



Media Release

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Annual Report shows Selwyn still in growth mode

Selwyn District Council's Annual Report for the 2017/18 year has underlined the district's continuing growth, economic confidence and community development.

The report, adopted by the Council this week, notes that Selwyn's population is now estimated to be over 60,000 - making it the third largest territorial authority in the South Island. At the same, the district's economy is growing at double the national average.

Mayor Sam Broughton says the Council is continuing to play a central role in providing the essential services, infrastructure and facilities to support a growing community.

"We're pleased to be contributing to Selwyn's success as a place that welcomes families from around New Zealand and the world, makes it easy for businesses to establish and thrive, and supports our primary sector," he says.

"Our results for the year outline the investment we are making to support our communities and make sure we are well placed to accommodate the growth that we expect will continue for some time."

Overall the Council performed well during 2017/18, achieving 88% of its performance targets for the year - a 2% increase on the previous year. In this year's residents' survey, 69% of residents rated the Council's overall performance as good or very good, consistent with 70% in 2017.

Building activity has remained strong with 2,458 building consents issued during the year, reflecting the ongoing development of new residential subdivisions. More than 99% of code compliance certificates and 93% of building consents were issued within statutory timeframes, with average processing time for building consents of 9.24 days. A total of 729 resource consents were issued, with 98% processed within the statutory 20 working days.

Development of new community facilities this year included the opening of the Dunsandel Community Centre and progress on centres at Tai Tapu and West Melton, while earthquake strengthening was completed at Ladbrooks and Springston halls. Progress was made on the planned Rolleston town centre with public consultation on a new library and community space, and initial concept designs released for the facility.

Work continued on the development of Foster Park as an important sport and recreation hub for the district, including the completion of a new playground, further

development of rugby and softball/baseball fields, and extending the park's footpath and cycle track network.

Major roading projects included intersection upgrades at two busy Rolleston locations, Masefield Drive/Rolleston Drive and Jones Road/Hoskyns Road. Both projects included installation of traffic lights, footpaths and other infrastructure.

Across the district, this year the Council completed resealing on 77.1 kilometres of roads, repaired 5,273 potholes and maintained over 1,000 kilometres of unsealed roads. A programme to upgrade street light with LED technology was initiated, and a number of speed limit changes were adopted.

The installation of water meters on properties connected to Council water supplies across the district was largely completed this year. A number of water supplies were upgraded to boost capacity, and new water treatment systems were installed on some supplies. A major upgrade to the Pines Wastewater Treatment Plant included a new bio-reactor and upgrades to the sludge solar drying hall and UV treatment system.

New community initiatives launched this year included the Show Me Selwyn bus tours and Everything Selwyn website, both aimed at supporting newcomers to the district. The Council also delivered an expanded Summer in Selwyn event programme, and helped celebrate our growing diversity through events like CultureFest.

Overall the Council's financial position remains sound. Expenditure for the year was \$100.6 million compared with budget of \$99 million. Factors contributing to the variation included increased maintenance and operational expenditure, the acceleration of the District Plan Review, and higher cost of sales arising from land sales in Izone.

Revenue for the year was \$146 million compared with budget of \$128.6 million. Population and housing growth resulted in higher than anticipated revenue from both rates and development contributions, while increased vested assets reflected the high level of subdivision activity.

Development contributions are retained for future infrastructure provision and cannot be used to reduce rates, while vested assets are a non-cash item and are also not available to reduce rates. The value of the Council's net assets remained stable, at \$1.5 billion.