



Media Release

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Help your business grow with specialist advice

Support and assistance is available within Selwyn to help people grow and improve their businesses.

Data from 2015 shows there were around 6,000 businesses operating in Selwyn, employing 16,190 people. The number of businesses grew by 9% from 2012, and the number of employees increased by 15%.

As New Zealand's fastest growing district, Selwyn is home to many new businesses. To support new and existing businesses, Selwyn District Council is helping promote the services offered by Regional Business Partners and the Canterbury Employers' Chamber of Commerce.

The Regional Business Partner Advisor for Selwyn and Ashburton is Warren Sargent. Warren grew up in Ashburton and studied mechanical engineering before moving into technology and management roles both in New Zealand and internationally. Following this, he spent seven years establishing and directing a business advisory company, providing coaching and mentoring to business managers in Australia and New Zealand.

Mr Sargent says that Selwyn has a diverse economy with many new businesses establishing themselves.

"There's a huge range of different businesses. For example in Rolleston there are a number of businesses providing services, construction, manufacturing and logistics, many are part of Canterbury or national chains. In Lincoln many of the business are focused on science, innovation and agriculture. In areas such as Leeston, Tai Tapu and Darfield there are a number of engineering, consulting or rural service businesses. We are also assisting local farms."

"There is a lot of support available to all types of businesses, no matter what level your business or your experience. What's important is reaching out and getting connected to those people who can help," says Mr Sargent.

The Regional Business Partners and the Chamber provide businesses with the opportunity to:

- gain perspective from an independent, neutral, experienced business advisor in a confidential environment, helping them understand and identify how to improve their business
- be supported by a mentor from Business Mentors New Zealand, a not for profit organisation who provide up to 12 months free (admin fee only) one-to-one advice
- connect with business specialists through New Zealand Trade and Enterprise
- obtain innovation support, expert advice and the opportunity to apply for funding through Callaghan Innovation

Regional Business Partners are funded by two government organisations - New Zealand Trade and Enterprise, and Callaghan Innovation - an agency which helps businesses invent new technology and improve on existing technology.

To find out more please contact Warren at warrens@cecc.org.nz or call 027 455 1954.

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Photo attached: Regional Business Partner Advisor for Selwyn, Warren Sargent

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