

Selwyn Water

Media enquiries and responses

As of 31 March 2026.



March 2026

05/03/2026	Selwyn Times	- When is Selwyn Water expected to confirm pricing and will be included as part of the council's draft Annual Plan consolation so rate payers can get a complete picture of their household bills? - If it is not being included in the draft Annual Plan why is this and do you agree this leaves residents with an incomplete picture of their rates bills? - Mayor Lydia said on Feb 20 it would be 10 days for the figures to be available - what has been the hold up?	Selwyn Water operates under a different legislative framework from Selwyn District Council. As a council-controlled organisation established as part of the Local Water Done Well reforms, our pricing and engagement processes sit within the development of our Water Services Strategy (WSS) and associated financial planning, rather than within the Council's Annual Plan process. For that reason, many of the questions you've raised relate to Selwyn District Council's Annual Plan processes and timing, which would be more appropriately addressed by the Council. Selwyn Water will be engaging with the community on its Water Services Strategy in May which will include the financial information relevant to future water service.	https://newspapers.odt.co.nz/selwyn-times/20260311/page/3	11/03/2026
06/03/2026	Selwyn Times	- Why did Selwyn Water not sync its consultation and confirmation of pricing estimates with Selwyn's Annual Plan? - How much say will the public have in this year's prices when the consultation happens in May, and will you be holding hearings and deliberations in a similar way to council? - Was the plan always to have the consultation in May or is this running	Since the asset transfer, Selwyn Water has been working through a detailed programme to validate asset and customer information and resolve issues identified during the transfer process. This work is essential to ensure that any pricing or strategic decisions we take are based on accurate, reliable data. As noted, Selwyn Water operates under a different legislative framework from Selwyn District Council. We are governed by the Local Government (Water Services) Act	https://newspapers.odt.co.nz/selwyn-times/20260311/page/3 https://www.guardianonline.co.nz/news/with-water-charges-still-to-be-confirmed/	11/03/2026 12/06/2026



		behind schedule due to complications found in the transfer for process? • Can you understand the frustration from residents who will not be able to get a clear picture of their household bills with Selwyn Water's bill until after the consultation has finished?	2025 (LGWSA), which sets out separate planning and engagement requirements. As a result, our decision-making timelines do not always align with the Council's processes or the Annual Plan cycle. Under the LGWSA, Selwyn Water must prepare a Significance and Engagement Policy that sets out how and when our community will be engaged. We will be seeking public feedback on our draft policy from 23 March. We continue to operate well within the agreed establishment timelines. There are no delays. Selwyn Water is the first Council-Controlled Organisation to be established under the LWDW reforms, and we are progressing at pace and to schedule. Selwyn Water is committed to good-practice engagement. We will provide clear information, accessible options for the community to provide feedback, and a transparent summary of how community views have been considered in final decisions. The LGWSA also requires Selwyn Water to set fees and prices in alignment with our Water Services Strategy (WSS). Recognising the importance of visibility and fairness, particularly given our different timing from the Council's Annual Plan, Selwyn Water has proactively chosen to engage publicly on our draft WSS.		
--	--	---	--	--	--



			Our draft fees and pricing will be published alongside the draft Strategy, so: - the community can see exactly how pricing has been determined - draft charges will be visible before decisions are finalised, and - residents will have the opportunity to provide feedback on both the Strategy and the proposed fees and charges during the same engagement period. We are confident the timing ensures fairness, accuracy and transparency, because residents will be able to see the full pricing picture before any decisions are finalised.		
13/03/2026	Selwyn Times	- Can you provide the breakdown of how much the charge is per cubic metre, and the connection fee for water and sewage? - Can you provide an explanation why an 18% is required, and is Selwyn Water looking for more efficiencies? - Can you provide how many households have a metered water connection and how many households have a sewage connection? - How many council staff have transferred to SWL, and how many new hires have been made?	The proposed draft charges for water is approximately \$1.48 per cubic metre, with fixed cost fees for water supply around \$498 and \$952 for wastewater. Currently an average urban household with drinking water and wastewater pay approximately \$4.25 per day for their water services. The proposed draft 18% increase would mean this would be around \$5 per day, an approximate increase of 75c per day. The draft 18% increase reflects a moderated and more accurate figure based on a clearer understanding of the assets and operational data received following the transfer of water	https://newspapers.odt.co.nz/selwyn-times/20260318/page/3 Continued on: https://newspapers.odt.co.nz/selwyn-times/20260318/page/7	18/03/2026



		Can you provide the salary for the CEO, and board members?	services from Selwyn District Council. Earlier projections were developed using Long Term Plan modelling completed prior to the asset handover. Since then, Selwyn Water has undertaken detailed reviews of operational data, asset condition and revenue, providing a more reliable picture of the costs required to maintain safe, reliable and compliant water services, while keeping affordability front of mind. While efficiencies have already reduced the projected increase from 24% to 18%, this figure is still required to meet the demands of a rapidly growing district, keep pace with rising operational and compliance costs, and ensure services continue to meet national regulatory standards. These pressures include increased maintenance requirements, investment in assets, population growth, and the higher level of monitoring and reporting required under new water services legislation. It's also important for our community to know that these increases were already part of the Council's Long-Term Plan. Those costs were previously included in Council rates and now Selwyn Water will be recovering these costs through water charges. Selwyn Water recognises the community expects transparency, efficiency and value for money in the delivery of water services. As a newly established organisation, Selwyn		
--	--	--	---	--	--



