



Media Release

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## **Statistics figures show exceptional growth in Selwyn**

Latest figures from Statistics New Zealand reveal Selwyn District is experiencing record growth levels.

Selwyn's population grew by 5.8 percent in the year to June 2014, making it the fastest growing district in New Zealand, a position the district has now held for seven years running. In the past year, New Zealand's population grew by 1.5 percent and Canterbury's population increased by 2 percent.

In June 2013, Selwyn's population was 46,700. The estimated population at 30 June 2014 was 49,400.

Selwyn's population growth in the past year is the largest increase on record for a territorial authority in New Zealand for a decade. In 2004, Queenstown Lakes District's population grew by 6.5 percent.

Selwyn Mayor Kelvin Coe says that the population growth shown in the Statistics New Zealand data is consistent with the high level of building activity happening in Selwyn.

"Our building and resource consent staff have been incredibly busy over the past few years. They are doing a great job of keeping up with the demand for services and have also introduced a new online consent system which has reduced processing times for customers," he says.

Selwyn is also experiencing rapid business growth and has twice been ranked by Business and Economic Research Limited (BERL), as the district with the fastest growing economy in New Zealand in 2012 and 2013.

The majority of Selwyn's population growth in the past year has occurred as a result of the net migration of 2,300 new residents into the district. Around 400 new residents are accounted for as a result of natural increase.

"Selwyn has been experiencing high growth levels for the past decade. The district has a large number of sections zoned and ready to be sold and following the Canterbury earthquakes the demand for land has increased rapidly so the uptake of sections has occurred much more quickly than we might have previously expected," says Mayor Coe.

The Mayor says the Council has been focused on investing in new facilities and services and planning for the future to enable people to continue to enjoy a high quality of life. A new Aquatic Centre in Rolleston was built last year, and a new library opened in Lincoln earlier this year.

"The Council is now starting to prepare its Long Term Plan for the next ten years and we will be looking at what new services are required for the future. Improved roading and infrastructure will be needed and it will be a challenge for the Council to fund these in order to meet the demand high levels of growth create."

Mayor Coe says the latest population estimate from Statistics New Zealand will be helpful in enabling the Council to advocate for greater government funding and the improved services needed as a result of population growth.

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