



Media release

Thursday 9 February 2017

Selwyn District Council 8 February meeting

The Council met on Wednesday 8 February and considered the following issues:

Earthquake Prone Buildings

The Building (Earthquake-prone Buildings) Amendment Act, which was passed by the government in May 2016 and takes effect from 1 July 2017, will affect a small number of buildings in Selwyn.

Around 50 buildings in Selwyn are already classified as Earthquake Prone Buildings, of which around five or six may be 'priority' buildings. Under the new legislation, Selwyn District Council will need to identify Earthquake Prone Buildings by 2022, with building owners having 15 years to strengthen buildings, while owners of 'priority' buildings will have seven and a half years from the time the building is placed on the Earthquake Prone Buildings register. The new requirements are not expected to significantly alter the number of buildings classified as earthquake prone. 'Priority' buildings include buildings used for education or which have unreinforced masonry that could fall onto a public footpath or road as well as some other categories of buildings.

Engineering Assessments need to be completed on buildings identified as being potentially earthquake prone, but most buildings classified as Earthquake Prone in Selwyn have already had engineering assessments completed which are likely to meet the new assessment requirements.

The new legislation categorises areas of New Zealand into high, medium or low seismic risk areas with Selwyn classified as a 'high' seismic risk area.

Darfield and Kirwee Wastewater Consultation

A joint working party involving representatives from the Council, the Malvern Community Board, the Darfield and Kirwee Township Committees, Canterbury District Health Board and Environment Canterbury reported back to the Council at this meeting.

The working party has been reviewing issues relating to wastewater options for Darfield and Kirwee. The group's consensus based on the available evidence was that the existing wastewater system, where properties have onsite septic tank systems, is not currently having a detrimental effect on the environment. However the establishment of a reticulated wastewater scheme was seen as an option for consideration to enable further commercial and industrial development and more intensive residential development in Darfield.

Based on these recommendations the Council will look to provide information for consultation in its 2018-2028 Long Term Plan to gauge public views on whether a reticulated sewerage system is needed. The consultation will also be signalled in the 2017/18 Annual Plan.

Easter Sunday Trading consultation

The Shop Trading Hours Amendment Act 2016 allows local councils to adopt a policy allowing shops to trade on Easter Sunday within their area.

At the meeting the Council decided it would carry out a survey to gather information on community views towards Easter Sunday trading and use this information to consider whether to develop a policy to apply from 2018 onwards. The Council is also planning to gather information on the views of local businesses.

Other decisions confirmed by the Council at the meeting included:

- The Council approved grants totalling \$102,502 from public donations made to the Selwyn District Charitable Trust for community projects. The grants include \$18,900 for the Dunsandel Community Centre, \$71,821 for the West Melton Community Centre and \$11,781 for the Lakeside Hall.
- The Council ratified the Canterbury Local Authorities Triennial Agreement 2017-2019, which sets out arrangements for co-ordination and collaboration between local authorities within the region. This includes the Mayoral Forum, which is the primary mechanism to give effect to the agreement.
- The Council has approved granting easements to Central Plains Water for the construction and maintenance of an open water race channel for Stage 2 of the irrigation scheme at Sheffield.

Ends

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