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Bangor Village Economic Assessment

Substantive Fast Track Application

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Bangor Village Economic Assessment

Fast Track Application

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Executive Summary

The Bangor Village Project is a residential development in the township of Darfield in Selwyn District. Darfield is defined variously in Council planning documents as a Service Township, Key Activity Centre and Strategic Township. Common to those classifications is the important economic and social role that Darfield has in supporting an extensive rural and farming community and providing a hub for housing and economic development. The Project is consistent with the expectation that Darfield will be intensified as it provides for housing growth, which has been steady and accelerating in recent years.

Savvy Consulting has assessed the spatial, economic, demographic and growth context of Darfield and its service catchment. Set against that baseline, the Bangor Village Project is expected to deliver significant regional economic benefits. These benefits include:

- Gross housing supply of ~~74100-800~~ dwellings in a master planned community, and net housing supply over and above underlying zoning of approximately ~~57940-640~~ dwellings. The scale of the development is significant in Selwyn and Canterbury terms.
- Supporting a competitive and compact housing market in Darfield in the medium term and a more efficient use of the zoned land resource – reducing pressure to expand the township into highly productive land in the longer term.
- Meeting household needs through provision of a range of section sizes that complements the spectrum of section sizes currently enabled in the township through existing zoning. This includes a range of smaller, compact sections to help meet the needs of single and couple households and larger sections to help meet the needs of family households.
- Supporting more affordable housing options relative to status quo planning provisions for the Site by offering a greater number of smaller sections and reducing the marginal cost of infrastructure.
- The Project will also catalyse/delivering up to a minimum of \$258-295 million of total direct, indirect and induced value added for the regional economy (in net present value terms, 8% discount rate),¹ and sustain total employment up to of between 3,270-3,740 full time equivalent employment years spread over an estimated 11.5 year development period.²

¹Savvy notes that the NPV of value added for a 741 dwelling yield is \$200,272 million.

²Savvy notes that the estimated sustained employment for a 741 dwelling yield is 3,455 FTEs.



Savvy considers that any costs of the Project on economic wellbeing will be minimal and therefore the net economic benefits for Canterbury will be significant in aggregate. Savvy supports the Bangor Village Project from an economic perspective.



1 Introduction

Hughes Development Limited (“HDL”) is seeking [approval/referral to under](#) the Fast Track Approvals Act 2024 (“the Act”) for a 130ha master planned residential development called Bangor Village (“the Project”) located in Darfield, Selwyn District. The land is proposed to be developed to a mix of residential section sizes that will significantly increase the dwelling yield relative to the status quo ([counterfactual](#)) Large Lot Residential zoning (“LLRZ”) and Development Area provisions. This [Economic Assessment](#) report (“EA report”), prepared by Savvy Consulting,³ assesses the [extent of](#) economic benefits and costs of the Project and its economic significance ~~to inform the assessment of whether the Project will meet the purpose of the Act.~~

1.1 The Fast Track Approvals Act 2024

The Act came into force on 23 December 2024. Within it, Schedule 2 lists 149 projects that the Government has determined meet the Act’s purpose, granting them direct access to the Fast-track pathway without requiring Ministerial referral. This does not include the Project that is the subject of this assessment, hence referral ~~was being~~ sought.

In deciding whether to accept a project for referral, a key consideration for the Minister for Infrastructure is whether the project has significant regional or national benefits.

If a project is successfully referred under the Act, the significant regional or national benefits is also relevant to the Panel’s decision on whether to grant a substantive application (and on what conditions). In addition, under section 85 of the Act, a Panel may only decline an approval if the adverse impacts are sufficiently significant to be out of proportion to the project’s regional or national benefits; taking into account any conditions or modifications that the applicant may agree to or propose to avoid, remedy, mitigate, offset or compensate those adverse impacts.

Section 22 of the Act outlines the key criteria for determining the regional or national benefits of a project under the Act [for a referral application](#). They include whether a project:

- Section 22(2)(a)(i): Has been identified as a priority project in a central government, local government or sector plan or strategy.

³ The experience and qualifications of the report author are contained in Appendix 1.



- Section 22(2)(a)(ii): Will deliver regionally or nationally significant infrastructure or enable the continued functioning of existing regionally or nationally significant infrastructure.
- Section 22(2)(a)(iii): Will increase the supply of housing to address housing needs or contribute to a well-functioning urban environment (within the meaning of Policy 1 of the National Policy Statement on Urban Development 2020).
- Section 22(2)(a)(iv): Will deliver significant economic benefits.
- Section 22(2)(a)(v): Will support primary industries, including aquaculture.
- Section 22(2)(a)(vi): Will support the development of natural resources, including minerals and petroleum.
- Section 22(2)(a)(vii): Will support climate change mitigation, including the reduction or removal of greenhouse gas emissions.
- Section 22(2)(a)(viii): Will support climate change adaptation, reduce risks arising from natural hazards, or support recovery from events caused by natural hazards.
- Section 22(2)(a)(ix): Will address significant environmental issues.
- Section 22(2)(x): Is consistent with local or regional planning documents, including spatial strategies.

These criteria help to set the context of what economic effects (costs and benefits) ~~were~~^{are} of key relevance to the [referral](#) application. [Expert Panels appointed to determine other substantive applications under the FTAA have confirmed that these criteria also provide useful guidance for assessing the regional or national benefits of projects at the substantive stage.](#) This [EA](#) report focusses on criteria (iii), (iv), (v) and (x). Specifically, the analysis aims to demonstrate how the Project aligns with key criteria of the Act, including:

- Increasing housing supply in a manner anticipated by planning documents and strategies in the long term while addressing housing needs in the short-medium term.
- Delivering significant economic benefits (taking into account any economic costs of the Project).
- Supporting primary industries (namely farming and dairy processing).

For clarity, this economic assessment considers economic costs and benefits but does not contain a Cost Benefit Analysis (“CBA”) (formal or otherwise) that captures all effects of the Project (particularly social, environmental or cultural effects). Rather, social, environmental



and cultural costs (if applicable) may be treated as negative impacts of the Project ~~if referred~~, to be weighed (proportionally) against the significant benefits of the Project, which include (but is not limited to) net economic benefits.

1.2 Report Structure

To meet the requirements of the Act set out above, the approach of this economic assessment considers⁴:

- The relevant study area for the assessment of the Project and the spatial context of the proposed Site. The socio-economic characteristics and trends of the Darfield catchment are assessed along with an assessment of the Selwyn District and Darfield housing market. This is covered in Section 2.
- The contribution of the Project to housing supply, housing needs, [infrastructure upgrades](#), GDP and employment (Section 3).
- A summary of economic benefits and costs, with conclusions on the overall net economic significance of the Project is contained in Section 4.

It is noted that this substantive EA report is based on the final EA report that Savvy prepared for the Referral Application (dated October 2025) and has been modified/updated to reflect further detail on the Project that was not available at the time of the Referral Application and to take into account key themes that were raised in a peer review of the EA report undertaken in January 2026 by Formative on behalf of Environment Canterbury as part of the referral process ("Economic Peer Review"). At the time of lodging the substantive application, the updated economic analysis (including the response to the Economic Peer Review) was contained in a separate Memorandum by Savvy dated 6 July 2026. This EA report effectively merges that Memorandum into the original referral economic assessment to create a single document for the Substantive Application.

While some changes have been necessary to merge the documents and maintain readability, the substance of the original referral economic assessment and the Memorandum update are unchanged and therefore remains true to Savvy's outputs that may have been subject to subsequent review/comment in the interim.⁵

⁴ As the Project site was (and still is) zoned Large Lot Residential at the time that the NPS-HPL came into effect, the National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Land ("NPS-HPL") does not apply to the Project.

⁵ For example, Formative has carried out a review responding to the Memorandum, dated 25 August 2026 on behalf of Selwyn District Council. To maintain clear sequencing of assessment and peer review/comment, this EA report



A number of appendices are included that contain further detail relied on in the sections listed above.

1.3 Code of Conduct

Although this is not an Environment Court proceeding, I confirm I have read and am familiar with the Environment Court's Code of Conduct for Expert Witnesses, contained in the Environment Court Practice Note 2023, and agree to comply with it. My qualifications as an expert are set out in Appendix 1 of this report. Other than where I state that I am relying on the advice of another person, I confirm that the issues addressed in this assessment are within my area of expertise. I have not omitted to consider material facts known to me that might alter or detract from the opinions that I express.

does not account for or make any changes that would respond to that latest peer review. Such comments will be responded to in due course.



2 Spatial and Economic Context

2.1 Wider Study Area

The Project is located at 160 Bangor Road in the township of Darfield. The wider study area for this assessment is therefore Selwyn District. Selwyn District is one of 10 territorial authorities that make up Canterbury Region⁶ (Figure 2.1).

Figure 2.1 – Study Area – Selwyn District and Canterbury



Rolleston is the economic centre of the Selwyn District – at the head of the centre hierarchy. It is defined as a “District Centre” in the Township Network described in the District Plan. Darfield is defined in the District Plan as a “Service Township” in the Township Network along with Prebbleton, West Melton and Leeston. The role of Service Townships is to provide a high-amenity residential environment and primary services to “Rural Townships” and surrounding rural areas.

⁶ Waitaki District is partly within Canterbury Region, and partly within Otago Region.



Of the four Service Townships in Selwyn District, Darfield and Leeston are also classified in the Canterbury Regional Policy Statement as Key Activity Centres (“KACs”), which are focal points for employment, community activities and the transport network, and are suitable for mixed use development. The Future Selwyn Strategy⁷ defines Darfield as a “Strategic Town” (along with Leeston) in which higher density housing (through infill or redevelopment) is anticipated over the long term.

Darfield Township contains a Town Centre Zone (“TCZ”), areas of General Industrial Zone (“GIZ”) and other social infrastructure relied on by Darfield residents and the surrounding rural area and Rural Townships in its catchment. However, residents of Darfield and its wider catchment are still reliant on the larger Rolleston KAC and Christchurch to meet higher-order household and business needs.

2.2 The Darfield Catchment

In keeping with the role of Darfield within the Selwyn District and the Canterbury Region, Darfield has an important economic and social function for residents within the township as well as in the surrounding rural area.

Darfield’s service catchment has previously been mapped in the Council’s Malvern Area Plan 2031⁸ and covers 75% of Selwyn District (Figure 2.2). This existing catchment definition aligns with both 2018 and 2023 Statistical Area 2 (“SA2”) boundaries. It does not match the 2023 Malvern Ward boundary, which excludes a portion of land that connects to State Highway 1 west of Burnham and Rolleston, but includes West Melton. The Malvern Area Plan catchment (Figure 2.2) is preferred over the Ward boundary because it excludes West Melton, which is within the Greater Christchurch Urban Environment, and within the service catchment of the Rolleston KAC. The Malvern Area is herein referred to as the “Darfield Catchment”.

⁷ Waikirikiri Ki Tua Future Selwyn is a long-term strategic approach that shapes the strategic direction Selwyn District for the next 50 years. It was published in 2024.

⁸ The report was published in 2016.



Figure 2.2 – Darfield Catchment/Area of Influence (aka Malvern Area)



Figure 2.3 provides a similar map of the Darfield Catchment, showing Statistical Area 1 (“SA1”, 2023) boundaries, including aggregations of those SA1s to cover the effective area of Darfield township (which equates to the Darfield SA2) and the other Rural Townships in the catchment. These include Kirwee, Waddington-Sheffield,⁹ Springfield, Castle Hill Village, Arthur’s Pass, Hororata, Coalgate, Glentunnel and South Malvern-Whitecliffs.¹⁰ The balance of the Darfield Catchment is rural land.

Figure 2.4 shows SA1s included as part of the Darfield environs (i.e. the nearby rural SA1s in addition to the township proper SA1s/Darfield SA2). This area is treated as the Primary Darfield Catchment and the rest of the Catchment is treated as the Secondary Darfield Catchment. The spatial definitions in Figures 2.3 and 2.4 are used to summarise socio-economic data in the following Catchment analysis. Different data is available at different spatial resolutions.

⁹ While these are physically separated settlements, they fall within the same SA1, hence are combined for the purpose of this assessment.

¹⁰ Ibid.



Figure 2.3 – Darfield Township and Catchment Settlements (SA1 2023 Defined)

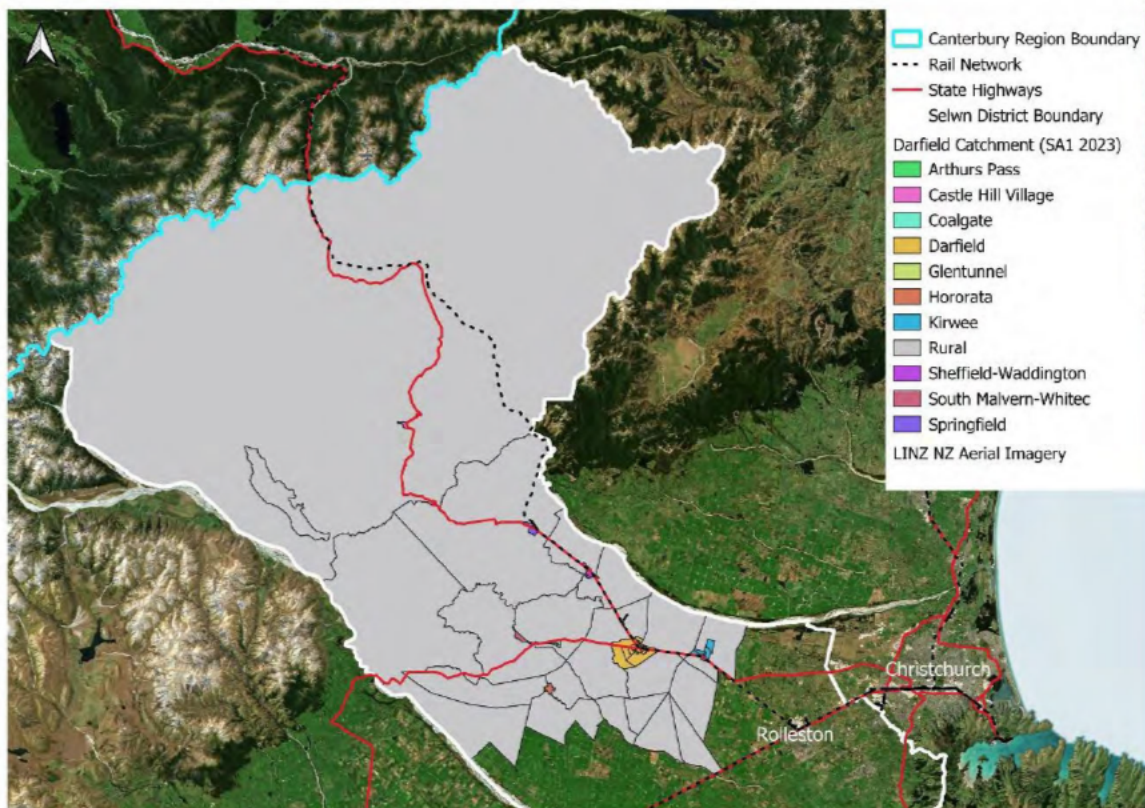
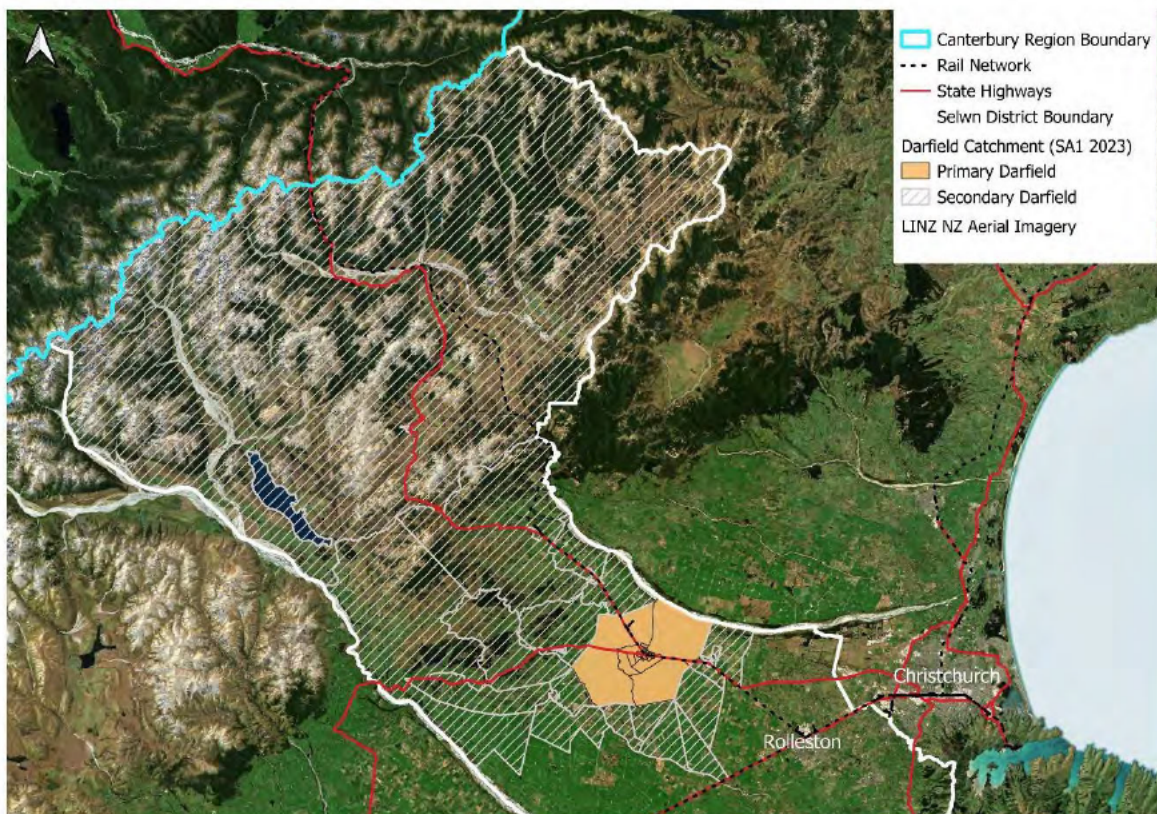


