



Limited services to resume under Level 3

Some Council services are now operating under COVID-19 Alert Level 3 restrictions.

This means facilities will remain closed to the public, including the Rolleston Council offices, swimming pools, libraries and service centres, community and recreation centres and community halls.

However, some building inspections will resume and the Pines Resource Recovery Park will move to reopen under restricted operations.

Activity will also resume on a number of Council's construction projects, including roading works and facilities construction, with the benefit of helping the local economy get moving again.

Mayor Sam Broughton says the Council remains focused on maintaining the essential services and infrastructure the district's communities rely on every day.

"We continue to have the welfare and safety of our community at the heart of everything we do. Our staff have been working diligently under challenging circumstances to keep our core services and infrastructure running smoothly.

"I know our communities will be pleased to see some easing of restrictions, but we're still a long way from being back to normal.

"Under Level 3 many of our services and facilities will remain closed or restricted – that's part of our shared nationwide effort to help stop the spread of COVID-19."

Summary of key changes for the Council under Alert Level 3 include:

- Some building inspections will resume.
- Staff are working towards reopening the Pines Resource Recovery Park, with a booking system and requirements in place for safe operation and contact tracing.
- Small gatherings at cemeteries will be permitted to allow people to farewell loved ones.
- Some infrastructure construction work, including roading, will be brought back on stream.
- Some Council staff may be able to work at Council-operated facilities, subject to stringent health and safety plans.

Most other services remain unchanged from Level 4 restrictions. Parks and reserves are open, but people are warned to maintain safe distancing and all playgrounds remain closed. Dog parks are also open, but for safe distancing owners are asked to keep their dogs' on-leash at all times.

Full details of services under Level 3 will be available on selwyn.govt.nz.

Rates support package adopted

A longer period to pay rates and lower penalty fees are part of a rates support package adopted by the Council.

The Council has approved a rates payment plan to help people affected by the COVID-19 global pandemic, including an extended payment period. Ratepayers will now have until 30 June 2021 to pay their rates, provided they agree a payment plan with the Council.

It also signalled it intends to lower the late payment penalty fee from 10% to 3% for the 2020/21 financial year.

The Council agreed it would consider a further payment extension option before November this year that, if adopted, would allow people to extend their payment period to 30 June 2022, provided they agree a payment plan with the Council.

The Council also supported the preparation of a rates postponement policy to be considered as part of the 2021–2031 Long-Term Plan.

The package is a recognition of the struggles people are facing, and one part of the Council's work to help the district through the effects of the pandemic and boost recovery, Mayor Sam Broughton says.

"As people are struggling it's important for us to do what we can to help. We need rates income to keep providing services such as water and rubbish collection, but we also need to be compassionate and realistic about people's circumstances."

People can find out more details and apply for a rates payment extension at selwyn.govt.nz/services/rates.



Multi-million dollar programme part of Selwyn recovery plans

The Council is aiming to include \$223 million of building works across the district in planning for economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Council has submitted a \$13.5 million bid for a district-wide roading package of reconstruction, rehabilitation and re-seal repairs, in response to the Government's request for 'shovel-ready' projects. This work would be brought forward from the Council's transport programme, providing additional jobs and improved transport links.

The Council is preparing a recovery plan, together with iwi, businesses, community organisations and members of the community, to ensure a community-led approach, says Mayor Sam Broughton.

The plan aims to help restore the district's economic strength and contribute to welfare support for affected businesses and households.

Meetings with key community members across Selwyn will begin this week, he says.

The Council is also keeping in close contact with other councils and the Mayor has been invited to sit on a national advisory panel as a local government representative in discussions about the government's national recovery plans.

The Council is well placed to provide some momentum to the district's economy, as the roading plan would be on top of a capital programme of \$209.5 million of work planned for the 2019/20 and 2020/21 financial years.

