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6 June 2014

Selwyn District Council  
Attention: Cameron Wood  
PO Box 90  
Rolleston 7643  
[submissions@selwyn.govt.nz](mailto:submissions@selwyn.govt.nz)

380221.43

Dear Cameron,

**Submission by the Ministry of Education on Selwyn 2031 - Draft District  
Development Strategy**

Please find attached on behalf of the Ministry of Education a submission on Selwyn 2031  
- Draft District Development Strategy.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me on (03) 353 5531 or via email:  
[jennifer.orange@opus.co.nz](mailto:jennifer.orange@opus.co.nz)

Regards

Jennifer Orange  
Environmental Consultant  
Opus International Consultants



## Submission on Selwyn 2031 - Draft District Development Strategy

**To:** Selwyn District Council  
Attention: Cameron Wood  
PO Box 90  
Rolleston 7643  
FAX: 03-347-2799  
submissions@selwyn.govt.nz

**Full name of submitter:** Ministry of Education  
Southern Region  
Private Bag 2522  
CHRISTCHURCH  
(Please note address for service)

The Ministry of Education (“the Ministry”) wishes to make a submission on Selwyn 2031 - Draft District Development Strategy (“the Strategy”).

The Ministry understands that Selwyn 2031 has been developed by Selwyn District Council (SDC) as a broad scale, long-term, land-use strategy prepared under the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA). The strategy gives effect to higher level regional strategic planning documents and will be used to guide the future development of the district and inform Council’s investment decisions.

**1. The specific provisions of the Strategy that the Ministry submission relates to are:**

- Strategic Direction 1: A more sustainable urban growth pattern
- Strategic Direction 4: A strong and resilient community

**2. The Ministry’s submission is:**

- i. The Ministry supports the draft Strategy and agrees in principle with strategic directions 1 and 4. The reasons for the Ministry’s submission are:

Strategic Approach

- ii. The Ministry is a key stakeholder in the community and exercises its role in the education sector to facilitate achievement of the government's education goals.
- iii. The Ministry acknowledges that the overall vision of the Strategy is “to grow and consolidate Selwyn District as one of the most liveable, attractive and prosperous places in New Zealand for residents, businesses and visitors.” Education can be considered as playing a significant role in the long term wellbeing and prosperity of the Selwyn District.

- iv. Enhancing education is central to the development and maintenance of human and social capital in any community. Quality education services are an important for children's social development, enhancing overall community wellbeing and social cohesion. This understanding is promoted in the Ministry's post-earthquake 'Education Renewal Plan'.
- v. Selwyn 2031 gives effect to the 'Urban Development Strategy and Action Plan' (UDS), which was developed prior to the Canterbury earthquakes, and continues to be a relevant document providing strategic direction to manage future growth. The UDS refers to education as important for providing people with knowledge and skills that enable them to contribute and be involved in the community socially, culturally and economically.
- vi. Schools and the schools network are a physical resource in terms of the definition of natural and physical resources in Section 2 of the RMA, and as such, must be sustainably managed.

#### Priorities of the Ministry of Education

- vii. In order for people to gain knowledge and skills so they can participate fully in the community, they need adequate access to educational facilities.
- viii. The Ministry needs to deliver quality education services in a cost-effective manner that meets the changing demands of the Selwyn community. This requires planning for and investing in facilities based on a network framework that provides integrated and innovative resources to fulfil education demands. Strategic planning and appropriate location of facilities is of critical importance for the delivery of educational resources.

#### Comments on Strategic Direction 1: A more sustainable urban growth pattern

- ix. The Ministry is supportive of the overall intent of this strategic direction, and particularly the objective to achieve consolidated urban growth in and around existing townships, rather than creating new or isolated settlements.
- x. The significant population growth projected for the Selwyn District, and a doubling of the number of children and young people over the next three decades will place considerable demand on education facilities.
- xi. The Ministry strongly supports an approach of consolidated urban development which will ensure that the Ministry's school network is not geographically stretched for existing and future education demands, and that the Ministry is able to deliver education in a cost effective manner.
- xii. The Ministry is also supportive of the township network proposed in the Strategy which sets the context for managing urban growth. This concept provides the Ministry with an understanding of the scale and location of future population growth in the district. Understanding patterns of population growth, and anticipating demand on the education network is integral to the effective management of the Ministry's resources and for strategic planning of the education network to provide for future growth in an appropriate manner.



- xiii. For these reasons, the Ministry supports Action 20 to prepare, adopt and implement a district-wide rural residential strategy to manage the location and scale of rural residential activities.

#### Comments on Strategic Direction 4: A strong and resilient community

- xiv. The Ministry supports the objectives identified in Strategic Direction 4, to provide efficient and effective community facilities, and to provide community support by way of advice, opportunities, education and information.
- xv. The Ministry is a key stakeholder in the community, and plays a central role in the development of social capital. A number of issues raised in the Strategy are relevant to the Ministry, including the growing youth and family demographic, a lack of education services to support an increase in population, and increasing pressure for schools in the eastern areas of the district.
- xvi. The Ministry specifically supports the following actions identified under Strategic Direction 4 (Action 48):

*Increased and proactive collaboration (e.g. through working parties) with lead authorities on non-council services, particularly health and education issues.*

*Council to continue to work with the Ministry of Education to ensure progress on identifying education needs and school sites. Priority should be given to Rolleston and / or Lincoln as key growth areas.*

- xvii. The Ministry looks forward to ongoing collaboration with SDC to find effective and innovative solutions which will meet the long term needs of the Selwyn District and build a strong and resilient community.

#### Summary

- xviii. The Ministry welcomes the opportunity to make a submission and comment on Selwyn 2031. The Ministry is supportive in principle of the overall intent of the Strategy, and of Strategic Directions 1 and 4.
- xix. Please do not hesitate to contact the Ministry should you need further information or clarification on any points raised in the Ministry's submission.

**3. The Ministry do not wish to be heard in support of their submission.**

**4. If others make a similar submission the Ministry will consider presenting a joint case with them at the hearing.**



Regards



Jennifer Orange  
Environmental Consultant  
Opus International Consultants Ltd

As duly authorised agent for and on  
behalf of the Minister of Education

Date: 6<sup>th</sup> June 2014

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