

Hamilton City North-Eastern Districts Schooling Strategy 2012

Executive Summary

1. Residential growth in the North-East of Hamilton has brought forward the need to undertake further network planning for schooling provision. In the last ten years two new contributing primary schools have been opened and a new site for secondary education purchased. Further capacity for education provision is now being planned.
2. Hamilton City is a growing area and the Hamilton City Council (the Council) has a residential development strategy that concentrates in the north-east for the medium term. The Council's Rototuna Structure Plan, which covers this area, is mid-way through its life span and predicts another 10 to 15 years of residential development. The Ministry of Education has developed a strategic response to address the educational demands of this area of the city.
3. Population forecasts show that demand for primary schooling capacity will exceed the supply provided by the two existing schools in the area. The rate of population growth means there is a requirement for additional capacity from the start of the 2013 school year.
4. The Hamilton City North-Eastern Districts Schooling Strategy (the Strategy) proposed in this paper will increase primary capacity in line with the expected growth. The strategic response is created around three schooling sub-areas: Sylvester, Te Totara and Rototuna. Each sub-area has different timing needs.
5. The Strategy includes staged actions for increasing existing school capacity and proposals for new schooling options from primary through to secondary level.
6. The staged actions are:
 - a. Further expansion at Te Totara School
 - b. Establish a new primary school on the Ministry-owned vacant Endeavour Avenue, Flagstaff site (Sylvester sub-area).
 - c. Seek to acquire a new site in the Sylvester sub-area.
 - d. Establish Year 7 -13 education provision on the Ministry-owned vacant site (Te Totara sub-area).
 - e. Consideration for an additional site in the Rototuna sub-area.
7. While the new schooling options being proposed provide for students across all year levels and focus on mainstream education, specific comment is made in relation to Early Childhood Education, Māori Medium and Special Education provision. These will be an inherent consideration in the final design and implementation of any new schooling option.

Purpose of the Strategy

1. This Strategy outlines the projected population growth situation in North-East Hamilton, and offers a Strategy to address future capacity requirements.

Background

2. In 2006 the Ministry commissioned a demographic analysis report (Hamilton North Area Report) with regard to the main growth areas in northern Hamilton. This report helped inform the need for and subsequent building of the most recent contributing primary school in the area (Te Totara Primary School), which opened for instruction in February 2008.
3. In 2011 further analysis was undertaken to update the 2006 Hamilton North Area Report (the report). The report projections and analysis span a 20 year period from 2011 to 2031.
4. The report uses information provided by the Ministry of Education - including roll data, school capacity information, roll distribution by Census Area Unit (CAU), and Statistics New Zealand Long Term Single Year of Age (SYOA) population projection data (special build) based on 2006 pattern and Census Night results (provided to MOE by SNZ in 2008 and 2009).
5. The growth areas encompass the northern segment of Hamilton's urban area, as shown in the study area maps below (figures 1 and 2).

Figure 1: Hamilton North-East Study Area and Council boundary and Structure Plan Areas

