

Submission on the Selwyn District Council Rural Residential Strategy

To: *Selwyn District Council*

Name of submitter: *New Zealand Fire Service Commission (the "NZFSC")*

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This is a submission on the Selwyn District Council Rural Residential Strategy.

The specific parts of the Rural Residential Strategy that this submission relates to are:

- The provisions of sufficient fire fighting water supply in accordance with the New Zealand Fire Fighting Water Supplies Code of Practice SNZ PAS 4509: 2008 (NZFS Code of Practice).

The NZFSC's comments are:

In achieving the sustainable management of natural and physical resources under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA), decision makers must have regard to the health and safety of people and communities. It is essential that the NZFSC is able to meet its responsibility of ensuring the efficient management of the functions and activities of the New Zealand Fire Service (NZFS) through the provision of an effective emergency service to all New Zealanders so as to reduce the occurrence and impact of fire and other emergencies (Fire Service Act 1975).

In the case of the Selwyn District Council's Draft Rural Residential Strategy ("Strategy") the NZFSC is interested in ensuring that the Strategy recognises the importance of the emergency service provided by the NZFS for the safety and well-being of the community. This means ensuring that the Strategy takes into account the operational requirements of the NZFS through the inclusion of provisions, which require the sufficient supply of fire fighting water and access for fire fighting purposes as outlined in the New Zealand Fire Fighting Water Supplies Code of Practice SNZ PAS 4509: 2008 (and any updates).

The NZFSC are pleased to see that the Strategy makes reference to the NZFS's preference for a reticulated water supply being provided to rural residential activities in accordance with the NZFS Code of Practice. Further, the NZFSC are supportive of the justification given in the Strategy, being to reduce the reliance on alternative water supply methods required for fire fighting purposes, where difficulties in gaining physical access, inadequate flow rates and defective connections to fire fighting appliances may undermine the ability of the NZFS to attend to hazards and emergencies in a timely manner.

Overall, the NZFSC are supportive of the Strategy and would like to see that any subsequent statutory documents relating to rural residential development in the district includes provisions requiring the supply of water to be done so in way that is compliant with the NZFS Code of Practice.

The NZFSC does wish to be heard in support of their submission.

If others make a similar submission the NZFSC does not wish to present a joint case with them at a hearing.



Claire Lindsay

(Authorised to sign on behalf of New Zealand Fire Service)

28 February 2014

**New Zealand Fire Service Commission
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Attention: Claire Lindsay**