



Consultation to open on proposed Council representation changes

Selwyn residents will be asked about proposed changes to how they are represented at the next local elections, with changes to ward boundaries and the number of councillors.

The Council has agreed to put forward a proposal to retain four wards, but change the existing ward boundaries to form Ellesmere, Malvern, Rolleston and Springs wards to ensure a more even spread of population across each ward. The Council is also proposing to reduce the number of councillors to 10.

Consultation on the proposal will run from Friday 3 September to Monday 4 October.

Currently, the Council is made up of 11 councillors elected from four wards, Ellesmere, Malvern, Selwyn Central and Springs, and a mayor elected at large (across the whole district). There is one community board for Malvern.

The proposal is part of the Council’s representation review, which must be undertaken every six years. Changes are required to keep up with population growth and ensure fair and effective representation across the district.

It largely retains the existing system, though Selwyn Central would be replaced by a smaller Rolleston ward, and would have three councillors rather than the existing four. All other wards all the other wards retaining their existing number of councillors.

The Malvern Community Board would be retained, with a third subdivision of West Melton added to the existing subdivisions of Hawkins and Tawera. The number of board members would remain at five with two each from the West Melton and Hawkins subdivisions and one from the Tawera subdivision.

People’s feedback is key Representation Review Subcommittee’s chairman Councillor Mark Alexander says.

“With the population growth we’ve seen, we needed to make changes to make sure everyone is represented fairly. Now it’s up to people in Selwyn to tell us if they think these proposed changes will do that.

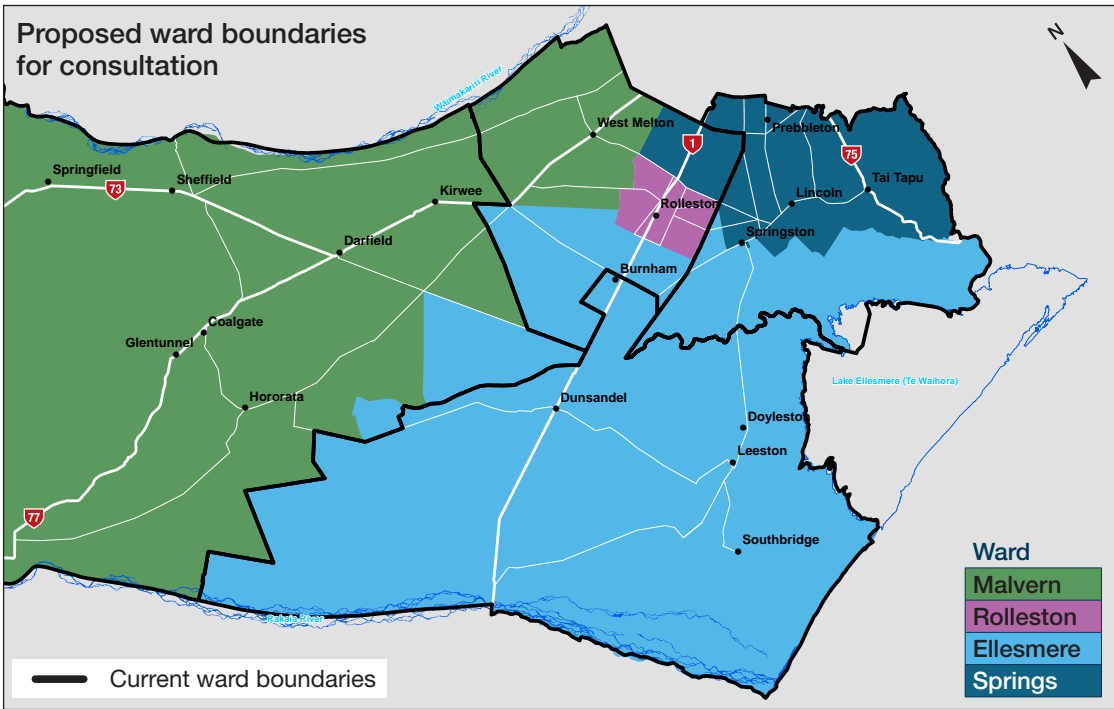
“There are significant choices for people to think through when letting us know how they want to be represented on the Council. We encourage everyone to take a close look at the options and have their say.”

More information on the review and on how to make a submission will be available at selwyn.govt.nz/representation from 3 September.

