

Selwyn Water

Media enquiries and responses

As of 31 August 2026.



August 2026

Date	Media outlet	Enquiry (as received)	Response	Articles	Published
25/08/2026	The Press	- The Government has proposed a 4% cap on council rates, but water charges are excluded from that cap. What does the Council estimate the actual total increase will be for an average residential ratepayer once water charges are included? - Can the Council provide a worked example in dollars? For example, if a household currently pays \$4,000 a year in rates and water-related charges combined, what would that household pay under the proposed cap and the Council's forecast water charges? - What was the average percentage of the water component in rates in the past years? - When rates and water charges are combined, what is the effective percentage increase in the total amount an average household will have to pay? - Does the Council expect any costs currently funded through rates to be shifted into water charges, fees, or other charges that sit outside the	From Alex Cabrera: Selwyn Water is working through the detailed financial, asset and service information that will underpin future water charges. Our approach will align with our Water Services Strategy, including the need to provide safe, reliable and financially sustainable services while maintaining affordability for our communities. As part of establishing Selwyn Water, we have been validating and cleaning historic asset, financial and service data to ensure future decisions and charges are based on robust information. At the same time, we are looking at opportunities to optimise service delivery and asset management to manage costs and deliver value for customers. Future charges will need to reflect the actual cost of providing water services, required investment in infrastructure, regulatory requirements and the long-term needs of Selwyn's growing communities. We will also be engaging with our community. Community views will be an important input	Rates capped at 4%, but water bills could leave households paying more The Press	26/08/2026



		Government's rates cap? If so, what costs and how much? Any further comment regarding this issue?	as we develop our next Water Services Strategy and associated financial and charging approach. At this stage, it would be premature to provide a hypothetical percentage or dollar increase for an average household before that work is complete. Selwyn Water is not approaching the separation of water services as a means of shifting costs outside any Government rates cap. Our focus is on establishing a transparent, sustainable and equitable approach to funding water services that maintains affordability and delivers long-term value for the Selwyn community.		
26/08/2026	The New Zealand Reporter	- I have received documents from CCC that show Christchurch's Bromley Sewage plant has secretly been receiving Selwyn's waste for several years unbeknownst to Selwyn and Christchurch residents. I spoke with a CCC councillor yesterday. He was unaware that this was going on. He asked me whether CCC was being compensated. - For instance, they appear to show that a SDC company Corde has	Selwyn Water is now responsible for drinking water and wastewater services in the Selwyn District. Under a longstanding agreement transferred from Selwyn District Council to Selwyn Water, reticulated wastewater from Tai Tapu continues to be discharged to the Christchurch Wastewater Treatment Plant. This is publicly documented information in Christchurch City Council's Long-Term Plan and in Selwyn Water's Asset Management	Origins unknown: "Septage" waste shipments to Bromley sewage plant total nearly 6.9 million liters: continued through major odour spikes in	27/08/2026



		transported about 7.75 million liters of waste over approximately 180 trips to Bromley. CCC doesn't know from where Corde (and Leech Drainage, which also shipped Selwyn's waste) takes the waste. • Interestingly, Corde stopped making deliveries on 27 February 2026, just after the second Bromley odour event had occurred. That event led to vomiting, sore eyes, impacted residents' sleep and daytime activities, etc. The timing will raise questions as to whether the deliveries contributed to the odour event or even this and earlier odour events. • In addition, the documents appear to point to a waste pipeline running from Tai Tapu and a second point to Christchurch. • The issues raised in the documents, create several perception issues, including: ○ Christchurch is being used as a dumping ground for Selwyn's trade and residential waste. ○ Its residents are inadvertently funding these hidden activities. ○ - These activities contributed to the Bromley odour	Plan here: Selwyn Water 2026 AMP - Volume 3 - Wastewater Separately, commercial operators based in Selwyn, including CORDE, are consented by Christchurch City Council to use its Trade Waste Reception Facility. These operators service customers in both Christchurch and Selwyn and are charged by Christchurch City Council according to the volume discharged. The volume attributed to CORDE is 296,500 litres, not 7.75 million litres, averaging fewer than one delivery per month. CORDE occasionally removes and safely disposes of septic waste from both districts in the normal course of business. Selwyn's wastewater services are predominantly provided through infrastructure within the district, including the Pines Wastewater Treatment Plant. The Tai Tapu arrangement is a specific, longstanding servicing solution for that community. With a strong local infrastructure base and a disciplined long-term investment programme, Selwyn is well positioned to build any potential additional capacity needed to support the district's continued growth and future wastewater requirements.	Christchurch: how the 2026 crisis unfolded for locals	
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		events, overloaded Bromley and strained the city's key sewage infrastructure. ○ Selwyn's exponential economic growth is at Christchurch's expense, both financially and non-financial terms ○ Chch's elected officials have been kept in the dark. ○ Bromley has been mismanaged. ○ Selwyn is enjoying the benefit of Christchurch's infrastructure without incurring any of the responsibility or costs. ○ Is Christchurch receiving waste from other districts and is it being paid to do so. ○ Chch and Selwyn officials have transparency and integrity issues vis-a-vis residents. • Selwyn's growth is unsustainable. • Leech Drainage Services, which serves Selwyn and is listed on the Selwyn District website, has delivered nearly 7 million liters of "Septage". ○ Is this done under contract for Selwyn DC?	Leech drainage service look to be a private business that are not contracted to Selwyn Water for wastewater removal. They are listed on the Selwyn District Council website because they are listed on the business directory. Pines Wastewater Treatment Plant does not have a septage receival facility. As per our original statement, any discharges that are for Selwyn Water are disposed of in accordance with the resource conditions of the disposal sites. The Ellesmere Wastewater Treatment Plant discharges to land through pivot irrigators.		
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		○ These deliveries ceased on 27 February after a prolonged odour spike at Bromley that impacted city residents? ○ Why did these loads go to Bromley rather than the Pines Road plant? ○ Corde has also delivered what appears to be toxic landfill waste. Please comment. ● I note the Leeston treatment plant, which also serves Southbridge and Doyleston, doesn't treat sewage. Could you confirm where it is discharged to.			
27/08/2026	The Press	● I'm looking following up a story which a Substack stated "The Selwyn District Council shipped more than 7.1 million liters of sewage to Christchurch City Council's Bromley plant over more than 1000 trips over 3 years" ● It stated it was done through Corde and Leech Drainage Services. ● Could you please confirm if this is true? ● Why is the Selwyn District Council sending its sewage to the Christchurch Bromley Plant?	Selwyn Water is now responsible for drinking water and wastewater services in the Selwyn District. Under a longstanding agreement transferred from Selwyn District Council to Selwyn Water, reticulated wastewater from Tai Tapu continues to be discharged to the Christchurch Wastewater Treatment Plant. This is publicly documented information in Christchurch City Council's Long-Term Plan and in Selwyn Water's Asset Management Plan here: Selwyn Water 2026 AMP - Volume 3 - Wastewater		No article published as of 31/08/2026.



