



Media Release  
Friday 29 August 2014

## Extra funding announced for Selwyn Roads

The New Zealand Transport Agency has announced it will provide \$530,000 in extra funding to assist Selwyn District Council to increase its roading programme to reseal up to 75km of roads and to improve drainage along 350 kilometres of local roads over the next 12 months.

Mark Yaxley, the New Zealand Transport Agency Regional Manager Planning and Investment for Canterbury and West Coast says the decision to approve the additional funding is in recognition of the impact of increased traffic on the council's roading network.

"The Transport Agency is supportive of the council's proactive approach to investing in timely well planned maintenance and renewal activities as it responds to substantial growth pressures over the past three years."

"We are pleased with the Transport Agency's announcement in recognition of the increased demands on Selwyn roads and the work the Council is prepared to undertake itself to help address concerns," says Murray Washington, Asset Manager from Selwyn District Council.

"Continuing to invest in resealing roads as the road surface ages and improving drainage are both important to keep the road network operating well and to avoid the amount of major maintenance work needed in the future from escalating. The additional funding will enable further reseal and drainage programme work, and is complimentary to the Council's normal road maintenance programme."

"When the foundations of our roads become wet their strength is reduced and they become more prone to developing potholes or edge damage, particularly on heavy vehicle routes. Local residents may have noticed this occurring in periods of heavy rain like in March and April this year when more potholes appeared in our roading network," he says.

Mr Washington says when traffic volumes were lower, and heavy vehicles were less common, having good drainage was less important. "A way to improve the performance and resilience of Selwyn's typically flat roads and roadsides is to improve how the roads shed water, especially as our roads are having to deal with more traffic and also heavy vehicles on a daily basis that can make problems much worse."

The additional NZTA funding will be used to remove high grass shoulders to allow water to drain away without ponding on the road surface. In areas where drainage work is completed, this should help to reduce the number of potholes. This type of work, combined with an increase in resealing, will help prevent water entering the road structure and help reduce the number of potholes appearing on Selwyn roads.

This year, Selwyn District Council agreed to allocate an extra \$1 million to fund extra road resealing and road reconstruction work beyond what its previous funding allocations from NZTA could allow. This is funded through a targeted rate of \$60 per property.

The Council's roading network has experienced a significant increase in vehicle traffic. The number of people commuting from Selwyn into Christchurch to work grew by 44% between 2006 and 2013. The number of vehicle kilometres travelled on local roads in Selwyn has

increased from about 250 million in 2005 to 350 million per year currently. The number of heavy vehicles using local roads has also been steadily increasing, in particular the number of dairy tankers and vehicles involved in the construction of subdivisions. Over the past year, windstorms, flooding and heavy rain have also occurred which have added to the amount of maintenance work needed on the roading network.

Ends

For media enquiries please contact:

Allanah Jarman  
Selwyn District Council  
Phone 03 347 2807  
[Allanah.jarman@selwyn.govt.nz](mailto:Allanah.jarman@selwyn.govt.nz)