Figure 2.4 – Indicative Darfield Primary and Secondary Catchment



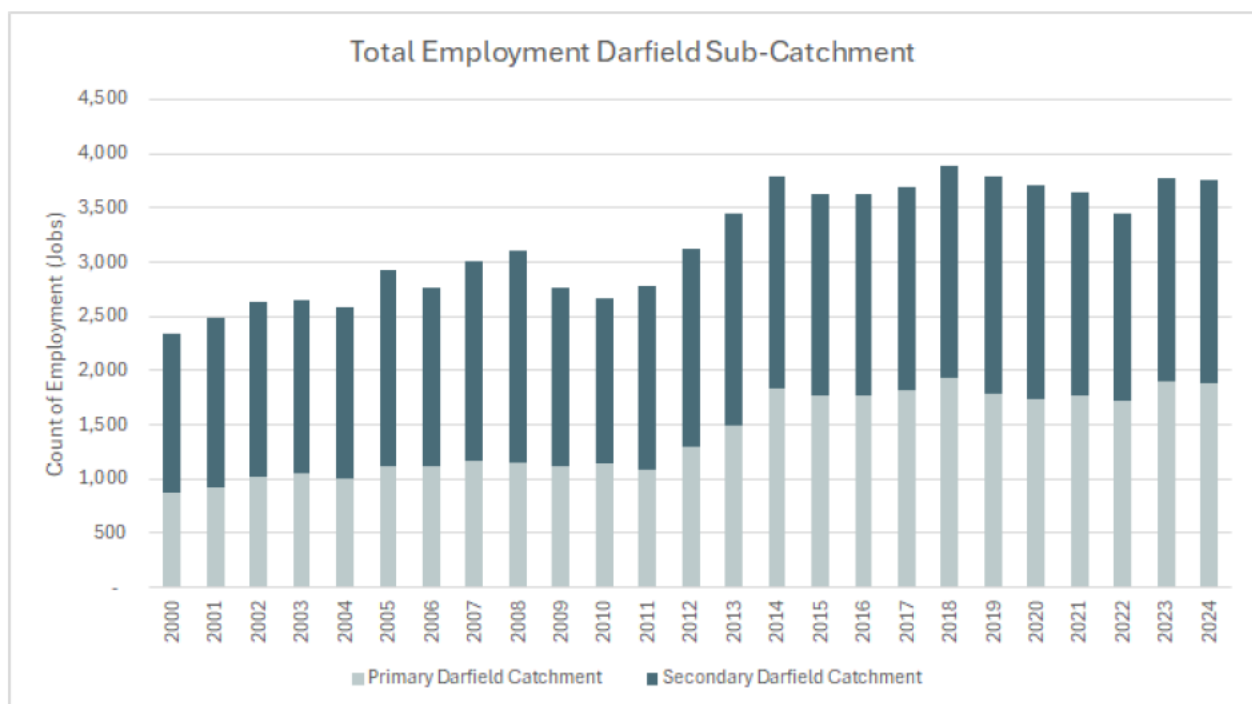


2.2.1 Darfield Catchment Economic Analysis

This section provides an overview of the economic role of the Darfield Catchment in the context of Selwyn District, how that economic activity is changing and its spatial allocation. This helps with understanding the nature of Darfield's role as a Service Township in supporting its wider rural catchment, including its demand growth.

Figure 2.5 shows Darfield Catchment's annual employment growth between 2000 and 2024. Further detail, including equivalent data for business counts is contained in Appendix 2. As with the rest of the district, Darfield has experienced growth in employment and economic activity over the last two decades. The count of businesses in the Darfield Catchment has increased from 1,062 in 2000 to 1,529 in 2024. In the last decade, the growth has been 153 businesses or an 11% increase. The count of employment in those businesses has increased from 2,336 in 2000 to 3,753 in 2024. In the last decade, however, total employment has decreased by a very minor amount (-1% or 43 less jobs).

Figure 2.5 – Darfield Primary and Secondary Catchment Employment Growth 2000-24



There was a period of strong employment growth between 2011 and 2014 attributable to the Primary Darfield Catchment (i.e. the township and its environs). The cause of this is discussed further below. In 2000, the Primary Catchment accounted for 37% of total Darfield Catchment employment. This share increased to 48% in 2014 and currently sits at a 50% share. That is, half of all employment in the expansive Darfield Catchment is centred in or around Darfield Township.



Employment in the Primary Catchment has increased by a minor 3% in the last decade (although the increase since 2000 has been 118%). In that same decade, employment in the rest of the Darfield Catchment decreased by 5% (loss of 103 jobs, net). This has been driven by a large reduction in employment in the rural areas of the district, balanced out by some employment growth in most of the townships in that Secondary Darfield Catchment.

Darfield Township has an important economic role within its wider Catchment area. Figure 2.6 shows the scale of Darfield Township employment in 2024 relative to the lower-order townships elsewhere in the Catchment.

Darfield contains 30% of total Catchment employment in 2024, with the next largest township being Kirwee with just a 5% share. The extensive rural area still dominates employment at a 57% share. Darfield township, and to a lesser extent the smaller townships in the Catchment, play an important role in servicing the economic/business needs (including workforce and housing needs) of the surrounding rural primary production sector.

Figure 2.6 – Darfield Catchment Employment by Township/Settlement 2024

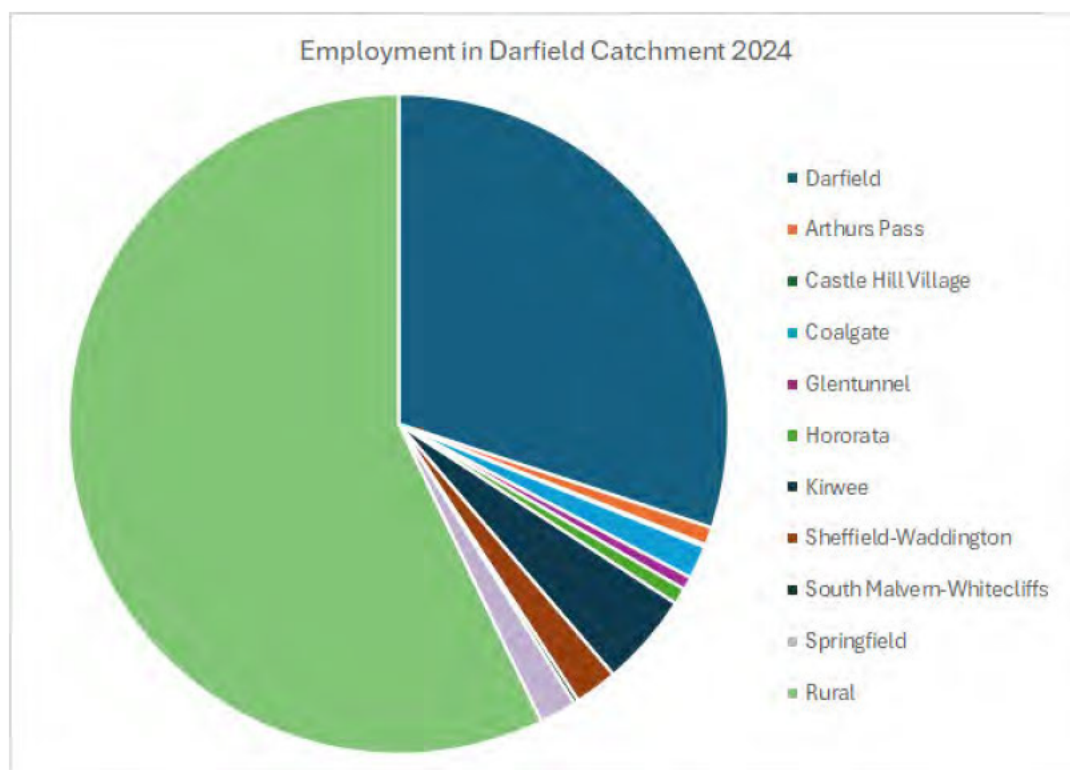


Figure 2.7 provides a breakdown of the district share of employment that is based in the Darfield Catchment by industry group.¹¹ There are six industry groups where the Darfield

¹¹ Some industries are shown more aggregated than others.



Catchment plays a relatively important role in terms of district-wide employment shares. Three of these are primary industries, as follows:

- Sheep, beef cattle and grain farming – 46% of district employment in this industry occurs in the Darfield Catchment. Of that total (624 workers), 41% is in the Primary Darfield Catchment and 59% is in the Secondary Darfield Catchment – showing that this employment is more intensive within the environs of the Darfield township.
- Dairy cattle farming – 30% of district employment in this industry. Of that total (449 workers), 15% is in the Primary Darfield Catchment and 85% is in the Secondary Darfield Catchment.
- Forestry and logging – 38% of district employment in this industry. Of that total (15 workers), 84% is in the Secondary Darfield Catchment.

The dominance of land-based primary production, and particularly farming, in Selwyn District is not surprising when one considers the large areas of the district, including the Darfield Catchment, that comprise highly productive land (“HPL”).¹² Further detail of HPL in the district and Catchment is contained in Appendix 3.

Agriculture is the biggest contributor to Selwyn’s Gross Domestic Product (“GDP”) and was the industry with the highest absolute growth in GDP between 2023 and 2024 according to Infometrics (2025). At a regional level, Canterbury is New Zealand’s largest agricultural region by GDP, producing 20% of the country’s total agricultural output. “*The sector accounts for 6% of the region’s GDP and directly employs 20,000 people*”.¹³ The Darfield Catchment is therefore making a significant contribution to the district and regional economy through its farming base.

¹² As defined by Land Use Classification 1-3 at present.

¹³ <https://www.thepress.co.nz/nz-news/360656373/canterburys-twin-engines-resilience>



Figure 2.7 – Darfield Catchment Employment as a Share of Selwyn District Employment by Industry Grouping 2024

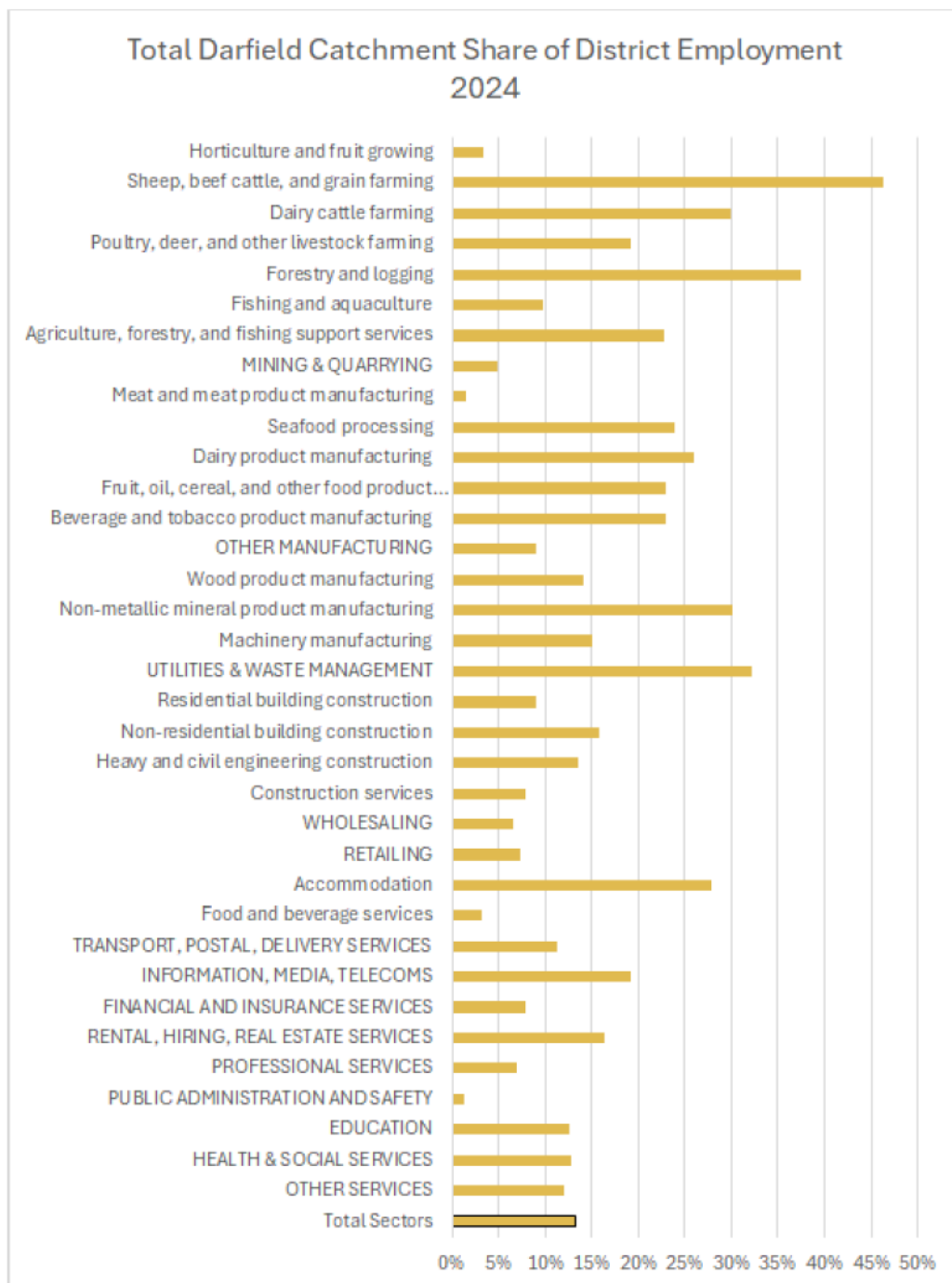
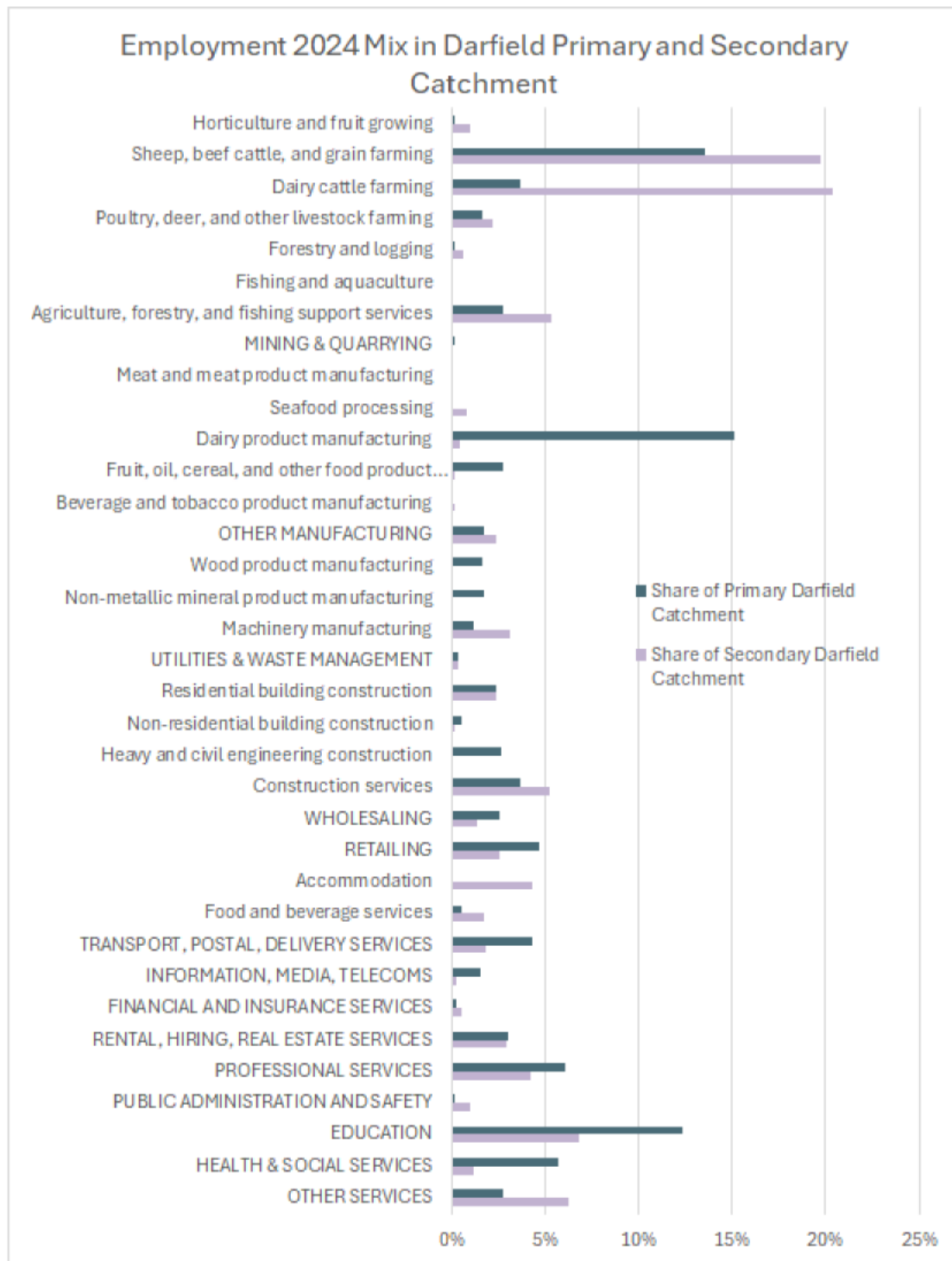




