have identified Pacific students' learning needs and are monitoring their progress. At the time of this review, planning was in the early stages of development. Setting learning targets and reporting on the progress of Pacific students will give the school more targeted information about their future learning needs. This information should then be used to develop appropriate programmes.*

38. Branston Intermediate has been part of a Pasifika achievement focussed school cluster in Hornby this year. It has successfully participated in the Pasifika PLD Pasifika Success Talanoa Project with Hornby High School, Hornby Primary School, Gilberthorpe School, St Bernadette's School (Hornby) and Sockburn School. The schools worked on an inquiry process regarding the engagement of Pasifika learners through the leadership of the school and classroom practice. The PLD provider confirmed that the Branston Intermediate School Principal and lead teacher were able to make significant shifts in practice and in engaging parents, family and community in education.

Ongoing Resourcing Scheme (ORS)

39. As at 1 July 2012, Branston Intermediate had one high needs learner accessing Ongoing Resourcing Scheme (ORS) funding.

Staffing

40. The staffing allocation for Branston Intermediate for the 2012 year was 13 Full Time Teacher Equivalent (FTTE).

Financial Implications

41. If Branston Intermediate School closes it would generate Education Development Initiative (EDI) funding and Joints Schools Initiative Funding (JSIF), in line with the EDI policy.
42. These funds are used for plans that support student achievement, psycho-social needs, transition and change management within and across schools and Learning Community Clusters.
43. EDI and JSIF funding is only available if the proposed closure of Branston Intermediate School takes place.
44. If your decision is that Branston Intermediate School should close, or you decide to proceed with further options for consultation on the future of the school, estimates of the savings to the Crown in operational funding will be prepared for your information.

Property Implications

Background Rationale

45. The buildings on the Branston Intermediate School site have suffered some degree of earthquake damage. This covers a wide spectrum from minor cracking to ceiling and wall finishes, to repointing of brick work. Some buildings will also require earthquake strengthening. Buildings on site have also been flagged for weather tightness remediation.
46. Surrounding land is predominately CERA technical category 1 (TC1). While geotechnical considerations are unlikely to be a significant factor at this site, preliminary assessments suggest further investigation will be required if further development is undertaken on this site.
47. The Indicative Ten Year Property Cost to repair Branston Intermediate School is \$7.9 million.

Proposal Analysis

48. Branston Intermediate School's Board of Trustees did not query the property information provided.

Property Entitlement

49. The Ministry has used a number of data sources to provide an estimated cost per learner for your original proposal and any alternative proposals put forward by the Board. These sources are:
 - the latest indicative property cost information

- current roll information (October 2012)
- network analysis of the estimated additional required teaching spaces required.

50. An explanation of property information is contained in Appendix four.

51. In the tables below, various cost options are provided depending on your decision on the proposed closure of Branston Intermediate, as well as decisions which you make in relation to Gilberthorpe and Yaldhurst Model Schools. The Ministry has also provided comparative costings for scenarios involving the recapitation of primary schools in the area, or of retaining Branston Intermediate and changing its class to Year 7-9.

Revised indicative property costs – Minister’s Proposal to close Branston Intermediate School and change the class of Hornby High School to Year 7-13. Assumes Yaldhurst Model School and Gilberthorpe School remain as status quo.

Proposal	Cost	Details
Closure of Branston Intermediate	\$0.0 million	Closure of school; no repairs or remediation required.
Additional teaching space allowance at Hornby High School	\$0.60 million	3 additional teaching spaces, based on network analysis
Total	\$0.60 million	
Re distributed roll from Branston Intermediate - 169		10 October 2012 roll of Branston Intermediate, to be incorporated into Hornby High School
Cost per learner	\$3,550	

*Cost per learner is the cost of each proposal or alternative proposal divided by the number of affected learners.

Revised indicative property costs – Minister’s Proposal to close Branston Intermediate and change the class of Hornby High School to Year 7-13. Assumes Yaldhurst Model School learners will attend Hornby High School if Yaldhurst Model School merges with Gilberthorpe School as Year 1-6.

Proposal	Cost	Details
Closure of Branston Intermediate	\$0.0 million	Closure of school no repairs or remediation required
Additional teaching space allowance at Hornby High School	\$0.60 million	3 additional teaching spaces, based on network analysis
Total	\$0.60 million	
Re distributed roll from Branston Intermediate - 178		10 October 2012 roll of Branston Intermediate, to be incorporated into Hornby High School and Yaldhurst School (9). The number of Yaldhurst school learners to be incorporated into Hornby High School
Cost per learner	\$3,371	

Alternative Proposal 1 - Branston Intermediate to close, local schools to recapitate, Hornby High School to remain Year 9 -13. Merge Gilberthorpe School and Yaldhurst Model School as Year 1-8.

