Selwyn economy growing at steady rate

Selwyn’s economy continued to strengthen during the latter part of 2017. The latest quarterly economic monitor from analysts Infometrics showed Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth in the district of 3.9 percent in the December 2017 year. This is up from 2.2 percent six months earlier and well above the national average of 2.8 percent.

Consumers are adding their weight to the growth of the economy. Marketview data on electronic card transactions shows retail spending in Selwyn grew by 13 percent in the December 2017 year, with the national average at 4.3 percent.

Tourism is also supporting the consumer-driven growth. Visitor expenditure grew by 14 percent in the December 2017 year, more than double the national average increase of 6.4 percent. Total tourism expenditure was about $102m in Selwyn during the year to December 2017, up from $89m a year ago.

In the labour market, sectors such as accommodation and food services had 90 new filled jobs in the March 2017 year. Wholesale trade had 49 filled jobs, and dairy product manufacturing had 42. Unemployment has remained relatively static at 2.3 percent, compared with 2.2 last quarter. Selwyn’s unemployment rate remains well below the regional average and is less than half the national average.

For the December 2017 year as a whole, the number of residential building consents in Selwyn was very similar to 2016. However in the final three months of last year there were 217 consents granted in the December quarter, compared with 290 in the same quarter last year. Infometrics’ data indicates that on an annual basis, the number of consents in Selwyn decreased by 0.3 percent compared with the same 12-month period a year ago.

Selwyn District Council’s statistics show that consent application numbers dropped slightly in September 2017 (by about 20 applications per month) which is not uncommon in an election year. While the volume has dipped slightly, the Council currently has a number of significant commercial applications being received, which is expected to contribute to continued strong levels.

Selwyn mayor Sam Broughton says it’s encouraging to see the district’s economy maturing and growing at a steady rate across different sectors and markets.

“Our strength of business in Selwyn continues along its positive trajectory with consumer spending trending upward, along with an increase in visitors to the district and more local jobs being created,” he says.

Celebrate Parks Week with Magical Parks

For Parks Week 2018 (10–18 March 2018), an exciting new augmented reality game with an environmental twist – EverGreen – is available at Lincoln Domain.

Turning recycling and rubbish collection into a fun and exciting game for kids rewards them for being responsible for their environment. The game teaches kids how to recycle rubbish by feeding different types of waste to the right tree. There is a lot of activity involved and as the kids pick up the virtual rubbish, the park gets greener and greener.

The New Zealand Recreation Association and Parks and Leisure Australia have again teamed up to help organise Parks Week. The week encourages councils and other organisations on both sides of the Tasman to run engaging events to raise awareness of the value of parks and open spaces, and to get people out of their living rooms and enjoying the outdoors.

EverGreen does that by encouraging kids and families to get out and explore their local parks whilst learning the fundamentals of recycling.

The average playing time of the game is 30–60 minutes with an average distance of 700–2000m covered. There are also other Magical Parks games to choose from at Lincoln Domain:

- Augmentia – find kittens
- Prehistoria – collect dinosaur eggs
- Alien Scape – save aliens

Download the app on Android and iPhone and follow the in-game instructions. EverGreen will be available on the app until Sunday 25 March.

What’s the cost?

Selwyn motorists are being reminded of the need to take care at intersections through a new Selwyn District Council road safety campaign.

The ‘What’s the cost’ campaign aims to raise awareness by profiling the price of failing to stop or give way at intersections.

Of the crashes that occur in Selwyn, 40% take place at intersections. From 2013 to 2017, 571 crashes occurred at intersections within the district, of these 216 crashes involved an injury, with eight fatalities recorded.

In Selwyn 61% of intersection crashes are caused by failing to stop or give way. Poor driver observation is a factor in 49% of all intersection crashes.

Senior Sergeant Pete Stills of the New Zealand Police reminds motorists that stopping means a vehicle’s wheels do not move at all.

“We encourage people to come to a complete stop, to not start looking until after they have stopped and to have a good hard look to ensure that if there is a motorcycle or a dark coloured vehicle they see it. We encourage people to travel with their lights on to make sure they are visible to others,” he says.

Along with the risk of causing a crash, motorists failing to stop or give way face an instant $150 fine and 20 demerit points.

Selwyn Police will be supporting the ‘What’s the cost’ campaign by monitoring intersections and will be issuing tickets and demerits to motorists who fail to stop or give way at intersections.

Top tips for intersection awareness:

- Always come to a complete stop at stop signs
- Look in all directions, ahead, behind, side to side, and then only proceed when you can do so safely.
- At give way signs, slow down and look in all directions, ahead, behind and both sides and then only proceed when you can do so safely.
- Be aware of how fast traffic is going, particularly when entering a 100km/h road.
- Don’t overtake when travelling through an intersection.
- Be aware of the give way rules for controlled and uncontrolled intersections.
- Indicate your intentions early when turning.
- Know your give way rules.

Water meters to be installed in Selwyn High Country

Arthur’s Pass, Castle Hill and Lake Coleridge are the latest townships in line for the rollout of water meters across the district’s water supplies. Installation of water meters at households connected to these supplies will begin this month, and is scheduled to be completed mid-year.

Around 90% of Council supply households across the district are already on meters. Metering has been shown to reduce water consumption as it links water use to charging – so households that use less water benefit from lower charges, while those using more pay higher charges.

Households with average water use will find their total charge remains similar to what they currently pay. You can help avoid incurring extra charges by monitoring your water use – see www.selwyn.govt.nz/watermetering for more information and tips on how to read your water meter.
Selwyn newcomers networks – volunteer coordinators

Do you like meeting new people? Are you interested in welcoming newcomers to Selwyn?

The New Zealand Newcomers Network sets up and supports Newcomers Networks all over New Zealand. There are two regional Newcomers Networks in the Selwyn district – Rolleston and Leeston – that currently have vacancies for volunteer coordinators.

If you would like to be involved in Rolleston and Leeston or elsewhere in Selwyn welcoming newcomers and creating interesting, informal and regular social connection opportunities for newcomers then this volunteer role could be perfect for you! It could also be shared amongst a group of volunteers.

For information visit www.newcomers.co.nz or email andreja.p@newcomers.co.nz.

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