
Proposal to Build a New High
School in the
North East of Christchurch
Following
Investigation into
Secondary Education Requirements

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1.0 Executive Summary

This report represents the result of work undertaken by the community of North East Christchurch looking into the area's high school education issues. The investigations arose following significant interest in the community, culminating in over 3,600 people signing a petition seeking an investigation and action by the Ministry of Education.

The North East Christchurch area is, for the purposes of this report, defined by the 8083 postcode. Recent housing developments and a high local birth rate in this area have led to primary school rolls nearing capacity. Planned housing developments are anticipated to add another 3,500 homes to the area. There are now more than 2,200 primary school children in the area. These students are starting to flow into secondary education.

This is a family focused community. Families take pride living in this community and have a strong desire to see it develop more sustainably. Local schools strengthen established parenting networks, with families and the community supporting each other. Relationships confirmed through previous schooling and community groups are enhanced. Younger children feel they belong and can envisage their future education. The community becomes stronger through local schooling as families stay in the area. Families recognise the stability a local school would bring enabling teenagers to have a role in their own community.

The report shows there is a need to ensure the area is adequately resourced in terms of access to high school education facilities for the current and expected population growth. In the wider area there are some high schools operating beyond their capacity and some that are operating below capacity. These imbalances need to be resolved. Additionally, the need for a new high school for the area has become apparent as the research has developed. The committee is of the opinion that such a school will show considerable positive economic benefit, and that the building of such a new school should be considered as a matter of high priority for the Ministry of Education and the community.

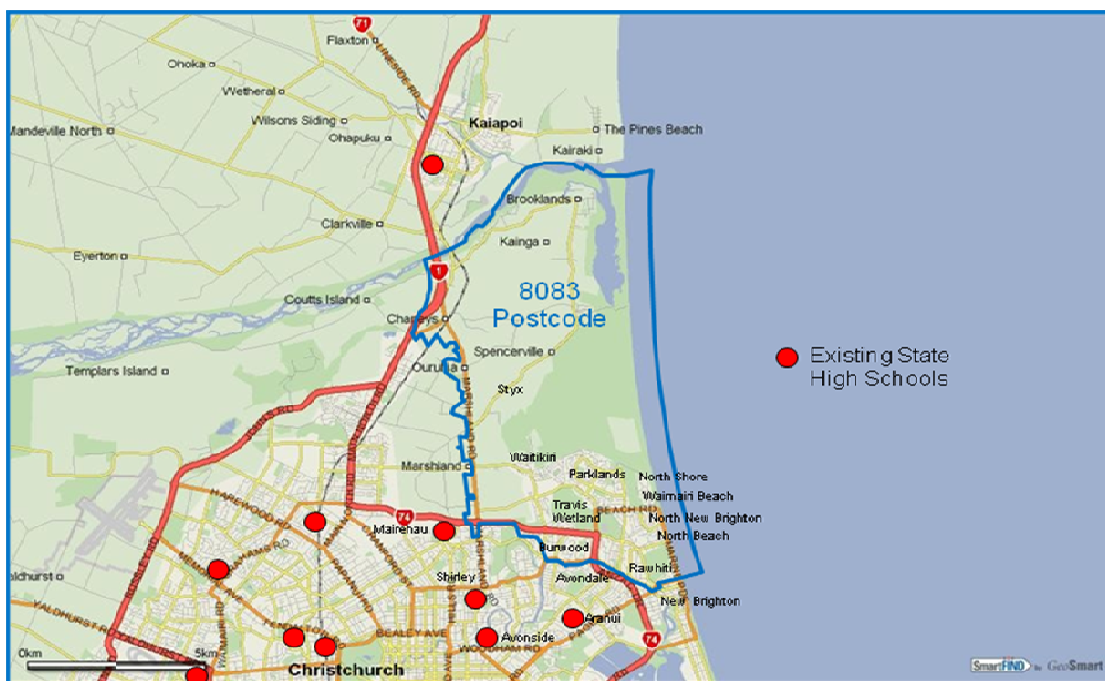
This report also provides a summary of the research undertaken into various options for secondary schooling for the area, and identifies three potential sites for a new high school.

2.0 Background

2.1 Introduction

This document outlines an investigation into current high schooling in the North East of Christchurch. This area is defined as being south of the Waimakariri River, east of Marshland Road and north of the Avon River (Figure 1). The total current population in the area is over 25,000. There are now more than 2,200 children attending primary school, across six schools in this area. There are no high schools or intermediate schools in this geographic area, which is also defined by the '8083' postcode, and hence forth will be referred to as "the 8083 area".

Figure 1. North East Christchurch. Map showing area described.



As a result of growing concern within the community the North East Secondary Education Committee was established in 2008. The purpose of the group was to investigate ways to optimise current high schooling options, including roll imbalances and to look into the viability of a new local high school. The committee's role is to be an advocate for parents and children, to be impartial in its investigations and to address the majority of the community's needs in its recommendations.

This report summarises the actions and findings of the committee in its investigation of the area's secondary education requirements.

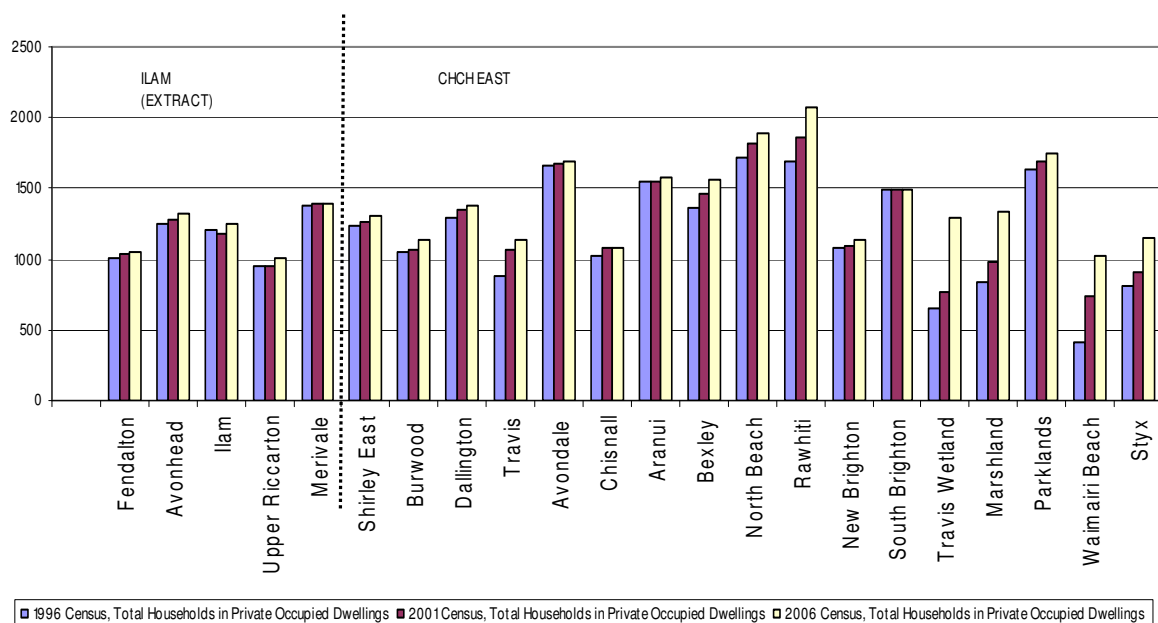
2.2 Demographics

The Christchurch City population is growing at a rate which exceeds the national population growth rate. The total population of Christchurch grew by 10.2% from 321,000 in 2001 to 348,000 in 2006¹. This was more than twice the growth that Statistics New Zealand forecast in 2001 (Appendix 1). This trend continues with Statistics NZ estimating the population of urban Christchurch to be 382,200 as at 31st March 2009.

