



Selwyn District Council Media release  
Thursday 14 October 2021

## **Council decisions – Wednesday 13 October 2021**

### **Council takes action to strengthen accessibility for residents**

From buildings and signs to dogs and emergency services, the Council has been taking steps to make its facilities and services accessible to more residents.

At its meeting on Wednesday (13 October) the Council received a report on work to meet its Accessibility Charter over the past year. The accessibility charter commits the Council to work to remove barriers to residents by considering aspects such as physical ability, neurodiversity, culture and language barriers.

The report detailed work across all areas of the Council from Health and Safety to public signage, driver training and a focus on accessibility through events. The Christchurch Multicultural Council and Christchurch Resettlement Services also provided training for dog control officers and Civil Defence volunteers.

Major areas of work included a large number of upgrades to existing facilities to improve accessibility, and the designing of new facilities with accessibility in mind.

In particular the Selwyn Aquatic Centre upgrades and the new Selwyn Sports Centre were designed and services organised to be accessible to all residents.

The Council's award winning customer services transformation included work to be more accessible through aspects such as wheelchair friendly access and the provision of low-height counters.

Accessibility has also been a major factor in the continuing work on the Rolleston Town Centre where the Council has partnered with Changing Places Aotearoa and Waitaha School among others to build a place welcoming for all residents. This includes Te Ara Ātea and the sensory experience built for people of all abilities and neuro-diversity. Both projects are due to open this year.

### **Plan agreed for best provision of Council facilities**

A new plan will set the framework for ensure the best provision of Council facilities across the district.

The Community Centres, Halls and Libraries Network Plan was adopted by Council at this week's meeting. It sets out guidance for decision making on providing facilities.

The plan aims to take a district wide view of providing facilities for Selwyn to ensure the best provision and good use of ratepayer resources.

It lays out the existing facilities and services they provide and will guide Council in viewing what services are already available, how they are used, and what gaps there may be, when deciding on future provision of facilities.

It focuses on quality and fit-for-purpose facilities across the district – balancing the need for facilities that support the district's ongoing population growth and meet our communities' changing expectations, while at the same time ensuring they are delivered in a way that is affordable and sustainable.

### **Work begins on new rural water services**

Upgrades to two rural water supplies have begun, with work ongoing to expand two more supplies to improve services for rural residents.

In response to a survey of rural water users last year, the Council confirmed that it would undertake a number of upgrades to the Darfield, Sheffield, Malvern and Hororata rural water supplies, to provide additional water supply.

A new bore has been drilled in Darfield and work has now been approved to extend the pipe network between Darfield and the Malvern Hills Hartleys water supply scheme. This is due to start before the end of the year. Additional water storage has also been planned for the Hororata water supply, and work is underway to secure this additional supply.

Planning is also continuing for providing additional supply in Sheffield.

### **Water race closures confirmed**

Eleven sections of stock water race will be closed at the request of the land owners.

The decision comes after Council publicly consulted on the proposed closure of 14 water races.

No objections were received to closing the 11 sections on the Ellesmere, Malvern and Paparua schemes, totalling 19.1 kilometres of the district's water race network. Council staff will now work with the applicants and make arrangements for the physical closure.

Objections were received on the proposed closure of three water races totalling about 15.9 kilometres in length and a hearing panel has been formed to hear submissions and consider these proposed closures

### **Defence Force pipeline project complete**

A project to connect the New Zealand Defence Force base at Burnham to the Pines Wastewater Treatment Plant has been completed.

The connection was agreed between the Council and the Defence Force in 2020 to benefit the camp, wider community and the environment.

Burnham Military Camp has been treating and disposing of its own wastewater using an oxidation pond and border dyke irrigation system which had, in recent times, struggled to fully meet the requirements of its resource consent.

As part of the agreement, NZDF built a new wastewater pump station, pipeline and emergency storage tanks at the camp. Wastewater from the camp will be pumped to the Pines Wastewater Treatment Plant on Burnham School Road. NZDF will pass ownership of the pump and pipeline to the Council.

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