Proposal	Cost	Details
Closure of Branston Intermediate	\$0.0 million	Closure of school no repairs or remediation required
Additional teaching space allowance at South Hornby School	\$0.69 million	3 additional teaching spaces, based on network analysis
Additional teaching space allowance at Gilberthorpe / Yaldhurst School	\$0.92 million	4 additional teaching spaces, based on network analysis
Total	\$1.61 million	7 additional spaces across South Hornby and Gilberthorpe / Yaldhurst. Remaining learners are accommodated into nearby schools which have current capacity.
Re distributed roll from Branston Intermediate - 169		10 October 2012 roll of Branston Intermediate, to be distributed across nearby schools
Cost per learner	\$9,527	

Alternative Proposal 2 - Branston Intermediate to close, local contributing schools to recapitate. Yaldhurst Model School remains as Year 1-8

Proposal	Cost	Details
Closure of Branston Intermediate	\$0.0 million	Closure of school no repairs or remediation required
Additional teaching space allowance at South Hornby School	\$0.69 million	3 additional teaching spaces, based on network analysis
Other costs		Assuming technology is incorporated into nearby schools
Total	\$0.69million	3 additional spaces at South Hornby. Remaining learners are accommodated into Gilberthorpe, Sockburn and Hornby Primary Schools which have current capacity.
Re distributed roll from Branston Primary - 169		10 October 2012 roll of Branston Intermediate, to be distributed across nearby schools
Cost per learner	\$4,083	

Alternative Proposal 3 - Branston Intermediate to remain open and becomes a Year 7 – 9 school. Hornby High School becomes a Year 10 – 13.

Proposal	Cost	Details
Repairs to Branston Intermediate	\$7.92million	Indicative repair cost to Branston Intermediate
Other costs	\$0.00 million	Nil. No additional teaching spaces are required at either site for this alternative.
Total	\$7.92 million	
Re distributed roll from Branston Primary - 273		10 October 2012 roll of Branston Intermediate and the number of Hornby High School year 9 learners (104)
Cost per learner	\$29,011	

Alternative Proposal 4 - Branston Intermediate to remain open

Proposal	Cost	Details
Repairs to Branston Intermediate	\$7.92million	Indicative repair cost to Branston Intermediate
Other costs	\$0.00 million	Nil
Total	\$7.92 million	
Re distributed roll from Branston Primary - 169		10 October 2012 roll of Branston Intermediate
Cost per learner	\$46,864	

Risks

52. If Branston Intermediate closes, the community may feel that its response has not been properly considered, and that you, or the Ministry, have followed a predetermined closure agenda.
53. To mitigate this risk, we recommend that you release this report to the Board of Branston Intermediate School.
54. There is also a risk that the Branston Intermediate community may not engage with the proposal to close Branston Intermediate and change the class of Hornby High School to a Year 7-13 school. While there may be an initial reaction within the community against supporting the new structure at Hornby High School, the Ministry believes that this will change once the new provision is in place and the issues which the community has raised, such as possible bullying, are addressed or allayed.

55. If the school closes at the beginning of 2014, rather than over a two year period as is usually the case when an intermediate school closes and Year 7-8 is then provided for in a primary school, and all learners attend at Hornby High School, this would result in a high percentage of new learners at the high school in one intake. This could present a risk since, including the new learners who enter the school as part of the usual Year 9 intake, approximately 30% of the school's learners in 2014, would be new to the school. This may present some difficulties to the Board and school management as a significant number of learners would be transitioning into the culture of the school at one time.
56. This risk can be mitigated by the Ministry ensuring that assistance is available when and if necessary. To date, the Board and community of Hornby High School have indicated strong support for the change of class, and this will also assist in achieving a smooth transition for learners.

Conclusion

57. The Ministry's recommendation is that Branston Intermediate School should close and that you initiate formal consultation on changing the class of Hornby High School to become a Year 7-13 school. If you agree to this proposal it is recommended the closure take effect on 27 January 2014. The reasons for this recommendation are that:
 - a. the Branston Intermediate site is not being fully utilised with the current school roll
 - b. the roll of Branston Intermediate is low for an intermediate school and roll trends do not indicate future growth
 - c. the site would be better utilised by South Hornby School (July 2012 roll: 302) particularly given the projected growth and student distribution within the cluster
 - d. learners can be well catered for in a Year 7-13 school setting at Hornby High School.