Summary of the proposed changes

The proposal for consultation includes:

- Four wards with 10 councillors
- Existing ward structure would largely be retained, with the major changes including:
 - West Melton moving from the current Selwyn Central ward to the Malvern Ward
 - The area between Burnham and Rolleston moving from the current Selwyn Central Ward to the Ellesmere Ward
 - An area east of Rolleston moving from the current Selwyn Central Ward to the Springs Ward.



Mayoral Forum calls for pause on three waters reforms

The Canterbury Mayoral Forum has called for a pause on the three waters reform process.

The Mayoral Forum, which is chaired by Selwyn Mayor Sam Broughton, has written to the Minister of Local Government to formally request a pause to the current three waters reform process.

The reform process proposes to transfer delivery of three waters services from local authorities to four public entities across New Zealand.

The Forum has taken this step as it has serious concerns about the current decision-making timeframe.

The three waters reform proposals are a once-in-a-generation decision for councils and communities, and the Forum believes it is crucial that communities are provided with enough time to engage meaningfully and genuinely with the process and better understand the implications of the proposals. Without this pause, there is a very real risk that councils and their communities will not be able to make informed decisions about the impact of the proposed reform outcomes.

“The Mayoral Forum urges the pause to come into effect now and remain in place until the new water service regulator Taumata Arowai is properly established, there is clarity about the proposed Economic Regulator, and the standards and approach from each is clearly understood. We believe this is essential in order to properly and authentically engage with our communities on this incredibly important decision”, Mayor Sam Broughton says.

The Forum also acknowledges that the reform process is being undertaken at the same time as other significant reform processes, including a review into the future for local government. A pause in the three waters reform process would allow more time to consider the kind of three waters model that might best support the future for local government, he says.

The Mayoral Forum looks forward to further engaging with the Minister on its request, Mayor Broughton says.



JOIN US TO PLANT A TREE*

Saturday 18 September
9.45am–12pm
Lakeside Domain

This volunteer planting event is especially for newcomers and locals in Selwyn providing an opportunity to meet each other and grow your connection to our community.

Please RSVP by Friday 17 September, register at events.humanitix.com/putting-down-your-roots-a-planting-day

**subject to Alert Level restrictions*

Council supports local producers during lockdown

The Council has been working to connect food and produce businesses and Selwyn residents under Alert Level 4.

The Selwyn.nz website has put together information on local farmers and food producers offering contactless essential deliveries to Selwyn homes during lockdown.

The idea is to connect residents and suppliers with the many options for fresh, healthy local produce in Selwyn.

Untamed Earth Organic Farm Co-owner Ollie Platt has been supplying fresh fruit and vegetable boxes and says the support from Council has helped them provide healthy options to bubbles in Selwyn.

“Working with the Council has really helped us with exposure to new customers in Selwyn, as our main customer base is built around the Lyttleton and Opawa farmers markets. Through the support we’ve received from the Council we’ve had a great response from the local community for our home deliveries.”

Ollie says he’s looking forward to being able to show a lot of their new customers around the farm later this year when they run their annual open day through the Open Farms.

For the full list of delivery options during lockdown visit selwyn.nz/producers. If you want your business added to the list, contact Shay at tourism@selwyn.govt.nz.



Endangered fish habitat to be preserved

A water race will be transformed into a habitat for a critically endangered Canterbury fish, thanks to new conservation funding.

The Council has received \$43,756 from Environment Canterbury’s Fish Habitat Fund to transform a section of water race near Dunsandel.

This section of water race is one of the few remaining sites on the lowland Canterbury Plains that contain a population of kōwaro/ Canterbury mudfish. Kōwaro are one of five critically endangered native fish species in New Zealand.

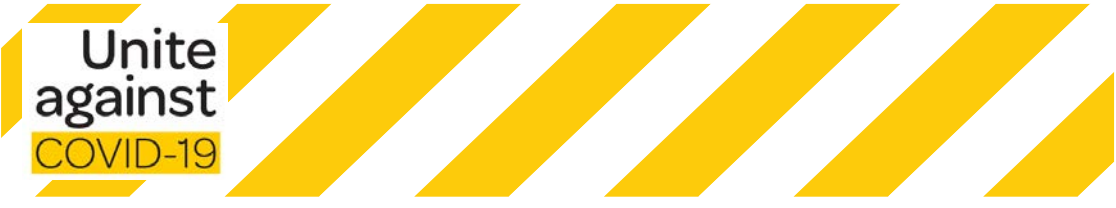
Typically, water races require weed removal to keep the water flowing. This maintenance is often done using machines which can dig up or disturb the mudfish habitat.

The new funding will be used for planting along the race to create shade – and reduce the weed growth, and for hand removal of the weeds.

