



Media Release
Monday 7 April 2013

Leeston residents to be surveyed on stormwater options

Leeston residents will be invited to express their views on stormwater options which could help to manage stormwater if heavy rain affects the town in the future.

A survey will be sent to Leeston households this week outlining stormwater management options for people to comment on.

Parts of Leeston experienced significant flooding in June last year after 200mm of rain fell during one week. A meeting was held in July last year to help identify options which could improve stormwater management in the future. A further meeting was held this week to outline the options and costs that staff have been working on developing since that meeting.

Selwyn Mayor Kelvin Coe says that it is important for Leeston households to complete the survey.

“There is a high cost associated with implementing the options to improve stormwater management but there could also be a high cost to the community in taking no action as heavy rain could cause flooding in the future,” he says.

“This is a big decision for the town and the Council needs to know what the views of Leeston residents are.”

Two options will be included in the survey, along with an option to undertake no works.

Option A involves completing a stormwater bypass which would divert stormwater to the north east of the town. This work would include widening and deepening drains from the stormwater reserve on Country Lane to culverts at the show grounds. Culverts at the show grounds would be upgraded and 1.2 kilometres of Tramway Reserve Drain would also be widened and deepened to carry additional water. A swale would also be constructed from Leeston Creek to the Cunningham Street Culvert through the block of land known locally as the Martin block.

Another option out for consultation will be to complete all of the works under option A but to also extend and widen the drain along Harmans Road which would divert water to the west side of the township (option F).

High level cost estimates have been completed but more detailed estimates and extensive community consultation would be required before work could commence. The estimated cost of option A is \$1.55 million. Per property this would equate to an extra \$195 added to rates for the next 20 years, or a lump sum payment of \$2,120. The cost to undertake the work required for option A and the Harman's Road extension is estimated at \$2.15 million or \$270 per household repaid over 20 years. This could also be paid as a lump sum of \$2,940.

Ends

For media enquiries please contact:

Allanah Jarman
Selwyn District Council
Phone 03 347 2807
Allanah.jarman@selwyn.govt.nz