



Media release  
Thursday 4 April 2013

## **Annual Plan Consultation Opens**

Consultation on Selwyn District Council's draft Annual Plan for the coming year has now opened.

Mayor Kelvin Coe says that it is an exciting time for the district with so much development taking place. "Selwyn experienced the strongest economic growth of any district in New Zealand in 2012 and has also had the fastest population growth in New Zealand over the past five years."

"Over the next twelve months a number of significant projects will be completed, including the opening of the Selwyn Aquatic Centre in June, the opening of the new Lincoln library in early 2014, and the completion of the Eastern Selwyn Sewerage Scheme which will be important to help service our growing towns," he says.

The average proposed rates increase for 2013/14 is 5.3% - down from 5.8% proposed in the Long Term Plan. Actual rate increases will vary, as they depend on the services ratepayers receive and the relative change in their property value following a revaluation across the district.

The 2013/14 draft Annual Plan highlights a number of issues the Council is seeking feedback from the community on.

The level of funding the Council receives from the New Zealand Transport Agency was reduced in 2012. "We are asking people to let us know how they think we should meet this funding gap," says Mayor Coe.

The Council could either increase spending on roads to keep them maintained to the same standard they are now or decrease spending and complete less road resurfacing and less road maintenance work.

The Council is also proposing to liquidate Selwyn Investment Holdings Limited (SIHL). Following the liquidation of the Selwyn Plantation Board Limited and the merger of Ferguson Brothers with SICON, SIHL has a much reduced role. Liquidating SIHL will save unnecessary overheads and will increase investment income.

The Council is also seeking feedback on how community facilities should be funded in the future. The Council is looking at using a 'cluster' approach to facility management which will allow facilities to benefit from working together and sharing resources.

One idea is to fund the Lincoln Event Centre and Rolleston Community Centre as 'keystone' facilities within their wards, with those closer to the facility paying a higher contribution than those people living further away. Currently these facilities are funded by people within their townships, but there is a wider benefit to people in the ward from having these facilities. No changes are planned for 2013/14, but the Council is interested in hearing people's views on this idea.

"The draft Plan is an important chance for people to let us know their views and we're looking forward to receiving submissions," says Mayor Coe.

Copies of the draft Annual Plan, a summary document and submission forms are available on the Council's website, [www.selwyn.govt.nz](http://www.selwyn.govt.nz) and from Council libraries and service centres. Submissions close at 5pm on Friday 3 May 2013.

For further information please contact:

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