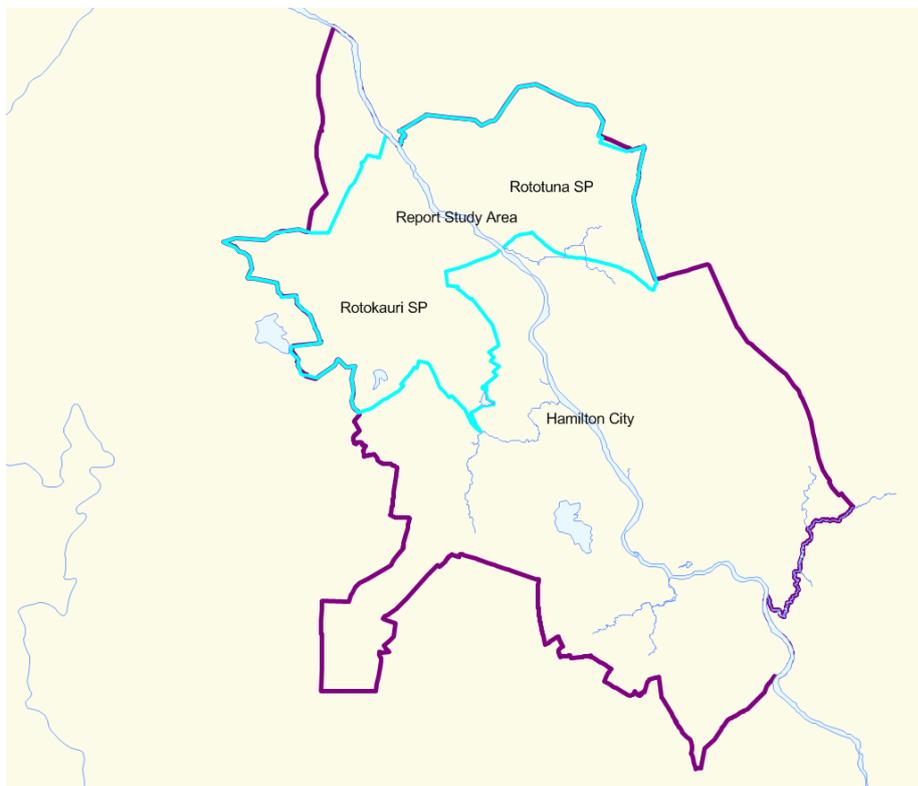


Figure 2: Hamilton City North-Eastern Districts Strategy Area – schooling sub-areas and school sites



Focus Area - Description

6. This Strategy focuses on the substantial growth occurring on the north-eastern side of the Waikato River. The Strategy’s Focus Area is generally the same as the area covered by Hamilton City’s Rototuna Structure Plan. It includes several growth cells covering the CAUs of Sylvester, Flagstaff, Horsham Downs, Rototuna and Huntington. This considerable greenfield area is characterised by rapid development and population growth, increasingly so over the last five years.
7. These north-eastern growth cells will be further impacted by the Hamilton City Council’s (the Council) recent consultation regarding changes to the Rototuna Structure Plan through Variation 12. This will see the re-zoning of approximately 490 hectares of land primarily within Rototuna Stages 3 and 4 to a variety of urban zones and update the Rototuna Structure Plan to reflect changes that have already occurred through completed development.
8. This Strategy does not attempt to address the long term growth planned for the north-western side of the Waikato River. The timing of this development in the Rotokauri Structure Plan is outside of the Ministry’s planning timeframe.
9. The Council’s Rototuna Structure Plan (adopted in August 1999), provides for five stages of residential development. The first two, Flagstaff and Huntington have been developed and are largely complete.
10. The subsequent stages will add an additional 1,422 dwellings and an associated increase in the potential number of students located within our Focus Area.

Focus Area - Population Growth

Schooling sub-areas within the Strategy Focus Area

11. Three schooling sub-areas (Sylvester, Te Totara and Rototuna) were created for the purposes of detailed analysis of the Strategy's Focus Area. Each sub area is logically aligned with respective or developing communities, major roading patterns and possible school catchments.
12. The schooling sub-areas reflect the approximate proportion (land area) that proposed enrolment scheme home zone boundaries might have. The schooling sub-areas are:
 - a. Sylvester sub-area based on the population projections for the Sylvester and Flagstaff CAUs.
 - b. Te Totara sub-area, based on all of the Horsham Downs CAU and a quarter of the Huntington CAU.
 - c. Rototuna sub-area, based on two thirds of the Rototuna CAU and half of the Huntington CAU.
13. A detailed description of the population projections for the three sub-areas is attached in Appendix 1.

Population Growth Summary

14. The greatest growth is projected to be in the Sylvester and Te Totara sub-areas: these are anticipated to experience rapid growth between now and 2021 in particular. This trend reflects the predicted number of additional dwellings that could come on to the market in the Sylvester, Horsham Downs and Huntington CAUs.
15. The Sylvester sub-areas population projections indicate a population peak of 1,194 Year 1-6 students by 2021 and a peak of 1,141 Year 1 to 6 students in Te Totara Primary sub-areas. A combined total of 2,335 Year 1 to 6 students are therefore anticipated in these sub-areas by 2021, which suggests that up to four schooling options (at an average size of 600 students) may be required to service these two developing sub-areas.

