



Media Release

Wednesday 5 October 2016

Land donated for new West Melton walkway

A donation of land by long-standing West Melton residents Peter and Bonny Rhodes will allow a new walkway to be created to connect the Wilfield subdivision, now under construction, to West Melton township.

The new subdivision is on a 92 hectare site on the corner of Weedons Ross Road and State Highway 73 and is being developed to accommodate 170 lots.

The gifted land will allow a footpath to be developed from the northern end of the subdivision, and along State Highway 73 to connect to West Melton's central township area.

Wilfield developer Gilman Wheelans will pay for the construction of the new 280 metre long footpath, and the Council will fund surveying, site clearing and fencing costs as part of a collaborative effort to get the connection in place as soon as possible. The donated land provides enough land for the walkway within a newly created public reserve strip alongside the highway that also will include features like the water race and some landscaping and planting.

"The donation of land by the Rhodes is a very generous gift to the people of West Melton and the pathway will be enjoyed by local residents for many years to come," says Selwyn Mayor Kelvin Coe.

The footpath will provide a safe pathway allowing people to access West Melton's facilities and is part of a series of footpath improvements currently planned for West Melton.

A new shopping complex is currently under construction on Weedons Ross Road opposite West Melton School (which is also having additional classrooms added). Another retail area is planned off State Highway 73, beside the existing BP station, which is currently going through a consenting process. A new community and recreation centre is also planned opposite here as part of the West Melton Reserve development.

The new pathway route is one of a number of projects identified in a new Corridor Management Plan which aims to improve the safety of State Highway 73 in West Melton as the town develops. The plan has been developed by the NZ Transport Agency, Selwyn District Council and developer Gilman Wheelans.

As part of the Corridor Management Plan, the 70km speed limit zone will be shifted 250 metres further east of the existing speed limit as West Melton's residential area will expand with planned new development. New pedestrian refuge islands will be installed opposite the Wilfield subdivision and either side of the Weedons Ross Road intersection on State Highway 73. The NZ Transport Agency is planning to create flush medians on the State Highway near the crossing points and carry out some widening to accommodate these and other changes as part of the Corridor Management Plan.

Over the longer term, the New Zealand Transport Agency and the Council will look at options to upgrade the Weedons Ross Road/ West Melton Road and State Highway 73 intersection. The NZ Transport Agency is currently preparing a business case for future highway improvements between Darfield and Christchurch.

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