

2 October 2026

File Ref: 26-0008

By email to: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Official information request – Trafficable lids and Smart Water Meters

We refer to your official information request dated 4 September 2026. Please find the information below that Selwyn Water holds.

- 1. The earliest record held by Selwyn Water and/or Selwyn District Council that states, indicates, or discusses that trafficable lids/covers over smart water meters would not be accepted due to signal interference or communication issues.**

Selwyn Water is required to follow Selwyn District Council's [Vehicle Crossing Information Pack](#). This identifies that:

Vehicle crossings must be located so as not to interfere with any existing public infrastructure or street assets, including but not limited to:

- Soakpits
- Fire hydrants
- Water valves and tobys/manifolds
- Stormwater outlets and sumps
- Street trees and landscaping features
- On-street car parks
- Beautification strips
- Electrical and telecommunication installations

Irrespective of the change to smart water meters, there has been a requirement that vehicle crossing locations should not interfere with water valves, tobys/manifolds and telecommunications installations.

This document was updated in July 2026. As Selwyn Water is not the owner of this document we are unable to determine how long the requirement has been in place.

- 2. Any document, instruction, technical guidance, memorandum, meeting record, email, or other record that established or authorised this requirement or practice.**

The information held by Selwyn Water relevant to this request is the Selwyn District Council Vehicle Crossing Information Pack, which contains requirements relating to avoiding interference with existing public infrastructure and street assets, including water valves, tobys/manifolds and telecommunications installations. We do not hold any additional



documents that specifically establish or authorise a requirement relating to trafficable covers over smart water meters due to signal interference or communication issues.

3. Any record showing when this requirement or practice first began to be applied.

We do not hold any records showing when this requirement was first introduced or began to be applied.

4. Any communication issued to builders, developers, designers, engineers, contractors, or other industry participants informing them that trafficable lids/covers over smart water meters would no longer be accepted due to signal interference or communication issues.

We do not hold any records indicating that a new requirement was introduced specifically in relation to smart water meters. The applicable requirement is that vehicle crossings must not interfere with existing public infrastructure or street assets, including water valves, tobys/manifolds and telecommunications installations. These requirements are set out in Selwyn District Council's Vehicle Crossing Information Pack and should be complied with when designing and constructing vehicle crossings.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that it is our policy to proactively release our responses to official information requests where possible. Our response to your request may be published on our website with your personal information removed.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H Geddes'.

Heather Geddes

Selwyn Water Limited