Figure 2.8 – Employment Profile in the Darfield Primary and Secondary Catchment 2024



Despite six industry groups, including primary industries, in Darfield Catchment being relatively important at a district level, the Catchment itself has employment spread across most industry groups while still being dominated by a small number of key industries. This economic profile (Figure 2.8) varies between the Primary and Secondary Catchment areas, as expected with Darfield Township being the location of most employment (and economic diversity).



Figure 2.8 shows that the Darfield Primary Catchment (i.e. Darfield and its immediate rural environs) is dominated by employment in the Dairy Product Manufacturing industry, followed by Sheep, beef cattle and grain farming and then education with 15%, 14% and 12% share of total Primary Darfield Catchment respectively. The Darfield Secondary Catchment (i.e. rest of Darfield Catchment) is dominated by employment in the Dairy cattle farming industry and Sheep, beef cattle and grain farming industry. While the Dairy farming is mainly occurring in the Secondary Darfield Catchment, clearly the processing of that dairy farming output is occurring in the Primary Darfield Catchment.

The fact that Darfield is surrounded by HPL, and because land based primary production and associated downstream processing activities are central to the Darfield Catchment economy, the efficient use of residential zoned land in Darfield is very important – i.e., to avoid unnecessary urban sprawl into HPL that reduces the agricultural activity that the Catchment (and district) economy relies on.

Focussing just on the Primary Darfield Catchment, employment in the last decade (2014–2024) has grown slightly in net terms (3% or 59 additional workers), which reflects a period of relative stability overall following the rapid growth leading up to 2014. However, some industries have been growing while others have been decreasing meaning that there is still a lot of volatility in the local economy as Darfield continues to define its role in the district economy.

Stronger growth industries in and around Darfield Township include Education, Professional services, Health and social services, and Residential building construction. These industry groups are growing commensurate with the local population (i.e. serving growing household demand). Other growth industries more intricately linked to local resources in the Primary and Secondary Darfield Catchment include Other Manufacturing, Primary sector support services, and Dairy product manufacturing.

At the same time, industries that have decreased employment in the last decade in the Primary Darfield Catchment include Heavy and civil engineering construction, Construction services, Retailing, Accommodation, and Transport, postal and delivery services.

While not investigated in detail, some of those industries that have contracted in employment experienced peak employment at the same time as the Dairy product manufacturing employment took a sudden jump. It is the Fonterra Cream Cheese and Milk Powder Plant on the outskirts of Darfield (Figure 2.9) that is a key employer in the Darfield Catchment (currently employing an estimated 286 workers), that is also assumed to have sustained significant construction related employment during the Plant's initial establishment.

The Fonterra Plant opened in 2012, although with only 23 staff in that year according to StatisticsNZ, increasing to 46 staff in 2013 and then jumping to 267 staff in 2014, with slow



growth since it has been fully operational. It is not uncommon for large construction projects such as complex factories, to sustain short term increases in local construction employment, hence Savvy assumes that some of the declines in non-residential construction related employment in the Primary Darfield Catchment are simply a reflection of that construction project ending.

Figure 2.9 – Aerial Image of the Fonterra Darfield Plant



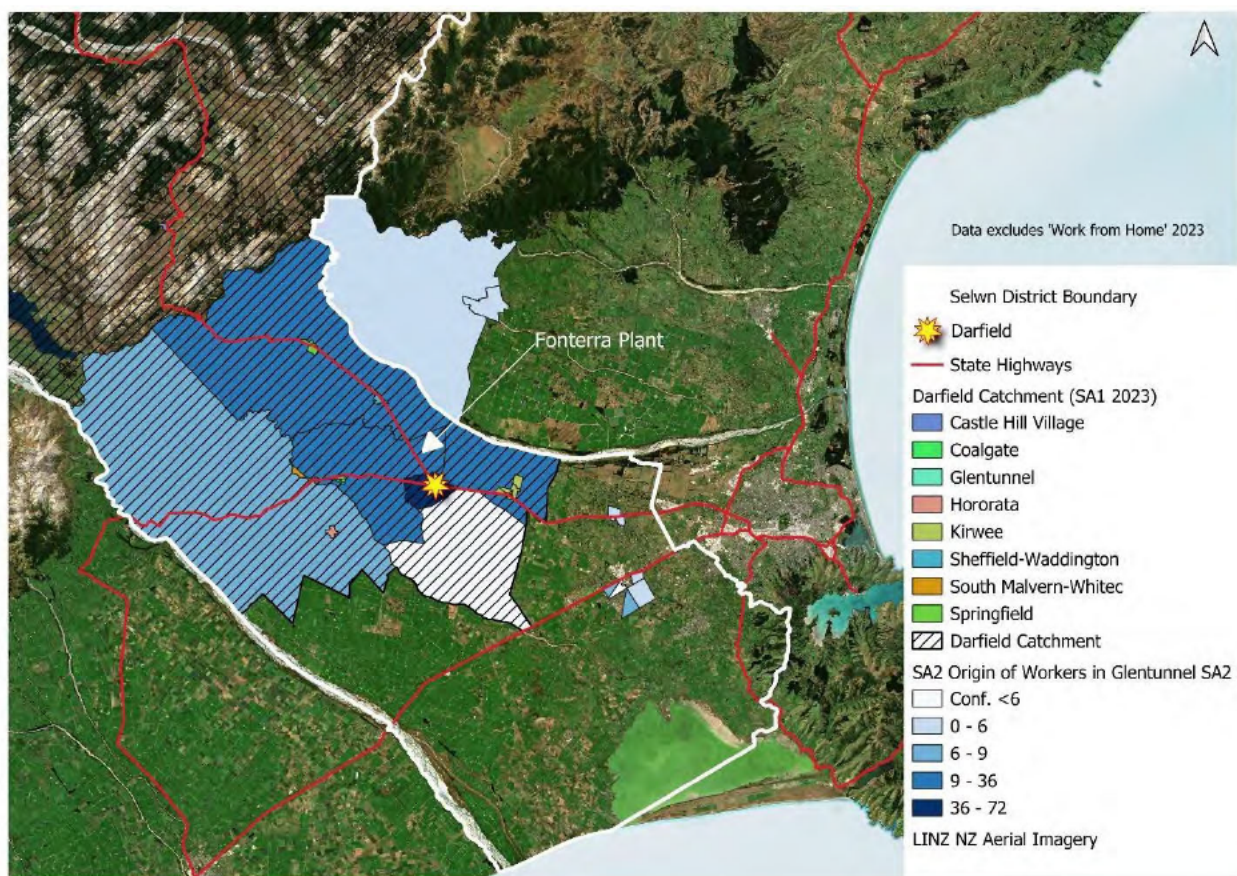
As discussed above, the Fonterra Darfield Plant accounts for 15% of total employment in the Primary Darfield Catchment (and 38% of the employment outside the Township, but within the Primary Catchment). Given its significant role in the local economy (including as a facilitator of dairy farming), the following analysis considers where the Plant's workforce is based using StatisticsNZ Journey to Work data from the 2023 Census.

The Journey to Work data is limited to SA2s. The Plant is located in the 'Glentunnel' SA2 where it is the single largest employer. It is noted that within that SA2 are also the settlements of Coalgate, Glentunnel, South Malvern and Whitecliffs which collectively have 94 jobs in 2024) as well as rural properties, including within the Darfield environs (i.e., Darfield Primary Catchment outside of the Township).



Employment registered to businesses in the Glentunnel SA2 is therefore expected to be dominated by, but not limited to, employment in the Fonterra Plant. To help focus the Journey to Work data on what is most likely to be the origin of workers at the Fonterra Plant, those workers that 'work from home' have been excluded from the data. The balance is, in this case, those that drive to work in a private or company vehicle.

Figure 2.10 – Journey to Work Data 2023 Census – Origin of Workers Whose Workplace is in the Glentunnel SA2 (Excludes Work from Home)



While the Journey to Work data is only a sample of workers' travel patterns,¹⁴ Figure 2.10 shows that the majority of workers who travel by car to a workplace in the Glentunnel SA2 (and presumably the Fonterra Plant), reside in Darfield Township (38% of those that responded),¹⁵ followed by those that reside in the Glentunnel SA2 (19%), Torlesse SA2 (8%), and Kirwee SA2 (6%). Smaller shares of the workforce (that commutes) reside in the west of the

¹⁴ I.e., the results collected during the Census are not grossed up to account for non-responses.

¹⁵ The Journey to Work data rounds small values to manage confidentiality. Very low values (i.e. less than those that can be rounded to 6) are not reported, and have been mapped, but not counted in the quantitative shares discussed above).



Darfield Catchment, and east in Waimakariri District, with a small number travelling from Rolleston.

Based on this analysis, any further expansion of the Fonterra Plant (further job increases) is likely to directly generate housing demand for workers across the Darfield Catchment, but particularly within Darfield township.

Other analysis of the Journey to Work data also shows that Darfield residents:

- Mainly work locally within the Darfield SA2 (including working from home);
- Followed by workplaces in the Glentunnel SA2 (as discussed above);
- With others commuting to the Rolleston industrial area and town centre, Hornby South industrial area and Christchurch Airport in Christchurch City, and Kirwee SA2;
- Lower shares of the Darfield workforce have jobs in southern parts of the Darfield Catchment, central parts of the Selwyn District and Hornby-Central City parts of Christchurch.

These work travel patterns suggest that Darfield is considered a suitable location to commute to jobs across the Darfield Catchment as well as to a wide range of workplace locations outside the Catchment, and that the main Selwyn townships within the Greater Christchurch area are not the only places where commuters to Christchurch City are likely to live. Demand drivers for housing in Darfield are therefore likely to be widespread.

2.2.2 Darfield Catchment Demographic Analysis

This section provides an overview of the resident population and household types within Darfield Catchment, and in the context of Selwyn District. Household type is a key driver of the nature of dwelling need (although not necessarily dwelling preference or dwelling supply). It examines how those demographic characteristics are changing and where that change is occurring. There is a strong link between population and household growth/change and business and employment growth/change discussed above. This includes population increasing in response to job opportunities located within (but not limited to) the Darfield Catchment. The addition of new residents (working or otherwise) in turn creates demand for goods and services which sustains more local jobs and businesses.



Figure 2.11 – Darfield Township (SA2) and Rest of Darfield Catchment Population 2000–24

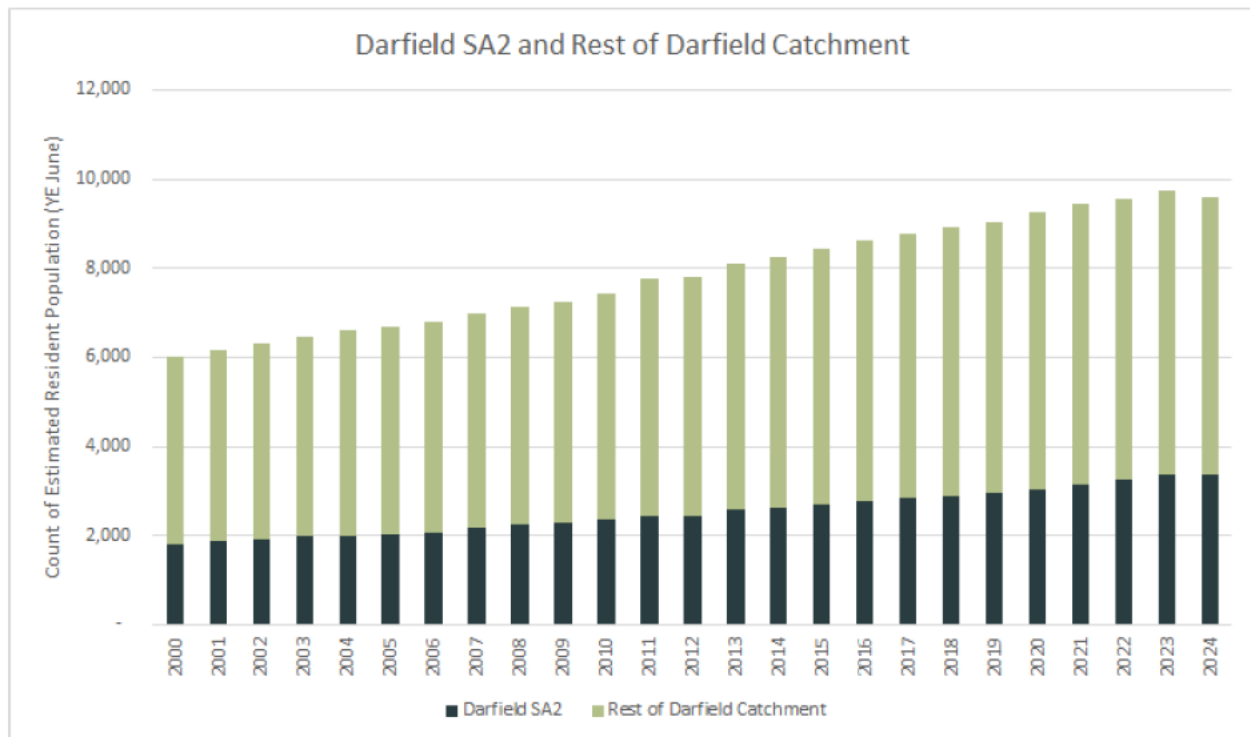


Figure 2.11 shows the growth of the Darfield SA2 (Township) and the rest of the Darfield Catchment. It shows steady growth across the total Catchment over time, although a minor reduction in population in the Rest of Darfield Catchment in the last year (2024) according to the provisional 2024 results.

In the decade 2014–2024, the total population of the Darfield Catchment has increased by 1,340 people to reach 9,590 in 2024 (growth of 16%). More than half of that growth (56% or 750 net additional residents) has occurred within the Darfield Township. The population in the Darfield Township has grown by 29% since 2014 and is now estimated at 3,380 people. While the Rest of Darfield Catchment still, in aggregate, accounts for 65% of the population resident in the total Darfield Catchment, that share has been reducing as more and more growth is concentrated in Darfield Township. If the faster growth rate of Darfield Township continues, its share of the Catchment’s population will continue to rise.