The Christchurch population distributions by age and household composition are detailed in Appendices 2 and 3. There are now 50,000 more people than in 1995 when the current age group of high school students were born (Appendix 2). Christchurch City Council projections are that there will be a further additional 50,000 people living in Christchurch by 2026 (Appendix 3). Given that by 31 March 2009 the City had grown by 35,000 in three years, this figure may well be conservative. Planning and consented housing developments dictate that much of this growth will be in the north east and south west areas of Christchurch. Based on the typical split in school aged children this will introduce an additional 9,000 five to fourteen year olds into the Christchurch school system by 2026 compared to early 2009 – a system that has network capacity even with upgrades for at best only half of these additional numbers.

The population in the north east of Christchurch is young and growing. Due to the area demographics and the availability of consented development land, the population in north east Christchurch is likely to continue growing at the current rate for the next five years. This growth rate is faster than the Christchurch average.

Figure 2. Number of Households, 1996–2006 Census



¹ Statistics New Zealand Census 2006

2006 Census data documents the expanding areas in Christchurch's eastern suburbs. (Figure 2) The Travis Wetland, Marshland and Waimairi Beach zones in the 8083 area reflect this strong growth. Comparing these with other more stable suburbs in the Ilam zone of Christchurch shows where future student growth is likely.

Since 2004 there has been significant residential development in the 8083 area with the building of nearly 1,000 new homes. Most of these new households are either young childless couples or couples with young families². This is seen by the growth in the under five year old population.

There are 1,000 new sections which have approved subdivisions consent in Burwood, North Shore, Waitikiri, Spencerville and Brooklands. There is increasing housing intensity in and around older suburbs like North New Brighton. The north east of Christchurch contains large areas of undeveloped land within Christchurch's urban boundaries, with the potential for a further 1,000 new sections.

In addition Preston's Road Limited has applied for rezoning to develop a further 2,500 sections in the Marshland area. In total this means the potential for 4,500 new homes over the next 20 years, thus an additional 10,000 or more people.

The Burwood Pegasus Ward already has the largest number of children under 15 years of age in Christchurch City. Based on the usual age profile, these 4,500 new homes will mean an additional 1,800 students under 15 years of age. These are students for which no forward planning has occurred.

² Statistics New Zealand Census 2006

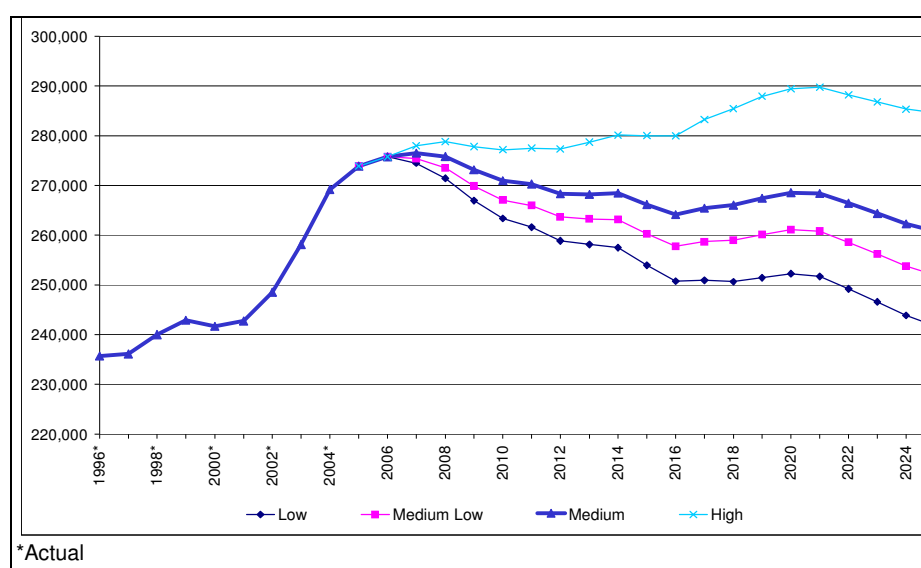
2.3 School Statistics

2.3.1 School Roll Growth

There has been considerable growth in birth numbers, mirrored by the recent establishment of ten new private early childhood centres in the 8083 area. This is the largest increase in early childhood education provision in any part of the South Island. These preschoolers will start to flow through primary school rolls from 2010 onwards.

The Ministry of Education publishes six monthly school and forecast rolls on a national and regional basis (Appendices 4 & 5). Canterbury was one of only three regions with roll growth between 2006 and 2007. The Ministry has constantly predicted the nationwide secondary rolls would '*peak next year*' - originally in 2006, then in 2007 (Figure 3). In July 2006, the Ministry predicted rolls across the country to peak in 2007 at 274,500. However, by 2008 enrolments were in fact 5,000 more than that figure, at over 280,200.

Figure 3. Actual and projected Year 9 to Year 13 enrolments, 1996 to 2026³



There have been record births and migration in 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009 year-to-date both nationally and in Christchurch. This was unexpected and in time, will lead to a further increase in local school rolls. It is clear that even the recent record high number of secondary students be a trend that will continue to exceed expectations for some time.

For each of the past three years the Ministry of Education has under forecast the growth in Christchurch rolls by several hundred students. Population growth in the 8083 area has considerably exceeded the Ministry of Education's expectations. Such prediction inaccuracies are very material, especially at a regional level in Christchurch.

³ Extract from the Ministry of Education report on school rolls published July 2006

It is evident that the 'high' forecast line below may well be achieved in growth areas of New Zealand such as Christchurch. This is seen by comparing the 2006 projections with the latest roll figures showing a growth of about 1,000 pupils over three years in Canterbury alone. Provision needs to be made for these increasing student numbers.

2.3.2 Existing Schools

Primary

The current primary school population is growing steadily. Local primary schools' future growth projections for the next 10-20 years expect an increase to 2890 students by 2015, then to over 4,000 students by 2025, peaking in line with the projected city population growth. The current and future predicted roll numbers for most of the primary schools in the 8083 area have been controlled recently by zoning (Appendix 6). However, Parkview Primary School is growing rapidly due to recent housing developments. It has 111 new entrants for 2009. It is expected to double from 400 students in 2008 to 800 students by 2015. The other primary schools are either at, or near capacity.

