



Media release
Friday 1 April 2016

Annual Plan consultation opens soon

Consultation on Selwyn District Council's Annual Plan 2016/17 opens from 4 April.

The Consultation Document on the plan outlines projects that have changed from what was proposed for the coming year in the Council's Long Term Plan 2015-25, which was adopted last year.

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

"For the most part our long-term programme remains on track, and there are few significant changes from what we proposed last year. I would encourage people to either come along to a meeting to find out more about these changes or to read a copy of the consultation document and then make a submission if they want to share their views with the Council."

One of the proposed changes would affect the way rural water schemes are rated. The affected 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. These schemes would 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. 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.

The Council is proposing to 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. Increased funding of around \$50,000 per year is also proposed for the Council's planned footpath extension programme, so that new footpaths can be completed more quickly. A change to diversify the Council's investments is proposed in the Council's commercial property strategy.

The consultation document also outlines a proposed funding plan for a new large-scale district park, which will provide room for the expansion of recreation and sport activities in the medium term. The Council is proposing to fund this from a mix of reserve development contributions and a new rate of \$20 a year per household. The park is likely to be developed from the 2020s onwards.

People can also find information on local projects planned for next year in the document. In Ellesmere Ward projects 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 McHughes Forest Park will continue to be developed, and a major water treatment plant upgrade at Springfield is planned along with improvements to Arthur's Pass Community Centre. 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 work is planned to start building a new community facility at Tai Tapu, 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.

A general rate rise of 3% plus targeted rate changes means the overall the average rate rise per ratepayer for 2016/17 is around 4%. Rate increases will vary by township and for properties based on the services they receive and as a result of property revaluations carried out in late 2015. Some rural and commercial properties may experience higher rates increases due to the impact of the recent property revaluations.

Community meetings are planned so people can find out more about the proposals in the Annual Plan consultation document and ask questions. Meetings will be held at:

- Rolleston (Council Offices) at on Monday 11 April, 7.30pm
- Darfield Recreation Centre on Tuesday 12 April, 7.30pm
- Leeston Library meeting room on Wednesday 13 April, 7.30pm
- Lincoln Event Centre, Habgood Lounge on Thursday 14 April, 7.30pm

Submission can be made online at www.selwyn.govt.nz. Submission forms and copies of the consultation document are also available from Council offices and service centres. Submissions close at 5pm on **Wednesday 4 May 2016**.

Ends

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