Next Steps

58. If after considering the information in this report you decide that Branston Intermediate School should close, a letter will be developed for your signature to the Board of Trustees inviting it to provide to you, within 28 days of the date of the letter, any further reasons why the school should remain open.
59. A letter will also be developed to the Board of Hornby High School which will initiate formal consultation on the proposal to change the class of that school to become Year 7-13.
60. If you decide that Branston Intermediate School should not close, letters will be developed for your signature.
61. Once your decision has been made, the Ministry recommends that a copy of this report be released to the Branston Intermediate School Board of Trustees.

Map of the Hornby Cluster

Rationale for Change Document

Education Provision at Alternative Schools

Hornby High School

ERO last reviewed Hornby High School in May 2012. In its report, ERO stated that:

Student achievement in the National Certificates of Educational Achievement (NCEA) has been improving over the last 5 years. In 2011, students achieved well above the level of students in similar schools at Level 1 and Level 3. Significantly more students achieved endorsements for merit and excellence. At level 1, the percentage of students achieving the literacy and numeracy requirements has been gradually improving.

Students who are not undertaking full NCEA courses are provided with meaningful learning programmes and support. Their progress and achievement is monitored as individuals.

Most students are involved in purposeful on-task learning. ERO observed good relationships among students and with their teachers in classrooms and in the wider school environment. Teachers have taken positive steps to improve student engagement. These include:

- developing respectful relationships between students and teachers*
- focusing on the development of thinking skills*
- regular meetings of teachers to identify student needs, and to develop common strategies to address these needs*
- academic interviews with each senior student each term*
- improved use of different learning opportunities including learning support and extension for gifted and talented students*
- identifying expectations for learning and behaviour that are clearly communicated to students and regularly monitored.*

Teachers are well supported through their professional development programme to develop and maintain teaching approaches that reflect current good practice. Teachers of each class meet regularly to share information about the individual needs of students and to make sure that their teaching approaches are consistent.

Property Information

1. Cost per learner is the cost of each proposal or alternative proposal divided by the number of affected learners.
2. The calculation for an Additional Teaching Space is based on the Network analysis.
3. The calculation for Teaching Space Allowance is based on the Ministry's standard allowance for a roll growth classroom, and additional allowance for site specific conditions and infrastructure.
4. Additional allowance for site specific conditions and infrastructure will be assessed on a site by site basis at the time of project planning. This figure has been used to provide consistent indicative cost estimates.
5. Primary School – Teaching Space Allowance

Standard allowance	\$197,520
Additional allowance for site specific conditions	\$32,480
Total allowance	\$230,000

