



Media Release

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Selwyn a growth hotspot

Selwyn has been identified as part of one of New Zealand's fastest growing 'Regional Hotspots.'

The Regional Hotspots report by economist analysts Infometrics identifies Southwest Christchurch as a hotspot area where the population is expected to nearly double by 2023.

Southwest Christchurch covers Selwyn's north-west and north-eastern areas and includes areas of the townships of Rolleston, Lincoln, Prebbleton, Kirwee and West Melton. It also includes parts of Wigram, Yaldhurst and Halswell in Christchurch City.

Ten regional hotspots are named in the report as the top future growth areas in New Zealand.

Hobsonville in Auckland is predicted to be the fastest growing area in the country – with its population growing by 254 percent between 2013 and 2023. Central Christchurch is identified as the second fastest growth hotspot – with its population expected to grow by 105 percent by 2023.

Southwest Christchurch is expected to be the third fastest growing area, and is expected to see its population grow by 85 percent from 2013 to 2023.

The report identifies that the drift of business activity towards Christchurch's west combined with development of the Southern motorway makes Southwest Christchurch (including areas of Selwyn) an attractive place to live.

The report mentions Rolleston as a core component of growth in Christchurch's south west but also identifies Prebbleton and Lincoln as areas where the population is expected to grow by 30-40% by 2023.

Two new schools – Rolleston College and Lemonwood Grove School are currently under construction and will open in Rolleston in 2017, with Lincoln and West Melton Primary Schools also adding additional classrooms to accommodate more students. Rolleston is also home to one of New Zealand's largest business parks – Izone and two inland port facilities also operate in Rolleston.

Infometrics most recent quarterly economic monitor for Selwyn found that the district's population grew by 6.6 percent in the year to September 2016, making it the second fastest growing district in New Zealand after Queenstown Lakes which experienced 7.1 percent population growth.

While residential and non-residential building consents declined in Canterbury over the past year, the number of residential building consents increased in Selwyn by 8 percent. The value of non-residential building consents also increased by 36 percent in the district for the year to September 2016.

“Selwyn’s high levels of growth mean that the Council has a very busy work programme including planning for the development of a range of new community facilities and parks, and investing in infrastructure improvements as well as hosting a wider range of community events and activities,” says Selwyn District Council Chief Executive David Ward.

“Selwyn continues to be a desirable place to live, as it has good employment opportunities and modern facilities in an attractive environment, just a short drive from Christchurch city,” he adds.

Selwyn has one of the lowest unemployment rates in New Zealand at 2 percent.

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