

20 April 2023

Hearings Commissioners
Selwyn District Council
PO Box 90
Rolleston 7643

Ministry of Education letter to be tabled at the hearing of Plan Change 79 to the Selwyn District Plan

Attention: Emma Robertson

The Ministry of Education (the Ministry) lodged a submission in relation to Proposed Plan Change 79 (PPC79) to the Selwyn District Plan, in which they expressed concern about the impact on school capacity and inconsistencies with various policy documents. The Ministry will not attend the scheduled hearing for PPC79 on May 3, 2023, but requests that their letter be tabled instead.

The Ministry raised inconsistencies between Policy 8 of the National Policy Statement for Urban Development (NPS-UD) and the Canterbury Regional Policy Statement (CRPS), and sought they be resolved prior to the acceptance of PPC79. The Ministry also raised concerns about the inconsistency of PPC79 with Policies 5 and 6 of the National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Soils (NPS-HPL), as well as Objectives 6.2.1 and 6.2.2 and Policy 6.3.1 of the CRPS.

The Ministry also expressed concern that PPC79 could result in a considerable increase in the population of Prebbleton, which would increase the number of school-age children in the catchment areas of Prebbleton School, Ladbrooks School, Broadfield School, and Lincoln High School.

The Ministry's submission sought that PPC79 only proceed if the inconsistencies between Policy 8 of the NPS-UD, NPS-HPL, and the CRPS are resolved, adequate consideration is given to ensuring there is sufficient capacity within the existing school network to accommodate school-aged children, or enabling provisions are provided within the ODP.

Provisions for Educational Facilities

In paragraphs 186 and 187 of the s42a, Mr Clease has recommended provision for education facilities be made if the Plan Change is accepted. The Ministry supports this change.

In the s42A report, Mr Clease has agreed that there is a need to assess the impact of the rezoning on the capacity of other community services and facilities. Mr Clease has concluded that the impact on the capacity of local schools could be appropriately managed through the amendments proposed, similar to that of PC68 and PC72, which included the following statement:

'At the time of subdivision, consultation with Ministry of Education will consider whether it is appropriate and necessary for any land to be provided for education purposes within the Site, and the appropriateness of any amendments to the ODP to accommodate this.'

In paragraph 188 of the s42a the Officer stated, "If the plan change is approved it is recommended that a similar clause be added to the ODP". It is noted that Mr Clease has also agreed with the Ministry, and several other submitters, that the proposal does not align with Policy 8 of the NPS-UD, cannot meet the NPS-HPL Clause 3.6 conjunctive tests, and does not meet several of the CRPS policy directions.

It is reiterated that Council has an obligation under the NPS – UD to ensure sufficient additional infrastructure (which includes schools) is provided in urban growth and development. Therefore, schools and educational facilities need to be provided for, or at the least enabled, in urban growth and developments such as PPC79.



**Te Tāhuhu o
te Mātauranga**
Ministry of Education

The Ministry agrees that with Mr Cleese that if PPC79 is approved, the above matters are included to enable them to better manage its assets and responsibilities as an education provider.

If the above matters are accepted, then the Ministry considers its submission points in relation to PPC79 are appropriately addressed.

Should you have any queries please contact the undersigned.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jono Gemmell', written in a cursive style.

Jono Gemmell

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