Antarctica New Zealand

Science during the Scott Base Redevelopment

Expected impacts and our commitment to continuing science through the busy seasons



Science during the Scott Base Redevelopment

Research community update

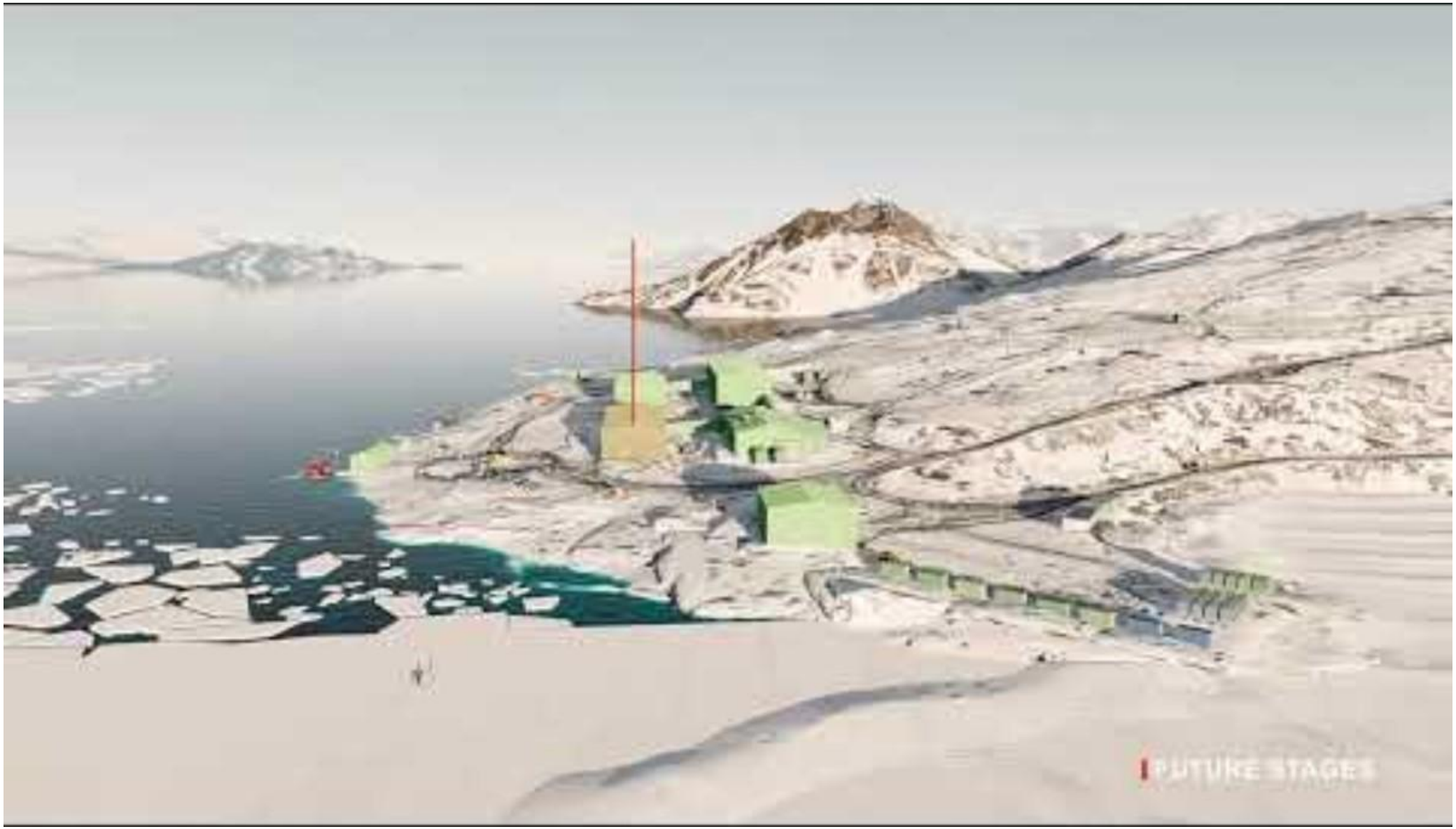
- Welcome and introductions
- Redevelopment overview
- Science operating environment
- Planning for the next three seasons
- Questions and discussion

Scott Base Redevelopment

Building for the next generation of Antarctic science

- Modern, fit-for-purpose science infrastructure
- Improved accommodation and operational capability
- Enhanced safety and resilience
- Greater energy efficiency and sustainability
- Long-term investment in New Zealand's Antarctic presence