6. Secondary School – Teaching Space Allowance

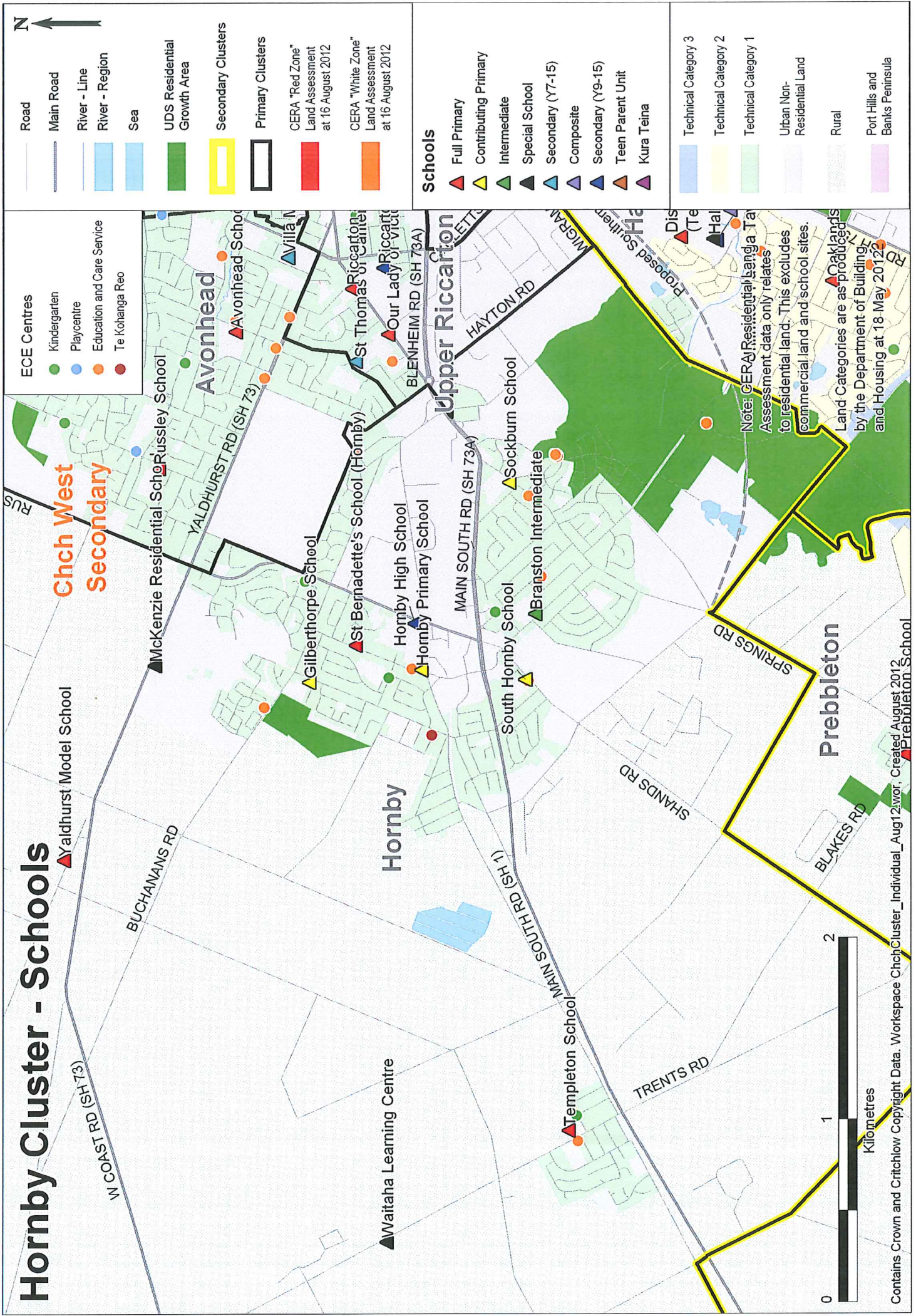
Standard allowance	\$178,800
Additional allowance for site specific conditions	\$21,200
Total allowance	\$200,000

7. Increases to non teaching spaces will be assessed at each site, but no allowance has been made in any of the above figures.
8. Indicative Ten Year Property Costs information - The figures may vary from amounts previously presented and may be subject to change as further infrastructure related costing information is obtained through detailed engineering evaluations.
9. For condition assessment – a physical site inspection was undertaken of every building to evaluate the anticipated maintenance requirements at each school for the next 10 years.
10. For assessing earthquake damage – the recording and quantifying of earthquake damage and indicative repair costs from all events was undertaken. These reports were reviewed by professional loss adjustors and are being used to support the Ministry's insurance claim.
11. For assessing structural strengthening – Information gathered via a national desktop study and during site visits by project managers and engineers has informed indicative assessments around strengthening which have been, or are being confirmed through the detailed engineering evaluation (DEE) process. All follow up site specific invasive investigations are being carried out by qualified engineers who interpret the findings and recommend further testing as appropriate.

12. For assessing weather tightness – cost estimates were developed as part of a national survey of all school buildings. Further detailed assessments were carried out on buildings identified through this exercise.
13. These indicative cost estimates are based upon information, data and research carried out by external parties. They are dependent on the information and assumptions included. While these results may vary as further information and/or assumptions are modified, these preliminary estimates will continue to provide the initial basis for costs of these projects.

Map of the Hornby Cluster

Hornby Cluster - Schools



- ECE Centres**
- Kindergarten
 - Playcentre
 - Education and Care Service
 - Te Kohanga Reo

- Roads**
- Main Road
 - River - Line
 - River - Region
 - Sea
- UDS Residential Growth Area**
- Secondary Clusters**
- Primary Clusters**
- CERA "Red Zone" Land Assessment at 16 August 2012**
- CERA "White Zone" Land Assessment at 16 August 2012**

Schools

- Full Primary
- Contributing Primary
- Intermediate
- Special School
- Secondary (Y7-15)
- Composite
- Secondary (Y9-15)
- Teen Parent Unit
- Kura Teina

- Technical Category 3
- Technical Category 2
- Technical Category 1
- Urban Non-Residential Land
- Rural
- Port Hills and Banks Peninsula

Note: CERA Residential Land Assessment data only relates to residential land. This excludes commercial land and school sites. Land Categories are as produced by the Department of Building and Housing at 18 May 2012.