			Water is focused on building strong systems and processes that support safe, reliable and affordable drinking water and wastewater services for the district. Work is already underway to identify efficiencies, and the organisation expects further improvements as systems mature and operational insights develop. Work is still ongoing to validate all our data, but Selwyn Water currently provides drinking water to approximately 82% of residential properties and wastewater services to around 71%. Selwyn Water currently employs 18 staff who transferred from Selwyn District Council, along with eight fixed-term employees. As previously advised, director remuneration is aligned with public sector governance benchmarks and the Selwyn Times has already been provided with that number (\$40,000 per annum). All director appointments and remuneration decisions are made in accordance with Council's Director Appointment Policy.		
16/03/2026	Ashburton Guardian	- How many properties have been identified that do not have water meters? (eg not paying volumetric, just the standard water charge)? - Will the drinking/waste water charges now be paid by Government agencies - eg police stations,	Selwyn Water's media release focused only on the submission of our draft Water Services Strategy and draft charges for drinking water and wastewater services to the Council for their feedback. Selwyn Water will bill separately from the Council. Our draft fees and charges must	Selwyn households could face 18 percent water bill hike RNZ	18/03/2026



		schools and the Burnham Army Camp (the military facility and its 'behind the fence' housing? – as they were previously exempt from paying rates? • Will all the issues/challenges be resolved by July 1?	align with our Water Services Strategy, which will go out for public engagement in May. These draft fees and charges will be published alongside the strategy so the community can clearly see how pricing has been determined. This approach also ensures draft charges are visible before any decisions are finalised, and it gives residents the opportunity to provide feedback on both the strategy and the proposed fees and charges during the same engagement period. We have also worked closely with the Council to ensure these draft charges were included in their Annual Plan consultation, which presents different scenarios for various households so the community can see what the proposed changes may mean for them in dollar values, not just percentages. A single combined percentage was not used in our media release because not all properties in the district are connected to both water supply and wastewater services, so the overall impact varies depending on the services each property receives. Since the asset transfer in December, Selwyn Water has been working with the Council to validate all the data received and has already identified efficiencies that reduced the previously forecast increase for drinking water and wastewater services from 24% to 18%. This work is still ongoing and		
--	--	---	---	--	--



			has highlighted inconsistencies in the data, including properties and service connections that were not accurately captured, as well as gaps or inaccuracies in capital works information. We are continuing this work so these issues can be resolved by 1 July. Our community has been clear that transparency and fairness are essential, and we are committed to ensuring costs are shared fairly across the network and that charges are transparent and easy for everyone to understand.		
24/03/2026	Selwyn Times	• Are there any charges available for what Upper Selwyn Huts residents may be paying for water and sewer connections? • Also is Selwyn Water carrying on the council's project to find low nitrate water sources?	We are continuing to work with the Council regarding Upper Selwyn Huts. As you know, Council is currently engaging with licence holders through the Annual Plan consultation and will be reviewing their feedback. Selwyn Water will also be engaging directly with the Upper Selwyn Huts community about their situation and what water charges will look like for them from 1 July. We are focused on ensuring any future arrangements are fair, consistent, and cost-effective. We will be in a better position to confirm the arrangements once we have engaged the community on our Water Services Strategy in May and as our wider engagement with the Upper Selwyn Huts community progresses.		No article published of at 31/03/2026.



			In terms of low-nitrate water sources, Selwyn Water will maintain Council's commitment. We are continuing to work through the required budget transfers and activity scope ahead of 1 July, and we expect to be able to confirm further details once that process is finalised.		
25/03/2026	The Press	• I'm working on a story about the Upper Selwyn Huts request to be included in the district-wide water rates. The council overturned its decision, which had required them to pay for 30% of the water/sewerage infrastructure upgrade. • What are your comments on their issue? • Did Selwyn Water have a chance to look into their request and what is the plan for those residents? • Can Selwyn water overturn I2024r's decision regarding residents paying for the infrastructure? • What are Selwyn Water's comments regarding their claims of unfairness and being singled-out from all other areas?	While we can't comment on past Council decisions, we know this is an important issue for the Upper Selwyn Huts community. You may know that the Council is currently engaging with the Upper Selwyn Huts licence holders as part of its Annual Plan consultation and will be gathering feedback as part of this. Selwyn Water will also be engaging directly with Upper Selwyn Huts residents about their situation and what water charges will look like for them from 1 July. We are focused on ensuring any future arrangements are fair, consistent, and cost-effective. We will be in a better position to confirm the arrangements once we have engaged the community on our Water Services Strategy in May and as our wider engagement with the Upper Selwyn Huts community progresses. Our priority is to ensure a fair distribution of costs and to continue working closely with both Council and the community as these changes are developed.		No article published as of 31/03/2026.

