

Director's message:



Palmerston North is a city steadily growing. The underlying student population has increased, as have school retention rates that are well supported by the secondary-tertiary partnerships.

The growth in primary school rolls over the last five years has not yet peaked, and we expect the city's secondary school rolls to grow accordingly. We plan to use our existing school network to its fullest potential and invest in new infrastructure where required.

I am delighted to present this plan outlining how we will manage growth in Palmerston North. Like the other growth plans across the country, this plan will deliver the right provision in the right place at the right time, giving our children the opportunity to be the best they can be.

Ngā mihi,

Jann Marshall

Palmerston North's growth story

In 2017, Palmerston North was identified as a growth area, exceeding 10% growth over a 10 year period. The city is projected to increase by an additional 7,000-12,800 people out to 2030, taking the total population to 95,000-103,000¹.

The majority of growth within the city is expected to occur in Kelvin Grove and Whakarongo to the north-east, Ashhurst to the east, and Poutoa on the southern side of the Manawatū river. Growth in the Kelvin Grove area is expected to slow as the area fills up, with the adjacent Stoney Creek area accelerating. In the longer term, greenfield developments are planned in the west of the city.

In the last five years, state primary school rolls have increased by about 700 students. As a result, the majority of urban primary schools have now reached or exceeded their capacity. As these students move into secondary, there is some capacity. Co-ed options are fully accessible across the city. However, the single-sex secondary schools are at capacity, have small enrolment schemes that do not reflect the school catchments, and consequently have many of out-of-zone students.

Palmerston North has well established school boarding facilities that serve the wider rural area between Ruapehu and Levin. This adds significant student numbers to the secondary population.

What have we done so far?

- We have provided seven additional teaching spaces across the catchment. We established Manukura in 2016 and Budget 18 allocated \$20 million to build the school on a permanent site.
- In 2017/18 we supported schools to implement or amend four enrolment schemes and held a series of workshops to ensure the operation of the enrolment schemes supports the best use of the schooling network. We are currently in the process of implementing a further three enrolment schemes and are closely monitoring school rolls.
- We own land on Ruapehu Drive in Poutoa. However, we are considering whether this is the best location for a new school given the location of recent growth.

Planning for short-term growth (3 years)

- Stats NZ projections do not account for the recent growth experienced in Palmerston North. We expect peak growth at the primary level will be in 2019/2020, and our best estimates show we'll need between 200-1,000 additional student places. This is most likely to occur at existing urban schools where infill development has seen the schools' rolls increase significantly. We expect there will be a need for the acquisition of land for at least one new primary school in this catchment.
- At the secondary level, we will need between 235-320 student places by 2021. We know that secondary school capacity in our single sex secondary schools has already been exceeded. We will work with the schools to ensure solutions support the best use of the existing network. We'll also continue to support the revitalisation of schools to improve their education environment and parental appeal.
- We'll continue to monitor roll growth and work with Palmerston North City and Manawatū District Councils to understand development uptake and ensure the right provision is in the right place at the right time.

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

Peak growth for the secondary population is currently predicted between 2024 and 2026. Beyond this, growth in the school-age population is expected to plateau.

- We have identified existing schools that have sufficient space to accommodate an increase in students and will work closely with these schools to deliver additional capacity as demand increases. We are supporting schools with restricted spaces to effectively manage their enrolment schemes to reduce the risk of overcrowding.
- We expect new primary provision will be required in the Poutoa area to the southeast in the next decade. Additional primary provision in the north may be required in the next decade. We will continue to monitor rolls and development uptake to inform potential timing in both of these locations.

- The secondary schools will require investment to meet the needs of the growing secondary population. We are already replacing buildings no longer fit for purpose. We will continue to work collaboratively with the secondary sector and closely monitor rolls and growth uptake, including what role integrated schools might play to manage this peak growth.

