



18/12/2025

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

OIA: GEMS-45912 – Halswell & Prebbleton growth

Thank you for your email of 20 November 2025 to the Ministry of Education (the Ministry) requesting the following information:

1. *Growth projections for Halswell and Prebbleton that the Ministry currently has.*
2. *How many additional homes in the Halswell area is the Ministry aware of capacity for?*
3. *How many additional homes in the Prebbleton area is the Ministry aware of capacity for?*
4. *Which fast-track housing applications in the Halswell and Prebbleton areas is the Ministry aware of?*
5. *Current Hillmorton School roll*
6. *Projected Hillmorton School roll for 2026*
7. *Projected Hillmorton School roll for 2030*
8. *Hillmorton masterplanned capacity figure*
9. *Current and future Hornby High School capacity*
10. *Current Hornby High School roll*
11. *Projected Hornby High School roll for 2030*
12. *Current and future Cashmere High capacity*
13. *Current Cashmere High roll*
14. *Any information you can provide on upcoming zoning changes for Cashmere High.*

Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Please find my response to each of your questions below.

We have interpreted **parts one to four** of your request as seeking the information the Ministry is aware of, as opposed to the actual numbers. For information regarding planned residential development / growth in Prebbleton, this should be referred to the Selwyn District Council. For information regarding residential development / growth in Halswell, this should be referred to the Christchurch City Council. For information regarding population projections by StatsNZ, a request should be made to StatsNZ.

1. Growth projections for Halswell and Prebbleton that the Ministry currently has.

The Ministry uses population projections from StatsNZ to inform our forecasting. The Ministry combines this with data available from local Councils, and with assumptions regarding potential residential development to inform planned responses in the Education Network.

While the Ministry liaises with Councils regarding planned and anticipated growth, and receives projections and other data from StatsNZ, such information should be obtained from the respective owners of such data.

2. How many additional homes in the Halswell area is the Ministry aware of capacity for?

3. How many additional homes in the Prebbleton area is the Ministry aware of capacity for?

The final number of additional households in Halswell and Prebbleton is uncertain. Ministry planning allows for a wide range of housing typologies. Recent experience in local areas of greenfield growth has demonstrated significant differences between planned households and actual households for some development areas. Additionally, the composition of local families varies between subdivisions.

Most greenfield growth developments in greater Christchurch have been comprised of a large proportion of dwellings being occupied initially by families with young children. These families result in a “bubble” moving through school year levels over time, after which there is a decline in the number of students.

For estimates of current and remaining household yield, this information should be requested from the Christchurch City Council (for Halswell) or the Selwyn District Council (for Prebbleton).

4. Which fast-track housing applications in the Halswell and Prebbleton areas is the Ministry aware of?

Fast track application details are available at the following links:

- <https://www.fasttrack.govt.nz/projects?query=%21showall&f.projectRegion%7CprojectRegion=Canterbury&f.Project+Sector%7CprojectSector=Housing%2Fland>
- <https://environment.govt.nz/acts-and-regulations/acts/fast-track-approvals/fast-track-projects/>

Un-listed applications include a proposed subdivision on John Patterson Drive. In addition to fast-track approvals, a large volume of residential development is occurring through standard development processes.

5. Current Hillmorton School roll

10. Current Hornby High School roll

14. Current Cashmere High roll

The most recent finalised school roll data, from the July 2025 school roll returns, can be found at the following link: <https://www.educationcounts.govt.nz/statistics/school-rolls>. Please see the file *Time series: Student rolls by school 2010-2025*.

I am therefore refusing these aspects of your request under section 18(d) of the Act, as the information requested is already publicly available.

As an example, at July 2025, Cashmere High School had 2,240 full time Ministry funded students enrolled, plus 22 secondary-tertiary partnership (STP) students. There were 11 Alternative Education students, and 105 international fee-paying students enrolled. Please note that STP students and Alternative Education students are funded through a different process than regular enrolments, and international fee-paying students do not attract any Ministry funding.

6. Projected Hillmorton School roll for 2026

7. Projected Hillmorton School roll for 2030

11. Projected Hornby High School roll for 2030

Please note that roll projections used for planning of additional school property needs are conducted on an as-needed basis, to allow incorporation of factors and trends specific to each school. In this case, projections for each of these schools were compiled in March 2025.

Roll projections generated in March 2025 indicated the following in-zone + STP roll projections for these three schools:

School	March 2025 in-zone roll	Projected March 2026 in-zone roll	Projected March 2030 in-zone roll
Cashmere High School	2268	2294	2349
Hillmorton High School	1275	1298	1583
Hornby High School	957	1047	1210

These projections will be evaluated and may be re-calculated once March 2026 data becomes available. Projections are informed by historical trends at the school, and in the local Year 1-13 student population.

8. Hillmorton master planned capacity figure

9. Current and future Hornby High School capacity

12. Current and future Cashmere High capacity

Work is underway at each of these schools. The following Funded capacities are the estimated number of student spaces that will be available at the completion of current, funded works. Note that changes in the school roll profile may impact capacity estimates.

Note that Master Plan capacities are used to inform the design and delivery of facilities at a school. The Master Plan capacity is not based on the projected roll at a particular point in time, it is the anticipated maximum number of in-zone students that are likely to need to be accommodated on that site at any point in the future. Note that the Master Plan capacity of a school may be reviewed/amended if there is a change in underlying assumptions relating to residential yield and population factors.

Funding for increases in capacity towards the Master Plan is subject to annual, national prioritisation processes that seek to address the most critical, most immediate needs.

School	Approved / Funded Capacity	Master Plan Capacity
Cashmere High School	2300	2500
Hillmorton High School	1478	2300
Hornby High School	1063	1300

Note that Cashmere High school has a large number of relocatable teaching spaces on-site, and various building works are currently underway, impacting the current number of spaces in use. Approved works will deliver capacity for at least 2300 students at the school in Ministry-owned teaching space.

Note that schools are responsible for provision of space to accommodate international fee-paying students, and funding for Alternative Education students includes a property component.

14. Any information you can provide on upcoming zoning changes for Cashmere High.

The latest amendment to the Cashmere High School home zone occurred in 2021. There are no plans for changes in the enrolment scheme for Cashmere High School.

Please note, we may publish this response on our website after five working days. Your name and contact details will be removed.

Thank you again for your email. You have the right to ask an Ombudsman to review my decision on your request, in accordance with section 28 of the Act. You can do this by writing to info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or to Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Nāku noa, nā



Andrea Williams
Hautū (Taupua) | Deputy Secretary (Acting)
Te Mahau | Te Tai Runga (South)