Rationale for Change Document

Branston Intermediate School – Rationale for change

This document has been prepared to assist discussions with parents and communities about proposals for education renewal for greater Christchurch.

Why is change needed?

A strong education network is vital for the renewal of greater Christchurch.

The extent of damage and ongoing impact of people movement in the wake of the 2010 and 2011 earthquakes mean it cannot be restored to the way it was.

We need to accept in areas that have been depopulated we will have to do things differently, which will inevitably mean some change to services. The viability of existing individual schools and increased demand for new schools are a key consideration going forward.

The earthquakes, while devastating, have provided an opportunity beyond simply replacing what was there, to restore, consolidate and rejuvenate to provide new and improved facilities that will reshape education, improve the options and outcomes for learners, and support greater diversity and choice.

Education renewal for greater Christchurch is about meeting the needs and aspirations of children and young people. We want to ensure the approach addresses inequities and improves outcomes while prioritising action that will have a positive impact on learners in greatest need of assistance.

With the cost of renewal considerable, the ideal will be tempered by a sense of what is pragmatic and realistic. Key considerations are the practicalities of existing sites and buildings, the shifts in population distribution and concentration, the development of new communities and a changing urban infrastructure.

Innovative, cost effective, and sustainable options for organising and funding educational opportunities must be explored to provide for diversity and choice in an economically viable way.

Discussions with schools, communities and providers within learning community clusters have and will continue to be key to informing decisions around the overall future shape of each education community. Ways to enhance infrastructure and address existing property issues, improve education outcomes, and consider future governance will form part of these discussions which are running in parallel to consultation around formal proposals.

“We have a chance to set up something really good here so we need to do our best to get it right” – submission to Directions for Education Renewal across greater Christchurch.

Why is it proposed my school close?

People movement and land and or building damage as a result of the earthquakes are the catalysts for change across the network across greater Christchurch.

Many school buildings suffered significant damage, school sites have been compromised and there were 4,311 fewer student enrolments across greater Christchurch at July 2012 compared to July 2010¹.

Even before the earthquake there were around 5,000 spaces already under utilised in the network.

Branston Intermediate is on a large site that is ideally located to service new areas of residential growth. However, the school has a very small roll for an intermediate and is currently only operating to 54% of its roll capacity which makes it a heavily under utilised school compared to its potential capacity.

While the school has minimal earthquake damage and is in reasonable condition, its buildings require earthquake strengthening which will require significant investment. The investment required would make it one of the most expensive schools to repair and remediate on a cost per learner basis.

Rather than spend a large amount of money on a facility that will only benefit a small number of learners across two year groups, the Ministry proposes to close Branston Intermediate and relocate South Hornby School onto the Branston site. South Hornby School is a year 1-6 contributing primary located in close proximity.

Relocating South Hornby School onto the Branston Intermediate site would allow for significantly better utilisation of the site, and provision of modern facilities for a significantly larger number of learners. Existing students in both schools would still have access to a school in their community. It also provides an opportunity to provide a full primary service near to areas of new residential development on a site that is large enough to meet future expected growth in the area.

Land

Surrounding land is predominately CERA technical category 1 (TC1).

While geotechnical considerations are unlikely to be a significant factor at this site, preliminary assessments suggest further investigation will be required if further development is undertaken on this site.

Buildings

The buildings on the Branston Intermediate site have suffered some degree of earthquake damage. This covers a wide spectrum from minor cracking to ceiling and wall finishes to repointing of brick work.

Some buildings will also require earthquake strengthening. Detailed Engineering Evaluations (DEE's) have commenced and are scheduled to be complete mid 2013; these reports will confirm the exact scale of this work.

Buildings on site have also been flagged for weather tightness remediation.

¹ This figure includes international fee-paying students.

Indicative Ten Year Property Costs*

Indicative Ten Year Property Costs for Branston Intermediate	\$7.9 million
<i>Note: This figure may vary from amounts previously presented and may be subject to change when more detailed assessments are completed.</i>	

The above costs are predominately structural strengthening remediation works.

**These preliminary cost estimates are based upon information, data and research carried out by external parties. They are dependent on the information and assumptions included. While these results may vary as further information and/or assumptions are modified, these preliminary estimates will continue to provide the initial basis for the cost of these projects.*

Cost estimate information

For condition assessment – a physical site inspection was undertaken of every building to evaluate the anticipated maintenance requirements at each school for the next 10 years.