Future stages of Scott Base



Plans and interior

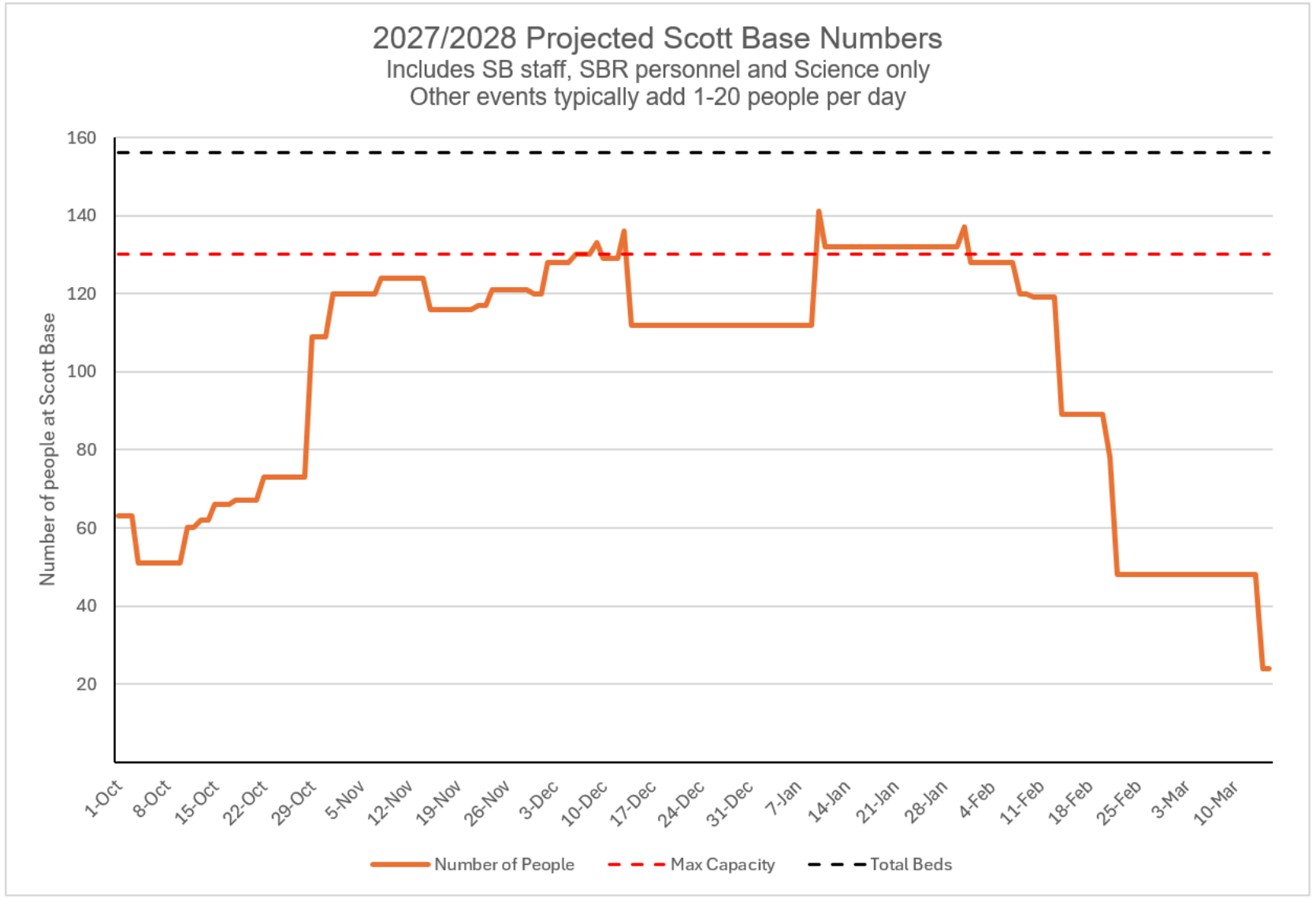


Scott Base Redevelopment

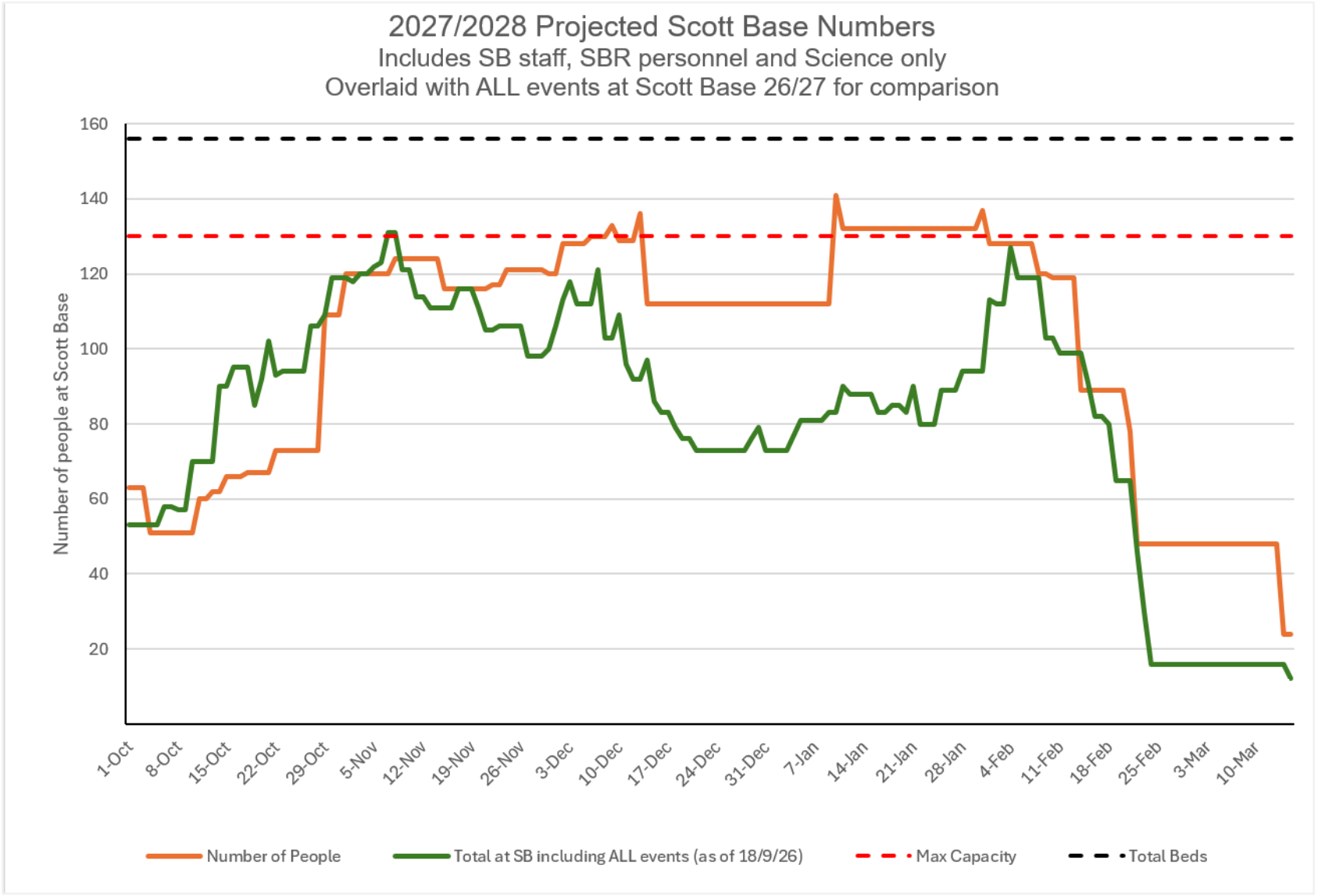
What happens over the next seasons?

Season	What this means for science
2026/27	Existing science programme continues. Increasing planning and prioritisation requirements
2027/28	First significant impacts felt. Accommodation capacity reduces and logistics become more constrained as major construction activities accelerate. Science programmes will require earlier planning and greater flexibility around deployment timing, cargo and personnel movements.
2028/29	Major construction season. Accommodation, storage and logistics constraints remain significant. Competition for resources and support services increases, requiring prioritisation and close coordination between science, operations and construction activities. HFC labs and staging spaces likely to be impacted by my mid season. Winter fit out activities planned.
2029/30	Significant impacts expected as construction activities drive to completion. Large numbers on and moving through the base while commissioning, system integration and fit-out activities are completed mean operational constraints are likely to be considerable. HFC is not expected to be available.
Beyond	Return to a largely normal season expected, as our modern, well-equipped Scott Base becomes operational!

