



Media Release

Tuesday 14 August

Feedback sought on plans for rare wetland

Selwyn District Council is calling for public feedback on the future management of Tāhū rerekautuku Yarrs Lagoon.

Tāhū rerekautuku Yarrs Lagoon is located near Lincoln in the Ararira/LII River sub-catchment of Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere. It's one of the largest freshwater wetland habitats remaining in the low plains of the Selwyn district.

Selwyn District Council Open Space and Property planner Derek Hayes says Council and members of the Tāhū rerekautuku Yarrs Lagoon Landcare Group are about to prepare a Reserve Management Plan for the lagoon.

"The draft Plan will become the guiding document for the future management of the reserve, and will be informed by the views of the community, Te Taumutu Rānanga and key stakeholders," Mr Hayes says. "Community input into the process of preparing the draft Plan is important. We want to hear the community's views on how the reserve is used, managed and developed."

Yarrs Lagoon has important hydrological and ecological functions within the catchment, with numerous waterways and springs present.

"Although canopy vegetation cover is dominated by exotic willow trees, the reserve supports a range of native species including populations of locally rare mānuka and baumea, and nationally-threatened swamp nettle. The Reserve Management Plan will help ensure that this rare wetland is protected and accessible to everyone to enjoy."

Public feedback closes on 9 September 2018. The Council will review feedback received in preparation for the development of the draft Reserve Management Plan, identify any issues and opportunities and undertake further investigation where required.

The draft Reserve Management Plan is expected to be completed later this year. The Council will call for submissions on the completed draft Plan in early 2019 and will then hold public hearings if people wish to be heard.