Table 2.1 provides a summary of total resident households in the Darfield Catchment over the last three Census. Total households have increased by 360 between 2018 and 2023 to reach 3,680 (11% growth) – a growth rate slightly faster than population growth in that same period (9%). As of 2023, the Darfield Catchment accounted for 14% of Selwyn District households.

While comprising 33% of the total households in the Darfield Catchment, the Darfield Township accounted for 42% of the household growth since 2018. Darfield Township had 150 additional



households in 2023 than it did in 2018, with a current count of 1,230 at the time of the last Census. That's an average growth rate of 30 new households per annum.

Table 2.1 - Darfield Township (SA2) and Rest of Darfield Catchment Household Count 2013-2023

	Total Households in Private Occupied Dwellings				
	2013	2018	2023	2018-2023 (n)	2018-2023 (%)
Count of Resident Households					
Darfield (SA2)	920	1,080	1,230	150	14%
Rest of Darfield Catchment	2,000	2,240	2,450	210	9%
Total Darfield Catchment	2,920	3,320	3,680	360	11%
Share of Resident Households					
Darfield (SA2)	32%	33%	33%	42%	
Rest of Darfield Catchment	68%	67%	67%	58%	
Total Darfield Catchment	100%	100%	100%	100%	

Source: StatisticsNZ, Savvy.

Figure 2.12 – Total Darfield Catchment Household Count by Type 2013-2023

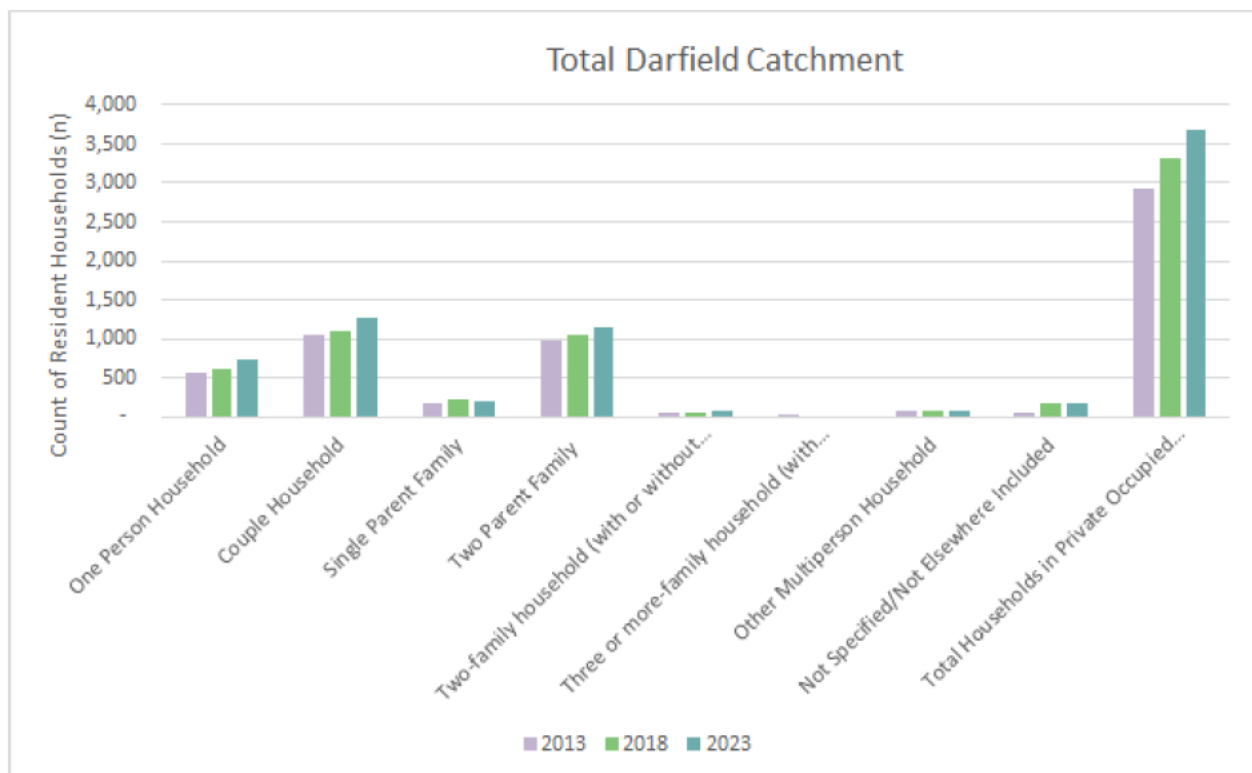


Figure 2.12 shows how households have been growing over those same three Census by type of household for the total Darfield Catchment. The three main household types living in the Catchment (in descending order) are couple households, 2 parent families and single person households. This profile is similar for the Darfield Township and the Rest of the Darfield Catchment in 2023. Relative to the average household mix across the total district, the Darfield



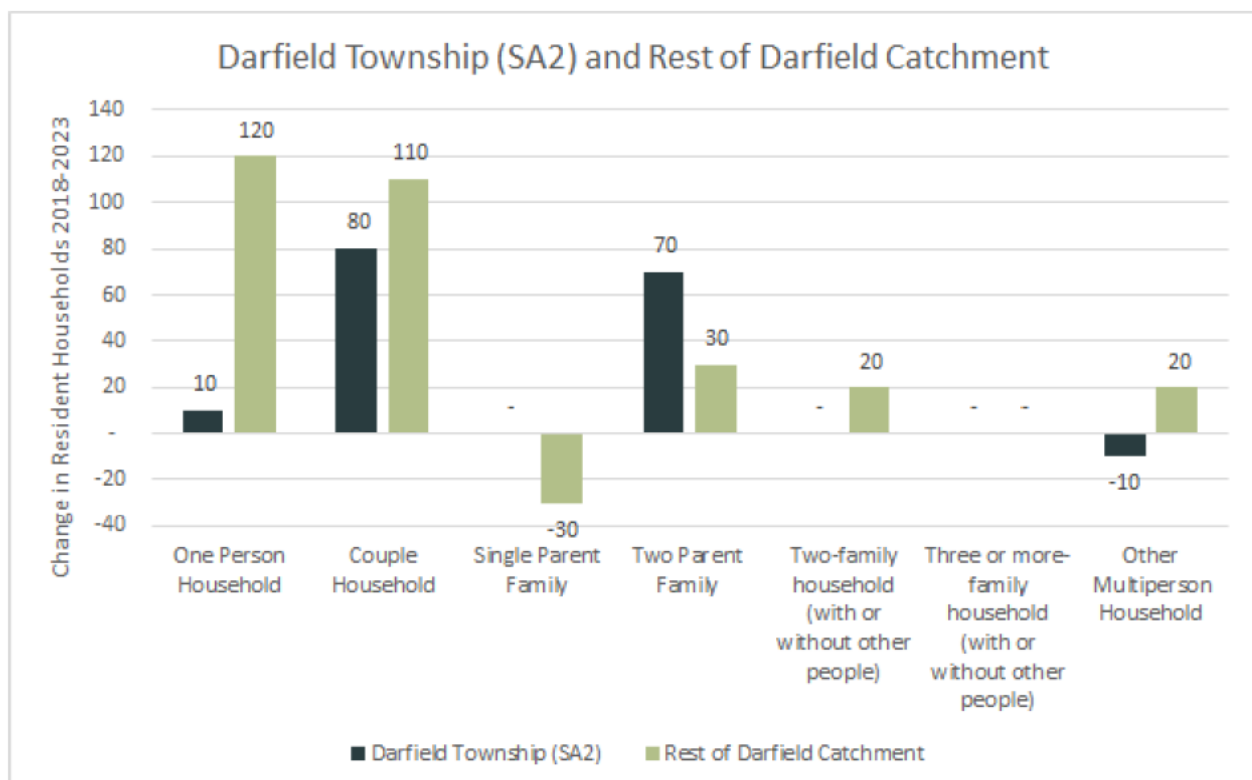
Catchment has an above average share of single and couple households, with these household types making up 20% and 35% of total Catchment households respectively.

Figure 2.13 looks specifically at the change in households by type in the Darfield Township and Rest of Darfield Catchment between 2018 and 2023. These areas are changing in different ways which will be putting different pressures on dwelling demand.

Couple households are growing in both parts of the Catchment, although the growth is higher in the Rest of Darfield Catchment. Within the Catchment, two parent families are growing faster in the Darfield Township than in the rest of the Catchment. This is likely associated with the improved access to schools and other services demanded by families in the Darfield Township relative to the smaller townships.

Couple and two parent families in the Darfield Township currently account for 37% and 33% of total resident households in the SA2 (70% in total). If these two household types continue to grow at above average rates, then they can be expected to account for an even greater share of Darfield households in the future.

Figure 2.13 – Change in Darfield Township (SA2) and Rest of Catchment Households by Type 2018–2023





Further growth of couples and two parent families in the Darfield Township would indicate increased demand for a mix of smaller, more compact dwellings, as well as larger family homes.

2.3 Darfield Housing Market Assessment

To determine the economic significance of the Project, it is important to understand the current and future housing market that the Bangor Village Project will contribute to (i.e. over and above zoned development capacity in the Darfield Township). This sub-section starts by drawing on Selwyn District Council's most recent housing demand, supply and capacity publication, focusing on the Darfield Township results. This is supplemented by analysis of some more recent housing market indicators.

2.3.1 Housing Demand and Capacity Assessment 2024

At the time of preparing this assessment, the Selwyn Residential Capacity and Demand Model 2023 ("SRCDM") published in March 2024 is the most current report responding to the requirements of the NPS-UD for modelling residential demand, capacity and sufficiency in Selwyn District.¹⁶ The SRCDM is based on a 2022 model developed for Council by Formative.

The base year of the modelling of demand is 2023, with a long term outlook to 2053. The growth projections underpinning district level dwelling growth are the StatisticsNZ 2022 released population projections (high growth outlook).¹⁷ The baseline of existing dwellings and dwelling capacity is a snapshot as of 2022¹⁸, although the planning provisions that impact plan enabled dwelling yield on individual parcels of zoned land have been updated to the Partially Operative District Plan. The following summarises the SRCDM results for Darfield Township and the townships in the rest of the Darfield Catchment.

¹⁶ This report does not constitute a full Housing[and Business]Development Capacity Assessment (or "HBA") under the NPS-UD – this is reported at the Greater Christchurch level.

¹⁷ It is noted that new population projections have been released for Selwyn District in 2025, and these project stronger long term growth than the 2022 released projections. For example, 30 years' growth from 2018 was 79,900 under the high growth outlook. The latest high growth outlook has 30 years' growth from 2023 as 97,600. Changes to the NPS-UD confirm that high growth projections from StatisticsNZ should be used in future modelling updates.

¹⁸ Some inputs to the modelling are from 2021, inflated to the base year as required.



Dwelling Demand

Dwelling growth projections for Darfield, and other locations modelled, are based on a percentage share of total district urban dwelling growth¹⁹ that is derived from the mid-point of:

- That location's share of population growth projected by StatisticsNZ over the short, medium and long term, and
- That location's average share of total district dwelling consents issued between 2018-2022.

Hence, it represents an allocation of urban dwelling growth that is a blend of demand and supply indicators.

The SRCDM estimated that within the residential zones of Darfield Township (which includes the LLRZ), Council would need to plan for demand of 630 additional dwellings between 2023 and 2033 (the medium term), increasing to 1,640 additional dwellings out to 2053 (the long term). This demand includes the competitiveness margin required by the NPS-UD. This equates to a need to plan for an average of 63 dwellings per annum in the medium term and slowing to an annual average of 51 dwellings per annum between 2033-2053 (or a total long term average of 55 dwellings per annum).

The SRDCM expects all future dwellings in Darfield (and across the wider Darfield Catchment) to be standalone (detached) dwellings throughout the long term.

Dwelling Capacity Feasible and Reasonably Expected

The SRCDM estimates that lots in the General Residential Zone ("GRZ") that are around 700sqm in Darfield will yield commercially feasible and reasonably expected to be realised dwellings in the medium and long term. That is, lots slightly larger than the 650sqm minimum that is plan enabled in the GRZ. In the LLRZ in Darfield, lots around 6,000sqm are also considered to yield commercially feasible and reasonably expected to be realised dwellings. Again, this is an expected lot size slightly larger than the 5,000sqm minimum plan enabled.

Quantifying capacity for dwelling growth in the SRCDM is based on dividing parcel land area by the expected lot sizes above in each zone respectively and subtracting the number of dwellings that were existing at the time (i.e. in 2022). If the parcel was large (i.e., greenfield),

¹⁹ Urban dwelling growth is total district dwelling growth less 6% of dwelling growth assumed to occur in rural and the rural lifestyle zones.



then 25% of the land area is first excluded to account for future roads and other non-developable land areas.

This approach assumes further subdivision of parcels where one or more lots at the respective expected lot size can be achieved. This includes further infill subdivision on qualifying parcels that already contain dwellings. In other words, it relies on further intensification of zoned land until the maximum number of expected lots (already plan enabled) is achieved. This approach may overstate reasonably expected to be realised capacity in the medium term to a minor degree as many properties that could be further subdivided (particularly LLRZ properties in the south-west of Darfield), may not choose to in the medium term if growth can be met (supplied) in zoned greenfield land (i.e. as vacant capacity rather than through infill capacity).²⁰

The SRCDM estimated (based on a snapshot of capacity in 2022 and current zoning), that there was zoned capacity for 3,050 additional dwellings in Darfield in the medium term (2023–2033). The GRZ accounted for 66% of this capacity (2,010 additional dwellings), with the balance in the LLRZ (i.e. 1,040 additional dwellings). Of the LLRZ capacity, 15% or 159 dwellings relates to further subdivision of parcels less than 6ha in size that already contain one or more existing dwelling in 2022 (i.e. this is the infill component). This same GRZ and LLRZ capacity was assumed in the long term, but with the additional capacity of the Urban Growth Overlay in Darfield (two discrete areas on the current residential zone fringe) adding LLRZ capacity for a further 260 dwellings if those areas are live zoned prior to 2053.

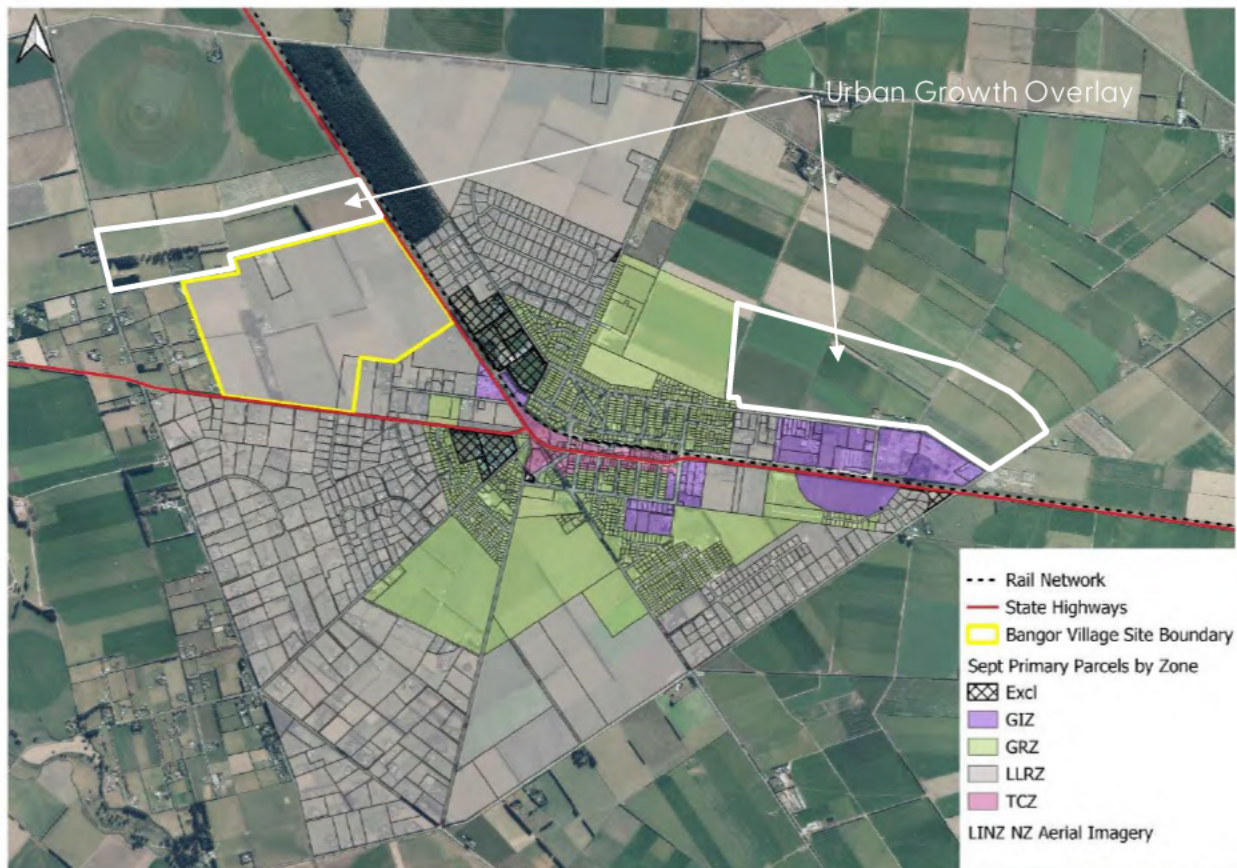
Figure 2.14 provides a 2025 snapshot of parcel boundaries in the Darfield GRZ and LLRZ and showing the Site (also known as Development Area “DEV-DA3”). It is beyond the scope of this report to back-cast the cadastre to the time of the SRCDM capacity assessment and it is likely that some portions of both residential zones were still greenfield areas (unsubdivided) at that time. Figure 2.14 also shows (white polygons) the two Urban Growth Overlays identified for Darfield that further increase dwelling capacity in the long term in the SRCDM. The assumed dwelling capacity of the Project Site is 162 standalone dwellings in the medium and long term.²¹

²⁰ Savvy understands that the position of existing dwellings on lots (which affects the ability to provide one or more additional lots through subdivision) has not been taken into consideration. This may preclude some properties from further subdivision in the absence of full redevelopment.