For assessing earthquake damage – the recording and quantifying of earthquake damage and indicative repair costs from all events was undertaken. These reports were reviewed by professional loss adjusters and are being used to support the Ministry's insurance claim.

For assessing structural strengthening – Information gathered via a national desktop study and during site visits by project managers and engineers has informed indicative assessments around strengthening which have been, or are being confirmed through the Detailed Engineering Evaluation (DEE) process. All follow up site specific invasive investigations are being carried out by qualified engineers who interpret the findings and recommend further testing as appropriate.

For assessing weather tightness – cost estimates were developed as part of a national survey of all school buildings. Further detailed assessments were carried out on buildings identified through this exercise.

People

Branston Intermediate had a July 2012 roll of 180, which is less than the roll in 2010 and 2008. This roll is considered small for an intermediate school.

Rolls of schools in the cluster: Total July rolls 2008, 2010, 2012²

School Name	Type	Authority	2008	2010	2012
St Bernadette's School (Hornby)	Full Primary (Year 1-8)	State: Integrated	151	140	141
Gilberthorpe School	Contributing (Year 1-6)	State	111	98	104
Hornby Primary School	Contributing (Year 1-6)	State	144	149	143
Sockburn School	Contributing (Year 1-6)	State	215	155	131

² July School Rolls are total July rolls, excluding international fee paying students.

School Name	Type	Authority	2008	2010	2012
South Hornby School	Contributing (Year 1-6)	State	297	304	302
Templeton School	Full Primary (Year 1-8)	State	343	339	346
Yaldhurst Model School	Full Primary (Year 1-8)	State	129	116	123
Primary Total			1,390	1,301	1,290
Branston Intermediate	Intermediate (year 7 and 8)	State	233	191	180
Intermediate Total			233	191	180
Hornby High School	Secondary (Year 9-15)	State	452	471	426
Secondary Total			452	471	426
McKenzie Residential School	Special School	State	29	29	29
Waitaha School	Special School	State	18	20	32

Student Distribution Patterns³

Based on July 2012 student address data:

Years 7-8

Seventy four percent of year 7-8 students living in the Hornby cluster catchment attended a state school, 23% were enrolled at state integrated schools and a further 3% at private schools.

Years 9-15

Seventy five percent of year 9-15 students living in the Hornby cluster catchment attended a state school, 22% were enrolled at state integrated schools and a further 3% were enrolled at private schools.

Note: Information on year 9-15 students has been included to reflect the option for Hornby High School to become a year 7-15 secondary school if Branston Intermediate were to close.

³ Analysis includes all crown 'funded' students only, i.e. regular, regular adult, returning adult & extramural. It reflects the student's home address – which bears no relationship to the school they were enrolled at. Not all student records were address matched.

Schools with the highest number of year 7-8 students living in the Branston Intermediate cluster catchment.

School	Authority	# students ⁴	% ⁵
Branston Intermediate	State	169	33%
Kirkwood Intermediate	State	61	12%
Templeton School	State	57	11%
St Bernadette's School (Hornby)	State: Integrated	31	6%
Middleton Grange School	State: Integrated	20	4%
St Thomas of Canterbury College	State: Integrated	19	4%
Russley School	State	16	3%
Our Lady of Victories	State: Integrated	16	3%
Yaldhurst Model School	State	10	2%
Riccarton School	State	9	2%

Just under half (46%) of year 7-8 students living in the Hornby cluster catchment attended one of the three local state schools providing year 7-8 education.

About a third, (169) of the 515 year 7-8 students living in the Hornby cluster catchment were enrolled at Branston Intermediate.

Schools with the highest number of year 9-15 students living in the Branston Intermediate cluster catchment.

School	Authority	# students ⁶	% ⁷
Hornby High School	State	370	35%
Riccarton High School	State	135	13%
St Thomas of Canterbury College	State: Integrated	83	8%
Lincoln High School	State	74	7%
Villa Maria College	State: Integrated	73	7%
Burnside High School	State	62	6%
Hagley Community College	State	39	4%
Middleton Grange School	State: Integrated	35	3%
Hillmorton High School	State	28	3%
Christchurch Boys' High School	State	23	2%

There were 1,068 year 9-15 students residing in the Hornby cluster of which 35% (370 students) were enrolled at Hornby High School.