Table 1: Population projection for sub-areas Sylvester, Te Totara and Rototuna

Years	2016	2021	2026	2031
Sylvester	858	1,194	878	608
Te Totara	1,094	1,141	883	782
Rototuna	586	439	385	406

Focus Area - Current Education Provision

Primary and Intermediate Schooling Choices

16. There are currently two state primary schools located within and established specifically to service the Focus Areas and neither school is within the Sylvester sub-area.
 - a. Rototuna Primary School is a contributing Year 1 to 6 school (1 July 2012 roll of 696 students), which opened for operation in Term 1, 2003. The roll of Rototuna Primary School peaks each year around 750 students and there is no available on-site space to provide for further expansion. Waikato Kindergarten Association is the service provider that operates an Early Childhood Education Centre on the school site.
 - b. Te Totara Primary School is a contributing Year 1 to 6 school (1 July 2012 roll of 474 students), which opened for operation in Term 1, 2008. The school is expected to meet its present classroom capacity of approximately 550 students early in 2013; however there is ample space to cater for further expansion. Barnardo's is the service provider of an Early Childhood Education Centre that operates on the school site.
17. Te Rapa and Horsham Downs Primary Schools are full primary (Year 1 to 8) schools located outside of the Strategy's Focus Area. They complement the school network by operating enrolment scheme 'home-zones' that overlap the Te Totara Primary School enrolment scheme home-zone, thus reducing demand on the Te Totara and Rototuna Primary Schools.
18. The closest intermediate schooling option for the Focus Area is Fairfield Intermediate School. The school's enrolment scheme home-zone boundary also covers the Focus Area to complement the accessibility to intermediate age schooling for that community.
19. The Ministry owns and maintains a vacant 2.20ha site in Endeavour Avenue, Flagstaff, which was purchased some years ago for the purpose of a primary school. Because the main residential developments occurred further east than Flagstaff, the Ministry established new schooling options in those locations first (ie - Rototuna and Te Totara Primary Schools), to meet that demand and the Flagstaff site has remained vacant.
20. The Flagstaff suburb was not included in the enrolment scheme home-zones of Te Totara or Rototuna Primary Schools when these schools were established, but it will need to be included in the enrolment scheme home-zone of any future school servicing the Sylvester sub-area.

Secondary Schooling Choices

21. The closest state secondary school to the Focus Area is Fairfield College, which provides for Year 9 to 13 students (1 March 2012 roll of 917 students) - the College presently draws approximately 200 students from the Focus Area. Fairfield College is the only state secondary school in the north-eastern part of Hamilton City and is one of two state secondary schools that do not have an enrolment scheme.
22. An 11ha site in the Te Totara sub-area was purchased in 2010 to provide for the future growth in the Focus Area for Year Levels 7 to 13 - it is commonly referred to as 'the secondary school site'.

Private and Integrated Schooling Choices

23. There is one private Year 1 to 13 school and one state-integrated Year 1 to 9 school located within the Focus Area. They are:
- a. Hamilton Christian School – a fully registered private school (1 July 2012 roll of 277 students), which opened for operation in March 1998. The school is located in the Te Totara sub-area, in close proximity to Te Totara Primary School.
 - b. Waikato Waldorf School – a state-integrated (Year 1 to 8) school (1 July 2012 roll of 123 students), which opened for operation in Term 1, 1996. The school is presently a Year 1 to 8 full primary school. However, you recently agreed to change the class of the school to provide for Years 1 to 9 – effective from 1 February 2013. The total site area of the school is 6.4ha, although the school occupies only 1.5ha. It is located in the northern Rototuna suburbs.

Early Childhood Provision

24. Provision for early childhood is inherent in all decisions regarding new schools planning and school site acquisitions. Both Rototuna and Te Totara Primary Schools (the newest schools built in the north-east high growth areas), have on-site Early Childhood Education Centres. Any new schooling proposals will ensure that further required early childhood education capacity for the area is included.

Special Education Provision

25. The Central North Regional Office is following the intent of the Special Education strategic focus regarding the integration of special needs students into mainstream schooling environs.
26. The establishment of any new schooling options will have a requirement that special needs facilities form part of the building design and that establishment of any 'satellite' option will also be an acceptance requirement in terms of the management of the school.