²¹ The Site therefore accounts for 16% of total LLRZ dwelling capacity in the medium term in the SRCDM.



Figure 2.14 – Darfield District Plan Zoning Showing Project Site



Sufficiency of Residential Capacity

Table 2.2 summarises dwelling demand and capacity in Darfield in the medium term (to 2033) according to the SRCDM. It shows that there is at least sufficient zoned capacity in the combined GRZ and LLRZ to meet expected demand growth (including the competitiveness margin). The modelled surplus of capacity is significant at 2,420 dwellings. The surplus is such that even a more conservative approach to medium term capacity would still likely be sufficient to meet Darfield's growth needs by 2033 based on modelled demand.

Table 2.2 also has the sufficiency results for the other townships in the Darfield Catchment. It shows that across the Catchment, Darfield accounts for 45% of the projected dwelling growth, but has (as of a 2022 snapshot) 86% of the dwelling growth capacity in the Catchment. It also shows that there is not sufficient zoned capacity to meet expected growth in most of other towns in the Catchment.



Table 2.2 – Dwelling Demand, Capacity and Sufficiency in the Darfield Catchment (Excluding Rural Land)

Township	Medium Term (2023-2033)		
	Demand + Margin	Capacity	Sufficiency
Darfield	630	3,050	2,420
Kirwee	270	100	- 170
Coalgate-Glentunnel-Whitecliffs	110	230	120
Sheffield-Waddington-Springfield	210	70	- 140
Hororata	130	-	- 130
Castle Hill-Arthur's Pass	40	110	70
Lake Coleridge	10	-	- 10
Total Darfield Catchment (Excl Rural)	1,400	3,560	2,160

Source: Selwyn District Council/Formative, 2024.

Formative state that these shortfalls in the other townships are “*not material and within the expected margin of error. Therefore, we consider that there is no need to provide additional capacity in these specific settlements*”, although they recommend monitoring of demand and take-up of residential capacity. Importantly, all of the other townships in the Darfield Catchment have Urban Growth Overlay areas identified in the District Plan that can be live zoned in the future as required. When this identified capacity is included in the long term modelling, relative to long term demand, all other townships except Sheffield-Waddington-Springfield have a modelled surplus of capacity by 2053.²²

If those Overlays are not rezoned in the medium-term, then it would be possible for any latent demand growth in those townships experiencing a shortfall of capacity to instead consider a location in Darfield, where there is substantial zoned capacity provided, including in the Project Site. Any transfer of demand to Darfield will, however, increase the rate of demand growth in Darfield township, above what it might otherwise have been expected.

In the long term (by 2053), the SRCDM reports a surplus of housing capacity equivalent to 1,670 additional dwellings in Darfield township. Again, a higher rate of growth, or a lower level of reasonably expected capacity than modelled would still be expected to result in at least sufficient capacity.

²² The long term shortfall in the combined Sheffield-Waddington-Springfield is 230 by 2053 despite increasing capacity by 250 dwellings.



2.3.2 Latest Housing Market Indicators

Appendix 4 contains an analysis of key housing market indicators for Darfield and the wider District. This analysis provides an indication of changes in the housing market in recent years, including since the SRDCM analysis. Key findings from that analysis are:

- Darfield has experienced significant increases in dwelling prices and rents, with price rises consistent with the changes occurring in the rest of the district.
- However, Darfield represents a slightly more affordable place to live relative to the district as whole. This contributes to the economic benefits of enabling more dwelling growth in Darfield.
- Darfield's residential growth is strongly focused on greenfield zoned land.
- There has been a real step change in dwelling demand/growth since 2021 in the Township, consistent with the wider district trend.
- Annual consented dwellings have been as high as 109 recently in 2023 in Darfield Township but have averaged 53 dwellings per annum over the last decade (2015–2025). The average count of consented dwellings in the last four years (2022–2025) has been 86 per annum.
- Darfield Township is attracting an increasing share of dwelling consent growth in the Catchment over time. Savvy expects that this trend will continue. It accounted for 56% of total dwelling consents issued in the Catchment in the YE August 2025 (and has been as high as a 69% share in 2024).



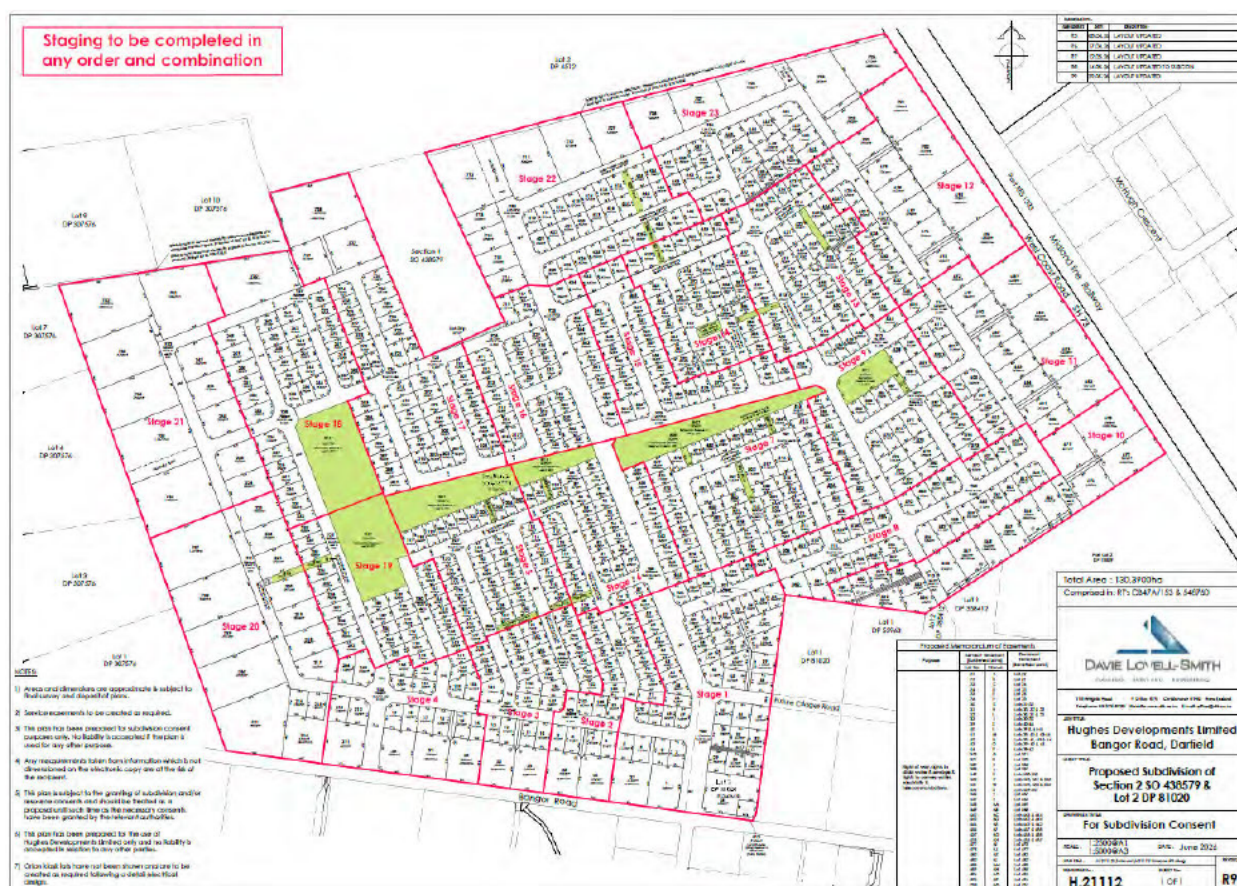
3 Contribution of the Project

As set out in Section 1, the following four criteria (among others) determine whether a project seeking referral under the Act meets the purpose of creating significant regional or national benefits.

- Section 22(2)(a)(iii): Will increase the supply of housing to address housing needs or contribute to a well-functioning urban environment (within the meaning of Policy 1 of the National Policy Statement on Urban Development 2020).
- Section 22(2)(a)(iv): Will deliver significant economic benefits.
- Section 22(2)(a)(v): Will support primary industries, including aquaculture.
- Section 22(2)(x): Is consistent with local or regional planning documents, including spatial strategies.

3.1 Increasing Residential Land Capacity

Figure 3.13.1 – Final Site/Subdivision Illustrative Master Plan





The Project involves the subdivision and development of the site (being 130 ha located between Bangor Road and West Coast Road (State Highway ("SH") 73 and identified in the Selwyn Partially Operative District Plan ("District Plan") as development area DEV-DA3) to create 741 residential allotments and supporting infrastructure and landscaping to enable the creation of a new residential neighbourhood on residentially zoned land, immediately adjoining the existing township of Darfield.²³

The components of the Project include:

- a) Subdivision of the site and associated land development (including earthworks) to create:
 - 741 allotments to enable the establishment of 741 dwellings.
 - Allotments to support infrastructure and for vesting to Selwyn District Council as recreation reserves.
- b) Landscaping and development of green spaces.
- c) Construction of associated infrastructure and utilities. ~~An indicative master~~

The final site/subdivision plan for the Bangor Village Project is shown in Figure 3.1. Overall, the design provides for a mix of lot sizes with more intensive development akin to the GRZ in the centre of the Site and where it connects to adjacent land relatively closer to the core of Darfield (being the intersection of State Highway 73 and 77). This adjacent land is currently zoned a mix of LLRZ, GRZ and GIZ (Figure 2.14), and comprises two Development Areas (6 and 10) which indicate a range of dwellings densities are to be provided with regard given to adjoining land use and urban character along the main arterials.

The Project provides the benefit of increasing housing supply under section 22(2)(a)(iii). The housing supply of the Project is discussed below in gross and net terms.

3.1.1 Gross Housing Supply

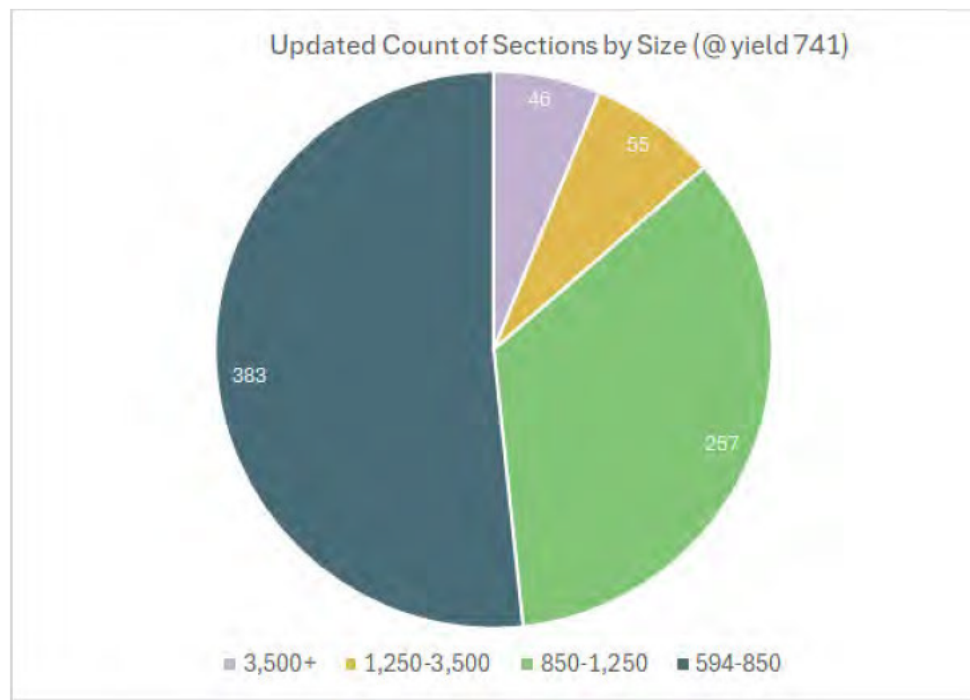
The proposed density of lots in Bangor Village (which range from around ~~650~~594sqm in the core area, and up to ~~21.1~~ha on the rural fringe) will yield ~~an estimated 741~~an estimated 7100-800 residential lots, expected to be developed as standalone dwellings. The average lot size for the Project sits at 1,303sqm, but the median lot size is 838sqm. Figure 3.2 shows the indicative mix of section sizes by broad size bands ~~(and based on the lower range of lot yield).~~ Overall, ~~46~~52% of lots would be ~~less than~~between 650-850sqm, ~~38~~5% would be between 850-1,250sqm, ~~17~~4% would

²³ Savvy notes that the final lodged application was adjusted to 743 lots. This very minor change is not material to the conclusions of the economic assessment.



be between 1,250 and 3,500sqm, and ~~46%~~ (3046 lots) would be greater than 3,500sqm, and up to around ~~21.1~~ha.

Figure 3.23.2 – ~~Indicative-Final~~ Mix of Lot Sizes in Proposed Master Plan (~~Lower Range~~)



The Project represents a large and significant residential subdivision in the context of the Darfield Township and the Canterbury Region overall.

To put the contribution of gross housing supply in context, the Project equates to meeting ~~133%–152~~41% of projected demand for additional housing in the Darfield Township over the medium term (excluding the competitiveness margin), based on demand projections in the Council's SRCDM [2023](#).²⁴ That is, it provides capacity equivalent to²⁵ all of Darfield's projected housing growth between 2023–2033, as well as a portion of long term demand growth (i.e. growth between 2034–2053). Alternatively, the Project equates to meeting ~~50–57~~53% of total long term (2023–2053) demand for dwellings modelled for Darfield in the SRCDM [2023](#) excluding the competitiveness margin.²⁶

An alternative growth metric that differs from the Council's dwelling demand projections is the average count of dwelling consents issued in Darfield Township (SA2) in the last four years (discussed above). This has averaged 86 dwellings per annum. *Should* this average supply rate continue, it would represent a higher growth scenario than the one modelled in the

²⁴ The SRDCM 2023 projected dwelling growth of 525 (630 including the margin) in Darfield between 2023–2033.

²⁵ Acknowledging that we are already three years into the medium term as modelled in the SRCDM.

²⁶ The SRDCM 2023 projected dwelling growth of 1,403 (1,640 including the margin) in Darfield between 2023–2053.



SRCDM [2023](#). The Project's yield of ~~74100–800~~ dwellings would equate to ~~8.16–9.3~~ years of dwelling growth in Darfield Township (if that rate of growth was sustained). This may be likely if Darfield continues to capture an increasing share of population and economic growth within the wider Darfield Catchment.

3.1.2 Net Housing Supply – Short-Medium Term

It is important to account for the status quo [\(counterfactual\)](#) dwelling capacity of the Site given that the Fast Track application seeks to increase the density of the Site over and above what is enabled in the District Plan. Under its current District Plan zoning and provisions, the Site would also contribute to housing supply *if* developed.

