

# Annual Plan signals long-term investment



The Council has adopted an Annual Plan that balances investment for recovery and the future, with savings.

The Council adopted the plan at its meeting last week, committing to a capital programme of \$156 million, while also making savings of \$1.7 million, adopting one of the smaller rates increases of any council in Canterbury.

The Council halved its expected average rates increase to an average increase of 1.6% across the district. The range of increases for individual properties is expected to vary between 1.4% for urban residential properties (around \$1 a week) and 3.2% for some larger rural properties.

Mayor Sam Broughton says the plan is an investment in the COVID-19 recovery and longer term future, while recognising the economic impact of the pandemic on ratepayers.

“Selwyn is a growing district and remains a great place to live and work. However, we recognise that many households have been impacted by the pandemic. This plan aims to be compassionate and realistic about people’s circumstances, making savings where we can, while continuing to invest with infrastructure, facilities and projects that will provide jobs, boost economic activity and improve the wellbeing of Selwyn in the long term.”

Some projects including the Prebbleton Community Centre were deferred, the Chief Executive and Mayor have both taken pay cuts, and salaries and staff numbers have been capped at current levels, with the exception of staff required to operate the new buildings.

The Council has also put in place a rates assistance package to help people affected by COVID-19, including an extended rates payment period and reduced penalty fees.

Major projects include:

Te Ara Ātea and the Rolleston town centre (\$14 million)\*

Foster Park indoor courts(\$14 million)

Selwyn Aquatic Centre extension (\$9 million)

Selwyn Health Hub (\$13 million)

Infrastructure projects include:

Springs/Marshs Road and Shands/Blakes Road intersection upgrades (\$10 million)

District-wide water quality improvements (\$5 million)

Upgrades to the Eastern Selwyn Sewerage Scheme (\$14 million)

\*Budgets are for the 2020/21 financial year

## Council keeps top credit rating

The Council has retained its top credit rating, with international ratings agency Fitch confirming the Council’s financial outlook is stable.

The AA+ rating is the same as both the New Zealand sovereign rating and the Local Government Funding Agency for local currency and equal to the highest rating given to any council in New Zealand.

The rating means the Council is at very low risk of defaulting on its loans and reflects the Council’s sound financial position and prudent financial forecasts, including prudent levels of borrowing and spending.

The assessment was made during the period of the Level 4 lockdown and considered the potential impacts of the COVID-19 global pandemic.

Fitch found Selwyn’s diverse economy, with its limited reliance on international tourism, left it well-placed to withstand the impacts of the pandemic.

Mayor Sam Broughton says, retaining the AA+ rating was a good sign for the Council and the district as a whole.

“To keep our AA+ rating with a strong backing from the ratings agency on our financial outlook is great news for Selwyn. It’s a positive reflection of the sound financial decisions that our Council continues to make.”

## Selwyn Open – A snowy escape

As part of our Selwyn Open campaign we’re profiling some of the many excellent businesses local to you. You can find these businesses on the Selwyn Business Directory at [selwyn.govt.nz/directory](https://selwyn.govt.nz/directory).

This week we talk to Porters Alpine Resort general manager Darren Cavill.

Anticipation and excitement is in the chilly winter air as the team at Porters’ ski field work to get ready for the upcoming ski season.

Darren Cavill says he knows customers will be feeling eager too.

“They can’t wait, I’m imagining them all with their skis packed on the top of the car and the warm clothes hanging up, just ready to go, ready for us to blow the whistle.”

The ski field has an average 25,000 visitors each winter. It recently joined with Porters Lodge, rebranding as a resort aiming to be the perfect getaway destination – a small village with hot pools, accommodation, restaurants and mountain biking.

Just over an hour from Christchurch, Darren says people like Porters for its ‘learn to ski’ focus and family friendly approach.

“There is a huge loyalty at Porters. I think that is a big reason people come. People have been coming to Porters for many years.”

Darren, who recently moved back to Christchurch from Selwyn describes the district as his little escape.

“It’s always a pleasure to drive out of Christchurch and arrive in Selwyn, I’m extremely lucky that I get to do that every day.”

Updates for the opening of Porters’ ski field will be posted on their Facebook Page. They hope to be open on Friday 3 July in time for school holidays.



## See the district in a new way with KidsFest

KidsFest starts next week, offering people the chance to get a whole new view of the district.

