



Media Release  
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## New Bus on the Scene for Emergencies

A new Incident Command Bus has joined Selwyn District Council's fleet of Civil Defence and emergency vehicles.

The mini-bus will be used as a mobile Incident Control Point to manage significant rural fires or any kind of major emergency or disaster event.

Selwyn's Emergency Management Officer Ryan O'Rourke says the bus replaced a caravan which was no longer fit for purpose. "The great advantage of the bus is that it can easily be driven to the scene of a fire or emergency and doesn't require a vehicle to tow it. The vehicle will act as the headquarters at an incident or emergency so it is clear where the incident managers are located and who is in charge," says Mr O'Rourke.

Problems with mobile phone coverage have been a challenge in previous emergencies.

"The bus provides communications from anywhere in the district. Establishing an Incident Control Point and appointing an Incident Controller in major multi-agency operations is critical in an emergency in order to manage the response well," says Mr O'Rourke.

The mini-bus has been fitted with 3G Wi-Fi, email and radio communications and emergency equipment to assist with fire, civil defence and search and rescue work along with emergency services liaison.

The Council is also looking at whether the bus can be used by the community when it is not in use for emergencies.

Ends

*Photo attached: The new incident command bus*

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