Bed night predictions: 2027/2028

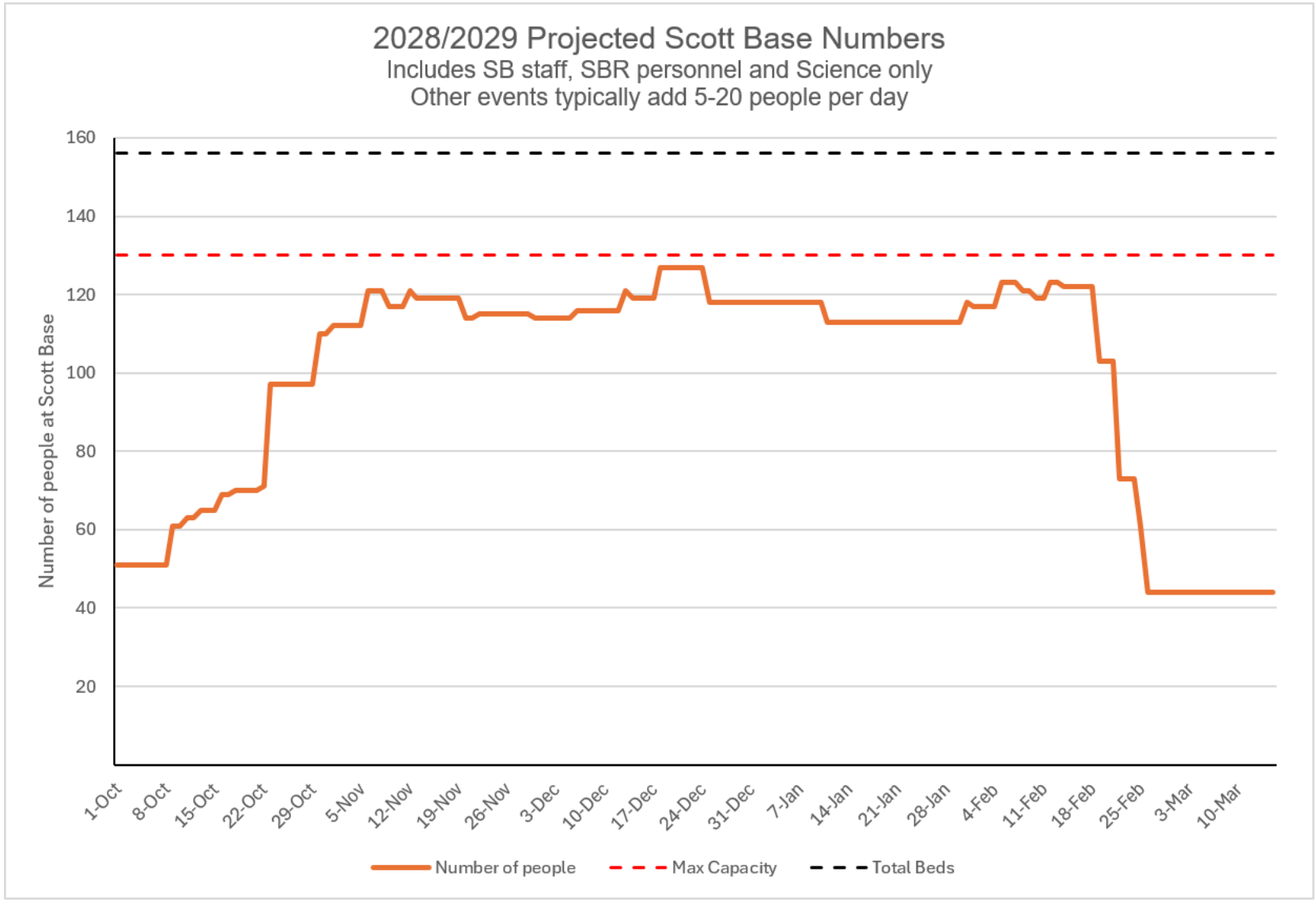


Bed night predictions: 2027/2028