The Eye Spy Selwyn quiz encourages young people to explore the district by setting challenges to visit different Selwyn sites and answer the quiz questions.

It gives a great opportunity for adults too to find new reasons to love Selwyn by exploring some of our many businesses and attractions.

Families can also go in the draw to win a view of the district from above thanks to Ballooning Canterbury.

Ballooning Canterbury is offering Eye Spy Selwyn quizzers the chance to win a family hot air balloon ride for four if they answer a question and collect a stamp at each Council facility. Completed cards of stamps that are returned to the customer centre at the Council’s Rolleston offices will go into the draw.

Tickets and a full timetable of events will be available from Friday 5 July at [selwyn.govt.nz/kidsfest](https://selwyn.govt.nz/kidsfest).

## On the roads

Tennyson Street is closed from 43 Tennyson Street to Markham Way due to the Rolleston Town Centre infrastructure upgrade. Due to the Lowes Road and Tennyson Street intersection upgrade, Lowes Road is one way on both sides of the intersection, with lanes open for traffic heading away from the intersection, but not towards it. A stop/go system and speed restrictions are also in place on Tennyson Street.

Trents Road is closed heading south east away from Springs Road while upgrades are made to the sewer system.

Leeston Road and Brookside Irwell Road intersection is being upgraded. The intersection is closed to traffic exiting Brookside Irwell Road and a stop/go system is in place for traffic turning from Leeston Road into Brookside Irwell Road.

Surface repairs are being done on Harpers Road and Point Road, traffic management is in place.



Notices

COMPETITION AT FOSTER DOG PARK

Selwyn Dog Training Club will be holding an agility competition at Foster Dog Park on Sunday 12 July. The park will be closed for off-lead exercise from 9am–3pm for this competition.

Members of the public are welcome to come and watch the competition, but please keep dogs on leads and well away from the competition area.

ALCOHOL NOTICES

Tai Tapu Golf Club Incorporated has applied for the renewal of

a club licence. Objections to this application are open until 10 July. Clearwater Investments Limited has applied for the renewal of an off licence. Objections to this application are open until 13 July. For more information go to [selwyn.govt.nz/alcoholnotices](http://selwyn.govt.nz/alcoholnotices).

Meetings

Public Forums: *Council, Community Board and local committee meetings are open to the public. Time is available at the start of meetings for people to speak on matters of concern. Please notify Therese Davel or Bernadette Ryan if you wish to speak at the Council meeting at least five days before the meeting.*  
Township, Hall and Reserve Committees: *To list or make changes to meeting details, email [meeting.changes@selwyn.govt.nz](mailto:meeting.changes@selwyn.govt.nz) or phone 347 2800 or 318 8338 by 9am Wednesday the week before publication.*

COUNCIL & COMMUNITY BOARD

**Audit & Risk Subcommittee**  
Wed 1 July 10am  
Rolleston Council Offices

DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

**Doyleston Community Committee**  
Wed 1 July 7.30pm, Osborne Park  
**Greendale Recreation Reserve Management Committee**  
Tue 14 July 7.30pm  
Greendale Pavilion  
**Kirwee Recreation Reserve Management Committee**

Mon 13 July 7.30pm  
Sports Pavilion, Kirwee Reserve  
**Leeston Community Committee**  
Mon 6 July 7.30pm  
Leeston Library  
**Lincoln Community Committee**  
Mon 13 July 7pm, Fitzgerald Room, Lincoln Event Centre  
**Tawera Memorial Hall Committee**  
Wed 1 July 7pm  
Tawera Memorial Hall  
**Whitecliffs Township and Domain Committee**  
Mon 13 July 7.30pm  
Glentunnel Hall

From war-torn Iran to Lincoln

Continuing our series celebrating the Faces of Selwyn. Visit [selwyn.govt.nz/facesofselwyn](http://selwyn.govt.nz/facesofselwyn) for the full story.

Farhad Dastgheib was working at Shiraz University in Iran when he was accepted to complete his PhD in Agronomy at Lincoln University.

“I did a little bit of research and found that this place they call New Zealand is so far away, but it has good potential, so I thought well, I’ll give it a try.”

Soon after, the Islamic revolution changed his beloved country dramatically. Arriving in New Zealand in 1987 he faced the challenge of leaving his daughter and wife in Iran, while the country was at war with neighbours Iraq. Communication was tricky too.