The underlying zoning of the Site is LLRZ, which has a plan enabled minimum lot size of 5,000sqm. The SRCDM [2023](#) estimated that the Site would, after removing 25% of land area for roading and other infrastructure, be commercially feasible and reasonably expected to deliver sites of 6,000sqm. At this density, the SRCDM [2023](#) assumed dwelling capacity of the Site of 162 lots/dwellings. Based on these assumptions, **the Project increases the potential housing capacity on the Site by a net ~~57938–638~~ dwellings** (i.e., it increases the reasonably expected yield by a significant ~~35732–394~~%).

Alternatively, the SRCDM [2023](#) estimated **total** feasible and reasonably expected dwelling capacity in Darfield in the medium term of 3,050 dwellings. The net increase generated by the Project (if approved), increases that total housing capacity by a substantial ~~128–21~~%. In reality, some of the capacity modelled in the SRCDM back in 2022 will have been taken up, and so the impact of the Project's net increase in dwelling capacity would be slightly higher in percentage terms (all else being equal).

In net supply terms, and relative to the status quo planning provisions [\(counterfactual scenario\)](#), the Project still delivers significant additional housing capacity in the short-medium term in the context of Darfield Township and the wider district and region.

3.1.3 Net Housing Supply – Long Term

The DEV-DA3 provisions which apply to the Site are designed to future proof the Site for longer term growth. It states that “*due to potential population growth, low-density residential areas often transition into higher density residential living over time. At the time of subdivision to low-density residential, consideration needs to be made for future-proofing infrastructure for higher densities*”. The District Plan then provides examples of how the developer might facilitate future intensification. These include:

- building in additional capacity in water supply pipes,



- providing wider roads to accommodate higher future traffic flows,
- orienting lots to reduce the number of rear sections formed through future subdivision,
- prescribing building platforms to avoid dwellings being constructed in the middle of sites (which may preclude future subdivision), and
- providing additional reserve space to meet future population needs.

Savvy considers that the transitional density infrastructure and reserve requirements set out for DEV-DA3, which need to be demonstrated with a subdivision plan showing the short-medium term low-density development and future higher density (intensified) development, will constrain the commercial feasibility of development in DEV-DA3.

This is because the infrastructure/reserve requirements impose additional land development costs on the developer. Unless the developer is compensated for the 'future' infrastructure investment (i.e., through reduced or waived development and/or reserve contributions), these additional costs will need to be passed on to the initial section purchasers. This will drive up the cost of the sections sold in what is already a market with rising residential land prices. Given the scale of DEV-DA3 relative to the current and future housing estate in Darfield, this will reduce the overall housing affordability of Darfield in the short-medium term.

While the lots may be sold on the basis that they may be further subdivided in the future, this is still speculative and the market value of the sections is likely to be based on the larger size of the sections, and not the subdivision opportunity per se. The price achieved for the low-density sections that are created will also be constrained by competition (pricing) elsewhere in the Darfield market for sections of the same or similar size.

Savvy notes that there is not a material difference in distance from most greenfield zoned land in Darfield to the centre core (TCZ) and so location and accessibility is unlikely to be a strong differentiator of price compared to other larger or multi-nodal urban centres. This means that the range of costs/sqm for sections in the LLRZ is likely to be relatively narrow.

It is significant that no other greenfield Development Area in Darfield has the same 'futureproofing' infrastructure requirements in the District Plan. There is not an even playing field. A small premium on the sale price may be achieved in DEV-DA3 on account of visible differences in the added amenity compared with other locations in the Township (i.e. wider roads and more green space). However, the additional costs of added underground infrastructure, or even the denser and more costly road network required for potentially higher density future development are unlikely to translate into a greater willingness to pay by the market in the short-medium term given other alternative locations. As such, the developer is unlikely to be fully compensated for those additional infrastructure costs when sections are



sold, which erodes the profit margin able to be achieved, potentially risking the commercial feasibility of the development.

Savvy considers that the rather than incur those additional costs and financial risk, a landowner in DEV-DA3 may be inclined to leave the land undeveloped and wait for (or pursue) re-zoning as foreshadowed in the District Plan (or apply for a consent as the case may be). This potential unintended consequence of the DEV-DA3 provisions may have adverse effects, including opportunity costs, on Darfield's urban growth patterns.

Delaying development of this large and strategically located site in the Darfield urban area until such time as there are more commercially viable development rules in place is a worst-case, yet realistic counterfactual scenario if the substantive application for the Project is not approved. This outcome will have adverse flow-on effects for the economic wellbeing of the Darfield community by reducing the competitiveness of the housing market in the short-medium term (by taking out the opportunity for another greenfield development area to enter the market). It will also likely hamper the development of even more centrally located development areas in the north-west segment of Darfield²⁷ – an area that has yet to realise its urban development potential compared to other parts of the township (as evident in Figure 3.3) – further delaying opportunities for a more integrated and connected urban form.²⁸

Assuming that the landowner does take the risk of a low density development with higher density infrastructure investment, purchasers that are able to pay the higher unit cost for sections in DEV-DA3 are likely to weigh up:

- the value they place on having higher levels of service in terms of road widths and public space in the short-medium term.
- the reduced flexibility of developing their lot if building platforms are imposed,
- the potential changing character of the neighbourhood in the future (intensification will be ad hoc and uncoordinated and not necessarily pursued by some owners).
- potentially lower levels of visual amenity on private property across the development in the short-medium term and into the longer term. This is because a disbenefit of a transitional density approach is that section owners may take a conservative approach to property improvements such as landscaping to avoid wasting investment in the longer term if subdivision becomes possible.

²⁷DEV-DA6 and DEV-DA10.

²⁸The south-south-east segment is also lagging in development.



Figure 3.3 – Current Aerial Image of Darfield Township Showing Segmented Urban Form



~~The requirement to develop DEV-DA3 to a low density in the short-medium term also constrains the feasibility of providing shops, schools or even day care centres on the Site (should that be able to be consented under the District Plan). The need to recover higher infrastructure costs from a lower initial section yield will limit the feasibility of retaining some vacant sites for such land uses, which may not be sustainable in the short-medium term but that may be sustainable with future intensification in the long term. It is therefore more likely that no such amenities would be provided on the Site as part of a DEV-DA3 development.~~

A further disbenefit of front-loading the infrastructure for future intensification potential is that if roads and reserves are vested to the Council, the Council is then required to maintain that infrastructure but without the expected rates revenue in the short-medium term (or even the long term) that would help cover those Council costs. As well as creating financial risk for the developer, the provisions of DEV-DA3 may create financial risks for the Council in the short-medium term.

Overall, Savvy considers that relying on the transitional density approach to provide for future growth in the long term is inefficient and uncertain – due to compromising commercial feasibility, risking poor urban amenity outcomes and reducing housing affordability. The potential yield of an intensified future subdivision pattern on the Site is highly uncertain and contingent on a future plan change.



By comparison, the Bangor Village Project delivers a higher density development (7~~400-800~~ sections/dwellings) in the short-medium term with certainty, reduced risk, higher commercial feasibility and at a lower marginal price to the market than would be possible under DEV-DA3 requirements. [It better matches the infrastructure investment with the development yield in real time and ensures that development can be delivered sooner rather than later.](#)

Savvy does not consider it appropriate to attempt to quantify the net yield of the Project relative to some speculative longer term development outcome for DEV-DA3 – relying instead on the significant net yield of around 5~~7940-640~~ in the medium term discussed above.

3.2 Meeting Household Needs

Meeting housing needs is another criterion that may determine if a project meets the purpose of the Act (Section 22(2)(a)(iii)). The Project provides this benefit.

Section 2.2.2 above has identified that in the Darfield Township, recent household growth (i.e. between 2018 and 2023) has been concentrated in two household types – couples and 2-parent families. While one person households showed only minor growth during that period, they still account for the third highest type of households in Darfield, after couples and 2 parent households. One person households were also the largest component of household growth in the rest of the Darfield catchment since 2018. While single person households often reflect single elderly persons, Savvy estimates that the high incidence may also relate to farm workers.

The Journey to Work data shows that Darfield is an efficient location for workers throughout the Darfield Catchment (including in the primary industry sector) to live. As such, Darfield's future housing needs are likely to comprise a diverse mix of housing types over the medium and long term – from larger family homes to smaller compact homes for singles and couples. While retirement villages are not currently a feature of Darfield, this too may be a segment of increasing demand – serving the needs of elderly wishing to stay living in the Darfield Catchment.

Darfield's residential zoning (LLRZ and GRZ) provides appropriate opportunity to deliver a range of sections sizes.²⁹ Within the context of Darfield's zoning however, the Project proposes to deliver additional sections that fit within the spectrum of lot sizes expected in the GRZ, LLRZ and DEV-DA3 (Figure 3.2). It provides a diverse range of section sizes that add to and

²⁹ Although not the relatively smaller section sizes available in the main townships of the District like Rolleston, which are more likely to encourage smaller, compact homes, or attached housing typologies.



complement the wider housing offering in Darfield. In doing so, the Project provides for a range of household needs, and a range of section prices.

Importantly, it provides more small sections (akin to GRZ densities) in the short-medium term than would be possible under current zoning and DEV-DA3 provisions. As such, it will provide relatively more choice of location (and competition) for the 600-1,000sqm [lot size](#) housing sub-market in Darfield than under the status quo.

Housing need by price is also increasingly relevant in Darfield Township given rising residential dwelling and rent prices. While historically Darfield has provided relatively more affordable (and value for money) housing than in the district overall, median prices and mean rents are approaching (and at times exceeding) the district average. Delivering more smaller sections (including more competition in that sub-market) rather than larger sections in the short-medium term [in the counterfactual scenario for the site](#) is key to mitigating the rate of housing price rises in Darfield.

Compared with the DEV-DA3 provisions for the Site, the Project delivers relatively more affordable residential sections for the current and future Darfield community.³⁰ [This is because under status quo provisions for the site, more of the site's sections would be large lots, with correspondingly larger houses and higher overall section and dwelling costs.](#)

[The marginal price differences between Project outcomes and the status quo housing outcomes have not been quantified but have been informed by examination of recent sales data between new Large Lot Residential and General Residential Zone areas where differences in housing size and value are readily observed when section sizes differ.](#)

[Ultimately, the Project will be competing with new housing supply in other greenfield development areas in Darfield township and on that basis, it is expected that there will be a degree of similarity between house and land prices where they offer comparable section and dwelling sizes/qualities to the market. It is for this reason that this EA report has not focussed on comparison of Project dwelling prices with wider Darfield \(as was the approach taken in the Economic Peer Review for the Referral Application\).³¹](#)

³⁰ [I am not claiming that the Project delivers affordable housing per se \(i.e. relative to household incomes and ability to pay\). The project is expected to deliver market housing.](#)

³¹ [The Economic Peer Review sought to compare the potential dwelling values on the site against "the current average sales price in Darfield of \\$665,000" and on that basis, considered that the Project would not deliver more affordable housing than elsewhere in Darfield. The Peer Review took that sales figure from Appendix 4 of the EA report, which is in fact the median \(not average\) dwelling sales price for the Darfield CAU which covers only the central area of the Darfield township and not the newer subdivision areas that fall within the Kirwee CAU in that dataset. Notably, the Kirwee CAU had a median dwelling sales price of \\$805,500 at that time, and Appendix 4 states that my expectation is that the median price for the whole township likely fell between those two numbers.](#)



To reiterate, the Project will deliver a substantially more affordable mix of dwellings in the medium term in this part of Darfield Township than would otherwise be likely under current DEV-DA3 provisions.³² Across Darfield's total future housing estate), it therefore contributes more new housing supply at the lower end of the price range for Darfield and less new housing supply at the upper end of the price range associated with large lot residential sections. In this context, I consider the relative housing affordability benefit of the Project is a valid one.

3.3 Infrastructure Upgrades and Investment

Davie Lovell-Smith has advised both the nature and indicative financial cost of additional three waters and roading infrastructure planned to be delivered for the Project to mitigate its effects on existing infrastructure capacity while also providing wider economic benefits for the current and future Darfield community.

While further detail is provided in other technical reports, the key infrastructure recommendations are identified as:

- a) An upsized rising main as part of a pressurised wastewater network on the site. The site sits outside the gravity network catchment of the new (and emerging) wastewater network in Darfield. The proposed rising main is needed for the site to connect to the reticulated wastewater network that Council is extending through the township. A pressurised network on-site will provide better control of the volume and variability of flows to the Pines Treatment Plant (net additional cost of the upsized rising main (relative to the counterfactual development of the site) is indicatively \$250,000).
- b) A new water supply main between Bangor Road and the Council Water Supply Facility located on the northern boundary of the site. This pipe is proposed to be larger than technically required to service the demand of the proposed development (total cost estimated at \$330,000, with the net additional cost for the larger diameter pipe (relative to the counterfactual development of the site) estimated at \$165,000).

As confirmation of this, REINZ states (<https://www.realestate.co.nz/insights/canterbury/selwyn/darfield> (extracted on 24 May 2026)) that the current median sales price for the whole township is currently \$729,000. This median sales price has been within the range of \$590,000-\$880,000 over the last 12 months. Importantly, this median sales price includes a mix of older central dwellings (which have lower values) and new dwellings (which achieve higher values).

³²Indicatively, at 162 dwellings on lots of 6,000 as assumed for the site in the Council's HDCA capacity modelling (which is more linked to the underlying zoning rather than a subdivision plan that would be possible under DEV-DA3 provisions), this would, under my dwelling size assumptions, generate 100% of houses in the 300sqm size range, i.e. all at \$900,000 construction cost (less section price).



- c) Subject to NZTA confirmation at the time, an intersection upgrade where SH 73 and Bangor Road (SH 77) meet to manage the service and safety levels of that intersection with the additional vehicle traffic generated by the Project once it reaches 550 occupied lots (indicative cost \$1.2 million).³³
- d) An intersection upgrade where McLaughlins Road and Bangor Road meet to manage the service and safety levels of that intersection with the additional vehicle traffic generated by the Project (indicative combined cost of \$250,000).
- e) A new pedestrian crossing on Bangor Road connecting the site to the shared path on the southern side of Bangor Road. The cost of the crossing is included in (d) above.
- f) Shared path construction and upgrade along Bangor Road/SH 77 to the SH 73 intersection. This will enhance active transport (walking/cycling from the new pedestrian crossing to the High School and on to SH 73 (indicative cost of \$340,000).

These infrastructure costs are over and above the roading and reticulated service costs associated with the land development within the site (i.e. the civil engineering costs) that are already captured in the land development expenditure modelled in Section 3.4 of this EA report. In total, these infrastructure upgrades have a value estimated at \$2.370 million and will be paid for by the applicant (with no direct capital costs to Council or NZTA).³⁴ The direct expenditure will stimulate additional upstream flow-on economic impacts in the Selwyn District and regional economy (discussed further below).

In gross terms, the proposed additional infrastructure will generate economic benefits for the wider community (over and above servicing the needs of the Project). These benefits include:

- a) The additional capacity factored into the design of the wastewater rising main will enable the existing zoned land east of the site (circa 43 ha, zoned a combination of GRZ, LLLRZ and GIZ and comprising DEV-DA6 and DEV-DA10), and the circa 63 ha of Urban Growth Overlay north of the site, to connect and directly discharge to the Council's wastewater network as they also sit outside the gravity network catchment. These areas are mapped in Figure 3.4. Effectively, the proposed investment by the applicant ensures that the entire north-west segment of Darfield Township is infrastructure ready for wastewater as Council's pending installation of sewer pipes along the main roads (i.e. to the boundary of those land parcels) will not, in and of itself, be sufficient to enable those greenfield areas to connect to the wastewater scheme. This is a modest cost saving for those existing landowners of zoned and

³³ The final cost is not yet confirmed, but \$12 million is indicative of developing a new roundabout in 2026 prices.