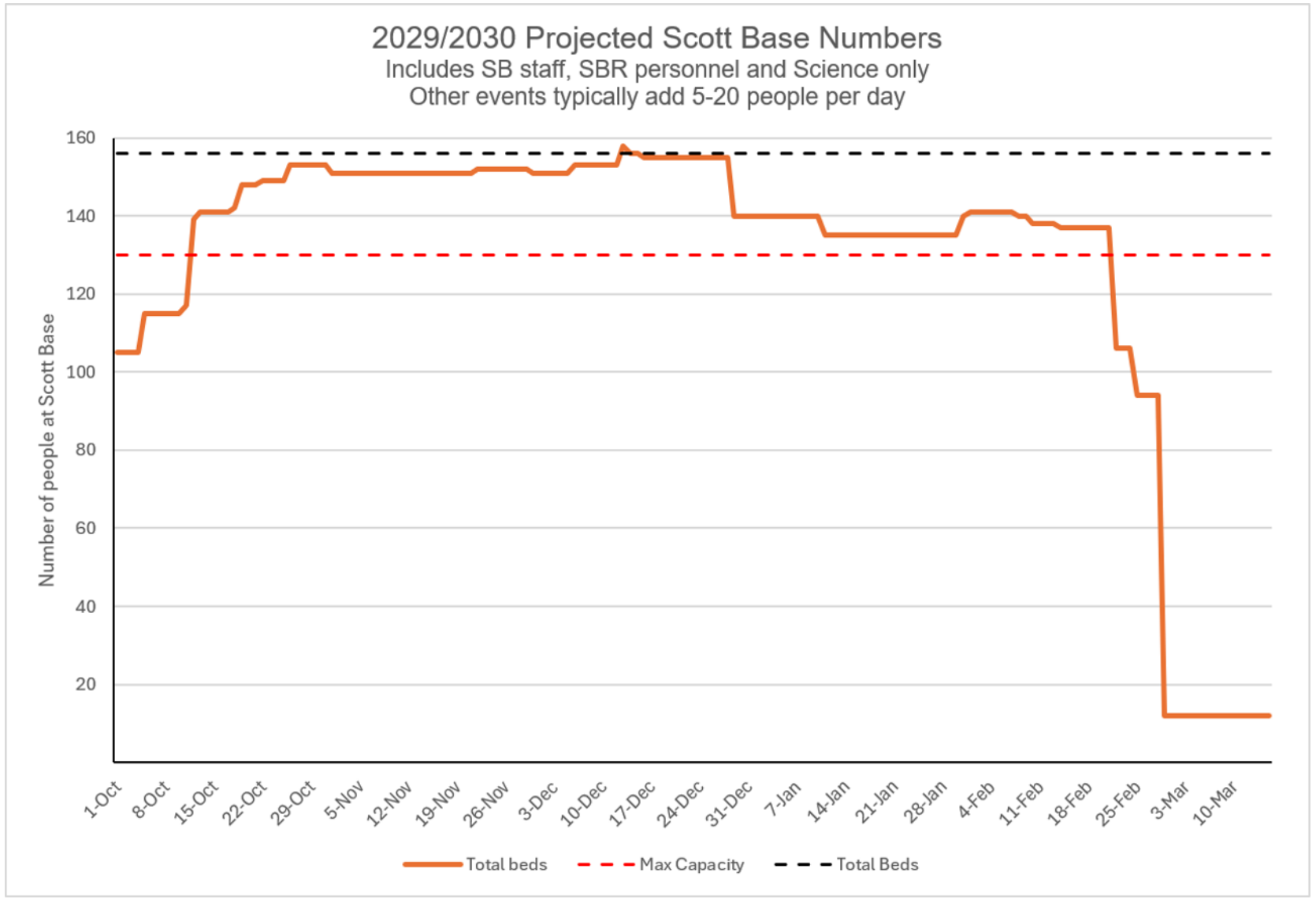


For context – this is what our total numbers in the 2026/2027 season look like in comparison!

