



Media Release

Wednesday 21 January 2018

Civil Defence emergency lifted for Selwyn

Selwyn District Council has lifted the Civil Defence State of Emergency in Selwyn district this afternoon.

The State of Emergency was declared on Tuesday evening in response to possible effects of ex-Cyclone Gita.

Selwyn Civil Defence local controller Helene Faass says river levels have not caused significant problems due to lower than predicted rainfall. The MetService heavy rain warning and strong wind warnings have been lifted for Canterbury.

“The rainfall didn’t reach predicted levels, however taking a precautionary approach and declaring meant we had access to powers and resources to evacuate low-lying settlements such as the upper and lower Selwyn Huts if necessary. We were also able to place other agencies on standby to assist.

“I’m grateful to all volunteers as well as staff and contractors who worked during the event.”

No evacuations were required at Lower and Upper Selwyn Huts. Residents were asked to be prepared to self-evacuate if necessary.

The Coes Ford, Chamberlains Ford and Whitecliffs campgrounds remain closed at this time. They will be opened before nightfall if possible, but Council advises campers to have alternative arrangements in place.

Road closures

Current road closures due to flooding include Malvern Hills Road (from Waianiwaniwa Road to Auchenflower Road), Pig Saddle Road (from Hartleys Road to Waianiwaniwa Road), and Hartleys Road (from Pig Saddle Road to Whitecliffs Road).

The Auchenflower, Homebush and Riversleigh Road fords are closed, and contractors are monitoring these and other fords.

Further updates, including reopening the campgrounds, will be published to the Council’s website and Facebook pages.

ENDS

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