³⁴ I have assumed no cost-sharing arrangements with Council for the purpose of this report.



future urban land adjacent to the site that will be passed on to future residents/businesses in those developments and will improve the commercial feasibility of development anticipated by the District Plan in those areas.³⁵

Figure 3.4 – Sewer Catchment Serviced by Proposed Upsized Rising Main on the Site



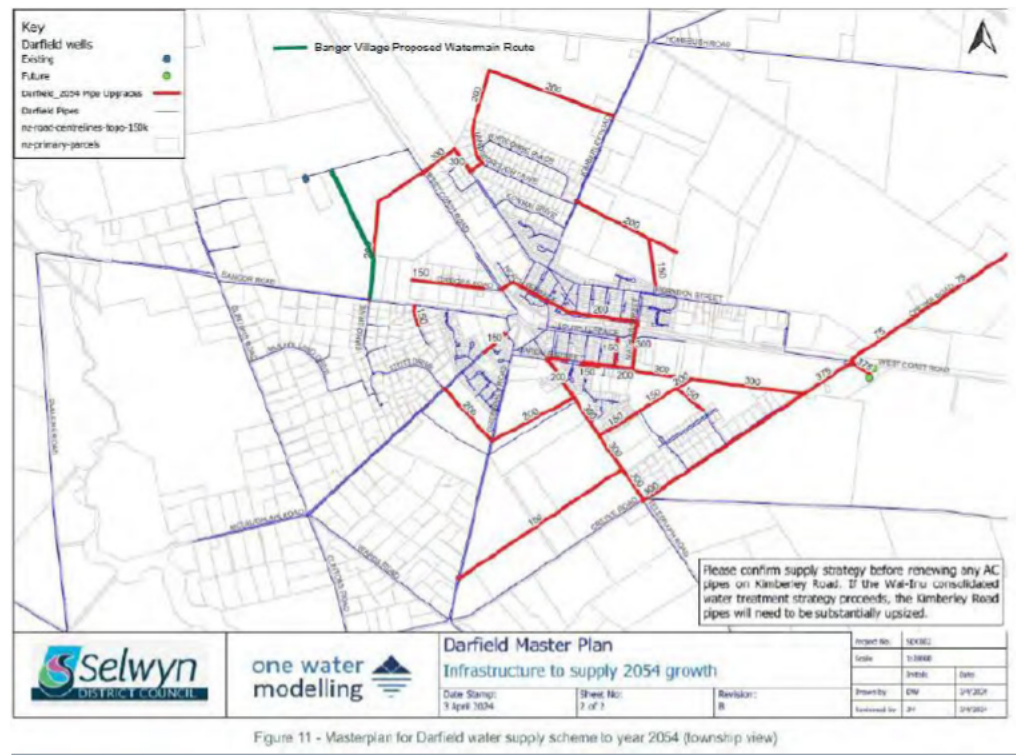
- b) Further intensification of land that is south and west of the SH 73 and SH 77 and that will be fed by the water supply facility north of the Project site (which includes some large areas of vacant residential development land) is anticipated to require upgrades to the existing pipe network to maintain levels of service. The larger diameter water supply main proposed by the applicant will not only provide an increased volume of flow to other parts of the reticulated network, but will provide a more direct route to the existing water supply facility, meaning a reduced distance for some future upgrades to the network to service growth (whereby they would only need to upgrade capacity to the Bangor Road connection). It is acknowledged that the Council has identified a new water supply pipe that enters the site opposite Piako Drive on Bangor Road and connects to West Coast Road in the Long Term Infrastructure Strategy (2054) (Figure 3.5). With the applicant installing a water supply main as part of the Project, the Council (ratepayers) will not be required to fund the identified pipe in the future, whilst benefiting from the increased capacity in the short term. While the alignment of the Project water supply main differs from the Council's

³⁵ Council's dwelling demand and capacity modelling assumed DEV-DA6 and DEV-DA10 are already commercially feasible, but the smaller land area of those sites (with lower dwelling yields) means that any infrastructure upgrades that they may have faced in the absence of the Project would have a greater relative impact on their commercial feasibility.



plans. I am advised by Davie Lovell-Smith that the applicant's pipe will create no disbenefits for Council in terms of the outcomes sought by the 2054 network strategy.

Figure 3.5 – Masterplan for Darfield Water Supply Scheme to year 2054 (Township View)
Showing Proposed Project Delivery of the Water Supply Main



- c) Congestion and accidents on the road network can be measured in economic (monetised terms). While unquantified, the wider economic benefits of the proposed intersection upgrades are improved levels of service/network efficiency and safety for all users of those intersections, including but not limited to, existing and future residents south of Bangor Road that use those intersections. Both upgrades have the effect of potentially facilitating development in other growth areas that may also be expected to increase traffic at the two intersections (i.e. DEV-DA10 and the western side of DEV-DA4) by lowering development costs. The upgrade of the McLaughlin Road intersection is required now and is not contingent on any development taking place on the site. The applicant is volunteering to fund this upgrade as part of the Project. By shifting the capital cost of the intersection upgrade to the applicant, scarce public funds are preserved for alternative uses.
- d) Both the intersection upgrades and the shared path upgrade will improve pedestrian and cycle connectivity which will be particularly beneficial for current and future High School students living north and east of SH 73 as well as current and future residents/students that use the shared path along Bangor Road.



Overall, these wider economic benefits generated by the Project's infrastructure investments will be experienced over extensive areas of the current and future Darfield community.

It is important to acknowledge that under the status quo provisions (counterfactual), and as discussed above, DEV-DA3 anticipates some infrastructure investment that would provide for longer term intensification of the site (in addition to any infrastructure upgrades that would be necessary (if any) to mitigate externalities of the development on the wider roading, water supply and wastewater networks).

While it is not known what Council may consider appropriate future proofed infrastructure if the site was developed as anticipated by the District Plan, Davie Lovell-Smith has indicated that some sort of wastewater pipe connection³⁶ and larger diameter water supply pipe (although not as large as the one proposed) may have been the sort of investment required under the counterfactual to address the gravity constraints and at least match the water supply capacity already identified in the 2054 Infrastructure Strategy. This is assuming that development of the site anticipated by DEV-DA3 would be required to connect to the wastewater network (to avoid proliferation of septic tanks) even if some of the lots in the short-medium term would have been of a sufficient size to allow for onsite dispersal.³⁷

Conversely, it is not likely that under status quo development provisions for the site that the oversized wastewater rising main and SH 73-SH 77 intersection upgrade would have been required, nor the pedestrian crossing or shared path upgrade.

This means in net terms (should the counterfactual scenario be relevant to the evaluation), the wider economic benefit of the proposed water supply connection described above is not necessarily fully net additional or attributable to approval of the Project.³⁸ However, the wider benefits of the upsized wastewater rising main, pedestrian crossing, shared path upgrade, and both roading intersection upgrades are net additional and attributable to the approval of the Project.

While the above infrastructure costs/upgrades are not expected to incur any direct capital costs to Council, the Economic Peer Review (Referral Application) identified that long-term operational funding burdens of Project infrastructure on ratepayers should also be considered. I have been advised from Davie Lovell-Smith that:

³⁶ The cost of a standard water pipe connection was already accounted for in the civil engineering cost assumptions used to model employment value added impacts of construction (i.e. land development).

³⁷ I have seen references on a Council webpage to not requiring large lot residential properties to connect to the new wastewater scheme, but I am unsure if this this exception is targeted at existing large lot residential areas or applies to new large lots in greenfield development areas.

³⁸ Under an alternative but potentially realistic counterfactual of no development on DEV-DA3 for at least the short-medium term, the gross benefits of that infrastructure are also the net benefits in that time frame.



- a) Upgrades to the capacity of the wastewater treatment plant are already being planned to cater for Darfield's growth, and so no net additional costs are attributable to the Project over the long term.
- b) No upgrades of the water supply facility on the northern boundary of the site will be required to enable the Project.
- c) All infrastructure on the site will be vested to Council. The larger diameter water and wastewater pipe do not generate any greater whole of life costs for Council to maintain. All infrastructure will be designed to Council standards and under Council approval to ensure operational costs are minimised. Generally, the rates paid by the properties the water supply main and wastewater rising main will serve are expected to easily cover operational costs. The same applies to maintaining roading and reserves within the site.

Considering the likely full lifecycle costs of the proposed infrastructure, no net additional funding or long-term financial burdens (disbenefits) are anticipated for the Council, ratepayers or NZTA because of the Project.³⁹

3.3.3.4 Construction Economic Impacts on the Economy

This section quantifies the economic impact associated with the development of the Project, if approved. Core tangible economic impacts arising from the Project are the indicative GDP or Value Added⁴⁰ and employment impacts of:

- completing any further/final engineering designs, compliance checks and Council approvals (a short term impact indicatively taking 6 months prior to land development being initiated),
- completing the land development of the Site (inclusive of reticulated infrastructure within the Site) over a number of civil construction stages (a short-medium term impact indicatively spread over 8 years), ~~and~~
- completing infrastructure upgrades required to develop the site or volunteered by the applicant (discussed above), and

³⁹ This contrasts with potential risks described in this EA report of relatively lower ratepayer revenue to cover the costs of future-proofed infrastructure on the site under the status quo planning provisions.

⁴⁰ Value added refers to the additional value created at each stage of production, while GDP measures the total market value of all final goods and services produced within a country during a specific period. Value Added is useful for understanding the economic contribution of specific sectors or industries without risk of double counting and is often used in productivity analysis.



- completing the construction of ~~74100~~ ~~800~~ dwellings (each a short term impact but cumulatively spread over an estimated 10 years in total as land development stages are completed, and beginning one year after completion of stage 1 of the land development).

As such, the construction economic impacts of the Project will accrue over an indicative period of around 11.5 years.

Savvy acknowledges that GDP/Value Added and employment impacts are not 'economic benefits' in a strict economic sense. Aspects of GDP/Value Added and employment contribute to wellbeing, but not all aspects. Further detail is provided in Appendix 5 which contains a framework setting out (at a high level) how the different components of GDP generated by a residential development can enhance or detract from wellbeing. These aspects (costs and benefits) are discussed further in Section 4.

However, for the purposes of this section, MfE has indicated⁴¹ that GDP (or Value Added) and employment *are* the metrics they are looking for when considering the economic significance of applications seeking referral under the Act. It is therefore assumed that these same metrics would also be relevant to substantive applications and contribute to the sorts of economic benefits Government was anticipating from projects approved under the Act. Estimated Value Added and employment impacts of the Project have therefore been quantified.

The following assumptions have been used to quantify the indicative gross economic impacts of the land and housing construction stages of the Project:

- ~~74100~~ ~~800~~ lots delivered and all lots contain a dwelling. Savvy has calculated an average building size⁴² of 2153sqm across all the section sizes and an average residential construction cost of \$3,000/sqm.
- Any further design, planning work and local council approvals (if relevant) take place indicatively over 6 months following Fast Track approval. The land development takes place indicatively over 8 years (in 10 civil construction stages, with the majority of infrastructure upgrades occurring in the first construction stage and the SH intersection upgrade occurring indicatively in year 7-8) and the construction of buildings occurs indicatively over 10 years.⁴³ Total development period of 11.5 years.
- Savvy has applied land development costs incurred on the Site that have been provided by the applicant, and assumed that any further planning, design and local

⁴¹ RMLA Fast Track Act Roadshow, response to questions at the Queenstown fixture.

⁴² With input from the applicant.

⁴³ This may be longer or shorter, but the economic impacts will be the same when undiscounted.



approvals indicatively equate to 1% of estimated land development costs (excluding infrastructure upgrades). ~~Offsite infrastructure investment (to be covered by the applicant) has not been included at this time due to insufficient detail on those costs.~~

Further explanation, assumptions, limitations and caveats of Savvy's approach are set out in Appendix 6. In summary, using multiplier analysis, Tables 3.1 and 3.2, and Figure 3.36 show the indicative direct, indirect, induced and total economic impacts of the land development, infrastructure upgrades and dwelling construction of the Project. All impacts are expressed in 2020 dollar terms. In gross terms, it is estimated that the Project could:

1. Contribute up to \$₂₀₂₀ ~~434-496~~ 458 million in total value added⁴⁴ to the Canterbury economy over an indicative 11.5 years depending on the final dwelling yield. This has an estimated net present value ("NPV") of \$₂₀₂₀ ~~27258-295~~ million at an 8% discount rate.⁴⁵
2. As a component of value added, generate up to total wages/salaries for Canterbury households to the value of \$₂₀₂₀ ~~21604-234~~ million over 11.5 years. This has an estimated net present value of \$₂₀₂₀ ~~1292-139~~ million at an 8% discount rate.
3. Sustain total employment up to ~~for around 3,455~~ 270-3,740 FTE-years⁴⁶ across a broad range of sectors in Canterbury (or equivalent to around ~~285-325~~ 300 full-time workers (on average) for 11.5 years).

⁴⁴ Total economic contributions include direct, indirect and induced impacts.

⁴⁵ Although the Project is not a public investment project, discounting is based on the current recommended public investment discount rate of 8%, with sensitivity testing at 2% (Treasury).

⁴⁶ Full Time Equivalent job.



Table 3.1 – Direct, Indirect, Induced and Total Economic Impacts of the Development of the Project on the Canterbury Economy (\$2020, Undiscounted)

	Direct Impact	Indirect Impact	Induced Impact	Total Impact
Design/Planning/Consents				
FTEs (annual average)	7.6	4.6	4.0	16.2
Value Added (\$ ₂₀₂₀ m)	\$ 0.6	\$ 0.3	\$ 0.3	\$ 1.2
Gross Household Income (\$ ₂₀₂₀ m)	\$ 0.3	\$ 0.2	\$ 0.1	\$ 0.6
Land Development				
FTEs (annual average)	28	38	22	88
Value Added (\$ ₂₀₂₀ m)	\$ 28.2	\$ 40.5	\$ 24.7	\$ 93.4
Gross Household Income (\$ ₂₀₂₀ m)	\$ 19.3	\$ 20.6	\$ 9.4	\$ 49.2
Infrastructure Upgrades				
FTEs (annual average)	5	7	4	15
Value Added (\$ ₂₀₂₀ m)	\$ 0.6	\$ 0.9	\$ 0.5	\$ 2.0
Gross Household Income (\$ ₂₀₂₀ m)	\$ 0.4	\$ 0.4	\$ 0.2	\$ 1.0
Dwelling Construction				
FTEs (annual average)	53	162	58	273
Value Added (\$ ₂₀₂₀ m)	\$ 76.8	\$ 201.9	\$ 82.7	\$ 361.4
Gross Household Income (\$ ₂₀₂₀ m)	\$ 31.7	\$ 101.9	\$ 31.4	\$ 165.0
Total Project (Undiscounted)				
FTEs - Years	755	1,937	764	3,455
Value Added (\$ ₂₀₂₀ m)	\$ 106	\$ 244	\$ 108	\$ 458
Gross Household Income (\$ ₂₀₂₀ m)	\$ 52	\$ 123	\$ 41	\$ 216

Source: StatisticsNZ, Savvy Consulting, Client Inputs. Results are in \$2020 and employment terms.

A large share of these economic impacts is expected to be felt in the Selwyn District. The district has a large construction sector (on account of the strong population growth) and a constant stream of development projects are needed to sustain that industry. The Project is expected to make a significant contribution to the short-medium term construction pipeline in Darfield and will contribute to sustaining the sector in the district more generally.



Figure 3.63.3 – Total Value Added Impacts of the Development of the Project on the Canterbury Economy (\$2020, Undiscounted) by Year ~~(Low Yield Scenario)~~

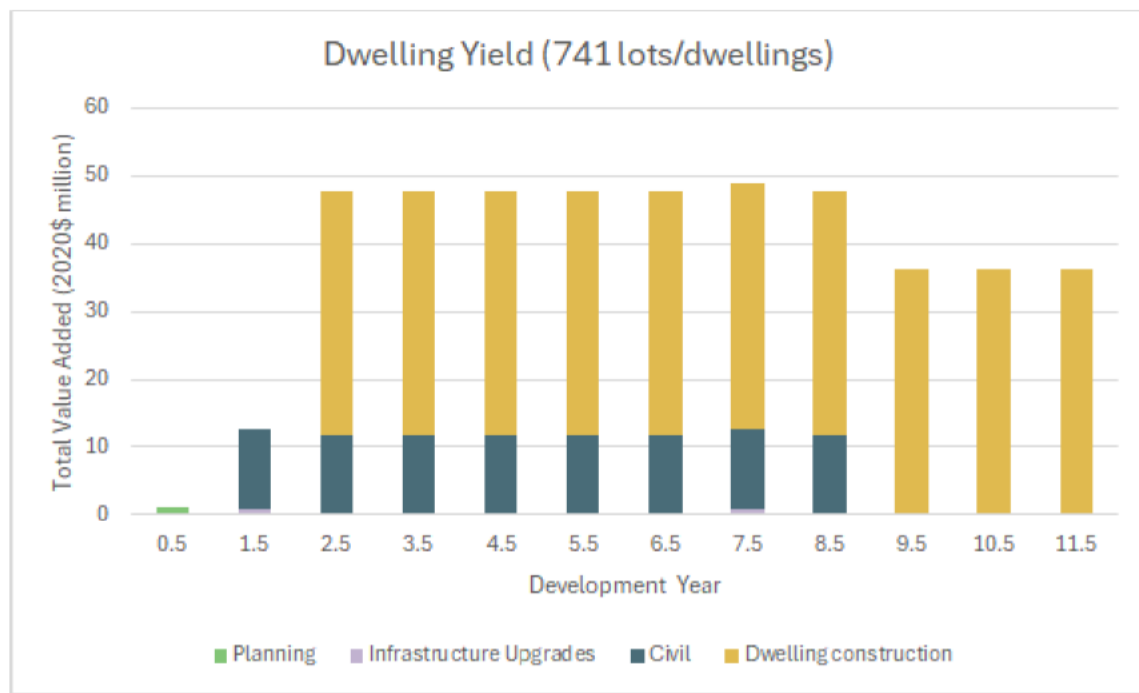


Table 3.2 – Net Present Value of Total Value Added and Household Income Impacts

<i>Yield Scenario:</i>	<i>Low (700)</i>	<i>High (800)</i>	<i>(741)</i>
	<i>Total</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Total</i>
	<i>Impact</i>	<i>Impact</i>	<i>Impact</i>
	<i>(\$m)</i>	<i>(\$m)</i>	<i>(\$m)</i>
Total Direct, Indirect & Induced Value Added			
Value Added (\$₂₀₂₀m) - Undiscounted	\$ 434	\$ 496	\$ 458
Present Value (8% Discount Rate)*	\$ 258	\$ 295	\$ 272
Present Value (2% Discount Rate)*	\$ 378	\$ 432	\$ 399
Gross Household Incomes (\$₂₀₂₀m) - Undiscounted	\$ 204	\$ 234	\$ 216
Present Value (8% Discount Rate)*	\$ 122	\$ 139	\$ 129
Present Value (2% Discount Rate)*	\$ 178	\$ 204	\$ 188

Source: Savvy Consulting. * These are the Treasury discount rates for commercial developments, although apply to public sector developments not private sector developments.