These estimated future rolls make no provision for the rapid development anticipated in the Ouruhia and Marshland catchments. Preston's Road Ltd's proposed subdivision with 2500 new homes has begun the Private Plan Change process. Development representatives have been in discussion with the Ministry of Education regarding the creation of a new primary school and upgrading Marshland School to cater for expected roll growth. The development is likely to include a new primary school with up to 500 students from about 2015 - 2020.

However, the estimated future rolls do allow for some infill growth in the areas surrounding Windsor, Parkview and Burwood Schools. The table in Appendix 6 excludes a group of primary schools which are existing feeder schools for Aranui High School, including Freeville School, Aranui School, Wainoni School, North New Brighton School, Central New Brighton School, South New Brighton School and St James School.

Intermediate

The majority of the primary schools in the area cater for Years 7 and 8. The number of children choosing to remain in their primary school for these years is increasing. This reflects the community's preference for local schooling, maintaining networks and minimising travel.

Secondary

A high school was originally planned for the area in the 1970's on the site of what is now the Parklands Reserve and Community Centre. Due to delays in the community population growth the school was deferred and the site sold to the Christchurch City Council in October 1989.

The nearest existing state high schools are Shirley Boys' High School, Avonside Girls' High School, Mairehau High School and Aranui High School.

Shirley Boys' High School and Avonside Girls' High School are to the south west and have enrolment schemes. Mairehau High School mostly services the community west of Marshland Road. Aranui High School mostly services the community south of the Avon River. In 2004 a decision was made to upgrade both of these schools with an expectation that the population would be stable. The upgrade of both schools was needed regardless to replace aging facilities at both schools.

There has been a recent decline in student numbers at Aranui and Mairehau high schools with an equal rise in numbers at Shirley Boys' High School and Avonside Girls' High School (Appendix 7). Despite these two schools having enrolment schemes, both schools take a significant number of students from outside their zones. This has influenced the rolls of Mairehau and Aranui high schools. They have also had significant issues with retention of their senior students, impacting negatively on their rolls. This is the subject of further work by the Ministry of Education which if successful, will significantly boost their rolls. Additionally, education policies under development will increase the retention of more 17 and 18 year old students at all existing high schools.

Over the last few years, community high school requirements have been boosted by increasing rolls at Shirley Boys' High School, Avonside Girls' High School and private schools such as St Andrew's College, St Bede's College, and Marion College. These schools have all now reached capacity (Appendix 7).

The rolls of both Shirley Boys' and Avonside Girls' high schools reached capacity after each increased by 200 additional students in recent years. Both schools have been seeking additional resources, while there remains extra capacity for 300 to 400 students between Aranui High School and Mairehau High School. This capacity would be best used by reinforcing existing zones or alternatively by realigning the zones being used by Shirley Boys' High School and Avonside Girls' High School, removing the need for greater spending there. A similar relationship exists between Mairehau and Papanui high schools. There are indications that Mairehau High School could benefit from reviewing and establishing a zone. This could be one solution for the current roll imbalances. Discussions with the Principal of Shirley Boys' High School indicated that they would ideally like their roll to reduce by 400 students over the next 10 years. This year 417 of its students come from within the 8083 area. There is a need to correct this imbalance over time in consultation with Mairehau, Avonside and Shirley Boys' high schools.

2.3.3 Local High School Requirements

In 2008 there were more than 27,000 children enrolled in high schools in the Christchurch urban area. There are currently 49 high schools in Christchurch ranging in size from special schools with about 100 students, up to Burnside High School which has 2,554 students.

The viable size for a new high school according to discussions with a number of schools is 650-750 students. The north east of Christchurch could easily support a high school well in excess of that.

Development north of Christchurch at the new Pegasus township with a forecast population of 5,000 is expected to place pressure on schools in that area. The outlook for the north

east of Christchurch, especially including the projected 6,000 populating the Preston subdivision east of Marshland Road is even higher. Locating a new high school in the north east would allow it to also service the growing areas of Marshland, Brooklands and Spencerville, whose students currently attend Kaiapoi High to the north of the Waimakariri River.

The Ministry of Education has already consulted on the need for a new high school north of the Waimakariri River to serve projected growth in the Kaiapoi/Rangiora/Pegasus district. It acknowledges the need for that area. However, this analysis did not take into account the potential for growth south of the Waimakariri River, a significant portion of which currently uses schools north of the Waimakariri River. Additionally, Rangiora High School is in the process of reviewing its zone to reduce its size. These students will add extra pressure to Kaiapoi High School's roll.

Building a new high school south of the Waimakariri River instead, to also service parts north of the Waimakariri River not serviced by Kaiapoi and Rangiora High Schools, would be economically and educationally more sustainable. Based on a preliminary economic analysis this would yield considerable net benefits. Sufficient good land sites exist for a school at a reasonable price and the community would view it extremely favourably. Most of the community in this target area is of high socio-economic demographics and is increasingly politically active on education issues.

The local key feeder primary schools for a new high school are themselves growing to cater for the local primary school roll growth. At least seven local primary schools would feed into the new high school. These schools would be Burwood School, Marshland School, Ouruhia Model School, Parkview School, Queenspark School and Windsor School and the new school proposed for the Preston's Road subdivision. These would provide approximately 200 - 300 new high school students annually, increasing by a further 100 per year as the planned developments occur. This would provide more than sufficient student numbers to support a new high school in the long term.

Parents have clear outcome preferences when selecting a high school for their children. Given where students from the 8083 area currently attend high school, a new school would not influence the Aranui or Kaiapoi high school rolls. It could reduce the rolls at Shirley Boys' and Avonside Girls' high schools. Based on interviews with local high school principals, over 80 percent of these students do not go to Mairehau High School. Consultation with Mairehau High School would ensure it has a protected catchment area. This can be easily dealt with by zoning the 8083 area. Given the student catchment this would become a high decile school, which would support the high decile primary schools currently already in the area.

2.4 Community Views

A public meeting was held to discuss the information in this document on 11th September 2008 at Queenspark School Hall. Meeting notices were delivered to 3000 households within the local community. The meeting was also advertised by the local media. A total of 200 people attended the meeting. This was remarkable given the evening coincided with a large city-wide school concert event and vindicated the group's concerns.

Survey forms were given to all attendees. Over 100 parents present completed the survey forms with the following outcomes:-

- 90% of parents would send their children to a local high school if one was available in this community.
- 75% of the parents said they would be willing to pay up to \$1,000 per annum per child to do this.
- 80% of the parents stated they intended to leave the community for their children to attend high school if one is not in place by the time their eldest child reaches Year 9.

