



Media release
Friday 24 June 2016

Reserve exchange proposed in Rolleston town centre

Selwyn District Council is proposing to exchange the reserve status on part of Rolleston Reserve for land at Foster Park.

The proposed exchange is a significant step in the development of Rolleston's town centre, as it will enable part of Rolleston Reserve to be redeveloped for community and retail use, as envisaged in the Rolleston Town Centre Master Plan.

The change of use at the park has been proposed for some time. It was included in the Rolleston Town Centre Master Plan, adopted in 2014 after extensive public consultation, and in the Land Use Recovery Plan. Recent changes to the District Plan through the Land Use Recovery Plan have confirmed the new zoning for the Rolleston Town Centre, which also identifies the area where the reserve exchange is proposed.

This proposal would see the reserve status on 4.3 hectares of land at Rolleston Reserve being transferred to 30 hectares of land at Foster Park.

"The exchange would enable part of Rolleston Reserve to be redeveloped for a range of community and commercial activities," says Mark Rykers, Selwyn District Council's Manager of Open Space and Property. "The reserve's location, close to existing shops and community facilities, is an ideal site to create a vibrant town centre for Rolleston, with a library and associated community activities, a 'town square' public space, as well as shops, businesses, places to eat, and space for people to relax.

"The remaining section of the reserve would be developed into an exciting urban park with a range of features that may include a playground, youth park and other elements such as a community pavilion and water feature. Having the park close to shops, the library and town square will attract people to use the park as a community space for relaxation and gathering," he says.

The playcentre, scouts facility, tennis and netball courts will remain at the park. The detailed design of the new park will be subject to a separate community consultation process which will provide the community with opportunity to be part of planning the development of the park.

The exchange would formally designate the Foster Park site 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.

The reserve exchange is a statutory process and needs to be approved by the Minister of Conservation. If the reserve exchange is approved, 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. Development is planned to take place over a number of years. The construction of a new library is planned for 2018/19.

The Council will formally start consultation on the proposal by notifying the exchange on 28 June.

A drop-in session on the proposal will be held on Tuesday 19 July between 6-8.30pm at the Selwyn District Council Headquarters in Rolleston.

Further details of the exchange and a submission/objection form are available on the Council's website www.selwyn.govt.nz/haveyoursay or copies can be obtained at any of the Council's service centres. Objections/submissions on the proposal can be made until 5pm on Friday 29 July 2016.

ENDS

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