Māori Medium Provision

27. The development and implementation of any options adopted in this report will align with government direction of engaging and working with Iwi regarding education within their area. This will ensure schooling options and programmes are relevant and support the cultural diversity for Māori within local communities.
28. In developing the new schooling options, the Ministry will be working with the respective Establishment Boards of Trustees in relation to their school vision and Charter development, to ensure that the schools meet their obligations under the Education Act 1989, section 61(30(a)(i) and (ii). As part of their annual Charter reviews, schools can implement programmes and respond to the needs of Māori within their community, as demand is monitored and determined.

Gap Analysis – Timing of Population Growth versus Education Provision

29. Demand for primary school age population is forecast to exceed supply by increasing to in excess of 2300 students within the Focus Area over the next 10 - 15 years. Refer to Appendix 2 for the current capacity and education provision in the Focus Area. The extent of the growth will require significant additional

classroom capacity to be added to the network. It will not be possible to achieve development of the network of schools by simply adding the forecast number of classrooms to existing institutions.

30. Te Totara Primary School is the only school that has the site capacity to increase its roll. The current classroom capacity is 550 and the roll is expected to surpass this in 2013. Further development is possible to extend its capacity to 750 plus. This would extend the life of the network by approximately two years.
31. As development options on current school sites are exhausted, new primary school sites will be required in locations to provide for the forecast population growth. The expected growth rate means that new schools may need to be established as early as 2014/2015.

Focus Area – Population Growth Options

32. New schooling options will need to provide for students across all year levels and include the ability for Early Childhood Education, Māori Medium and Special Education provision to also be established, either concurrently or in the future.
33. The approach taken provides primary schooling options in each sub-area (Sylvester, Te Totara and Rototuna) given that the sub-areas allow logical educational pathway options that promote access to a resource efficient education network.

Proposed Stages

Stage 1: development of existing Te Totara School, Te Totara sub-area

34. Capital funding of approximately \$3.5m has recently been approved to develop the school for a roll capacity of 750 students, and to provide temporary classrooms to meet demand above this capacity until the new primary school on the Endeavour Avenue site in Flagstaff becomes operational.

Stage 2: establish a new primary school on vacant site (Endeavour Ave), Sylvester sub-area

35. In terms of expediency and location, a new Year 1 to 6 contributing primary school is proposed to be built on the vacant 2.20ha Flagstaff site. This site could reasonably meet the needs of a new school for 450 to 500 students. The development of this site would remove some of the student demand on Te Totara Primary School by students in the developing Sylvester area and northern suburbs of Flagstaff.

Stage 3: site acquisition for a new primary school in Sylvester sub-area

36. A new school site in the developing Sylvester area needs to be identified, acquired and designated. A site should be considered with the ability to cater for approximately 650 to 700 students plus early childhood provision, including on-site impacts of policy implementation relating to Special Needs provision and Māori Medium options. The timing for a new school to be established in Sylvester would have to have regard to the rate of growth of the residential development and the successful establishment of complementary schooling options in Flagstaff.

Stage 4: establish new schooling provision for Year 7 to 13, Te Totara sub-area

37. The provision for Year 7 to 13 schooling has been an identified need for some time and the Ministry has acquired an 11ha site in north-east Hamilton to meet the growing demand. The development of the 11ha site has been discussed to-date in terms of having 'one school'; however, further consideration will be required about the schooling structure of the Year 7 to 13 provision. The following can be considered as options:
- a. An intermediate and secondary school; or
 - b. A Junior High School and Senior High School; or
 - c. A single Year 7 to 13 (Form 1 to 7) College.
38. After the year of delivery has been determined, timely consultation on options would be initiated with the community so that a decision on the Year 7-13 schooling structure can be made.

Stage 5: site acquisition for new primary school in Rototuna sub-area

39. A new school site in the Te Totara/Rototuna sub-areas may need to be identified, acquired and designated. A site should be considered with the ability to cater for approximately 500 students plus early childhood provision including on-site impacts of policy implementation relating to Special Needs provision and Māori Medium options. The timing for this new school to be established would depend on the rate of growth of the residential development.

