

## Update from the Lincoln Envirotown Trust

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Lincoln is a small but rapidly growing town in the Selwyn District, 22 kilometres southwest of Christchurch. According to the 2006 census the population was 2,727. It had risen to 3,924 by the 2013 census, is estimated to be approximately 6000 in 2015, and projected to be 9442 by 2025<sup>1</sup>.

The Lincoln Envirotown Trust (LET) started in June 2005, and became a Charitable Trust in 2006<sup>2</sup>. As well as being involved in many other community actions to promote environmental sustainability, we have made submissions to the Selwyn District Council

of housing and its effect on the environment. SDC responded to the concerns by drafting the *Lincoln Structure Plan* (May 2008)<sup>3</sup> for Lincoln after extensive consultation with the Lincoln community and LET during 2006. However, other plans have superseded or added to this. This issue has escalated since then due to the rapid increase in development since the recent Canterbury earthquakes.

The 2015 *Draft Lincoln Town Centre Plan*<sup>4</sup> has suggested extending the town “centre” to include two “precincts”. This is the original town centre (Gerald Street between West Belt and the Liffey Stream) plus an area centred on the New World supermarket, identified at Precinct 1: Core Retail Precinct. The land adjoining and running between the two areas of Precinct 1 on Gerald Street is Transitional Living Precinct, Precinct 5. The SDC Urban Designer has consulted with LET.

LET has worked with developers such as Ngāi Tahu Property Ltd, who are developing a large area for housing in Lincoln on what was originally the Lincoln University Dairy Farm. The development area, now named Te Whāriki, is a joint venture between Ngāi Tahu Property Limited and Lincoln University. We met them on site before the development was started and they came to a number of our meetings to discuss progress. As it is a very wet area with many natural springs, water was a big issue and we made a submission to Environment Canterbury on the topic. We also encouraged Ngāi Tahu Property Ltd to use ecosourced native plants. Water is now a positive feature together with the large number of ecosourced native plantings.



*Figure 1: The LET Deputy Chair Ralph Scott consulting with Ngāi Tahu Property on site at Te Whāriki. Photograph by Sue Jarvis.*

(SDC) on township plans. This is because the biggest issue identified from our initial consultation with the community in 2006 was the rapid development

1 See [www.selwyn.govt.nz/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0009/157455/SDC-Growth-Projections-2015.pdf](https://www.selwyn.govt.nz/_data/assets/pdf_file/0009/157455/SDC-Growth-Projections-2015.pdf)

2 Details of the first few years of the LET can be found at <http://journals.lincoln.ac.nz/index.php/LPR/issue/view/49>

3 See [https://www.selwyn.govt.nz/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0011/10217/Final-Lincoln-Structure-Plan-May-08.pdf](https://www.selwyn.govt.nz/_data/assets/pdf_file/0011/10217/Final-Lincoln-Structure-Plan-May-08.pdf)

4 See <https://www.selwyn.govt.nz/services/planning/lincoln-town-centre>



Figure 2: Installation of the Lincoln Envirotown sign at the entrance to Lincoln. The sign was made by Woodpecker Signs. Photograph by Peter Jarvis.

LET has also worked together with Food Stuffs South Island Ltd when we heard they were planning to build a New World supermarket in Lincoln. They brought their plans to a LET meeting and we responded with a “wish list” for an environmentally sustainable design. We were delighted with the result. Some of the supermarket’s sustainable features include generating power using wind turbines and using excess energy to heat its water.

Since 2005 we have shared what we have learnt and have assisted eight other communities to become “Envirotowns”. They are all in the Selwyn District apart from one in Oxford, Canterbury. Some communities have been more successful in keeping the initiative going than others.

Our plans for the future include continuing to reassess our action plan, and taking into account the rapid development of Lincoln and other nearby townships. We will always be promoting environmental sustainability.

The experiences of the LET indicate that good outcomes for a community come from planners and developers working with the community.

LET could not have accomplished so much without the extensive support from Lincoln University over the last ten years, as well as support from the SDC,

the Canterbury Community Trust and many Lincoln organisations, businesses and individuals.

*For more information about our activities please go to [www.lincolnenvirotown.org.nz](http://www.lincolnenvirotown.org.nz)*