Bed night predictions: 2028/2029

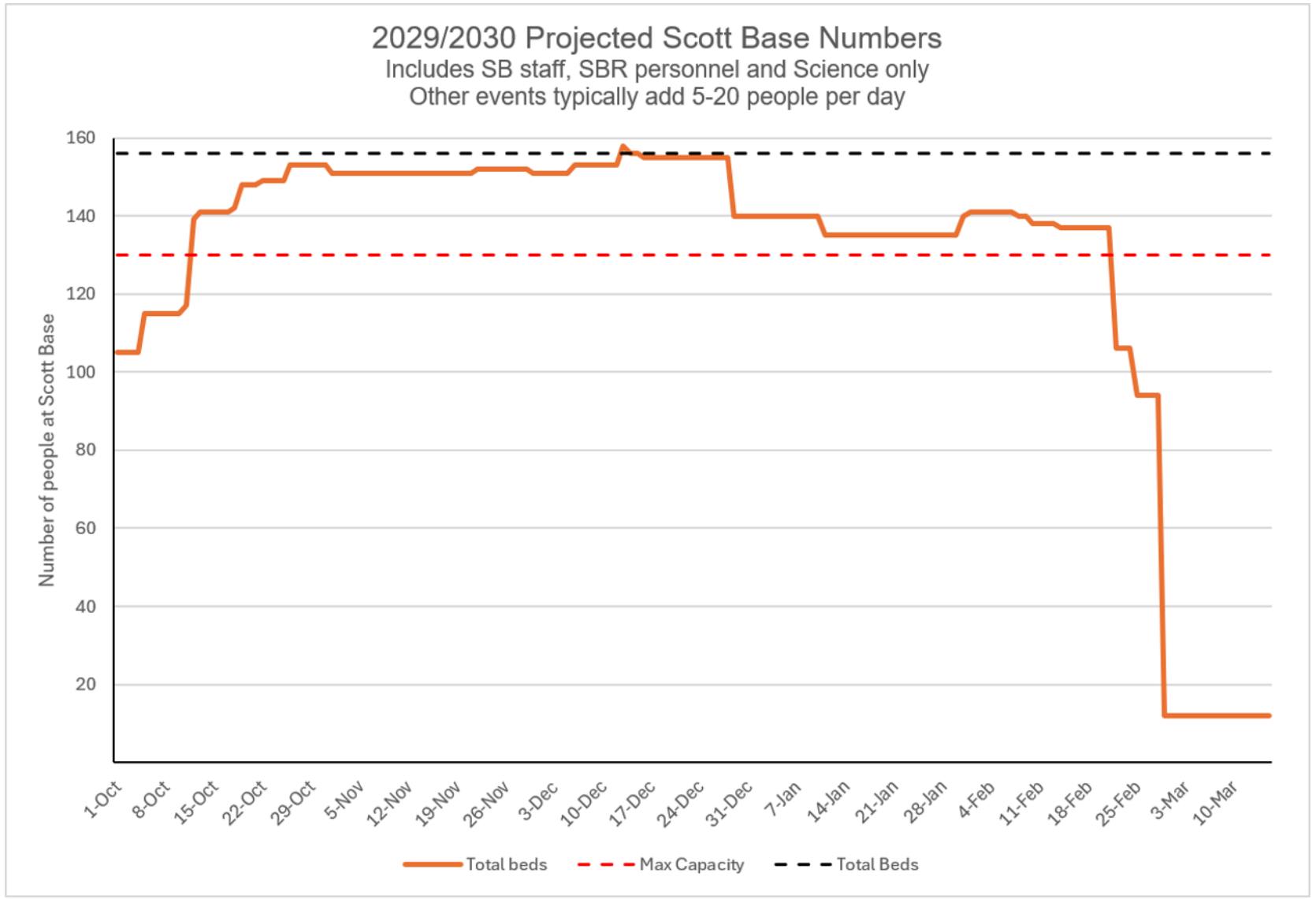


Bed night predictions: 2029/2030



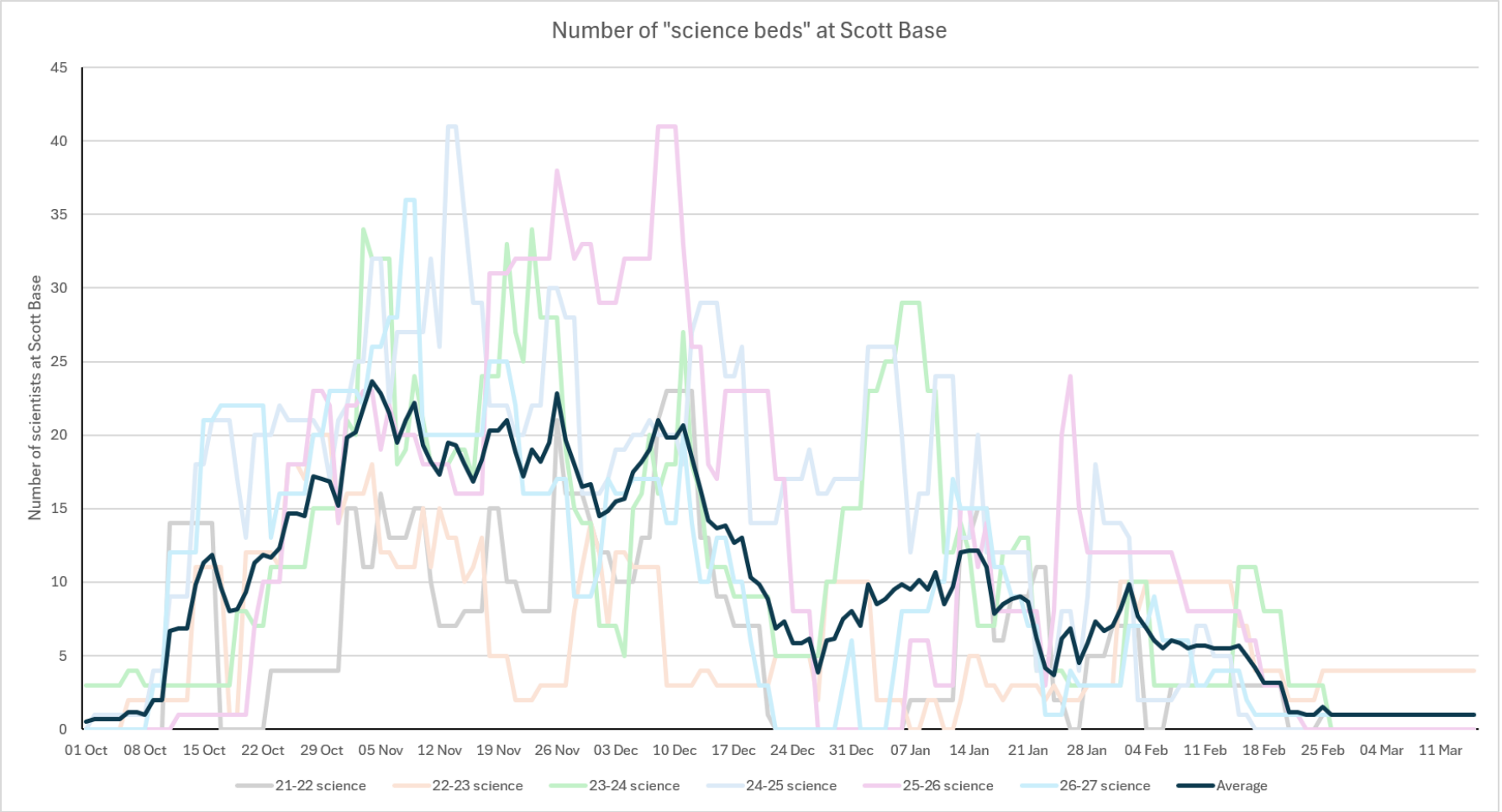
Bed night predictions: 2029/2030