This work supports a larger project at the site that will see the water race closed and a well and pump installed to maintain the flow of water to protect the mudfish habitat into the future. Thereby protecting the population of mudfish into the future.

The announcement of the funding comes as the country marks Conservation Week/Te Wiki Tiaki Ao Tūroa from 4–12 September.

Every year Conservation Week sees thousands of New Zealanders getting involved through doing conservation activities and events. You can find a heap of ideas for fun, family-friendly conservation activities you can do at home and for other opportunities to join in, at doc.govt.nz/news/events/conservation-week/.



Council services at Alert Level 3

Following is a summary of Council services and facilities under Alert Level 3. Always check for any changes and the latest updates at selwyn.govt.nz/covid19. For all official government information on COVID-19 visit the national COVID-19 website covid19.govt.nz.

Council services and facilities

Animal Control

We will continue to respond to serious and urgent animal control requests and incidents. The dog pound will continue to operate.

Building Consents

We will continue to process new consent application and existing applications already in the system. This service may be subject to some limitations due to restricted access to physical property files.

Building Inspections

Alert Level 3: some building inspections may resume. See selwyn.govt.nz/covid19 for latest updates.

Campgrounds – CLOSED

Cemeteries – OPEN

Burials and interment will continue with restrictions. For a full list of these restrictions please see the Unite against COVID-19 website (covid19.govt.nz).

We understand it can be a difficult time with these restrictions. Please feel free to call our team who will be happy to help you as always. Call 0800 SELWYN (735 996) and ask for Cath.

Council Facilities including Council Rolleston offices and AA – CLOSED

All Council facilities are closed to the public, including:

- Pools
- Libraries and service centres
- Community and recreation centres

All Council events and classes scheduled for the lockdown period will be postponed to new dates where available or are otherwise cancelled.

Dog Parks – OPEN

Dog parks are open to exercise your dog, but must keep at least two metres distance from other users at all times. Always keep dogs on a leash and don’t pat or touch dogs outside your ‘bubble’. Note that dog park gates will be kept open.

You should not drive to a dog park. Cars should only be used for essential requirements and people should stay local – walk to exercise within your local area.

Pick up after your dogs and dispose of dog poo at home in kerbside collection.

Noise Control

We will continue to respond to serious and

urgent complaints. Also we will respond to any emergency environmental health issues. Additional noise control services may resume under Alert Level 3.

Parks and Reserves – OPEN

Parks and reserves are open, but please maintain social distancing from other park users. Please note:

- All toilets in Council reserves are closed.
- The reserve at Lakeside Campground is only open to existing campers. It is closed for recreation.

Playgrounds and hard surface sports areas – CLOSED

Playgrounds are closed. Keep off all playground equipment, tennis courts, basketball courts or any other shared equipment or surfaces.

Public Transport

Metro has advised that public transport will be available for those needing to travel for essential reasons. That is, travelling to work in essential services, for medical reasons, and to get to the supermarket. Fares will not be requested.

Customers are requested to use window seats only and adhere to physical distancing, which is required at Alert Levels 3. Due to these requirements, bus capacity will be limited.

Resource Consents

We will continue to process new consent applications and existing applications already in the system.

All Planning Duty enquires should be via email. Please send these to ContactUs@selwyn.govt.nz.

Rubbish and recycling

Kerbside bin and bag collections continue as normal. Please keep vigilant with your recycling separation, the recycling plant is operating as normal. You can help our drivers out by making sure your bin placement is clear of parked cars.

Pines Resource Recovery Park is closed to the public under Alert Level 4. At Level 3 and lower we intend to reopen using a booking system.

Alert Level 3: We will move towards reopening, with a booking system in place via Council website and call centre.

Toilets

Toilets in Council reserves are closed. Toilets on State Highways will remain open. Please observe careful hygiene and safe distancing.

Notices

CHANGES TO PROPOSED SELWYN DISTRICT PLAN HEARINGS

Due to the nationwide COVID-19 restrictions the Council has made further changes to the schedule of hearings of submissions and further submissions on the Proposed District Plan. A provisional hearing date of Tuesday 21 September has now been set for Hearing 2: Part 1 – Introduction and General Provisions. Hearing 4: Energy and Infrastructure is now planned to commence on Wednesday 22 September and continue on Thursday 23 September and Friday 24 September 2021. The hearing for Hearing 3: Urban Growth will be postponed until later in the year and a new Notice of Hearing will be sent to those submitters at that time. For more information visit www.selwyn.govt.nz/dprhearings.