

# Selwyn Water

## Media enquiries and responses

As of 30 June 2026.



## June 2026

| Date       | Media outlet | Enquiry (as received)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Articles                                                                                                                          | Published  |
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| 12/06/2026 | Selwyn Times | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In the submissions a majority of people said they did not want an increase in charges to pay for growth. If SWL sides with the community view will this affect the company meeting demand placed on the network?</li> <li>And what weight does SWL put on the submissions when confirming the strategy?</li> <li>How flexible is the SWL given its tight regulatory environment it is constrained to?</li> <li>Why is percentage people with septic tanks pay for wastewater pipes being increased to 100% from 50%? And is there any plans to adjust this as a result of the submissions?</li> <li>Just wanted to additionally ask with the change for properties with a septic on a street with a wastewater main:</li> <li>Why was it kept only mentioned in the fees and charges doc and not the main consultation document</li> </ul> | <p>We've heard a range of views through our engagement, and Selwyn Water is carefully reading and considering all feedback received. Community input is an important part of our process, and we remain committed to serving our community.</p> <p>Through our engagement, we've been clear that wastewater capacity is an issue we need to investigate further. We are undertaking detailed work on this now, and once that is complete, we will re-engage with the community to discuss the options and next steps.</p> <p>We have also been upfront that we cannot compromise on public health and environmental requirements. These are fundamental responsibilities for any water services provider. Over the next 12 months, we will continue working with the community and Council to align our Strategy with the upcoming Long-Term Plan, ensuring we strike the right balance between affordability, resilience, and compliance.</p> <p>In relation to the wastewater serviceability charge, we are aware this has generated some feedback from the community. This was an oversight in how it was presented in the Fees and Charges Schedule. The</p> | <a href="https://newspapers.odt.co.nz/selwyn-times/20260617/page/8">https://newspapers.odt.co.nz/selwyn-times/20260617/page/8</a> | 17/06/2026 |



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|  |  | <p>given it could see bills increase for affected properties by about \$500?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• And what is SWL say to this being "sneaky" given it was not highlighted in the consultation document?</li> <li>• And why are those users paying the full price for a service they will not use?</li> </ul> <p>Further questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When was the mistake picked up? And was it as a result of the community feedback?</li> <li>• Why has the document not been corrected as of yet or when the error was made?</li> <li>• How was the error made and have any other errors been found?</li> </ul> | <p>current Council serviceability charge is 100% for drinking water (that's what caused the confusion) and 50% for wastewater, and we will be maintaining the same structure over the next 12 months. As mentioned to the community during our engagement we will be reviewing our Strategy and pricing again in line with the Council's next Long-Term Plan and will continue to engage with the community on any changes.</p> <p>The fees and charges schedule was included as part of our Water Services Strategy engagement process to seek feedback on the proposed charges.</p> <p>Questions were raised during the submission process regarding the wastewater serviceability charge. As part of reviewing that feedback, we identified that the charge had been incorrectly entered as 100% rather than the intended 50%.</p> <p>The error occurred because the water supply serviceability charge is set at 100%, and that figure was inadvertently replicated for wastewater.</p> <p>The fees and charges have not yet been entered into our billing system. The system entry process provides an additional verification step, and no charges will be implemented unless and until they are reviewed and approved by the Board</p> |  |  |
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|            |           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | through the Water Services Strategy process                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                               |            |
| 15/06/2026 | The Press | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What is Selwyn Water's resolution regarding the Upper Selwyn Huts residents?</li> <li>Do they still need to pay for the infrastructure as mentioned in the story? Or will this be included as part of the rates?</li> <li>How will the residents there be charged?</li> <li>Do you have any further comments on this issue?</li> </ul> | <p>Selwyn Water has been engaging with the Upper Selwyn Huts community as part of the development of its Water Services Strategy.</p> <p>Subject to approval of the Water Services Strategy, our approach is to treat Upper Selwyn Huts residents in the same way as other customers across the district. This means property owners would pay the standard charges applicable to the water services they receive, consistent with other connected properties in Selwyn. This also includes infrastructure costs recovered through Selwyn Water's normal charging framework, consistent with how costs are recovered across the district.</p> <p>We recognise the community has strongly advocated to be treated the same as the rest of the district, and we are pleased that the proposed Water Services Strategy provides a pathway to achieve that outcome.</p> <p>As the Strategy is still subject to formal approval, no final decisions have been made at this stage.</p> | <a href="#">After a decade of fighting, Upper Selwyn Huts residents celebrate end to water dispute   The Press</a>                            | 16/06/2026 |
| 25/06/2026 | The Press | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Does SW have a backlog in consent processing or approving requests for sewerage connections? One source told us they had been waiting</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                       | <p>Selwyn is one of New Zealand's fastest-growing districts, and with that growth comes increasing demand on infrastructure that has been developed over many decades. The challenge isn't unique to</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <a href="https://www.the-press.co.nz/nz-news/3610324/29/fastest-growing-">https://www.the-press.co.nz/nz-news/3610324/29/fastest-growing-</a> | 27/06/2026 |