Beyond 2030

Growth beyond 2030 looks likely to be at a slower pace. Recently, Palmerston North has experienced significant growth, which has been supported by the healthcare and social assistance, manufacturing and logistics sectors. The region has significant development projects in defence, health, food technology, and research. Council's long-term planning for green field development and associated investment in infrastructure points to the likelihood of additional schooling provision being required across the Palmerston North catchment beyond 2030.

Māori medium

The Palmerston North/Manawatū region's Māori population accounts for a third of the total student population and is projected to increase. The highest Māori student population within the region is in Palmerston North, where 11% of the Māori students access Māori medium education.

Whilst Māori medium education is accessible through Kura Kaupapa Māori and Level 1 and 2 classes within English Medium state schools, there has been additional demand for designated character education to meet the needs of Māori secondary students.

Manukura has been established as a result of whānau demand for alternative academic and sporting pathways. A second campus of the Hamilton kura, Tai Wānanga is also situated in Aokautere.

Learning Support

We know we have increasing demand from students accessing specialist learning support facilities. In 2018 Palmerston North had 242 ORS and High Health Needs students, a 6% increase on the previous year.

Four schools have specialist learning support facilities. Central Normal School, Freyberg High School and Awatapu College have direct funded specialist units with a combined roll of 116 students. Arahunga Special School (Whanganui) has a satellite unit at West End School catering for 15 students. Arahunga Special School has also established an outreach service based at Queen Elizabeth College to support students in the mainstream schools across the city.

^{1,2} Statistics NZ population projections, 2013 base (Medium and High scenario)

Palmerston North: Steady Growing

New Zealand Education Growth Plan to 2030

This growth plan covers the Palmerston North catchment in the Taranaki, Whanganui, Manawatū Education Region. In the Palmerston North catchment, there are 54 schools including: 46 state, 7 state integrated, and a private school; 19 contributing primary schools, 21 full primary, 3 intermediates, 8 secondary schools, a teen parent unit and 2 composite schools. As at July 2018, this catchment had a combined **school roll of 16,346 students**, including 530 Māori Medium students and 214 ORS students.

What's influencing the Growth Plan

Steady and diverse growth across the catchment



Areas within the catchment are experiencing both green field and infill growth. Economic development across the Manawatū catchment has also seen new building growth in satellite towns such as Ashhurst, Hiwinui and Tokomaru

Primary network near full capacity



State primary school rolls have increased by about 700 students in the last five years. The majority of urban primary schools have now reached or exceeded their capacity.

Parent choice influencing utilisation



Single-sex secondary schools are at capacity, have small enrolment schemes that do not reflect the school catchments, and consequently have many out-of-zone students.