The 8083 area is a wonderful rich environment and a great community to live in. It is abundant with resources for an outdoor lifestyle. It caters well for children with primary schools, clubs, sports activities and local resources. It has the advantages of every amenity and facility required to sustain a community, except for a high school.

The North East Secondary Education Committee was established to investigate options for high schooling.

A petition was undertaken seeking local community views on the need for a new high school in late 2008 and early 2009. The petition to the House of Representatives asked that "We the undersigned request that the need for a new high school be investigated in the area for the children of north east Christchurch". More than 3,600 valid individuals signed the petition supporting a new high school. People were forthcoming with their enthusiastic verbal support for the petition. We heard many individual testimonies about how they were intensely hopeful that a high school would be built in time for their children.

The failure to provide a high school has left a void. This creates a dilemma for families in the area. There is considerable evidence of wide spread relocation of families with high school aged children out of the area and into areas with high school zones. Subsequently, community strength is reduced as community networks lose their established members.

The petition signatures have been collated into a data base and accompany this document as evidence of the strength and commitment of this community towards achieving a new local high school.

The investigation timeline is summarised in Appendix 8.

3.0 Advantages of a High School in North East Christchurch

3.1 Environmental Considerations

3.1.1 Travel Time

Travel time and other transport costs are considerable expenses met by the community. They are a waste of economic resources. Students could either walk or bike to the new school instead of travelling eight km or more each day. This would save the considerable travel time currently wasted moving students to schools outside the community. Using an average marginal saving of eight minutes per trip this equates to more than 15 minutes per day for each student.

Typically, parents are also involved in transporting students. The Ministry of Transport uses a travel time cost of \$10 per hour. This is time made unproductive by travelling, not transport costs which are covered separately. Applying this to parents of 700 students across 250 days per year, a new school equates to an economic saving of nearly \$440,000 per year, or \$17.5 million in savings during the next 40 years.

3.1.2 Transport Costs

Transport costs savings for the new school are expected to be considerable. Currently, the option is to take children eight km away, to either Mairehau High School or Aranui High School. Assuming a marginal saving of five km per child each way per day, over a 250 day school year for 700 students, this would save 1,750,000 km in travel annually. Using the Automobile Association's typical running costs of a vehicle of 66.7c per km, this saves \$1.1 million per year or \$46 million over the next 40 years.

3.1.3 Greenhouse Gas

The Government released information in its plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Applying this information to the above data where five kilometres of avoided travel saves 1,750,000 km of travel per year, equates to a saving of thousands of tonnes of CO₂ over the next 40 years valued at an estimated \$700,000.

3.1.4 Pollution

Christchurch has some of the worst air pollution of any city in New Zealand, rising well above World Health Organisation recommended levels on numerous nights during the winter months. Environment Canterbury recommends that although transport accounts for less than 10% of Christchurch's air pollution, transport is growing continuously and that we reduce transport and use smarter transport options where possible.

3.2 Community Benefits

3.2.1 Reciprocal Benefits

There are many advantages of having a school located in its own community. A school can be designed to reflect its surrounding environment, heritage and the diversities in its own culture.

The 8083 area has many features which allow development of specific curriculum values such as conservation, ecological sustainability, health and an active lifestyle. The area includes river, wetland and beach habitats. There are forests and market gardens. There are recreation and sports facilities including swimming, surf club, mountain biking, BMX, horse riding, golf and orienteering.

There are many local businesses in the area, allowing skills in the local community to be identified and utilised.

When a school is located within its own community families are empowered to provide input and support the school as a whole. Through local knowledge and familiarity the school becomes a centre for the whole community and the curriculum is enhanced.

Local schools sustain established parenting networks with families and the community supporting each other. The community has the opportunity to get to know its own youth. Relationships confirmed through previous schooling and community groups are enhanced. Younger children feel they belong and can envisage their future education. The community becomes stronger as families stay in the area.

Students will better understand and value the local resources and amenities. The students can work towards a smaller carbon footprint being able to choose to walk or bike to school. Students will have a more balanced lifestyle with less time spent travelling. They will have more time for self directed learning opportunities including out of school activities.

3.2.2 Avoided Traffic Accidents

In its analysis for new roads, the Ministry of Transport assumes that for every 100,000 km travelled there will be a set number of accidents at various levels of severity. Each of these accidents has set economic costs associated with them. Based on the transport cost saving calculations of 1,750,000 km in travel annually, this equates to approximately 70 million km over the next 40 years⁴.

On average, there is one fatal or serious accident for every three million kilometres travelled in New Zealand. The nearest existing school locations are across two major arterial roads making these figures extremely relevant.

⁴ Ministry of Transport. The Social Cost of Road Crashes and Injuries.
<http://www.transport.govt.nz/socialcost/>

By locating a high school within the 8083 area it can be concluded that the saved travel distance will avoid a significant number of accidents, or very conservatively, five fatalities and ten major accidents over the next 40 years. Based on statistics used by the Ministry of Transport this would avoid about \$600,000 per annum or \$24 million in economic costs over the next 40 years.

3.2.3 Health Benefits

Obesity is becoming an issue for young people and the community as a whole. There are positive health advantages for students being able to walk or bike to high school in preference to travelling by bus or car. Students develop social networks, long term friendships and physical fitness while travelling to school. This has later flow on effects to savings in the health budget.

3.3 Economic Benefits

3.3.1 Avoided Capital Expenditure

It is unknown how much, if any, of the future planned expenditure at other high schools can be deferred or avoided by this proposal. However, the author is aware of potential bids for up to \$5 million in capital expenditure for Shirley Boys' and Avonside Girls' High Schools. This is for capital works designed to cater for roll growth at their schools, which are already over capacity. This expenditure would be offset against the school construction cost.

Capital expenditure for the new high school would be optimised, as significant contributions are anticipated from community raised funds.

3.3.2 Economic Multiplier Benefits

There are likely to be other economic multiplier benefits from the proposal, including the employment of 20 or more staff and the impact of the additional expenditure in the community. These are typically expected to be two to three times the actual expenditure, based on sound analysis of economic multipliers.

