



Media release  
Wednesday 30 April 2014

## **Selwyn District retains top spot in economic rankings**

For the second year running, Selwyn has been named as the district with the strongest economy in New Zealand.

According to regional economic rankings released by Business and Economic Research Limited (BERL), Selwyn was the top economic performer of 2013 and the fastest growing area in New Zealand.

Selwyn ranked third overall for employment growth in New Zealand, and ranked in the top five places for GDP and business unit growth, giving the district the highest overall ranking of any local authority area in New Zealand. Two other Canterbury districts, Waimakariri and Ashburton were ranked in second and third place overall.

Last year Selwyn's population grew by 4.5%, more than five times the national average of 0.8%. Employment grew by 6% in Selwyn, while nationally employment increased by 0.2%.

Selwyn Mayor Kelvin Coe says that the business activity occurring in Selwyn has created many more employment opportunities.

"It also encourages additional retail and service businesses to establish in our towns."

Employment growth looks set to continue in the future, with the continued development of Izone Business Park in Rolleston and the construction of the first stage of the Central Plains water scheme underway this year.

The Council is investing in infrastructure and community facilities to support the growing population. In the past 12 months a new Aquatic Centre and library have opened. Next year new reserves are planned at several locations throughout the district along with a number of upgrades to water infrastructure.

### **Key Facts about Selwyn**

- Selwyn is located in the centre of the South Island and borders Christchurch City and Waimakariri District to the north, Ashburton District to the South and Westland District.
- Selwyn's current population is estimated at around 46,000, by 2031 it is expected to reach 74,600
- 15,200 full time equivalent employees are employed in the district

- 5,500 businesses operate in Selwyn
- 12,000 new sections are planned to become available around Prebbleton, Lincoln, Rolleston, West Melton and the district's rural townships in the next 15 years with many available now

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