



Media Release

Tuesday 20 December 2016

Minister approves Rolleston Reserve exchange

The Minister of Conservation has approved the exchange of the reserve status on part of Rolleston Reserve for land at Foster Park.

A change of use at Rolleston Reserve has been proposed for some time and was included in the Rolleston Town Centre Master Plan, adopted in 2014, and in the Land Use Recovery Plan. Consultation was undertaken on the proposal in June and July 2016, with submissions heard by a Council Hearing Panel made up of David Caldwell (Barrister and Accredited Planning Commissioner) and then-Councillor Nigel Barnett.

The exchange means the reserve status on 4.3 hectares of land at Rolleston Reserve is now transferred to 30 hectares of land at Foster Park. Rolleston Reserve was previously surplus Crown land which was later vested in the Council and classified for recreation purposes.

“The Minister’s decision is exciting news for Rolleston,” says Selwyn District Council Chief Executive David Ward. “The exchange means around half of Rolleston Reserve will be redeveloped for a range of community and commercial activities including a new library complex, a public square and retail shops. The remaining half of the reserve will remain as greenspace and be developed over time into an iconic park close to shops and community facilities.”

The existing playcentre, scout facility, tennis and netball courts will remain at the reserve.

The exchange has now been formally gazetted by the Minister of Conservation and designates Foster Park as a reserve. The park will be developed over the next decade to become Selwyn’s largest sports park and provide a number of sports fields, an indoor courts complex, a major playground, walkways and cycleways and additional parking. Over time many of the sports activities now taking place at Rolleston Reserve will shift to Foster Park or Brookside Park. Selwyn District Council also recently purchased 99 hectares which will eventually be developed into a new large scale park on Rolleston’s north east outskirts.

The Council’s Hearing Panel considered that overall, the exchange and the development of Foster Park as a sports hub would result in a better recreational outcome for the Rolleston community than what is offered by Rolleston Reserve currently. The Panel noted that Foster Park is considerably larger than Rolleston Reserve, and is well located for the wider Rolleston and Selwyn community.

The Panel found that the shift of organised sport to Foster Park would reduce the conflict between organised activities and recreational/passive use of the park. The remaining section of the park would be developed into a high quality and high amenity park which could continue to be accessible to Rolleston School, providing at least one open grassed space with the area of a full-sized playing field, and for informal recreation.

The Panel considered that parking at Rolleston Reserve should be limited to what was required for users and community use and not used for commercial parking. It also recommended that funds from the development of part of the Rolleston Reserve site be ring-

fenced to fund the development of reserves in Rolleston and particularly the redevelopment of the remaining part of Rolleston Reserve into a high quality park.

The development of retail and commercial spaces could start from 2018/19 depending on interest from developers and the process to relocate existing sports activities to Foster Park. The construction of a new library is planned for 2018/19. Development of the retail and community spaces and high amenity park is expected to take place over a number of years. Detailed design of the redeveloped park will be subject to a separate community consultation process.

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