“Every now and then I could make a telephone call and then that was it,” says Farhad.

Two years later his family was able to join him.

“That was probably the happiest day of my New Zealand life. My daughter was just turning five-years-old when they came over and I remember a couple of days after their arrival, I managed to organise a nice birthday party for her and she was thrilled.”

They welcomed a second daughter, and Farhad lectured at Lincoln University and set up his own agricultural research consultancy.

People were friendly and interested in his culture and through the Lincoln Rotary Club he was able to give back, he says.

The family celebrate Nowruz, the Iranian New Year in March, gathering around a table of food set in a traditional way, remembering each year gone by. It is important to pass on this tradition to his daughters and their families so they can have a feeling of belonging to a place, Farhad says.

Farhad did not initially plan on staying in New Zealand for 32 years, but he is glad he did and feels this is home.

“Coming from another country where there are different sorts of problems, it’s not easy but I had made a choice to live in a place where I can raise family in a peaceful and friendly environment. I found New Zealand to be a very good example of that.”



Reduced shutdown for Selwyn Aquatic Centre

The Selwyn Aquatic Centre will close for a day for work as part of the aquatic centre expansion.

The centre will close on Monday 13 July as the power needs to be turned off to complete work. The centre was initially scheduled to be closed for six weeks during the expansion and upgrade works. However work was able to be completed during Level 3, reducing the shutdown needed to one day.

The expansion will see a new 10-lane, 25-metre pool built, more than doubling the centre’s capacity and accommodating increasing demand from aquafitness, casual swimming, deep water and other activities.

The structure of the new pool has been completed with work now starting on the building surrounding it.

The new pool is due to open in March 2021 and work to upgrade the changing rooms, staff and public areas and existing leisure pool is due to be completed by November 2021.

The first walls have also started going up at the Selwyn Health Hub and work is continuing on Te Ara Atea, the Rolleston Town Centre, and the Foster Park indoor courts.



Selwyn Events

THURSDAY

2 JULY

Craft and Chat group

Lincoln Library, 10am–12pm

Bring along your current craft project to work on while you get to know fellow craft enthusiasts! An opportunity to share tips, tricks and skills.

MONDAY

6 JULY

Journeys of Manu

Foster Park, Rolleston and the Liffey, Lincoln

Take a journey through the maramataka or the Māori lunar calendar for Matariki. Download the Journeys of Manu app from the Apple App Store, Google Play Store or by scanning the QR code. Let Manu guide you on this trip as you walk through Foster Park or along the Liffey.



TUESDAY

7 JULY

Hip Hop workshop

West Melton Community and Recreation Centre, 10–11.30am

Our talented instructors will teach you techniques, routines, tips and create an all-round amazing experience. All abilities welcome. \$10 per child, free for caregivers. Book at [Selwyn.govt.nz/Kidsfest](http://Selwyn.govt.nz/Kidsfest).

TUESDAY

7 JULY

Elgregoe the Magician

Rolleston Community Centre, 1–1.45pm

We’ve secured extra tickets to Elgregoe’s super popular new show ‘Magic For You’. Caregiver required for children under 8 years. \$5 per child, free for caregivers. Book at [Selwyn.govt.nz/Kidsfest](http://Selwyn.govt.nz/Kidsfest)

THURSDAY

9 JULY

Discomania

The Station, Leeston, 6–7.30pm

Get your wiggle on at this fun-filled disco for kids. Enjoy groovy music, games and spot prizes. \$2 per child (pay at the door), free for caregivers. Suitable for ages 3 to 13 years.

FRIDAY

10 JULY

Navigational Rampage

The Willows, West Melton, 10.30am–12.30pm

Gather points by visiting control points using a mixture of Rogaine, Orienteering, clues, photos and other navigational techniques. \$5 per child, free for caregivers. Suitable for 12 years and younger, caregivers required.

For information on listing a community event visit [www.selwyn.govt.nz/councilcall](http://www.selwyn.govt.nz/councilcall)

Leeston Library & Service Centre  
19 Messines Street, Leeston  
Ph 347 2871

Lincoln Library & Service Centre  
Gerald Street, Lincoln  
Ph 347 2876

0800 SELWYN

[www.selwyn.govt.nz](http://www.selwyn.govt.nz)

SelwynDistrictCouncil

