

FORM 5

Submission on a publicly notified proposal for policy statement or plan, change or variation under Clause 6 of Schedule 1, Resource Management Act 1991

To: Ashburton District Council

Name of submitter: Ministry of Education ('the Ministry')

Address for service: C/- Beca Ltd
PO Box 13960
Christchurch 8141

Attention: Daly Williams

Phone: (03) 371 3664

Email: daly.williams@beca.com

The specific parts of the application that the Ministry of Education's submission relates to are:

The potential network capacity effects on nearby Allenton School, Ashburton College and Ashburton Netherby School as a result of the proposed works. The Ministry seeks to ensure that any potential impacts on the school resulting from the proposed activities are appropriately addressed and mitigated.

Background:

The Ministry of Education ('the Ministry') is the Government's lead advisor on the New Zealand education system, shaping the direction for education agencies and providers and contributing to the Government's goals for education. The Ministry assesses population changes, school roll fluctuations and other trends and challenges impacting on education provision at all levels of the education network to identify changing needs within the network so the Ministry can respond effectively.

The Ministry has responsibility for all education property owned by the Crown. This involves managing the existing property portfolio, upgrading and improving the portfolio, purchasing and constructing new property to meet increased demand, identifying and disposing of surplus State school sector property and managing teacher and caretaker housing. The Ministry is therefore a considerable stakeholder in terms of activities that may impact educational facilities and assets in the Ashburton district.

The Ministry of Education's Submission:

Coniston Park Ltd (the Applicant) have requested a private plan change (Plan Change 7) from Ashburton District Council (ADC) to rezone approximately 16.32ha of land, located on the north-west corner of Farm and Racecourse Roads, Ashburton, from Residential D to Residential C. The application site, hereon referred to as 'the site', is located approximately 700m north of Allenton School, 1.6km north of Ashburton College and 2.8km north of Ashburton Netherby School.

Upon review of the application and supporting documents, the Ministry wishes to highlight the following matters:

Implications and impacts on the existing school network capacity

The Ministry is neutral of intensification in principle and seeks clarity on timeframes and scale of the residential development resulting from the increased density enabled by the rezoning proposed. While residential growth in this area has been expected within existing residential areas, an increase in residential capacity that is proposed by Plan Change 7 has the possibility of creating pressure and affecting the school networks' capacity in Ashburton.

Provisions of the anticipated plan change timeframes will assist the Ministry to better understand the implications of the proposed growth on the Ashburton District school network and enable informed investment decisions to be made by the Ministry around school network capacity.

Engagement with Allenton School, Ashburton College and Ashburton Netherby School:

The applicant has acknowledged that there are schools within a 10-minute drive of the site, however no engagement has been made with the Ministry regarding any potential effects on the nearby schools.

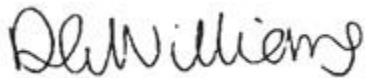
The Ministry requests the inclusion of a condition requiring consultation to be undertaken with the Ministry, to discuss any impacts to schools and their staff and students.

The Ministry of Education seeks the following decision from the consent authority:

Should the Council recommend the plan change is approved, the Ministry request that the applicant commit to ongoing communication with the Ministry and nearby schools with regarding timing of development. This could form part of a condition of the plan change as follows:

Consult with the Ministry on the development, staging and timing

The Ministry does not wish to be heard in support of their submission.



Daly Williams
Planner – Beca Ltd
(Consultant to the Ministry of Education)
Date: 01/10/2025