



Consultation hearings begin on Waikirikiri Ki Tua Future Selwyn

The Selwyn community will be able to share more of their feedback on the future vision for the district in the next 50-100 years during two upcoming public hearings on Waikirikiri Ki Tua Future Selwyn.

Thousands of residents visited the interactive web platform selwyn.govt.nz/future and the Your Say consultation link over the consultation period, which closed on 4 August. The council received 112 formal submissions, while 35 respondents requested to be heard at the public hearings on August 30.

“Waikirikiri Ki Tua Future Selwyn is a vital piece of work to give our council guidance as we plan for the next generations, and it is encouraging that the website had over 25,000 visits and so many people have taken the time to show their support or raise their concerns,” says Mayor Sam Broughton.

Over the past weeks, council staff have been analysing the feedback for key themes.

Residents in rural areas of Selwyn requested a stronger voice from smaller towns, while there was widespread support to curb urban sprawl, but a range of views on how any intensification should be managed.

Many submissions focused on better public transport and seeking more walking and cycling options in the district.



“We also noticed a widespread concern around how the district’s infrastructure and services could keep up with the rapid growth,” says Broughton, who added that several submissions encouraged the council to consider disadvantaged groups in their future planning.

Waikirikiri Selwyn is a highly sought-after place for families, businesses and investment. In the past year, the number of businesses in Selwyn grew by 4.4%, ahead of the national average of 1.5%. The district is also the fastest growing place in New Zealand. Census figures show the population was 78,144 in 2023, growing by 29% in five years. The population is expected to grow by an additional 67,000 people by 2054.



Waikirikiri Ki Tua Future Selwyn will influence future decision-making, planning and investment for the community, says Mayor Broughton.

He explains that the proposed outcomes and directions in the vision will guide what council prioritise in its work programme, including housing, infrastructure, transport, the environment, people, communities, and the economy.

Mayor Broughton is grateful the community has realised the importance of getting the strategic framework right for their children and grandchildren.

Waikirikiri Ki Tua Future Selwyn was not created from scratch, but is a well-informed vision based on community feedback from several previous long-term and district plans over the past two decades.

“Long-term residents will have seen the incredible growth of the district since the start of the decade and understand the importance of well-informed strategic planning to protect the quality of life that Selwyn residents currently enjoy, with appropriate housing and transport options, infrastructure and services to satisfy the needs of our ever-changing community,” Mayor Broughton says.

Public hearings will be held on August 30 and more days will be added if required. The hearing panel is made up of all elected members and mana whenua appointees. The panel will read and consider all submissions and hear submitters who want to speak to their submissions. Individual submitters will have 10 minutes to expand on the key points in their submission, while organisations will have 15 minutes to present.

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