		• Is that because Pines is at capacity? • Is that sewage from portaloos and septic tanks? What kind of sewage has been transported to there? • How much is the council expending with this arrangement? • Any further comment on the issue would be appreciated • Selwyn does not provide a facility for commercial operators to unload septic-tank waste. Has that always been the case? Or did Selwyn used to provide a facility for commercial use?	Separately, commercial operators based in Selwyn, including CORDE, are consented by Christchurch City Council to use its Trade Waste Reception Facility. These operators service customers in both Christchurch and Selwyn and are charged by Christchurch City Council according to the volume discharged. The volume attributed to CORDE is 296,500 litres, not 7.75 million litres, averaging fewer than one delivery per month. CORDE occasionally removes and safely disposes of septic waste from both districts in the normal course of business. Selwyn's wastewater services are predominantly provided through infrastructure within the district, including the Pines Wastewater Treatment Plant. The Tai Tapu arrangement is a specific, longstanding servicing solution for that community. With a strong local infrastructure base and a disciplined long-term investment programme, Selwyn is well positioned to build any potential additional capacity needed to support the district's continued growth and future wastewater requirements. Selwyn does not provide a facility for commercial operators to unload septic tank		
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			waste and no such facility has been available in the district for around a decade.		
27/08/2026	Selwyn Times	• How many complaints has Selwyn water had because of billing issues or people not getting their bill? • Has there been issues with the system due the company being new and the handover from council, and if so what are these issues? • Has Selwyn Water been getting a lot of people not realised the fixed charges are on water bill instead of rates? • I'm also aware some Rolleston residents were not made aware of a planned shut off this . How did this happen and how many customers were impacted?	From Heather Geddes: Selwyn Water began billing customers directly from 1 July 2026. Bills are being issued on a rolling basis across the district depending on the services customers receive. For properties with water meters, bills are issued according to meter reading schedules, meaning customers do not all receive their bills at the same time. We have the schedule on our website and remain on track to issue first bills to all customers by the end of September. We have not identified any widespread issues affecting the overall billing programme. The transition of water services from Selwyn District Council to Selwyn Water is a significant change, and we expected there would be a period of adjustment as customers become familiar with the new billing arrangements. As customers receive their first bill from Selwyn Water, we have received a range of enquiries through our Customer Services team. Many of these relate to people wanting to better understand the charges on	https://newspapers.odt.co.nz/selwyn-times/20260903/page/3	03/09/2026



			their bill and what they are paying for. As part of each billing round, we undertake quality assurance checks before bills are issued. We are encouraging anyone who thinks there may be an issue with their bill to contact us. Where an issue is identified, we investigate it and work directly with the customer to resolve it. We have received enquiries from some customers seeking clarification about the fixed charge, which is understandable during the first billing cycle. To support customers through this change, we undertook a range of communications ahead of billing, including a rates insert in collaboration with the Council to explain the change, direct mail, information on our website, bill inserts, print ads and attendance at community and residents' association meetings. These communications explained that fixed drinking water charges were included in rates only up to 30 June 2026 and would thereafter appear on Selwyn Water bills. We acknowledge the new billing arrangements will take some time for customers to become familiar with. We are finding that conversations with our Customer		
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			Services team are helping customers better understand their water services and charges and we will continue to provide information and support as customers receive their first bills. We believe that bringing all water charges together on a separate quarterly bill provides greater transparency and visibility of the costs of delivering safe and reliable water services. It also gives customers a clearer understanding of what they are paying for.		
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