



Media Release

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Two landmark projects set for sign off

Selwyn District Council will consider whether to sign-off on two landmark community projects at its meeting next Wednesday [8 August].

The Council will be reviewing an updated proposal for an extension to the Selwyn Aquatic Centre, along with design concepts for the new Rolleston Library and Community Centre.

The two projects were proposed in the Long-Term Plan 2018-2028 and previous Annual Plans. Feedback from the community has been an important contribution to the designs of both projects.

The combined cost of the two projects is about \$37 million, the Council's largest community facility expenditure to date.

Property and commercial manager Douglas Marshall says the projects are key developments in meeting the increasing needs of the Selwyn district, as its population continues to grow.

"This is a substantial investment in the district which ensures that two important facilities meet the future needs of all Selwyn residents," he says.

Selwyn's population is forecast to grow from around 60,000 today to 80,000 by 2028. "The message we've heard from our community during consultation is to ensure that we are providing the facilities our district needs, not just for today but also for future generations," Mr Marshall says.

Rolleston Community Centre and Library:

The Rolleston Library and Community Centre will be the focal point of the new town centre, to be developed in the vicinity of Rolleston Reserve and Tennyson Street.

The facility will provide a useable area of 2,256m², over two storeys, and the space will be flexible and adaptive, allowing it to suit a range of needs.

It will feature meeting spaces, enough space for current and future library collections, performance spaces, exhibition and display areas, children's spaces and research and historical spaces. Public consultation late last year provided valuable feedback on the features and configuration of the centre.

The design concepts show a building with a distinctive, visually strong appearance that is uniquely Selwyn, Mr Marshall says.

"It was very important that the design fits in well with the landscape around it. From the Tennyson Street site the Selwyn landscape is very prominent, with views from the mountains through the foothills and down to the Canterbury Plains.

"We have worked closely with Te Taumutu Runanga on the design in order to reflect that landscape, as well as the important cultural values of our district."

"The facility will be an asset for the community, and the first step in developing a town centre the people of Selwyn can enjoy and be proud of."

Construction on the \$22.2 million project is set to start in April 2019, with handover pencilled in for July 2020.

Selwyn Aquatic Centre

The Council's recent Long-Term Plan include a proposal for an additional 8-lane, 25-metre pool at Selwyn Aquatic Centre to meet rapidly increasing demand for additional capacity.

The Council is now considering a larger proposal, for a new 10-lane, 25-metre main pool, along with reconfiguration of the existing pool.

The new pool would have a depth range of 1.4 to 2 metres, and the 10-lane layout provides flexibility for deep water sports and other activities.

The existing 8-lane pool would be retained, but reconfigured to provide depths from 0.9 to 1.4 metres, which is still suitable for lane swimming.

Mr Marshall says adding a 10-lane pool to the current facility would effectively more than double the current lane swimming capacity, giving the best combination of increased capacity and flexible use, while being the most cost effective option for ratepayers.

"We received valuable feedback from the community during consultation, that people wanted us to future-proof the facility for the foreseeable future. There was some interest in a 50-metre pool, but this wouldn't have been financially prudent, as it would be financially very challenging for ratepayers, and not required for competitions due to the future provision of the facilities in Christchurch."

The revised proposal, with a total budget of \$14.8 million, also includes a café, subject to a business case, which would service both the Aquatic Centre and the sports hub at Foster Park, and a feasibility study into future swim capacity in the Darfield area.