



Media Release
Thursday 23 June 2016

Annual Plan adopted

Selwyn District Council has adopted its Annual Plan for 2016/17 which includes extra funding for new footpaths, funding for the development of a large-scale park and a change to how some rural water schemes are rated.

The average rates increase for 2016/17 is 4.1% incorporating a 3% increase in the general rate. Rate increases for individual properties will vary based on the services they receive and as a result of property revaluations carried out in late 2015.

126 submissions were received to the draft plan.

Mayor Kelvin Coe says one of the most commented on submission topics was footpath extensions, with many submitters requesting the Council accelerate its planned work programme to complete extensions more quickly. "As a result of submissions the Council plans to increase the budget for footpath extension work from \$100,000 to \$500,000 which will allow us to bring forward the development of around six kilometres of new footpath next year."

It is expected that increased income or expenditure savings in both the 2015/16 and 2016/17 year will cover the increased expenditure.

The Council also confirmed a proposed funding plan for a new large-scale park. The proposal includes funding part of the park cost from development contributions from new subdivisions, and the balance of the cost from a rate of \$20 a year per property. The park is located north of Rolleston and is expected to be developed from the 2020s onwards.

Three small rural water schemes will also move to a more standardised water charge, where properties using one unit (1,000 litres) of water per day would pay the same charge as the district-wide water rate. The affected water schemes are Hororata Acheron which services Hororata and the surrounding area, Malvern Hills which services Coalgate, Glentunnel, Whitecliffs, Dalethorpe and surrounding areas and the Te Pirita scheme. Properties connected to these rural schemes purchase water in units and can pay for more units if they wish to. The change to rating for rural water schemes would also result in a small increase in the district-wide water rates and charges for other properties connected to Council water supplies.

Other changes to rates include a \$50 rate for households in Arthur's Pass to fund improvements to the local community centre and an increase in the targeted rate for Lincoln properties so that funding for Lincoln Event Centre covers the facilities operating costs.

The Council also confirmed it would bring forward planned work to widen Jones Road between Weedons Ross and Hoskyns Roads and complete this in 2016/17, in response to the increasing traffic being generated by developments on this road.

“Our Annual Plan includes a busy work programme for the next year as the Council responds to the growth of our community,” says Mayor Coe.

Local projects planned in the Ellesmere ward for the next financial year include purchasing land to extend Southbridge Park and restoring Cemetery Pit, completing further work on the Leeston stormwater upgrade and building a new community centre at Dunsandel. In Malvern, McHughs Forest Park will continue to be developed as will a major water treatment plant upgrade at Springfield. In Selwyn Central ward a new community and recreation centre will be built at West Melton, the Council will continue to develop Foster Park, develop Reids Pit for recreational use and install new reservoirs at Rolleston and West Melton to provide more water storage capacity. In Springs ward, a new sewerage pump station and rising main and a new well will be constructed at Prebbleton and a new water reservoir will be developed at Lincoln to provide more water storage capacity.

The Council also approved bringing forward \$250,000 to allow planning and design work to start on a sports and community facility at Rhodes Park in Tai Tapu, \$130,000 for additional toilet capacity at Coes Ford, and a grant of \$20,000 to Ellesmere Heritage Park. Prebbleton Domain and Darfield Recreation Centre will both receive additional funding for maintenance and repairs and funding has been allocated for new tennis courts at Glentunnel with half the cost coming from development contributions. The Waihora Reserve Board will also receive \$20,000 from development contributions for improvements to the reserve.

Ends

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