There will be a significant number of SBR personnel doing works during winter 2029



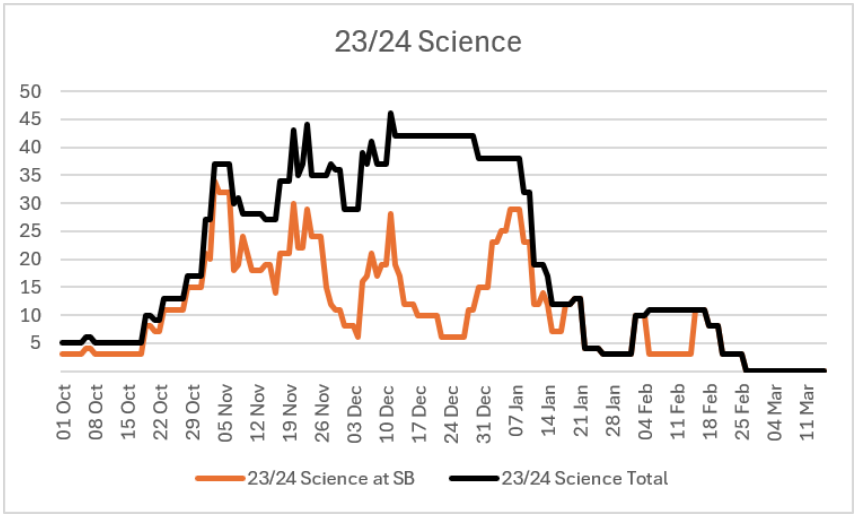
Hopefully this is *"Rebuild complete"*

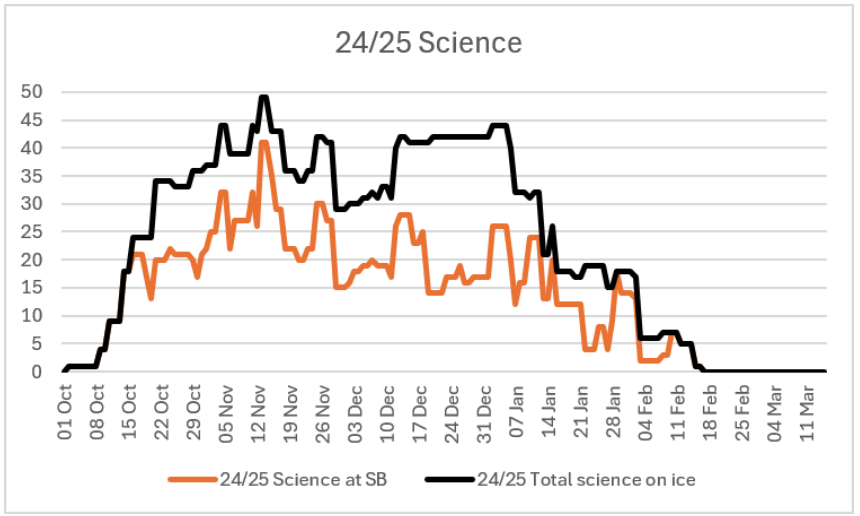
How many “science beds” do we normally have?