"The Council will have an important part to play in Selwyn's recovery and it is important we continue with planned infrastructure, water, roading and facilities projects that our growing district needs. These will provide vital jobs and boost economic activity over the coming months," Mayor Broughton says.

Construction will restart soon on four major projects worth \$62 million – stimulating the economy – while work is planned on the district's water and waste systems, roading and other building.



Help available for people facing hard times

Lockdown has been a stressful time for many people, especially for those whose work has been affected or who are facing tough times financially.

Our Civil Defence team is working with The Salvation Army to help support families in our communities.

This includes providing food parcels for people who are finding it difficult to get food on the table.

Lieutenant Stu Duxfield from The Salvation Army's Rolleston centre at Generation House says it has been good to see people reaching out for help already, and he urges anyone who is finding things hard to get in touch.

"These are quite stressful times and if you are struggling but aren't sure what to do please get in touch with us - there is no shame in needing support for your whānau in these tough times. If you're finding you're using up your savings or having to put groceries on the credit card it's easier for you and us if you call us early and we can work with you on what support would be the most helpful."

Helene Faass, Welfare manager for the Selwyn Emergency Operations Centre reiterated the same message: "Please ring and talk to us before it reaches crisispoint," Helene says. "We are here to help and can connect you with the right service. Just call 0800 SELWYN (735 996) to get put through to us."

For more information on The Salvation Army Rolleston foodbank, including how to donate, go to generationhouseproject.com. You can also donate food in the donation bin at Countdown.

Council Call

Selwyn District Council
Norman Kirk Drive, Rolleston
Ph 0800 SELWYN (735 996)

Rolleston Library
Rolleston Drive, Rolleston
Ph 347 2880

Darfield Library & Service Centre
1 South Terrace, Darfield
Ph 318 8338 or 347 2780

Notices

MALVERN WATER RACE DISRUPTIONS

Council contractors will be doing repairs to the Waimakariri Water Race Intake Tunnel from 1 April 2020. This work will require shutting flows from this intake for a period of up to 20 days. While the other scheme intakes will still be operational, it is expected that there will be

widespread disruptions to the Malvern water race scheme for the month of April. This work is necessary to ensure the intake is safe and to keep the water race scheme operating. Please be prepared that there may be no supply of stock water via the water race to your property for this works period.

ALCOHOL NOTICES

The Picnic Company Limited has applied for the renewal of an off licence. Objections are open until 13 May. For more information go to selwyn.govt.nz/alcoholnotices.

COUNCIL MEETING

The Council meetings on 29 April is cancelled.

Recycling process restarts – with some changes

Selwyn residents are encouraged to be extra vigilant with their kerbside recycling separation, as the sorting of recyclables restarts under Alert Level 3 conditions.

The processing of Council's kerbside recycling was paused under the Level 4 lockdown, because of the high risk of COVID-19 contamination for recycling centre staff, and the closure of overseas recycling facilities.

Council Solid Waste Manager Andrew Boyd says recycling processing will return under Alert Level 3, but with some changes to the grades of plastic accepted.

"Because of changes in markets and upcoming changes in international regulations, we can now only accept plastic grades 1, 2 and 5. We are no longer able to accept mixed plastics 3, 4, 6 and 7 in kerbside recycling and we are asking people to put these into their rubbish. Fortunately, these make up only a tiny fraction of our kerbside recycling stream. These are typically small yogurt containers, sushi and biscuit trays."

Grade 1 plastics are typically soft drink, water and juice bottles. Grade 2 plastics are mostly milk bottles, and sometimes household cleaners, Grade 5 plastics are often used for margarine, spreads like honey and jam, and large yogurt containers.



"We can't stress enough the importance of people continuing to sort their recycling correctly to make sure there is no contamination in the bins when recycling processing restarts", Mr Boyd says.

There are a number of practical actions people can take to help make recycling successful, he says.

