MEDIA RELEASE



Thursday, 6 October 2011

Mayor welcomes Brownlee announcement on Kaiapoi land

Waimakariri District Mayor, David Ayers, has welcomed today's announcement from the Minister for Canterbury Earthquake Recovery, Gerry Brownlee.

The Minister announced late this afternoon that restrictions on residential development under the 50 decibel aircraft noise contour would be amended to address the urgent need for residential development in Kaiapoi.

The announcement comes after agreement was reached between the Waimakariri District Council, Christchurch International Airport Limited and Environment Canterbury.

Mayor Ayers said he is very pleased at the announcement. "The Council has been negotiating this issue for some time", he said, "and it is very encouraging to achieve this successful outcome between ourselves, CIAL, ECan and CERA".

"The people who will benefit most from this agreement are the red-zoned residents of Kaiapoi who will need to re-locate", he said. "This represents a significant step forward for them, particularly in terms of being able to stay in the Kaiapoi area".

"While this is a very positive move, we need to be realistic about the time-frame involved. Because land has been released for residential development does not mean it is immediately available to move into but this does provide a level of certainty for Kaiapoi developers, allowing them to progress residential developments."

"The Council has made good progress in streamlining some of the processes involved but there remains a need to ensure that residential development is to a safe and durable standard, that the developments are adequately serviced with water and sewerage, and that the land itself is as sound as current standards dictate".

South-western Kaiapoi has the potential for approximately 450 new sections with another 700 in the north-east as a result of the changes made to the Regional Policy Statement. This will mean that it provides options for Kaiapoi people to remain in their own town. The changes take effect from Saturday 8 October 2011.

The Mayor said that the Council will still need to work with CERA and developers to make the necessary amendments to the Council's District Plan to ensure that development can start as soon as possible and the Council is very keen to work with the other parties to achieve this.

For more information contact:

David Ayers Mayor

Phone: 03 311 8900 or 03 327 6834 *Email*: david.ayers@wmk.govt.nz

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