⁴ Number of all year 7-8 students in the cluster that attend a given school

⁵ Percentage of all year 7-8 students in the cluster that attend a given school

⁶ Number of all year 9-15 students in the cluster that attend a given school

⁷ Percentage of all year 9-15 students in the cluster that attend a given school

Population change⁸

There were 3,011 students living in the Hornby cluster catchment in March 2010 compared to 2,985 in March 2012 (based on March address matched roll data)⁹.

This indicates that no significant school age population change has occurred over this period.

While there has been no significant change in total student numbers over the past two years, there are several large scale greenfield residential developments (Wigram, Masham) proposed within this cluster, which are projected to result in around 2,000 additional households by 2021¹⁰.

Household numbers are projected to grow by a further 1,000 by 2041.

Note: The timing of growth is influenced by a number of factors such as economic and social determinants many of which remain uncertain following the earthquakes.

The Ministry will continue to work with agencies such as Christchurch City Council and CERA on projected population change.

What would proposed closure mean for the school and its community?

As at July 2012 there were 515 year 7-8 students residing in the Hornby cluster.

Just over a third (36%) or 184 of these students lived within a 1 km radius of current year 7-8 state school provision (Branston Intermediate, Templeton School, Yaldhurst Model School).

This would reduce to 176 students (34%) if Branston Intermediate were to close and Yaldhurst Model School were to merge with Gilberthorpe School (as is also being proposed) and Hornby High School became a year 7-15 secondary school, which is an option.

Closing Branston Intermediate would enable funding to be invested in the nearby schools where the majority of the learners would most likely go, and into the network generally to provide modern learning environments for a larger number of students

Relocating South Hornby School onto the Branston site would provide an opportunity to provide a full primary service near to areas of new residential development on a site that is large enough to meet future expected growth in the area.

It would also allow for significantly better utilisation of the site and provision of new modern facilities for a significantly larger number of learners without unduly inconveniencing those currently attending either school.

Safe and inspiring learning environments are key to meeting the New Zealand Property vision for greater Christchurch schools, which means:

- Ensuring any health and safety and infrastructural issues are addressed

⁹ March data has been used for the comparison across the period 2010 to 2012, as no relevant historical July student address data exists.

⁹ Note this is a count of student address data points, not total school roll.

¹⁰ Source: Greater Christchurch Household Scenarios 2011-2041, Prepared for the UDS Partners, March 2012. Figures quoted are based on the 'BAU Quick Scenario' household projections and are compared to pre-earthquake 2011 household data.

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- Taking into account whole of life cost considerations, to allow cost over the life of the asset, rather than initial capital cost to drive repair or replacement decisions
 - Enabling all entitlement teaching spaces to be upgraded to meet the 'Sheerin' Core modern learning environment standard – which has a strong focus on heating lighting, acoustics, ventilation and ICT infrastructure upgrades.

This will include provision of appropriate shared facilities across schools within a cluster that can be used by both schools and the community and other agencies as appropriate.

The Ministry will ensure appropriate provision for learners within this cluster to support any changes that may result from consultation.

The Ministry will provide information around enrolment options to families and provide required support.

The provisions of the respective employment agreements will apply.

If a decision to close is made the school property will go into a disposal process.

How would the proposed closure of my school fit into the overall plan for my learning community cluster?

Renewal focuses on the cluster of provision within an education community and the collective impact of people movement and land and building damage across the entire provision within the cluster.

The future of your learners should continue to feature in the wider cluster discussion.

In the first instance this is because the cluster may have thoughts around alternative options that will meet the overarching needs of this cluster to not only revitalise infrastructure but also enhance educational outcomes across this education community that it wishes to contribute during consultation.

The cluster will also need to consider how learners might be accommodated in the future should a decision be made to close the school. The cluster would want to consider how enhanced provision that might be required to support moving student populations might look.

How would the proposed closure of my school fit into the overall plan for the network as a whole?

The proposed closure of Branston Intermediate is one of several proposed changes for the Hornby cluster. Other proposed changes include:

- The merger of Yaldhurst Model School and Gilberthorpe School
- Relocation of South Hornby School to the Branston Intermediate site
- Relocation of Sockburn School to a new site in the Wigram development.

These proposed changes are intended to provide a spatially sensible and sustainable primary school network that reflects the areas of growth in the Hornby cluster.

Changing Hornby High School from a year 9-15 secondary school to a year 7-15 secondary school is one option for consideration should the proposed changes be adopted.

Facts and Figures

School Rolls are confirmed total 1 July rolls, excluding international fee paying students.

Student Distribution data is drawn primarily from the address matched July 2012 School roll return dataset (excluding international fee paying students). Where March 2010 and March 2012 student address data has been used, the use of these datasets is indicated.

