



Media Release
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Rapid numbers help emergency services find you

Selwyn District Council is reminding all rural property owners to check they have a rapid number displayed at their driveway entrance. Having a rapid number is essential as it gives every rural property an identifiable address to help emergency services identify where you live. Rapid numbers also help identify your property to couriers, and can also be given out to help friends and visitors find your property.

Summer is the high-risk season for fires in Selwyn, especially in rural areas, so the council is also encouraging people to ensure their driveways are wide enough to allow emergency vehicles in and out.

One to four digit rapid numbers are found on blue plastic posts and are used to help identify the exact address of a rural property. Numbers are allocated based on a system which measures the distance from the start of the road to the property's driveway in units of 10. For example number 390 is 3,900 metres (or 3.9 km) from the start of the road. This nationwide system is known as the Rural Address Property Identification system or RAPID.

Selwyn's Emergency Management Officer Ryan O'Rourke says it is important for people to understand what a rapid number is and how it can be helpful in an emergency.

"Rapid numbers are particularly useful for emergency services such as Police, Ambulance, Fire Department and Civil Defence, as they make it easier to find rural properties. It is a good idea to write your rapid number down close to your phone so it is easy to access in an emergency," says Mr O'Rourke.

"It is also important to ensure that your driveway or yard entrance is wider than four by four metres to allow enough room for emergency vehicles like a fire tanker to access your property and turn around if they need to," he adds. "Property owners should also make sure their rapid number is clearly visible and keep any trees or plants around the number trimmed if needed."

Each blue post should show one to four digits, but many still show seven digits from when posts showed two sets of numbers – a three-digit 'road ID number' followed by a four-digit 'property ID number'. Properties that have a seven-digit number should remove or cover the top three digits (road ID number) as it can be confusing for emergency or postal services.

Mr O'Rourke says that as many new families have recently moved to Selwyn, it's possible not every rural property will have a rapid number. Any rural property that does not have a number should request one. Rapid numbers are not used in townships and urban properties do not need a number.

Rural property owners can request or replace a rural rapid number by filling out an online form at www.selwyn.govt.nz/rapidnumber.

Ends

Photos attached:

- (1) This rural property near Rolleston has its Rapid number clearly displayed at the entrance to the property and a wide entrance way which would allow emergency vehicles easy access into the property
- (2) Another rural property near Lincoln. This property had an old seven digit Rapid number but the top three numbers have been painted over so that it has the correct numbering for the new four digit Rapid number system

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