Fig 4. Summary of associated economic benefits over the next 40 years

Travel Time	\$17,500,000
Transport Costs	\$46,000,000
Reduced CO ₂ Emissions	\$ 700,000
Pollution	Unknown
Reciprocal Benefits	Unknown
Avoided Traffic Accidents	\$24,000,000
Avoided Capital Expenditure	Unknown
Economic Multipliers	Unknown
TOTAL	\$88,200,000

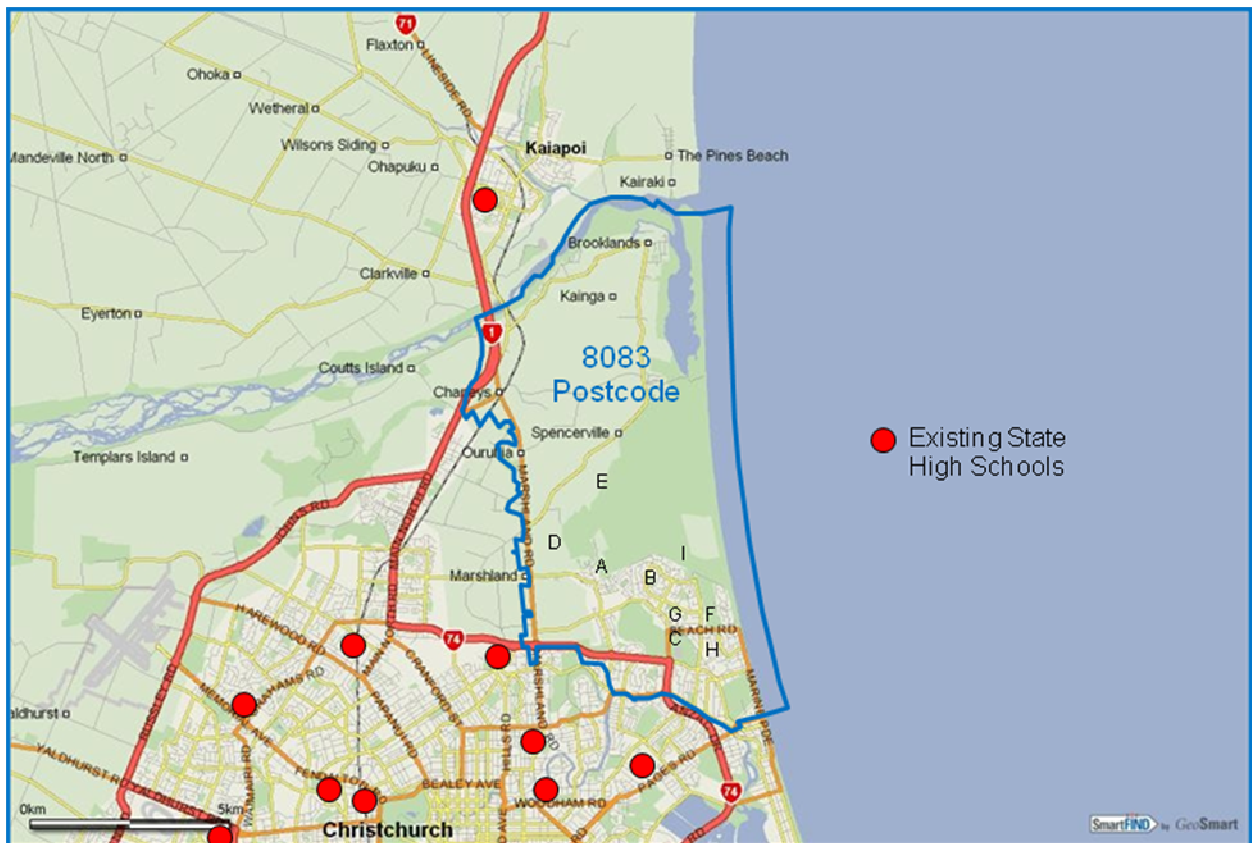
The one-off capital cost of a new high school and its operating costs for 40 years of an estimated \$10 million, compared with these costs indicate that, aside from the social and community benefits there are considerable net economic benefits in creating a new high school.

4.0 Potential School Sites

4.1 Potential Sites

Ministry of Education guidelines indicate a new high school requires a minimum of five hectares of land, but preferably closer to ten hectares. There are several potential sites meeting these criteria within the 8083 area (Fig 4).

Figure 4: Map Showing Potential Sites (Sites A-H)



- A) East of Waitikiri Drive and north of Rothesay Road, bordering Bottle Lake Forest, At least 10 ha. Christchurch City Council owned land.
- B) Queenspark Reserve 5.67ha on council owned land next to Queenspark Primary School.
- C) QEII Park/Ascot golf course. Large 40 ha site. Christchurch City Council owned.
- D) Between Mairehau Road and Styx Mill Road as part of the Preston Road Ltd's proposed development. The consent process would identify the precise site.

- E) North of Windsor golf course. Two possible large sites owned by the Christchurch City Council. The sections have access issues.
 - F) Waimairi Golf Course. 42 ha owned by the Waimairi Golf Club Inc.
 - G) Parklands Reserve & Community Centre. 5.1 ha site in two titles owned by the Christchurch City Council. The original site gazetted for a high school.
 - H) St Paul Chong Hasang Korean Catholic Church, the former Marist Brothers' Monastery, on Bower Avenue in conjunction with QEII Park. 2.2 ha site.
 - I) Bordering Broadhaven Park. 3.8 ha on Christchurch City Council owned land.
- Some of these sites could provide mixed use locations with shared facilities.
 - Other not yet identified potential sites may also be suitable.
 - It is proposed that the school's name reflect the community or its location. E.g. Waitikiri High School, Queenspark High School, Ascot High School or similar. Naming would involve consultation with the community, Iwi and local historians.

4.2 Initial Short List of Locations

We have considered the above sites in relation to the following issues including:

- Land Availability
- User Access
- Existing Amenities
- Proximity to Users
- Existing Land User Interests
- Resource Consent / Plan Change Process
- Financial Consideration
- Completion Expedience

Following assessment, three preferred sites have been identified:

4.2.1 Waitikiri Drive

- The Christchurch City Council owns the land and has no planned use for it. Preliminary discussions with local community boards suggest they would support using this site for a high school;
- There is in excess of 10 hectares available;
- This is an ideal versatile location to enable long term growth;
- It adjoins Bottle Lake Forest Park, a popular outdoor recreation reserve;
- The existing road network has capacity for increased traffic;
- The site is adjacent to several new housing developments;
- There are established walkways and roads;
- Existing public access to the forest would need to be retained on the periphery;
- Walking and cycle access is available to the rear of the section, enabling easy access from local streets;
- Resource Consent process would be straight forward. The land would need consent for a noncomplying activity or a plan change from Rural 1 to Cultural Zone 3; alternatively it could be designated by the Ministry of Education.
- The site is large enough to plan for a drive through style student drop off zone;
- Distance to residential activities needs to be considered as noise is a potential issue;
- There is sufficient land for planting between the school and residential properties;
- Bus routes can be easily extended to accommodate a school and the new residential areas surrounding this site;
- The area is short of community facilities. Many community based sports groups and clubs would welcome the opportunity to co-fund and share facilities with a high school;
- Its northern location may also appeal to residents north of the Waimakariri River.
- The Christchurch City Council would need to support the location of the high school in this location.

