



Media Release

Monday 29 June 2015

Major projects confirmed in Long Term Plan

Selwyn District Council has confirmed key infrastructure projects consulted on as part of its Long Term Plan will proceed as a result of public support for projects.

A total of 368 submissions were received on the draft Long-Term Plan and over 100 submitters attended a hearing to present their submissions in person. "We were pleased with the public participation in our Long Term Plan consultation," says Selwyn Mayor Kelvin Coe. "I would like to thank everyone who made a submission or attended one of the consultation meetings. The submissions we received have provided the Council with valuable information on the community's views."

The Council adopted its Long Term Plan for 2015-25 at a meeting last week. Key infrastructure projects consulted on through the plan will progress. These include roading improvements needed as a result of the Southern Motorway extension, the development of a flyover across State Highway One and additional road maintenance work. Other projects which will proceed include planned investment in new community facilities and parks, improvements to Leeston's stormwater system, Rolleston town centre projects including the development of a new library and a number of local projects.

"In preparing the Long-Term Plan the Council aimed to strike a good balance between investing in key infrastructure such as roading and community facilities and keeping rates at an affordable level. The feedback from the community has been that most residents are comfortable with the projects we have put forward for the future," says Mayor Coe.

A significant change to the rating system was also consulted on with new district-wide rates for water, wastewater, community centres and halls and reserves proposed. While submitters generally supported the change proposed for water and wastewater, views were mixed on whether the district-wide approach was appropriate for community centres, halls and reserves.

Mayor Coe says that the support for a move to a district wide rate for water and wastewater will help ensure that it is affordable for smaller communities to receive these services in the future. The change to rating for water and wastewater systems will take effect from 1 July 2015. The Council also confirmed that it will not charge households who do not currently pay Council water or wastewater rates a district-wide rate.

"We will be reviewing and evaluating the submissions we received on the proposal for a district-wide rate for community centres, halls and reserves and are not planning to introduce a rating change for the coming year," says Mayor Coe. "There are a number of issues to consider and we would like to involve local hall and reserve committees in future discussions."

The overall average rates increase (including general and targeted rates) over the next ten years is 4.4% per year. For most properties the rate increase for 2015/16 is between 3 and 7%, with some properties also experiencing a rate decrease. Rates changes vary depending on the services people use and changes to rating as a result of the move to

district-wide rates for water and wastewater. The rate change for rural properties, who pay a higher proportion of general rate is closer to the general rate change of 6%.

As a result of the district-wide proposal for community centres, halls and recreation reserves not being adopted this year, there are some changes to rating levels from what was proposed in the draft document.

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