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|  |  | <p>months for underground services on a development to be connected.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Talking to developers there seems to be a near-consensus that the pipes aren't big enough. Has this capacity issue constrained consent processing or applications generally? Are, for example, consents approved with caveats such as storage tanks or macerator systems for some dwellings?</li> <li>• What is the capacity of the Pines Waste Water Treatment plant and what is its current operational level? Is plant capacity an issue for SW or the council at all?</li> <li>• Selwyn is one of the fastest growing regions in the country. Would it be fair to say the council/SW face a thornier version of the same infrastructure issues councils everywhere are facing? How would you characterise your situation?</li> <li>• What, if any, infrastructure upgrades, particularly with sewerage, are being considered in Selwyn?</li> <li>• The sewerage infrastructure recently installed between Darfield and Rolleston - is that already at or near capacity? If so, was this foreseen? This issue was brought up by Darfield residents in the recent</li> </ul> | <p>Selwyn, but the pace of growth means we need to think differently about how we plan, invest and deliver water services.</p> <p>Selwyn Water was established to do exactly that. Our role is to move from catching up with growth to planning ahead of it. That means taking a long-term view of infrastructure needs, working closely with developers, Council and our communities, and identifying innovative ways to unlock growth while maintaining safe, reliable and sustainable water services.</p> <p>As a new water services organisation, we're building a modern approach to growth management. Rather than seeing infrastructure as a barrier to development, we're focused on creating solutions that enable sustainable growth, whether that's through smarter network planning, staged infrastructure delivery, new technologies or targeted investment where it will have the greatest long-term benefit.</p> <p>As with any rapidly growing district, there will be locations where infrastructure requires further investment or detailed assessment before development can proceed. Our priority is to work collaboratively with developers to identify practical pathways forward, while ensuring we continue to provide resilient services for existing residents and future communities.</p> | <a href="#">district-new-zealand-has-poo-problem</a> |  |
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|  |  | <p>discussions about the Bangor development..</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has Selwyn Water delayed, deferred, or declined any development applications because of capacity concerns?</li> <li>• Has it or the council received any complaints about such delays?</li> <li>• Are any proposed residential developments in Selwyn currently subject to wastewater infrastructure constraints?</li> <li>• How many developments are currently awaiting wastewater servicing approvals or capacity assessments?</li> <li>• Are there developments that have received planning approval but cannot proceed because wastewater infrastructure is unavailable or insufficient?</li> </ul> <p>Residents are saying it would cost \$ 20k for them to be connected in sewerage in Darfield. What is the actual cost to them, and is there a timeline for when those older houses operating with tanks will be connected?</p> | <p>Growth is a sign of Selwyn's success. Our responsibility is to ensure the infrastructure that supports that growth is planned, delivered and managed in a way that serves the district not just today, but for generations to come.</p> <p>Selwyn Water is also aware of community interest in connecting existing Darfield properties to the wastewater network.</p> <p>No budget or funding programme for these connections transferred from Selwyn District Council to Selwyn Water. As a new organisation, we will assess future connection options, costs and priorities as part of our long-term infrastructure planning.</p> <p>We cannot confirm the cost of connecting individual properties at this stage, as it will depend on the final approach adopted. The first phase of this work is currently planned for the Long Term Plan period 2028-2031 with further information on timing, costs and delivery to be provided as planning progresses</p> <p>The Pines facility is operating within its designed limits and capacity. It is currently serving a population equivalent of around 65,000. As the district continues to grow, Selwyn Water is carefully managing new connections to ensure the network remains reliable, which in some cases requires more detailed assessments.</p> |  |  |
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|  |  |  | Upgrades to the network are already underway, with further improvements planned to ensure infrastructure capacity keeps pace with growth, while continuing to ensure development contributes to the investment needed to support that growth. |  |  |
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