



Media Release

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Building boom continues in Selwyn

Building consent figures for the past year indicate that Selwyn District has experienced another year of exceptional growth.

Selwyn, which is located in Canterbury next to Christchurch City, has been the fastest growing district in New Zealand over the past five years, and last year also experienced the strongest economic growth in New Zealand.

In the year to June 2013, Selwyn District Council issued a record number of new dwelling consents – 1,084 in total, a 76% increase on the 616 consents issued the previous year.

“Building and resource consent staff have had an incredibly busy year,” says Mayor Kelvin Coe. Over 12,000 building inspections were carried out during the year.

Consenting staff have been under pressure but the Council is coping, with only a few of the more complicated consents taking more than 20 days.

Resource consent applications also increased by 32% - up from 426 to 562. A fast track consent process was introduced last year for simple consents which allows applicants to receive consents more quickly and at a reduced cost. An increasing number of consents are being processed through this process as more applications are now eligible to be fast tracked.

The building boom in Selwyn is being matched by an employment boom. The number of jobs in the district increased by 9.5% last year, nearly ten times the national average of 1%. Selwyn is also home to IZone – New Zealand’s largest business park.

Mayor Coe says that Selwyn is a very exciting place to be. “Construction activity in our district is busier than ever and many new businesses are setting up here.”

He says Selwyn has a lot to offer new residents. “People who are moving here say that they like being able to live in a rural environment so close to Christchurch, having space for their families and are also attracted by the employment opportunities in our district,” he says.

The Council is focused on investing in infrastructure and services for the growing population. Last month a new Aquatic Centre opened in Rolleston, and a new library will open in Lincoln early next year.

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