Risks

40. There is an increasing risk to the Ministry of there being insufficient schooling capacity across Year 1 to 6 in particular, if the staged implementation of this Strategy is delayed.
41. Little lead-in time to increase capacity to match the demand is available and few site purchase opportunities exist. This means that immediate progress on securing sites and prioritisation of funding in the 2013/14 and 2014/2015 financial years is required.
42. There is further risk around the provision of schooling for Year 7 and above, as greater numbers of students transition out of Year 6 in the local schools and wish to move to local schools rather than out of the area to Fairfield Intermediate and Fairfield College. This Strategy considers the provision of Year 7 -13 schooling at the already owned vacant site.
43. While there are always economic factors that could influence the rate of growth/development within the area, the rate of growth to date is not expected to change significantly. It is considered that any increase or decline in the rate of development can be adequately managed through appropriate monitoring of the recommended stages.
44. Temporary extra capacity is being provided at Te Totara School for an artificially peak roll until new schools are established to address the student demand in the Focus Area. Once school rolls reach network equilibrium then surplus buildings at Te Totara can be relocated elsewhere.

45. If the expected pattern of development does not occur as forecasted then the program of establishing new schools can be deferred.

Financial Implications

46. Provision will be included in the draft New Schools Work Programme for the development of the existing Hamilton North 'secondary' site for Year 7 to 13 once the year of delivery has been determined.
47. Provision in principle will also be included in the New Schools Work Programme for the acquisition of land and the establishment of a new primary school in north-east Hamilton the timing for which is yet to be determined. The opportunity also exists to develop and construct new primary school facilities on the Endeavour Rd Flagstaff site (acquired but not designated). An in-principle budget allocation for the estimated costs of this development will also be included in the New Schools budget for out years.

Other Relevant Information

48. The Ministry is aware that the Catholic Diocese in Hamilton has designated a site in Hamilton's north-eastern suburbs for the purpose of building a church and a school. It is known that the Diocese is interested in disposing of part of this site. However, its location is not suited geographically to service the wider areas of residential development that is planned.

Conclusion

49. The Ministry is planning for the establishment of additional schooling in North Eastern Hamilton in response to school age population growth.
50. There will likely be an impact on the rolls of both Te Rapa and Horsham Downs Primary Schools, as a result of the new schools being established. Although Te Rapa Primary School is located on the Western side of the Waikato River adjacent to the high growth cells on the eastern side, the school considers itself to be a 'provider' of primary school education for that eastern area and may contest the need for establishment of a competing schooling option. Te Rapa Primary School is a full primary (Year 1 to 8) school and its roll peaks between 530 and 550 students each year. The school operates an enrolment scheme, which incorporates the Sylvester and Flagstaff areas on the eastern side of the Waikato River.
51. Te Rapa Primary School will continue to draw students from the eastern-side of the Waikato River, but whether parents continue to support it in the same numbers, versus having more convenient local options, will be a matter of choice. The school would not be able to cope with the projected numbers of primary-age students expected within the next five years.
52. Wairere Drive provides the main access across the Waikato River in Hamilton North and is a very busy road network for parents to negotiate. School traffic at peak hours is a major contributor to traffic congestion crossing the Waikato River and there is present work to create four lanes along the full length of Wairere Drive, which spans the western and eastern sides of the Waikato River. This will discourage parents from travelling east to west to send their children to Te Rapa Primary School.

53. While there are presently no significant geographical barriers in terms of students accessing Horsham Downs Primary School from the developing high growth cells, this will change once the Waikato Expressway is progressed. Many students, who live within the enrolment scheme home zones of the newest primary schools, still elect to enrol at that school by choice. Horsham Downs Primary School will probably gain some benefit from the development of the Waikato expressway, as its pathway will pass between the high growth areas and the school. This will encourage parents north of the expressway to attend their local schools.

Focus sub-areas descriptions

1. The graphed growth scenarios below for each sub-area, depict the difference between what would likely occur with or without the impact of Variation. The 'blue' line projection is if the impact of Variation 12 eventuates and the 'red' line is if it does not eventuate, however, indications are that some degree of impact can be expected.

i) *Sylvester sub-area*

2. The catchment is Sylvester/Flagstaff - western boundary of Waikato River, Southern Boundary of Wairere Drive, northern boundary of Kay Road, eastern boundary of Resolution Drive.

