



Alison Gilchrist  
Chairperson  
Board of Trustees  
Silverdale School  
PO Box 538  
Silverdale  
Auckland



Dear Ms Gilchrist

**Re: Proposed Decapitation of Silverdale School**

Thank you for providing feedback regarding the proposal that Silverdale School decapitate and become a Year 1-6 contributing primary school.

I do understand the frustration you and Mr Lockie feel at the time it has taken for the Ministry to have reached this decision point in the matter. I know that the Auckland Ministry office has apologised for this protracted process and I add my own apologies.

After considering all the information provided to me, including the result of the consultation process that was undertaken, I have decided to decapitate Silverdale School to become Year 1-6. I appreciate the support and changes your Board has previously implemented to help address growth in your area. However, even with those other measures having been taken, I consider that decapitation is the only remaining option available to manage Silverdale School's roll.

Therefore, this letter serves as formal notice that Silverdale School will become a Year 1-6 contributing school from 1 January 2019. To phase this in, and to allow current Year 7 students to complete their schooling to the end of Year 8 at Silverdale School, Silverdale School may enrol students in Years 1- 6, and Year 8, for 2018.

In making this decision I wish to acknowledge the high quality of education that Silverdale School has provided for its Year 7 and 8 students to date and I am aware of the public recognition of that fact. On the other hand, my decision is driven by the need to find the optimal solution for an area experiencing continuously rapid growth. Our roll projections for Silverdale School, even without enrolling Year 7 and 8 students, and considering the adjustments that have been made to the school's enrolment scheme, tell us that the school roll is likely to be close to 900 students in 2020. While the 8 classroom block the Ministry is expecting to build at Silverdale School will help accommodate that growth, it is very unlikely to be able to do so if the school remains a full primary school. However, as a contributing school, Silverdale will be able to provide for growing numbers of Year 1 – 6 students.

Orewa College is well placed to accommodate a growing roll of Year 7 and 8 students.

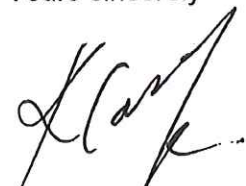
I appreciate that some of the Silverdale School community may have concerns about how their children will cope in the much larger Year 7 – 13 environment they will find at Orewa College. Such concerns are understandable but as partners in the Orewa Community of Learning | Kāhui Ako you have an excellent opportunity, between you, to ensure that this transition will be as seamless and enriching as possible.

As far as school transport is concerned, School Transport Assistance for students currently attending Silverdale School will be provided to eligible students in accordance with school transport policy. Any students receiving School Transport Assistance in Years 7-8 whose eligibility is affected by the decapitation will continue to be able to receive this assistance until they complete their Year 8 schooling, or their address or school they are attending changes.

I appreciate the work you, your teachers, and the wider school community, are doing for the education of the children at Silverdale School, and acknowledge once again that the recognition your Year 7-8 teachers and students have received has been very well deserved.

I wish you the best for the remainder of the school year.

Yours sincerely

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

Katrina Casey  
Deputy Secretary  
Sector Enablement and Support