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



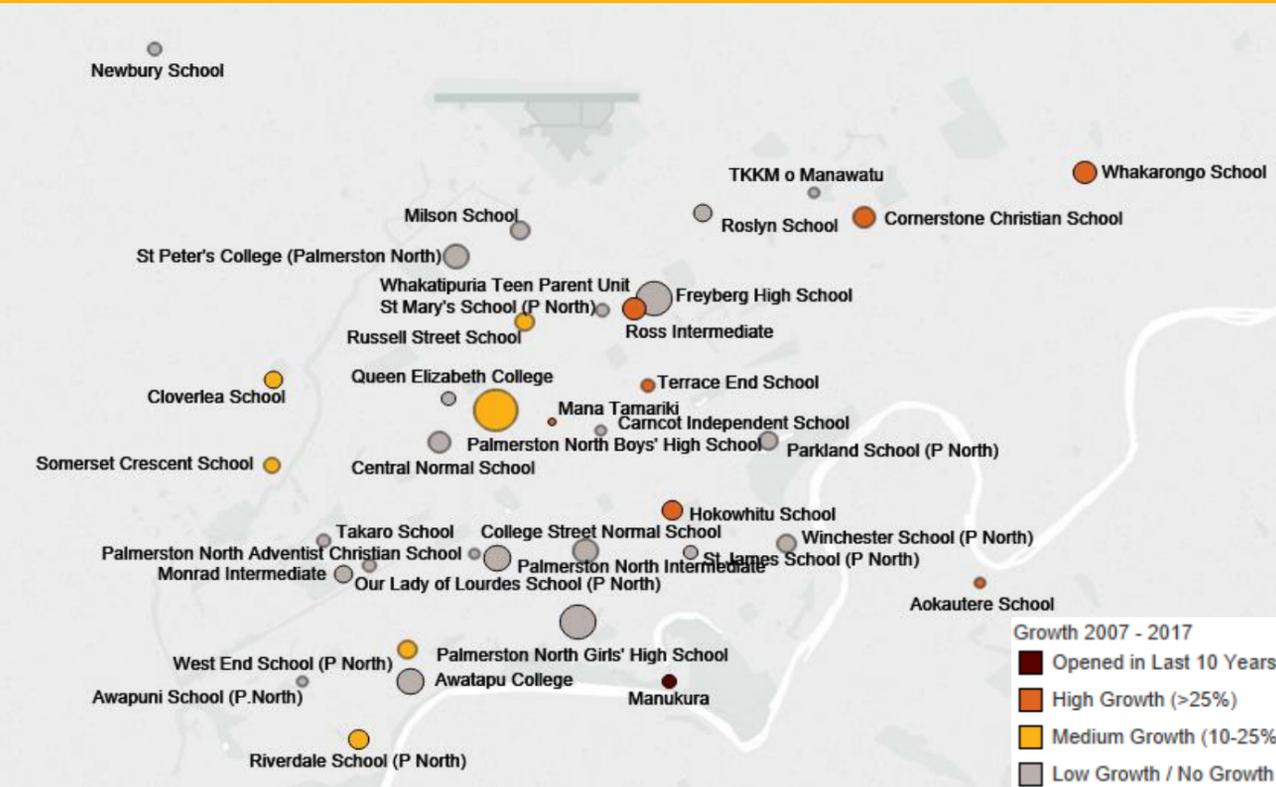
68% of schools within the city boundaries have enrolment schemes or maximum rolls. Further enrolment schemes are in the exploratory/ implementation stage.



Manukura opened in 2016 in response to demand for Māori medium secondary education. Currently has a roll of 185 students and is at capacity.



Additional roll growth teaching spaces will be added to high growth areas of the network. Innovative repurposing of existing spaces.



Growth Plan to 2030



Enrolment zones

- » We will work with the sector to co-construct enrolment schemes, re-configure enrolment schemes and support schools to implement enrolment schemes to ensure the best use of the existing state network.
- » We will monitor enrolment schemes to ensure best use of the school network.

Network solutions

- » Growth within the existing state schools can mean the network structure no longer fits the purpose of a quality, accessible, equitable and resource efficient education network.
- » We will explore with schools whether re-organisation remains a viable option as part of a wider network solution.

Expanding Provision Type

- » While there remains capacity to deliver Māori medium education through immersion units within mainstream state schools, there has been additional demand for designated character education to meet the needs of Māori secondary students.
- » Revitalisation of schools has the potential to improve efficiency of schools across the network.
- » The secondary schools will require investment to meet the needs of the growing secondary population. We are already rationalising buildings no longer fit for purpose and understand the need to provide a schooling network where all students' needs are met and that is reasonably accessible, where possible. We will continue to work collaboratively with the secondary sector and closely monitor rolls and growth uptake.

Roll growth funding

- » We plan to build permanent capacity where and when it is needed.
- » We will also deliver temporary spaces to schools where and when short-term capacity is required.

Establish New Schools

- » We will establish new schools where and when required. We will assess the best location for a future school in the southeast, including whether the currently owned site is most suitable.
- » We are collaborating with the Palmerston North City Council and their partners to understand future residential growth and proactively plan to ensure the right provision is in the right place at the right time.