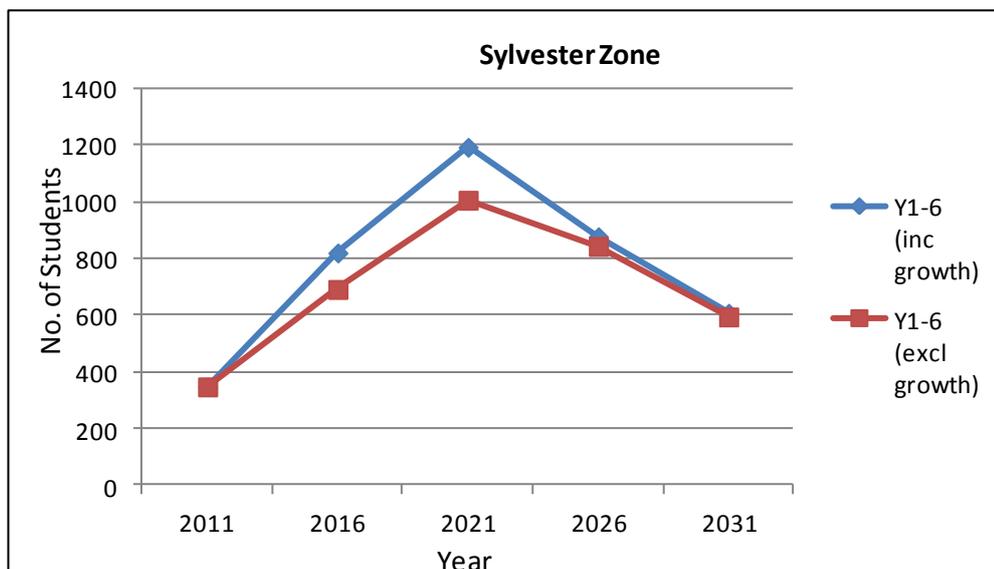
3. The population projections include the proposed development anticipated by Hamilton City Council of the Rototuna Growth cells in the next 10 years and beyond. Most of this predicted growth is concentrated within the Sylvester CAU.

Table 2: Sylvester Sub-area Projections

Years	2011	2016	2021	2026	2031
Y1-6 (incl growth)	348	858	1,194	878	608
Y1-6 (excl growth)	348	692	1,007	844	595

4. Both Table 2 (above) and Figure 3 (below) suggest a rapid growth in the number of Y1-6 students (846 students or an increase of 71%) between 2011 and 2021 coinciding with the growth in predicted dwellings in the Rototuna Growth Cells. Growth in the number of students in the proposed Sylvester sub-area could peak in 2021 at 1,194 students. The anticipated decline in the population from 2021 is due to a predicted Statistics NZ Medium Growth Scenario decline.

Figure 3: Sylvester sub-area Y1-6 Population Projections



5. Figure 3 also shows for comparison purposes, the anticipated Year 1-6 population projection for this sub-area without the anticipated growth impact of Variation 12 in the Rototuna Growth Cells. Population could still peak in 2021 with 1,007, Year 1-6 students within the Sylvester sub-area.

