



Media Release
Wednesday 25 June 2014

Annual Plan adopted

Selwyn District Council's has adopted its Annual Plan for the next 12 months.

The plan includes a new roading rate of \$60 per rating unit (household).

"The government receives income from vehicle licensing, road user charges and fuel levies and some of this is passed on to councils. The proportion of funding we receive has decreased rather than increased, so this means that if we want our roads to remain in a good state of repair we need to support this with adequate funding from rates," says Selwyn Mayor Kelvin Coe.

Mayor Coe says the Council is continuing to advocate for greater funding from the New Zealand Transport Agency.

"The level of traffic is increasing on both our urban and rural roads and in many cases the seal is aging so it is important that we continue to invest in roading maintenance and renewal work to prevent the amount of maintenance work needed in the future from escalating."

The new roading rate will be used to fund the reseal of an additional 15 km of roads. The sites to be resealed will be identified and prioritised by August. This resealing work is in addition to the existing work previously budgeted and programmed for next year which will see around 55km of roads resealed. The roading rate will also fund the reconstruction of an additional 3km of roads where there has been significant deterioration and damage to roads. In total around 4km of roads will be reconstructed as some work was already programmed. This work involves the road base being reconstructed, the surface levelled and then resealed. The roads to be reconstructed are:

- Selwyn Lake Road north of Lake Road South - 1.15 km
- Telegraph Road north of Creyke Rd - 1.10 km
- Old Tai Tapu Road between the Hotel and Tai Tapu Township - 0.41 km
- Leeston Dunsandel Road east of Leeston Township - 1.23 km
- Southbridge Dunsandel Road between Beethams Rd and Pooles Road - 0.46 km

The Council surveyed residents last year on whether spending on road maintenance should increase to keep Selwyn's roads at their current standard. 83% of residents supported more ratepayer funding being spent on roads rather than allowing roads to decline.

A significant number of community initiated projects have been included in this year's annual budget. New reserves are planned for Lincoln and Darfield and works will continue at Foster Recreation Park in Rolleston. Infrastructure projects are also planned including improvements to Leeston's stormwater system and upgrading the West Melton, Lincoln, Leeston, Rolleston, Castle Hill and Doyleston water supplies.

126 submissions were received on the draft Plan. As a result of submissions, the Council has reduced water and sewerage rates for Doyleston and Templeton from the level originally proposed.

The Annual Plan also included a proposal to amend the Council's Development Contributions policy on how the Eastern Selwyn Sewerage Scheme is funded. The funding split proposed in the draft Annual Plan will be retained with 94% of the cost of this project being met from development contributions and 6% of the cost being met from existing ratepayers to recognise that there is some benefit to this group from not having to fund an upgrade the previous wastewater system. Since the Annual Plan was released, updated growth projections have been prepared which take into account that population growth has been faster than expected. This has reduced the development contribution fee for the Eastern Selwyn Sewerage Scheme from the \$11,906 proposed in the draft Annual Plan to \$10,326, as with a higher level of growth the fee would be split over more lots and less interest would be paid on this loan.

A request from Central Plains Water to provide a further loan for this project will not be considered through the Annual Plan process but has been referred to the Council's Audit and Risk Committee who will consider this request in more detail.

Including the roading rate, the average rate increase for next year is 7.8%, but increases for individual ratepayers will vary depending on the services they receive.

Mayor Coe says that much of the additional income the Council receives from growth is sourced from development contributions which must be used to fund growth related projects and cannot be used to subsidise rates.

Ends

For media enquiries please contact:

Allanah Jarman
Selwyn District Council
Phone 03 347 2807
Allanah.jarman@selwyn.govt.nz