

Selwyn Water

Media enquiries and responses

As of 31 July 2026.



July 2026

Date	Media outlet	Enquiry (as received)	Response	Articles	Published
03/07/2026	Selwyn Times	- By 2035 population is expected to reach 120,000 and by 2055 population is projected to be 160,000. Can Selwyn Water keep up with this growth? - What is the current percentage of debt to revenue Selwyn Water has? - By the end of 2026/27 what is expected percentage of debt to revenue? - Are development contributions counted towards total revenue Selwyn Water can leverage debt from? - What percentage of the fees and charges revenue will be used to fund debt payments? - Has Selwyn Water had to decline serviceably for any developments looking at applying for a resource consent if so, how many and where? - What is the capacity of Pines expected to be by the end of 2026/27? And will it be gradually	Selwyn is one of New Zealand's fastest-growing districts, and that growth is increasing demand on water infrastructure. While this is a challenge facing many high-growth areas, Selwyn's rate of growth means long-term planning and timely investment are critical. Selwyn Water was established to provide a dedicated, long-term approach to delivering drinking water and wastewater services that support sustainable growth. We work closely with Selwyn District Council, developers and our communities to plan infrastructure where district plans have identified that growth is appropriate, optimise existing networks and invest where it will deliver the greatest long-term benefit. As with any rapidly growing district, there will be areas where additional infrastructure investment or more detailed technical assessment is required before further development can proceed. Our approach is to work collaboratively with developers to identify practical solutions while ensuring existing customers continue to receive safe, reliable and resilient water services.	https://newspapers.odt.co.nz/selwyn-times/20260709/page/8	09/07/2026



		increased over the next 10 years to the completion of Pines 120?	A key priority is ensuring sufficient wastewater treatment capacity to support future growth. The Pines Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) is currently servicing a population equivalent of around 65,000 people. We are actively managing capacity and assessing new connections to ensure the network continues to operate reliably while future upgrades are delivered. During the 2026/27 financial year, as per our Water Services Strategy, Selwyn Water plans to invest \$15 million at Pines WWTP to improve resilience. Work also continues over the next year to develop the next stages of Pines WWTP to increase treatment capacity. As Selwyn Water has not yet completed a full financial year of revenue collection, a current debt-to-revenue ratio is not available. Based on our Water Services Strategy, debt is forecast to be approximately 436% of revenue by the end of the 2026/27 financial year. Development contributions are an important source of funding for growth-related infrastructure. Under Selwyn Water's funding model, up to 50% of development contribution revenue is available to support borrowing for eligible growth infrastructure. Around 10% of forecast fees and charges revenue is expected to be used to service debt during the 2026/27 financial year.		
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			Selwyn Water continues to assess development proposals on their individual merits. Where network capacity or servicing constraints exist, applicants may be required to undertake additional assessment or infrastructure upgrades before development can proceed, alternatively developments may be staged as capacity becomes available.		
08/07/2026	Selwyn Times	• What is the current dollar value of the debt and how much of that was transitioned from SDC? • What is the dollar value of the debt SWL is expected to be carrying by the end of 2026/27? • Is the forecast rise in fees and charges in part to ensure there is increased revenue for the company to keep it below its debt ceiling? • With 10% of fees and charges being used to service the debt does SWL see this as current residents paying for new growth infrastructure?	Selwyn Water's total dollar value of debt is \$176.7 million and \$135.0 million was transferred from Selwyn District Council. The dollar value of debt by end of 2026/27 is expected to be around \$250.0 million. Selwyn Water must ensure it can meet its debt servicing and borrowing requirements following the transfer of water assets and associated debt from Selwyn District Council. The increase in revenue from water charges helps support operating costs, renewals of infrastructure and debt servicing obligations, while ensuring Selwyn Water remains financially sustainable and compliant with its funding requirements. The Commerce Commission have released Information Disclosure requirements for Water Services entities. Understanding how the costs of growth are funded by consumers is a key issue for the water sector. The Information Disclosure requirements include providing greater transparency for splitting the existing	https://newspapers.odt.co.nz/selwyn-times/20260716/page/7	16/07/2026



			connection charge category into connection charges and growth charges to provide greater transparency and enable clearer analysis of growth-related funding. This approach is consistent with the reporting required for other regulated sectors, Selwyn Water will ensure it meets the information disclosure requirements of the Commerce Commission.		
09/07/2026	Selwyn Times	• Since becoming operational, how many OIAs have been processed by Selwyn Water and at what cost? • Can SWL use the council's OIA department, and if so, why does it charge to gather the information? • SWL has said it wants to be transparent about its information, so does it believe charging for OIAs is being transparent?	From Heather Geddes: Selwyn District Council does not process Official Information Act (OIA) requests on behalf of Selwyn Water Limited (SWL). We are a standalone organisation and required to manage our own OIAs. For simple information requests that are easy to locate, there will be no charge as we will be able to access the information within the first hour of compilation. The first hour does not include the assessment of the information request and the determination of its accessibility, we do not charge to do that. With OIA requests, people may be very broad in their request and that requires considerable resource to collate information in response. We do have a commitment to be transparent and have supplied information through the publications on our website and information on our capital delivery programme. Over time we expect this will increase.		No article published as of 31/07/2026



			We do have a responsibility when people make requests for information to advise them of the fees and ask if the information they are seeking can be more refined, this ensures there is less administrative burden for our team and the requester has access to the specific information they have asked for where it is appropriate for us to release it. We have received two OIAs since becoming operational, this includes one from the Selwyn Times. We have not charged for either of these OIAs.		
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