ii) *Te Totara sub –area*

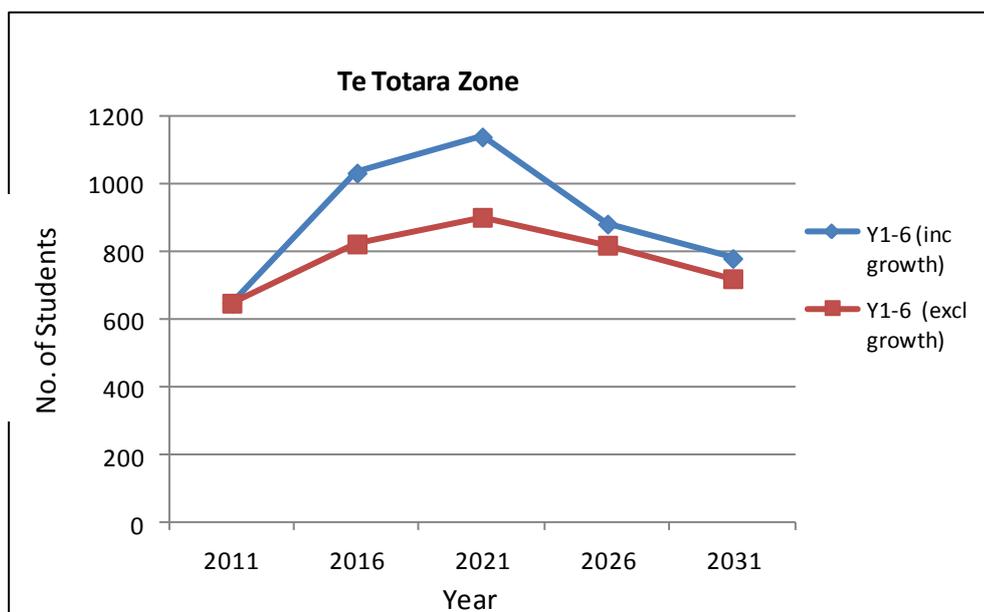
6. The catchment is Horsham Downs/Rototuna - western boundary of Resolution Drive, northern boundary of Horsham Downs and Kay Roads, southern boundary of Thomas Road, eastern boundary of Horsham Downs Road.
7. The projected Te Totara sub-area population projections for Years 1-6 are summarised in Table 3 and Figure 4 below.

Table 3: Te Totara sub-area Population Projections

Years	2011	2016	2021	2026	2031
Y1-6 (incl growth)	650	1,094	1,141	883	782
Y1-6 (excl growth)	650	825	903	821	722

8. Table 3 and Figure 4 indicate a similar trend to the proposed Sylvester sub-area. It is anticipated that an additional 491, Year 1-6 students will be added to this sub-area over the next 10 years. Based on projections the population of Te Totara sub-area are anticipated to peak in 2021 with 1,141 students before declining from 2021 through to 782 students in 2031.

Figure 4: Te Totara sub-area Y1-6 Population Projections



9. Figure 4 also shows for comparison purposes, the anticipated Year 1-6 population projection for this sub-area without the anticipated growth impact of Variation 12 in the Rototuna Growth Cells. Population could still peak in 2021 with 903, Year 1-6 students within the Te Totara sub-area.

iii) Rototuna sub-area

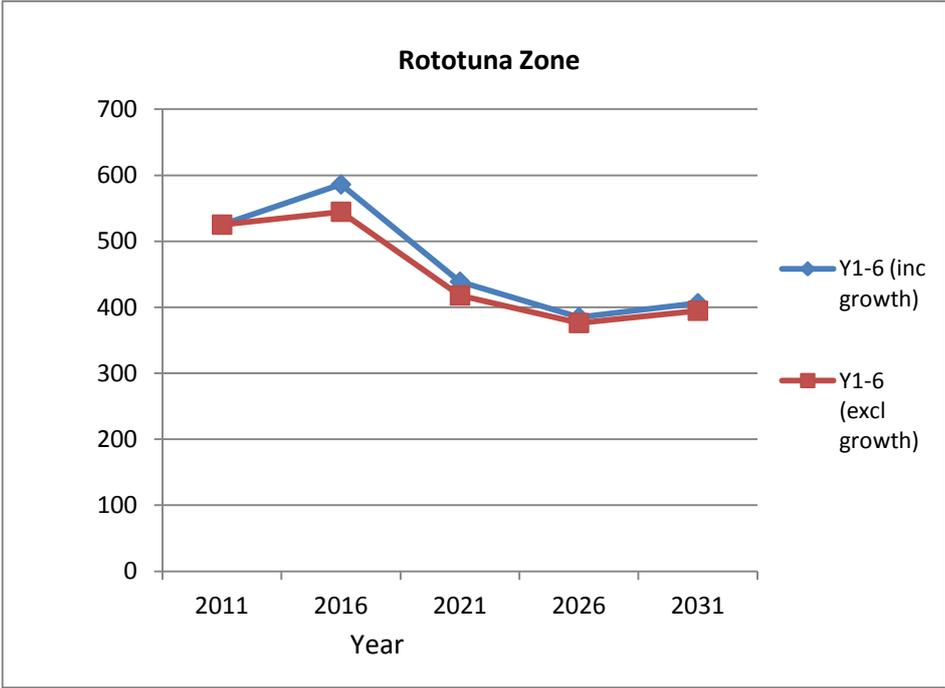
10. The catchment of;
- Caversham area - southern boundary of Kirikiriroa Stream, western boundary Resolution Drive, northern boundary of Thomas Road, eastern boundary of Hukanui Road;
 - Huntington area - southern boundary of Kirikiriroa Stream, western boundary of Hukanui/Horsham Downs Roads, northern boundary of Borman Road, eastern boundary of Gordonton Road.
11. Rototuna sub-area projections for Years 1-6 are summarised in Table 4 and Figure 5 below.