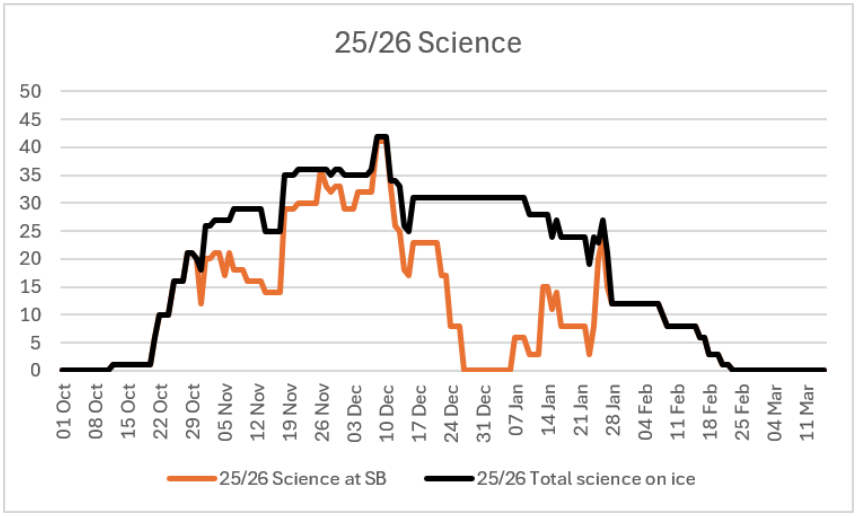


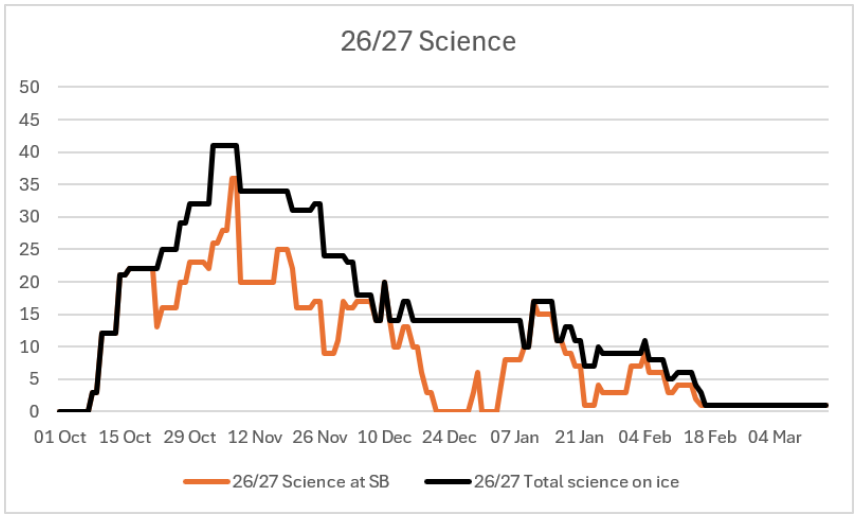
Since the number of beds at SB was increased post covid, we average ~1600 SB “science beds” per season, between Oct 1 and Feb 28. Our ring-fenced science beds will be ~10% ABOVE this average, spread evenly across the season (though will be ~25% below average during the peak Oct 15-Dec 15 time period).

Beds at Scott Base ≠ (Camp) beds in Antarctica!









Scott Base is a launching point for Antarctic field camps. We have supported science over a region that spans more than 700 km North and South of SB.

Scientists move through Scott Base beds and out to the locations that they have determined are best for their science.

Movement to the field means we can support much more science than SB beds reflect!

Planning and Prioritisation

What we need from you for good planning

- Accurate, timely, detailed information
- Flexibility where timing, scope or delivery options exist
- Collaboration to identify practical solutions
- Early visibility of any potential science and logistics requests or changes

What you can expect from us

- Forward planning across multiple seasons
- Early identification of capacity constraints
- Regular communication and engagement
- A commitment to maximise science as much as possible

Planning and Prioritisation

If prioritisation is required, decisions will consider:

- Alignment with national and organisational priorities
- Scientific value and strategic outcomes
- Benefits to New Zealand and Antarctic research
- Support for capability development, including ECRs
- National and international commitments and obligations
- Cost, risk and operational feasibility
- Environmental considerations
- Availability of alternative support options
- Overall balance of the seasonal science portfolio

In summary

- The Scott Base Redevelopment is critical to ensuring New Zealand can continue to support Antarctic science and operations for decades to come.
- Science remains a priority throughout the redevelopment and Scott Base will continue to support research activities during construction.
- Some seasons will require greater planning, prioritisation and flexibility as accommodation, logistics and support resources come under pressure.
- Planning assumptions and impacts will continue to evolve as the redevelopment progresses and mitigation measures are implemented.
- Ongoing engagement between the research community, operations teams and the redevelopment programme will be critical to achieving the best possible outcomes.
- We remain committed to working with the science community to minimise impacts and maximise scientific opportunities throughout the redevelopment.

Questions