4.2.2 Queenspark Reserve

- Land size meets the minimum requirements but with only five to six hectares does not allow for future growth, unless condensed multilevel buildings are planned at the outset.
- It adjoins the existing Queenspark Primary School site;
- Distance to residential activities needs to be considered as noise is a potential issue;
- Central location with wide established roads;
- The existing road network has some capacity for increased traffic;
- There are established walkways and roads;
- There is ideal cycle and walk access from all directions;
- The Recreation Reserve status would need to be uplifted.
- Discretionary resource consent to establish a high school could face some constraints. As the adjoining school site is zoned Cultural 3 a plan change to Cultural 3 would be the best approach; designation of the site by the Ministry of Education is also a possibility.
- Established bus routes already service the area;
- This location provides the opportunity for either an adjacent primary and secondary school on a shared campus, or alternatively a combined Year 0-13 school. The existing primary school leaders support this concept;
- It could provide a strong community-based learning environment on one large campus for students aged 5 to 18, managed by one board;
- Due to the small size the possibility of sharing existing facilities with the Queenspark Primary School, Parklands Baptist Church and Parklands Rugby Football Club would need to be considered. Such community style schools are commonplace in rural areas.
- A school could be completed relatively quickly on this site;
- Consultation and support from the Parklands Rugby Football Club Inc, Parklands Baptist Church and the local community would be required;
- A High school would support and utilise local established retail businesses;
- A cost effective location
- The Christchurch City Council would need to support the location of the high school in this location.

4.2.3 QEII Park – Ascot Golf Course

- There is sufficient land for a school to be located there and to allow for growth.
- Distance to residential activities needs to be considered as noise is a potential issue.
- This area is fully served by roading networks, the bus service, cycle and walkways.
- The existing road network has capacity for increased traffic.
- Parking is limited and would need to be provided.
- Could potentially be achieved through the resource consent process as it only needs a Discretionary Activity Resource Consent to establish a high school on this site.
- Alternatively, a plan change to Cultural Zone 3 or a designation to be a Ministry of Education facility would also be possible.
- Distance to residential activities need to be considered as noise is a potential issue.

- Site is adjacent to QEII sports complex enabling easy access to these facilities.
- Consultation with Christchurch City Council, Ascot Golf Course and local community would be required.
- The Christchurch City Council would need to support the location of the high school in this location.

4.3 Planner Conclusion

A more thorough planning assessment of these sites is required which would require site visits. This would enable each of these sites to be ranked in terms of the ease to which the relevant consents to enable the high school to be established could be achieved.

The option of a plan change to Cultural 3 is the long term planning solution for any of these sites. Plan changes are publicly notified and submissions and further submissions are called for. The Ministry of Education has the added advantage in that it can request that a site be designated for high school use.

4.4 Economic Costs

Some of the potential sites are on Christchurch City Council owned land. This would enable the Ministry of Education to enter into a long term lease, with the Christchurch City Council retaining ownership of the land. Based on similar leases entered into by the Council, it could cost in the region of \$50-100,000 per annum. For the Waitikiri Drive site this is an area currently yielding no financial or amenity value for the Council. This would significantly reduce the capital cost of the new school.

Assuming the Waitikiri, Queenspark Reserve, or Ascot Golf Course site is selected and the land is leased from the Council on a long term basis, the following costs are anticipated:

One-off costs:

1. Resource consent / plan change / designation costs
2. Construction of classrooms and facilities
3. Fit out of buildings and facilities

A number of local community facilities are already in place for many recreational uses. Further capital works would be required as the roll reached its targeted level.

This \$5-10 million cost is expected to be partially raised by the local community in conjunction with the Ministry of Education. A new high school could be built as a community partnership between the Ministry of Education, the Christchurch City Council and the local community. Discussions to date within the community suggest that possibly up to \$2 million could be raised towards the cost of a new school. This would need to be discussed further with the Ministry.

Ongoing costs:

1. Lease costs to the Council
2. School operating costs

Based on examination of similar sized schools in New Zealand the cost of operating the school would be approximately \$2 million - \$3 million per annum, plus an additional \$50,000 per annum for a lease fee to the Council.

Other economic costs to consider as part of any resource consent, designation or plan change process would be increased noise and traffic to the residents surrounding the area. This should be able to be managed as the traffic and noise would be predominantly 8.30am – 3.30pm on Monday to Friday. The surrounding areas are mostly golf courses, forest or existing school property, although some residential areas exist nearby.

Queenspark Reserve is banded by an existing feeder road in Queenspark Drive. The Waitikiri and Ascot sites would require some additional roading.

5.0 Conclusion

The 8083 area contains most of the fastest growing suburbs in Christchurch. The area collectively has 25,000 people and does not have any established high schools, leading to existing students travelling out of the area. Further growth in the area is expected to take the population to over 35,000 in the next 10-15 years.

Primary school roll growth is strong in north east Christchurch. Christchurch primary and secondary school rolls continually exceed Ministry of Education forecasts. There are more than 2200 children at primary schools in the 8083 area. High local birth rates show the new suburbs have young families. These children will all require high school education. The established high schools are at capacity or will be once out of zone imbalances are corrected. Under developing policies designed to retain more 17 and 18 year olds at school, the need for a new school is even more urgent.

Sufficient private and council-owned land presently exists for a comprehensive new school.

There is considerable evidence of wide spread relocation of families with high school aged children out of this area into areas with high school zones. This reduces the community strength as those who move have established roles in the community.

Families take pride living in this community and have a strong desire to see it develop more sustainably. Local schools strengthen established parenting networks, with families and the community supporting each other. Relationships confirmed through previous schooling and community groups are enhanced. Younger children feel they belong and can envisage their future education. The community becomes stronger through local schooling as families stay in the area. Families recognise the stability a local school would bring enabling teenagers to have a role in their own community.

Local community support for a new high school is very strong. A petition requesting action from the Ministry of Education gained 3,664 valid signatures. The community is interested in working with the Ministry of Education and other schools to develop and support a new local high school. A new high school could be built as a community partnership between the Ministry of Education, the Christchurch City Council and the local community.

We ask you to seriously consider committing to the resolution of high schooling issues in the area and the urgent establishment of a new high school to serve the needs of our large community.

6.0 Recommendations

On behalf of the community the North East Secondary Education Committee recommends the following:

- That the Ministry of Education acts to ensure that the area is adequately resourced in terms of secondary educational capacity for the current population
- That in doing so, provision must be made for the expected population growth.
- That existing imbalances between high schools' rolls are addressed and resolved.
- That any action is made promptly to maximise the positive economic and social benefits of building a new high school in this area
- That the Ministry consults fully with the local community, Christchurch City Council and all affected parties during its investigation of the possible sites for a new high school.
- That the community's strong desire for a new high school is addressed.

7.0 Potential Timeline

2008 November	Analysis and consultation undertaken on proposal Establishment of NESE Committee
2009 March April May May June	Community led investigation Draft proposal submitted to Steering Committee Community analysis of options Consultation with local community Proposal submitted to Ministry of Education
2009 - 2010	Consultation with <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Community- Ministry of Education- Christchurch City Council- Affected parties Decision made whether to proceed or not Full economic analysis Funding secured Design finalised Resource consent / private plan change application; or designation obtained Contracts in place
2010 - 2011	Detailed design completed Construction undertaken
2011 - 2012	New High School opens for first students

8.0 Acknowledgments

The authors of this proposal are the North East Secondary Education Committee from Christchurch with the assistance of principle petitioner Aaron Gilmore MP.