Table 4: Rototuna sub-area Population Projections

Years	2011	2016	2021	2026	2031
Y1-6 (incl growth)	525	586	439	385	406
Y1-6 (excl growth)	525	545	418	376	395

12. Table 4 (above) and Figure 5 (below) indicate a gradual student population growth to 2016 of 61 students before declining to 385 in 2026 and increasing to 406 in 2031. The majority of the Rototuna sub-area (predominantly the Rototuna CAU) is already developed and established.
13. There is only a small proportion of the Huntington CAU contained within the sub-area, which is anticipated to include a small portion of growth in the number of students. However, the high levels of growth experienced by the other two sub-areas are not reflected here.

Figure 5: Rototuna sub-area Population Projections



14. Figure 5 above, also shows for comparison purposes, the anticipated Year 1-6 population projection for this sub-area without the anticipated growth impact of Variation 12 in the Rototuna Growth Cells. Population could still peak in 2016 with 545, Year 1-6 students within the Rototuna sub-area.

Current Local Network of Schools (Contributing and Full Primary Schools)

1. For the purposes of the initial Beca Carter study, the current schooling network was defined by the schools listed below. These include all state schools (including state integrated schools), that are likely to be directly affected by population growth within the study area and/or, by virtue of their location, may be effective in accommodating growing student numbers from within the study area.
 - Pukete Primary School
 - Horsham Downs School
 - Hukanui Primary School
 - Te Rapa Primary School
 - Rototuna Primary School
 - Waikato Waldorf School (state integrated)
 - Te Totara Primary School

2. Six schools are located within the study area. Hukanui School is not located within the study area, but is included because of its close proximity to it, and the high number of students attending from the Hamilton North area. The Beca Carter study included both the western and eastern sides of the Waikato River, however, this Hamilton City North-Eastern School Strategy focuses only on the north-eastern side, because that is also the focus of the concentrated growth. The western side of the river will be considered as the residential developments are progressed.

3. Rototuna and Te Totara Primary Schools are the only state primary schools physically located in the main growth area on the north-eastern side of the Waikato River. The other five schools either don't have enrolment schemes and have to enrol any student who wishes to from the area, or they have enrolment schemes with 'home-zones' that extend into the growth areas – this was done to reduce some of the demand on Te Totara and Rototuna Primary Schools, until such time as other primary options became operational.

4. As the proposed new schooling options are established locally, it is expected that parents will choose the new locally established schools, in preference to travelling out of the area – this is because;
 - The schools will be a new, modern attractive option.
 - The north-eastern districts will be in a unique situation geographically i.e. bounded by the Waikato River to the west, with the Waikato Expressway to the north and east and a major city arterial forming the southern boundary. In other words, it will be a high growth, high density, area with a critical mass of school-age students within a defined area.
 - The geographical restrictions (Waikato River/major roading networks), will encourage parents toward their new local options, rather than have to negotiate these travel barriers/access.

Schooling Network Risks

5. There will be impacts on some schools in the schooling network to a lesser or greater degree as new schooling options is introduced, particularly in relation to Te Rapa, Pukete, Horsham Downs and Hukanui Primary Schools. These schools are all on the periphery of the growth areas and have had the benefit of that growth in terms of their roll development over the past decade. However, their present capacities would not enable them to be able to provide for the total growth over the next 10 to 15 years and their location outside of the pending major road arterial and Waikato Expressway development will become an unrealistic expectation for parents to negotiate in the long-term.