These include:

- Checking the plastic grades on containers and cleaning them before they go in the bin
- Make sure there are no plastic bags or soft plastic wrappers in the your recycling
- Try to buy products in 1, 2 and 5 plastics and ask companies to consider alternative packaging.
- Consider a no circulars/no junk mail sticker on your letterbox. Junk mail makes up 50% of the mixed paper in kerbside recycling.
- Keep an eye on Council communications around recycling. We will advise you as soon as possible on any changes.

Selwyn family's living room concert goes global

A Rolleston family is gaining international attention for their efforts to lift spirits during the lockdown.

The Fleener family have entertained more than 15,000 people around the world after dad Joe, had a spontaneous idea to film and broadcast his family live on Facebook, performing from their living room.

"Lockdown has been hard on everybody, it's been a strange experience and this was something to do to participate in lockdown," Joe said.

The line-up included a variety of songs and classical pieces performed by mum Mandy on piano, and children Gavin and Mekaela, violin, and Tabitha, clarinet and singing. Mekaela's violin was bought through the Council's tertiary education scholarship.

The 50 minute concert, later uploaded to YouTube, was the family's way of acknowledging essential workers, not only health workers, but supermarket employees, postal deliveries and petrol station workers.

"A way for us from home to say thank you to those essential workers who are working very hard during this time," Mekaela said.

The amount of positive feedback and views came as a shock to the Fleeners, Mandy says. "We thought there would only be a handful of people from Rolleston and some family from America and friends watching. We weren't expecting so many!"

The family admitted it was different not having an audience in front of them, but they enjoyed the performance nonetheless.

Gavin said it felt more like 'jamming', which meant they had more control and could have some fun.

To view the concert search Fleener family concert on YouTube.com.



Here's the plan ...have your say

Consultation on our Draft Annual Plan for 2020/21 is now open. We're seeking your feedback on six key issues for the coming year:



1 Review options to reduce the level of rates increase

The draft plan was developed before the COVID-19 pandemic, and originally proposed an average 3.5% rate increase, in line with the 2018-2028 Long Term Plan. In light of the changing circumstances, we're seeking feedback on options to reduce this. Options are:

- Maintain the proposed 3.5% average increase. This would provide full funding for the Council's plans, without the need to adjust budgets and spending plans.
- A rates freeze – with rates held at the same level as the current year. The Council's income would fall by about \$2.8 million and it's likely higher increases would be needed in future years to make up the shortfall.
- An increase somewhere between 0% and 3.5%, depending on savings that can be identified. This would result in a lower rates increase than initially planned and would not require catch-up rates increases in the future.

2 Deferring the Prebbleton Community Centre project to allow for more detailed consideration.

There's uncertainty around the best location and type of facility. Taking more time to work with the community on planning would help us find the best long-term outcome.

3 Reviewing wider community needs for community facilities in Leeston.

In 2019, an assessment of the Leeston Library building showed it was earthquake- prone. We now want to review the original community centre proposals to take account of local needs for library, medical and other facilities.

4 Increasing water supply charges to provide for quality improvements and demand management.

We need to review charges, so that we are making adequate provision for future growth and security in our water supply infrastructure network, to encourage water conservation, and to provide for any impact from the Government's Three Waters review.

5 Planning and building a new wastewater system for central Darfield and new developments.

We're keen to find out more about community views on the proposal to develop a reticulated wastewater scheme for central Darfield, and in particular the preferred method to pay for the scheme, for those who connect.

6 Changes to our Development Contributions Policy.

We're proposing to make three technical changes to our Development Contributions Policy. Development contributions help fund the cost of providing additional community facilities due to growth.

Your Say We want your feedback and ideas on these proposals and our other projects and priorities. Find out more at www.selwyn.govt.nz/annualplan20. Consultation closes at 5pm on Friday 22 May.

Also check out next week's Selwyn Times for more detailed information and examples.



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@ @selwyn.nz
selwyn.nz

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Ph 347 2871

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

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