



Media Release
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Consultation planned on new funding model for water and wastewater

Selwyn residents will be consulted on a new funding model for water and wastewater.

Selwyn District Council approved undertaking consultation on the introduction of a standardised district wide rate for water and wastewater at a meeting this week.

Currently, charges for water and wastewater vary across the district. Water charges currently range from \$225 for water in Lincoln to \$1,500 for properties in Raven Drive. Wastewater charges range from \$425 for Southbridge properties to \$2,246 for a small number of properties in Sunshine Terrace in Arthur's Pass.

"The new funding model will be included in the Council's Long Term Plan consultation document which will be released in April. We encourage the public to let us know what they think of the proposed change and make a submission to our Long Term Plan," says Selwyn District Council Chief Executive David Ward.

The proposed change recognises that residents throughout the district receive similar levels of water and wastewater service and should therefore pay a similar charge for this service, and that service standards are increasingly being determined by government legislation and regulations. The change is also designed to ensure that basic services remain affordable for rural communities into the future, when changes to legislation will require upgrades to a number of smaller water supplies.

The exact level of the new rate is yet to be determined, but once finalised will be included in the draft Long Term Plan. Where properties also pay for part of the cost of their water through water meter charges, households will pay a lower district wide 'base' water rate than in other areas to recognise this.

Proposals to install water meters at all Selwyn properties over the next few years may also be part of the consultation. Currently around 60% of properties connected to a Council water supply have a meter installed, including all new subdivisions.

"Currently metering works well in Rolleston where around 60 percent of the cost of providing water is met through a fixed charge and 40 percent of the cost is met through water metering. Metered charges allow people to have some control how much they pay for water and also encourage people not to waste water," says Mr Ward.

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