



Media Release  
Friday 17 April 2015

## **Selwyn Building Consent System wins SOLGM Supreme Excellence Award**

Project Helix, the online building consenting system developed by Selwyn District Council was announced Supreme Award Winner of the 2015 McGredy Winder Society of Local Government Managers (SOLGM) Excellence Awards® last night. Project Helix also won the Transforming Service Delivery category award.

Peter Winder, one of the SOLGM Award judges said, "This project met a number of key criteria. It was developed in collaboration with the private sector, it transformed the way building consenting can be delivered and at a time when there has been unprecedented demand. Importantly, it has already demonstrated it is applicable across the sector".

"Project Helix is an outstanding example of the sector's ability to develop and implement solutions at a national level," said Mr Winder.

Selwyn Mayor Kelvin Coe says the award acknowledges the exceptional work the Council's building consent team have put into developing a system which is fast and user friendly for customers to use while ensuring that the necessary quality control systems remain in place when issuing consents.

"The online system allows people to lodge consent applications at any time from their office or from home and to check on consent process online at any time. It also allows code compliance certificates to be issued onsite once a final building inspection is completed which is great for new home owners as it allows them to move in immediately."

The new system also allows several staff to work on a consent application at the same time. Customers who use the system were invited to trial it and offered advice on how it could be simplified from their perspective which helped identify improvements to the system.

The system was developed in 2012 in partnership with Alpha Group. It was implemented at a time of extraordinary building consent activity. Selwyn District has been the fastest growing district in New Zealand for the past seven years running. Selwyn's population growth in the year to June 2014 was the largest increase on record for a territorial authority in New Zealand for a decade. The district also has also experienced the strongest economic growth of any district in New Zealand.

Between 2011/12 and 2013/14, building consent numbers in Selwyn increased by 45%, but under the new system average consent processing times dropped from 11 to 10.5 working days. The statutory processing time for consent applications is 20 working days. Code compliance certificates were previously issued on average in seven working days, and are now issued in an average of less than two days.

Feedback from customers who users of the system has been positive and 23 other Councils have visited Selwyn to see how the system operates. Using the new system, Selwyn District

Council has passed the rigorous Building Consent Accreditation process with no corrective actions being identified as needed. This is the second time this has occurred.

36 entries were received for the SOLGM Excellence Awards. The panel of five judges considered that the high standard of entries reflected very well on the performance of the New Zealand local government sector.

Ends

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)