Aaron can be contacted at:

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The following were consulted during the preparation of this document:-

- Janice Carter, Planner, CPG New Zealand Ltd – Planning and Resource Consent Advice
- Scott Williams, Land Surveyor, CPG New Zealand Ltd - Land Information Advice
- Ministry of Education, School data.
- David Schwartfeger representing Ngai Tahu Property Ltd as one of three equal share holders of Preston’s Road Ltd - Discussions on Preston’s Road Development.
- Aranui High School Principal, John Rohs - consultation.
- Mairehau High School Principal, Harry Romana - consultation.
- Shirley Boys’ High School Principal, John Laurenson - consultation.
- Queenspark Primary School Principal Ross Willocks – consultation
- New Brighton Catholic School - Roll data and ex student migration trends
- North New Brighton Primary School - Roll data and ex student migration trends
- Ouruhia Model School - Roll data and ex student migration trends
- Parkview Primary School - Roll data and ex student migration trends
- Queenspark Primary school - Roll data and ex student migration trends
- Windsor Primary School - Roll data and ex student migration trends
- Christchurch Boys’ High School – Roll information
- Christchurch Girls’ High School – Roll information
- Shirley Boys’ High School – Roll information
- St Andrew’s College – Roll information
- St Bede’s College – Roll information
- St Margaret’s College – Roll information
- Parents and Community of North East Christchurch – Continual input and instructions

9.0 Appendices

Appendix 1 – Population Statistics

Statistics New Zealand Population Statistics for Christchurch – June 2007 Extract

Census Usually Resident Population Count *As at March*

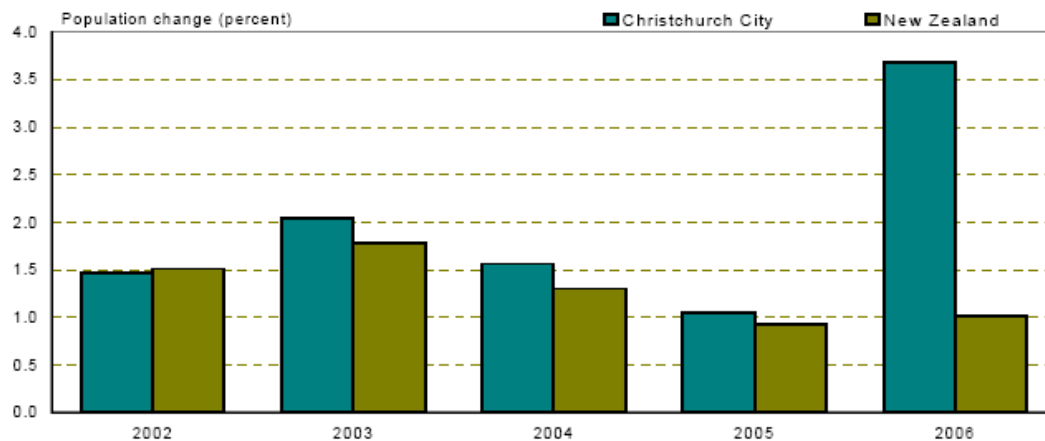
Area	Census Usually Resident Population Count	Population Change 2001-2006	
	2006	Number	Percent
Christchurch City	348,435	32,208	10.2
Kaikoura District	3,621	138	4.0
Hurunui District	10,476	591	6.0
Waimakariri District	42,834	5,931	16.1
Selwyn District	33,666	6,354	23.3
Ashburton District	27,372	1,929	7.6
Timaru District	42,867	900	2.1
Mackenzie District	3,804	87	2.3
Waimate District	7,206	105	1.5
Waitaki District	20,223	138	0.7
Canterbury Region	521,832	40,401	8.4
New Zealand	4,027,947	290,670	7.8

Source: Statistics New Zealand, Census of Population and Dwellings

Statistics New Zealand Population Statistics for Christchurch – June 2007 Extract

Estimated Resident Population Change⁽¹⁾

June Year 2001 - 2006



Appendix 2 – Christchurch City Population

Christchurch City, Age by Proportion: Census 2006,

Age	Number	%
0 - 14	65,670	18.8
15 - 24	53,469	15.3
25 - 44	99,768	28.6
45 - 64	82,332	23.6
65 - 74	22,995	6.6
75+	24,201	6.9
Total	348,435	100.0

Christchurch City, Estimated population change, births, deaths and natural increase from 1991

Year	Estimated resident population at June	Population change		Registered births December year	Registered deaths December year	Natural increase December year
		no.	%			
1991	300,497	-	-	4,400	2,610	1,790
1992	301,360	863	0.3	4,258	2,766	1,492
1993	305,400	4,040	1.3	4,197	2,692	1,505
1994	310,720	5,320	1.7	4,245	2,706	1,539
1995	316,800	6,080	2.0	4,293	2,797	1,496
1996	325,660	8,860	2.8	4,235	2,793	1,442
1997	329,160	3,500	1.1	4,359	2,621	1,738
1998	331,240	2,080	0.6	3,996	2,508	1,488
1999	332,640	1,400	0.4	4,231	2,692	1,539
2000	333,800	1,160	0.3	4,232	2,529	1,703
2001	335,240	1,440	0.4	4,244	2,604	1,640
2002	340,500	5,260	1.6	4,068	2,726	1,342
2003	347,600	7,100	2.1	4,298	2,661	1,637
2004	353,200	5,600	1.6	4,628	2,845	1,783
2005	357,200	4,000	1.1	4,520	2,604	1,916
2006	361,800	4,600	1.3	4,640	2,750	1,890
2007	365,700	3,900	1.1	5,139	2,869	2,270

Appendix 3 – Current and Projected Christchurch Population

Household composition in Christchurch

Household composition	1986		1991		1996		2001		2006	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Couples with children	36,369	35.2	34,584	31.6	34,065	29.1	32,571	26.4	35,727	27.0
Couples without children	25,875	25.0	28,089	25.7	31,809	27.2	33,087	26.8	36,579	27.6
Multi-family	729	0.7	1,008	0.9	1,884	1.6	1,497	1.2	2,295	1.7
One parent family	10,701	10.4	12,570	11.5	13,335	11.4	14,979	12.1	15,354	11.6
One person	22,386	21.7	25,110	22.9	27,495	23.5	32,721	26.5	33,519	25.3
Other multi-person	7,302	7.1	8,079	7.4	8,403	7.2	8,649	7.0	8,892	6.7
Total	103,356	100.0	109,440	100.0	116,991	100.0	123,504	100.0	132,369	100.0

Projected population change in Christchurch

Variant	Population at 30 June						Change 2006-2031	
	2006	2011	2016	2021	2026	2031	Number	Percent
High		384,400	404,600	423,200	440,700	457,300	95,500	26
Medium	361,800	377,400	390,700	402,300	412,800	422,100	60,300	17
Low		370,300	376,800	381,700	385,400	387,800	26,000	7

SOURCE: <http://www.socialreport.msd.govt.nz/regional/t-authorities/location/christchurch.html>

It is of note that as at 31st March 2009 the population of Christchurch was already at 382,200, according to Statistics NZ. Significantly, this places the growth track above even the high growth scenarios shown above.

