



Media release

Thursday 26 March 2015

## Consultation on plan starts soon

Selwyn District Council has this week adopted its Long Term Plan Consultation Document, called *Towards '25*, for public consultation. Consultation will start on Thursday 2 April and run until Monday 4 May.

*Towards '25* sets out the projects and activities the Council is planning over the next 10 years and how these will be funded. Average annual rate rises of 4.5% are forecast over the next 10 years.

Deputy Mayor Sarah Walters says the Council is proposing to make substantial investment in roading and develop new community facilities.

"In preparing proposals the Council aimed to strike a good balance between making investment in key infrastructure such as roading and community facilities and keeping rates at an affordable level. We would welcome people's feedback on our proposals – it's important that we know what projects residents support, and any suggestions for improvements."

The Council is planning to invest in new roundabouts and road widening on key routes connecting to the Christchurch Southern Motorway Stage 2 extension. A new flyover connection is also planned between Rolleston's industrial and residential areas to reduce congestion as these areas become busier.

"We are also proposing to maintain a high level of road maintenance and resealing work so that the standard of our roads doesn't decline," says Councillor Walters.

"Selwyn's strong population growth is creating demand for community facilities and a number of new facilities are planned. An indoor sports complex is proposed in Rolleston, along with new community centres at Prebbleton, West Melton and Dunsandel. We are also planning to continue developing Foster Recreation Park in Rolleston and are considering developing a new large-scale park for recreation," she says.

The plan includes a proposal to develop a new library at Rolleston which could be used by people throughout the district, and plans for improvements to roading and public spaces in central Rolleston to implement the Town Centre plan.

A range of other local projects are also planned including the development of new cycleways from Glentunnel to Coalgate, Leeston to Doyleston, and Rolleston to Templeton, extending or developing a number of local parks and the development of Area Plans for Ellesmere and Malvern, showing where shops, businesses and local facilities could be located.

Another key proposal is to introduce standard district-wide rates for water, wastewater, community centres and halls and recreation reserves. Historically, the cost of these services have been recovered through targeted rates which vary by location. The proposed change is based on having a similar cost for similar services across the district and recognises that

basic services may become unaffordable for small rural townships in the future without changes to the current targeted rates system. Properties that don't currently pay for water and wastewater services would not have to pay the district wide rate. Where there is a charge for all water use through a water meter, households would pay a reduced district wide base rate for water.

Some services such as stormwater and water races continue to be funded through targeted rates. The proposal to change the way some services are rated for and works planned in different areas means that rate changes will vary by area.

In most major towns, including Darfield, Prebbleton, Rolleston and Lincoln, the proposed rate increase from 1 July 2015 is less than 5%. Most other households in Selwyn will experience modest rate increases of between 0 and 6%.

Some areas are projected to experience a rates decrease, which may in some cases may be substantial. These areas include properties connected to the Armack Drive water supply, Arthur's Pass, Burnham, Castle Hill, Doyleston, Dunsandel, properties connected to the Johnson's Road and Jowers Road water supplies, Kirwee, Lake Coleridge, Sheffield and Tai Tapu.

Areas which where a rate increase higher than 6% is proposed are Coalgate, Leeston, Rakaia Huts, Springston and some rural properties.

Copies of the consultation document, *Towards '25*, and submission forms will be available from Thursday 2 April online at [www.selwyn.govt.nz](http://www.selwyn.govt.nz) and from local libraries. Submissions on the plan close on Monday 4 May.

Ends

For media enquiries please contact:

Allanah Jarman  
Selwyn District Council  
[Allanah.jarman@selwyn.govt.nz](mailto:Allanah.jarman@selwyn.govt.nz)  
03 347 2807