



Media Release

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## Selwyn Building Boom continues

Selwyn district continues to figure strongly in Canterbury's rebuild and economic growth.

Latest figures indicate that construction activity in Selwyn has continued to increase over the past twelve months, with the number of new dwelling consents issued by Selwyn District Council rising by 49%.

The total number of building consents issued in Selwyn for the year to June 2014 was 2,790, up from 2,390 in the twelve months to June 2013. The number of new dwelling consents rose more sharply – from 1,084 to 1,613.

Selwyn District Council Environmental Services Manager John Christensen says that Selwyn has been experiencing rapid growth in recent years with the number of new dwelling consents issued more than doubling within three years.

"In 2011/2012 we issued 616 new dwelling consents in a year and in the past twelve months we issued more than 1,600."

Mr Christensen says that Selwyn is a desirable place to live, as it can offer high quality housing, and an attractive environment with reduced travel times to central Christchurch following the construction of the new Southern motorway.

Mr Christensen says that while the number of building consents the Council is receiving has been rising, consents are now being processed more quickly, providing a better service for customers.

"A new online consent application and processing system was introduced in February 2013 and has helped us to provide a more efficient service," he says.

"The average time to process consents has fallen from 14 working days in 2012/13 to 11 working days, well under the statutory maximum timeframe of 20 working days."

The new online consent system has been popular with consent applicants – with 87% of customers saying online application process was clear and easy to complete. The system has also been recognised in the Local Government New Zealand excellence awards as a finalist in the local economic contribution category.

The number of resource consents being processed in Selwyn has also increased over the last year, with 632 resource consents issued in year to June 2014, up from 586 issued in the twelve months prior to this. Over 99% of resource consents have been processed within the statutory timeframe of 20 working days.

Resource consent applications can now be submitted via email.

Selwyn is the fastest growing area in New Zealand and has also been ranked by BERL (Business and Economic Research Limited) as the district with the strongest economic performance in the country for the past two years running.

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For media enquiries please contact:

Allanah Jarman

Selwyn District Council

Phone 03 347 2807

[Allanah.jarman@selwyn.govt.nz](mailto:Allanah.jarman@selwyn.govt.nz)