Individual student records have been cleaned of all sensitive data and address matched (geocoded) to street addresses. Not all student records were address matched, as some records were not able to be geocoded, and student records identified with a privacy risk indicator have been excluded from the data. Across all schools in greater Christchurch, approximately 95% of records were address matched.

Where a school has an enrolment scheme, this is legally defined in a written description and is available from the relevant school. School enrolment scheme “home zones” or “school zones” are legally defined in the written description, and the display of any enrolment zone in a map is only a visual representation of the written description. School enrolment schemes, enrolment zones, and associated maps are reviewed periodically

Land and infrastructure information has been drawn from a variety of sources as outlined above.

Utilisation: The amount of student space being used (peak roll) as a percentage of the total student spaces available. Total student space has been based on the number of classrooms as at February 2012.

Peak rolls used: Primary – the October 2011 roll

Secondary and Intermediate – the March 2012 roll return

Relevant reports and documentation will be provided.

Contact us

Email us shapingeducation@minedu.govt.nz

Education Provision at Alternative Schools

Hornby High School

ERO last reviewed Hornby High School in May 2012. In its report, ERO stated that:

Student achievement in the National Certificates of Educational Achievement (NCEA) has been improving over the last 5 years. In 2011, students achieved well above the level of students in similar schools at Level 1 and Level 3. Significantly more students achieved endorsements for merit and excellence. At level 1, the percentage of students achieving the literacy and numeracy requirements has been gradually improving.

Students who are not undertaking full NCEA courses are provided with meaningful learning programmes and support. Their progress and achievement is monitored as individuals.

Most students are involved in purposeful on-task learning. ERO observed good relationships among students and with their teachers in classrooms and in the wider school environment. Teachers have taken positive steps to improve student engagement. These include:

- *developing respectful relationships between students and teachers*
- *focusing on the development of thinking skills*
- *regular meetings of teachers to identify student needs, and to develop common strategies to address these needs*
- *academic interviews with each senior student each term*
- *improved use of different learning opportunities including learning support and extension for gifted and talented students*
- *identifying expectations for learning and behaviour that are clearly communicated to students and regularly monitored.*

Teachers are well supported through their professional development programme to develop and maintain teaching approaches that reflect current good practice. Teachers of each class meet regularly to share information about the individual needs of students and to make sure that their teaching approaches are consistent.

Property Information

1. Cost per learner is the cost of each proposal or alternative proposal divided by the number of affected learners.
2. The calculation for an Additional Teaching Space is based on the Network analysis.
3. The calculation for Teaching Space Allowance is based on the Ministry's standard allowance for a roll growth classroom, and additional allowance for site specific conditions and infrastructure.
4. Additional allowance for site specific conditions and infrastructure will be assessed on a site by site basis at the time of project planning. This figure has been used to provide consistent indicative cost estimates.

5. Primary School – Teaching Space Allowance

Standard allowance	\$197,520
Additional allowance for site specific conditions	\$32,480
Total allowance	\$230,000

6. Secondary School – Teaching Space Allowance

Standard allowance	\$178,800
Additional allowance for site specific conditions	\$21,200
Total allowance	\$200,000

7. Increases to non teaching spaces will be assessed at each site, but no allowance has been made in any of the above figures.
8. Indicative Ten Year Property Costs information - The figures may vary from amounts previously presented and may be subject to change as further infrastructure related costing information is obtained through detailed engineering evaluations.
9. For condition assessment – a physical site inspection was undertaken of every building to evaluate the anticipated maintenance requirements at each school for the next 10 years.
10. For assessing earthquake damage – the recording and quantifying of earthquake damage and indicative repair costs from all events was undertaken. These reports were reviewed by professional loss adjustors and are being used to support the Ministry's insurance claim.
11. For assessing structural strengthening – Information gathered via a national desktop study and during site visits by project managers and engineers has informed indicative assessments around strengthening which have been, or are being confirmed through the detailed engineering evaluation (DEE) process. All follow up site specific invasive investigations are being carried out by qualified engineers who interpret the findings and recommend further testing as appropriate.

12. For assessing weather tightness – cost estimates were developed as part of a national survey of all school buildings. Further detailed assessments were carried out on buildings identified through this exercise.
13. These indicative cost estimates are based upon information, data and research carried out by external parties. They are dependent on the information and assumptions included. While these results may vary as further information and/or assumptions are modified, these preliminary estimates will continue to provide the initial basis for costs of these projects.