Appendix 4 – New Zealand Student Numbers by Year

Number of students by gender at each year level in New Zealand.

	<i>2007 Male</i>	<i>2007 Female</i>	<i>2007 Total</i>	<i>2008 Male</i>	<i>2008 Female</i>	<i>2008 Total</i>
Year 1	27,654	26,871		29,194	27,009	
Year 2	29,801	28,403		28,864	27,878	
Year 3	30,400	28,771		29,921	28,427	
Year 4	29,562	27,923		30,464	28,916	
Year 5	30,314	28,785		29,732	27,997	
Year 6	30,232	28,726		30,429	28,882	
Year 7	30,724	28,721		30,197	28,660	
Year 8	31,193	29,432		30,879	28,764	
Year 1-8 subtotal	239,880	227,632		239,680	226,533	
Year 9	31,114	29,326		31,052	29,442	
Year 10	31,317	29,660		30,952	29,209	
Year 11	30,370	29,096		30,493	29,149	
Year 12	25,408	25,999		25,227	25,595	
Year 13	17,829	19,641		18,737	20,608	
Year 14	3,907	3,807		4,096	4,009	
Year 15	575	529		556	605	
Year 16	249	255		266	222	
Year 9-16 subtotal	140,769	138,313	278,082	141,379	138,839	280,218
Total	380,649	365,945		381,059	365,372	

Extract from School Roll Report: July 2008 Ministry of Education

Appendix 5 – Student Numbers by Region

Total Number of Year 1 to 16 Students by Region at 1 July 2005-2008

REGION	2006	2007	2008	Difference 2006-07	Difference 2007-08
Northland	29,730	29,487	29,026	-243	-461
Auckland	252,427	253,326	253,806	899	480
Waikato	74,000	73,907	73,023	-93	-884
Bay of Plenty	50,736	50,820	50,493	84	-327
Gisborne	9,723	9,565	9,404	-158	-161
Hawkes Bay	30,326	30,242	29,780	-84	-462
Taranaki	20,007	19,718	19,457	-289	-261
Manawatu- Wanganui	42,163	41,620	40,848	-543	-772
Wellington	79,684	79,235	79,128	-449	-107
Tasman	7,430	7,584	7,610	154	26
Nelson	8,610	8,399	8,333	-211	-66
Marlborough	6,706	6,668	6,614	-38	-54
West Coast	5,166	5,082	4,978	-84	-104
Canterbury	89,767	90,306	90,596	539	290
Otago	30,528	30,398	30,308	-130	-90
Southland	16,857	16,565	16,294	-292	-271
Chatham Is. County	79	69		-10	
Correspondence School	5,873	5,546	5,775	-327	229
Not Applicable*	949	1,369	1,621	420	252
Total	760,761	759,906	757,094	-855	-2743

*Not Applicable refers to Westmount school that has multiple campus locations

Source Ministry of Education

Appendix 6 – North East Christchurch Primary School Rolls

Selected Primary Schools in the 8083 Area

	2006	2007	2008	2009 estimated	2012 estimated	2015 estimated
Burwood School (zoned)	455	422	424	450	500	500
Marshland School (zoned)	213	208	196	200	250	255
Ouruhia Model School (zoned)	90	101	100	100	110	110
Parkview School	292	309	331	400	800	800
Queenspark School (zoned)	592	604	601	600	600	600
Windsor School (Christchurch) (zoned)	626	609	555	560	630	630
Preston's Development (planned 2015)	0	0	0	0	0	400
total students	2268	2268	2253	2310	2890	3290

Appendix 7- Current and Estimated Rolls for Nearest High Schools.

Rolls of high schools of interest within the wider urban area.

	2006	2007	2008	Estimated based on school survey 2009	Forecasted 2015
Nearby High Schools within a 7.5 km radius.					
Aranui High School	761	751	645	650	750
Avonside Girls' High School (zoned)	1187	1220	1277	1300	1,200
Kaiapoi High School (zoned)	659	659	659	675	1,000
Mairehau High School	591	586	515	550	800
Shirley Boys' High School (zoned)	1314	1417	1411	1550	1,250
New School	0	0	0	0	750
	4512	4633	4507	4725	5,750
Wider Regional High Schools within a 10km radius.					
Linwood College	910	931	933	950	1,000
Marian College (integrated)	442	434	474	475	475
St Andrew's College (Private)	1325	1347	1363	1360	1,360
St Bede's College (integrated)	788	790	787	790	800
	3465	3502	3557	3575	3,635

Appendix 8 – Timeline to Date

05/06/08	Parklands Residents Association AGM – Discussion initiated in local high schooling.
06/08	Aaron Gilmore’s election campaign identified high schooling as a strong local issue.
07/08	Research into population statistics, primary school rolls, secondary school rolls and proposed land development.
08/08	Petition initiated to gauge community interest.
11/09/08	Public meeting attended by local parents and community representatives.
29/10/08	Media interest in high school issue began.
18/11/08	North East Secondary Education Committee (NESE) formed
04/12/08	First meeting of NESE. Aim to investigate all possibilities for improving high schooling options for students in this area. Media spokesperson appointed.
15/01/09	NESE meeting. Decisions to distribute petition forms & consult with a planner.
09/02/09	Meeting - Planner Janice Carter - discuss consent process and possible land sites.
12/02/09	NESE meeting. Decision to request current information from local primary schools.
14/02/09	Petition forms collected
15/02/09	Data entry of petition names initiated
23/02/09	Letters sent to ten local primary schools requesting information
19/03/09	NESE meeting – Project management initiated.
24/03/09	Database auditing and name verification initiated.
24/03/09	Letters sent to 16 Christchurch high schools requesting information
10/04/09	Draft proposal submitted to NESE committee
16/04/09	NESE meeting
20/04/09	Media release on progress to date
26/04/09	Petition signature database auditing complete - 3664 signatures
28/04/09	Proposal development initiated

9.0 Feedback Form

Please complete and return to the author:-

Aaron Gilmore MP
FREEPOST Parliament
Private Bag 18888
WELLINGTON 6160

-----FOLD OUT HERE

I agree with the broad proposal for a new high school in the north east of Christchurch to cater for the predicted local growth. YES / NO

I would support a proposed potential location at Waitikiri Drive. YES/ NO

I would support a proposed potential location at Queenspark Reserve. YES/ NO

I would support a proposed potential location at QEII Park / Ascot Golf Course. YES/ NO

If no then other suggested sites: _____

Other general comments:

-----FOLD IN HERE

Name: _____

Organisation: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____