Savvy notes that in terms of what weight should be given to the quantified gross economic impacts related to infrastructure updates of the Project shown in Table 3.1 (from a benefits perspective), a small portion (7%) is not net additional to upgrades likely under status quo provisions (i.e. the counterfactual), and a large share of the remainder is to mitigate the impacts of the Project on the roading network. However, around 21% of the gross infrastructure impacts relates to volunteered upgrades that provide wider community benefits.



3.4.1 Effect of Slower Dwelling Construction (Sensitivity Test)

Section 3.4 above has modelled indicative gross economic impacts that would be associated with a single scenario of development timing that covers final engineering/plan approvals, staged land development followed by dwelling construction to give a total development period of 11.5 years (until fully occupied). The Economic Peer Review challenged the dwelling construction build out rate (i.e. 10 years of elapsed time) on the basis that that scenario would account for an unusually high market share of annual projected housing growth in Darfield in their view over the medium term.

The Economic Peer Review noted the two total Darfield housing demand scenarios described in the EA report being:

- a) Selwyn District Council's SRDCM 2023 dwelling demand scenario of 53 new dwellings on average per annum (excluding the margin) in Darfield over the medium term;⁴⁷ and
- b) the recent dwelling consent trends over the last four years for Darfield averaging 86 dwellings per annum, assumed to hold constant over the medium term.⁴⁸

The latest (2025) StatisticsNZ population growth projections for the Selwyn District are now substantially higher than when the Council last modelled housing demand across the district's urban areas. In light of the release of higher population projections, and a trend for Darfield township to capture a growing share of population growth within the wider Darfield catchment, I consider that the recent consent trends (scenario b above) are the more reliable of the two housing demand scenarios for Darfield for the medium term. It is on that basis that I consider that the build-out scenario of 10 years modelled in the EA report, and the implied market share of township growth that the Project may capture during that period, are reasonable and not fanciful for a master planned development in that location.

That said, if housing construction does take longer than modelled in the EA report, that will spread the same quantum of construction expenditure over a greater number of years and therefore reduce the economic impacts that flow from construction expenditure in any one year, although not in total. This in turn will have an impact on the NPV of those total modelled economic impacts.

To show how a slower development rate would impact on NPVs of land development and construction Valued Added impacts, Table 3.3 below includes the reported development scenario and an indicative slower build-out scenario (extending it by another 4 years). The

⁴⁷ Described in Section 2.3.1 of this EA report. This scenario was developed by the same peer review company.

⁴⁸ Refer Section 2.3.2 of this EA report, with data analysis in Appendix 4.



[relative market share of annual household growth of the Project within Darfield is included for context.](#)

[Table 3.3 – Example of how Net Present Value of Value Added Impacts Alter with Slower Development Timeframes](#)

Average Dwellings Per Annum		Bangor Village Market Share of Darfield Township Dwelling Growth		Total Value Added (undiscounted), 2020 dollar terms, millions	NPV of Total Value Added (8% discount rate), 2020 dollar terms, millions, base year is 2026
		SRDCM 2023 Medium-term, Annual Average, Excl Margin (53 Dwellings)	Darfield SA2 Average Annual Dwelling consents 2021-2025 (86 Dwellings)		
Low Dwelling Yield (700)					
Report Scenario - land development 8 years, dwelling construction 10 years	70	132%	81%	\$ 434	\$ 258
Slower Scenario - land development 10 years, dwelling construction 14 years	50	94%	58%	\$ 434	\$ 230
High Dwelling Yield (800)					
Report Scenario - land development 8 years, dwelling construction 10 years	80	151%	93%	\$ 496	\$ 295
Slower Scenario - land development 10 years, dwelling construction 14 years	57	108%	66%	\$ 496	\$ 263
Final Yield (741)					
Report Scenario - land development 8 years, dwelling construction 10 years	74	140%	86%	\$ 458	\$ 272
Slower Scenario - land development 10 years, dwelling construction 14 years	53	100%	62%	\$ 458	\$ 241

Slower development scenario indicative only.

[Table 3.3 shows that if, indicatively, the dwelling construction was spread over 14 years, say, instead of 10 \(and with land development staging and the SH intersection upgrade slowed in conjunction with this\), the NPV of total direct, indirect and induced Value Added impacts decreases from \\$272 million to \\$241 million for a total yield of 741 dwellings. Such a change is not material to the overall conclusions that these construction impacts – which reflect the gross economic activity that would flow from the Project's development – are significant in the context of district and regional development Projects.](#)

[The Economic Peer Review adopted an alternative construction impact scenario for the Project, suggesting that the build-out period for the Project could be 23 years, twice as long as the 11.5 years I have modelled in conjunction with client input. At a total yield of 741 dwellings, a 23 year total development time frame, with the same 1.5 year assumption of elapsed time](#)



before the first dwellings would be constructed, equates to 21.5 years for all housing to be constructed (instead of the 10 years that I modelled as my core assumption). This equates to an average build rate of 34 dwellings per annum.

I consider that this represents an overly conservative scenario of how housing developments can progress in Darfield by an experienced and motivated developer. By way of example, the two Google Earth aerial images below (Figures 3.7 and 3.8) look at the development that has occurred in DEV-DA1 in Darfield over a 55 month elapsed period. I count 230 new dwellings between those two time periods. Even if staged dwelling development started in March 2021 (which it did not given the clear absence of any roads) this would be an average rate of 50 new dwellings per year. Compressed into a shorter period (once the first stage of land development was completed and titles were released) this rate would be higher 50 dwellings/annum and likely similar to the growth rate I modelled for the purpose of construction impacts for the Project (74 dwellings/annum).

Figure 3.7 – Aerial Photo Dated 20th March 2021 – DEV-DA1 (Google Earth)⁴⁹



⁴⁹ Aerial photos are not available at regular intervals or as a continuum over time. The March 2021 photo is the last available image prior to greenfield housing development beginning on the DEV-DA1 site.



Figure 3.8 – Aerial Photo Dated 2nd September 2025 – DEV-DA1 (Google Earth)



DEV-DA1's development was the main focus of housing growth in that time period in Darfield but was not the exclusive location of housing growth. This shows that there is an element of 'turn taking' in the development market, which is a normal market response to limit flooding the market with supply (as it drives down prices and therefore commercial returns) and to manage the capacity of the construction sector. This nearby example shows that the high, but not exclusive, market share of growth that I applied for the Project (and based on the consent trend demand scenario) is not unreasonable for development patterns occurring in Darfield.

Based on this further analysis, I maintain that the assumed development time period and therefore NPV of Value Added impacts set out in this EA report are reasonable. Further, Hughes Development is an experienced developer in the Selwyn District and their staging assumptions are based on their understanding of that market. If a slightly longer (but potentially still commercially feasible) development period such as I have illustrated in Table 3.3 above was to apply, then the reduction in NPV does not lead me to change my conclusions on the relative scale of the Project's gross construction impacts.

3.4.2 Transfer of Housing Demand

Savvy acknowledges that depending on when the development of the Site occurs, it may be transferring a portion of the economic impacts that would have been generated on other residential development sites (i.e. it is sustained by a transfer of net housing demand). This occurs when the development competes for demand at the same time as other developments. However, competition in the market is considered positive in economic terms,



and as such, transfer effects of construction impacts are not considered to detract from the economic impacts or significance of the Project.

While all of the economic impacts generated by the Project are not necessarily net additional to the economy, as far as a large scale residential developments go the gross impacts are considered significant in absolute terms.⁵⁰

The economic context is also relevant. GDP in Selwyn District is at an all-time high of \$4,040.8 million in the YE March 2024 and in most years, outperforms economic growth rates at the national average.⁵¹ However, growth between 2023 and 2024 was just 2.4%, the lowest annual growth percentage in the district since 2008-2009, and a steep drop in growth compared to the growth between 2022 and 2023 (5.6% growth).

This has been followed a further reduction of growth in the YE March 2025 (just 0.8% growth)⁵². While this was still better than the 1.1% decline in GDP nationally in that year, any further declines will result in Selwyn's economy stalling and potentially contracting. Attracting investment, such as proposed by the Project, will be important in sustaining GDP, and stimulating economic growth and confidence across a range of industries.

⁵⁰ In percentage terms, they equate to only 1% of the GDP of Selwyn District and a lower share again of the Canterbury Region GDP.

⁵¹ Source: <https://rep.infometrics.co.nz/selwyn-district/economy/growth?compare=new-zealand>

⁵² Source: <https://www.chrislynchmedia.com/news-items/selwyn-defies-national-downturn-with-strong-economic-growth-across-key-sectors/>



4 Conclusions

This section brings together the baseline assessment of Darfield and its wider Catchment and the assessment of the Bangor Village Project's contribution in that context, to draw conclusions on the economic benefits and costs of the Project and their significance. While costs and benefits have been identified, not all are able to be quantified or expressed in monetary terms.

4.1 Counterfactuals and Transfer Effects

4.1.1 Further Discussion on the Counterfactual Scenario

The focus [of Sections 4.3 and 4.4 below](#) is on benefits and costs to economic wellbeing that are over and above the status quo ([counterfactual](#)) in the medium term. This includes changes that apply to the Site and/or at the Darfield/wider district level that are attributable to the Project. [That is, the framing of economic benefits \(and costs\) has taken account of the unique planning and development context of the site. It has done this by considering a counterfactual scenario specific to the site, in terms of how it might be expected to develop in the absence of the Project.](#) This approach helps to avoid over stating economic benefits and costs.

[In response to the Economic Peer Review \(Referral Application\) the following further discussion on the role of counterfactuals in economic assessment under the Act is included.](#)

[It is acknowledged that in some recent Fast Track decisions⁵³ the relevance of counterfactual scenarios to the assessment of regional or national benefits has been considered, including whether gross or net benefits \(i.e. relative to counterfactual\) should be given more weight.⁵⁴ In the draft decision on Homestead Bay, the panel accepted legal advice that \[390, 392\]:](#)

- [a. There is no express statutory requirement in the FTAA to adopt or apply a particular counterfactual.](#)

⁵³ [Waihi North, Homestead Bay \(draft\), and Ashbourne.](#)

⁵⁴ [This should not be confused with recent decisions \(such as the Ayrburn Screen Hub\) that talk about gross versus net economic benefits in the context of whether full cost benefit analysis \("CBA"\) of Projects should be applied. In that context, the prevailing view is that netting wider project externalities \(such as social, cultural and environmental impacts\) from gross economic benefits in a CBA – to determine net benefits – double counts those impacts when it comes to applying s 85\(3\). Notwithstanding that, there are now several decisions that state that economic costs and disbenefits can \(where comparable\) be netted off gross economic benefits. Any economic costs and disbenefits that are not comparable to economic benefits can be treated as adverse impacts for the purpose of s 85\(d\).](#)



- b. When a panel identifies the benefits that a project will deliver it is implicitly asking what the position would be without the project, therefore explicit consideration of one or more counterfactual scenario may be a useful evaluative tool.
- c. It is open to a panel to conclude that a proposal delivers regional or nationally significant benefits irrespective of which counterfactual is adopted or irrespective of a counterfactual (i.e. they may choose to rely on net or gross benefits).
- d. In evaluating net economic benefits using a counterfactual scenario, the current planning status and use of the site is “the most concrete reference point” and can be considered the ‘base case’ or “baseline against which to measure the additional housing, infrastructure and economic activity generated by the project” [396].

I consider that if a counterfactual scenario is applied in the evaluation of economic benefits of the Project, that the status quo planning provisions are the relevant starting point. Two different perspectives could be taken:

- 1. Comparing the development outcomes of the Project against a worst-case counterfactual of no likely development of the site in the short-medium term because of the potential commercial implications of those status quo provisions. This is akin to adopting the gross benefits of the Project (i.e. the benefits delivered by 741 residential sections and associated dwellings and infrastructure upgrades compared with no dwelling or infrastructure likely supplied on (or near) the site in the short-medium term).
- 2. A more conservative approach is to compare the development outcomes of the Project against the status quo development form anticipated by the District Plan (despite being unlikely to meet the commercial feasibility test in practice).⁵⁵

The more conservative option (2) has been adopted to describe net Project economic benefits in this EA report (Section 4.3 below), on the basis that a status quo planning baseline is more consistent with RMA assessment principles. Gross benefits are still readily interpreted from the EA report in my view despite taking this net benefits approach, and in some cases both the gross and net benefits have been explicitly quantified.

This approach means that the EA report has focussed on comparing development outcomes of the Project in terms of differences in site density, yield, housing typology, amenity, commercial feasibility, affordability, and market competition effects relative to those outcomes anticipated on the site under the status quo provisions. Where appropriate these

⁵⁵ While the Council’s dwelling demand and capacity modelling treated the site as commercially feasible, this high level model does not appear to have taken into account the implications of the planning provisions for DEV-DA3.



different development outcomes are also considered in the context of Darfield's wider development patterns and economic wellbeing. For example, the EA report describes how the Project increases the overall dwelling capacity (efficiency) of zoned urban land in Darfield relative to the status quo provisions and in turn delays the need for live zoning of Future Growth Overlays that will remove highly productive land used for land based primary production.

I clarify this approach as, at times, the Economic Peer Review (Referral Application) focussed on the similarities (and therefore less distinguishable benefits) of the development outcomes of the Project to other recent greenfield development areas in Darfield, rather than the material changes that the Project's approval would deliver on the DEV-DA3 site. That is not the correct assessment lens in my opinion as it disregards a relevant counterfactual and at the same time, ignores the gross benefits delivered by the Project. That said, the EA report also acknowledges that the Project deliberately seeks to deliver housing supply that is complementary to other zoned land in Darfield (and particularly the GRZ) for the very reason that that density is:

- a. more appropriate for the central/accessible location of the site; and
- b. more closely meets projected housing needs in Darfield (in terms of type, price and relative affordability) in the short-medium (and long) term relative to greater supply of large lot residential sections anticipated on the site by the District Plan in the short-medium term.

Overall, this EA report reflects a spatially explicit approach to assessing the economic effects of the Project with site specific and wider economic benefits and costs/disbenefits carefully distinguished and expressed in net terms.⁵⁶ This is a conservative approach to ensure that economic benefits are not overstated while acknowledging the position taken in recent FTAA decisions that a counterfactual is not a requirement and gross economic benefits may be a valid basis for evaluation. In any event, I consider that net economic benefits of the Project meet the threshold of being regionally significant for a housing project. Therefore, a gross benefit approach would only strengthen that conclusion.

4.1.2 Transfer and Displacement Effects

Whether transfer or displacement effects (such as transferring housing demand from other locations to the Project site (if approved)) are treated as a 'counterfactual scenario' or part of 'the counterfactual scenario' depends on how the counterfactual scenario is described and

⁵⁶ The economic impacts of construction catalysed by the development (which are described separately from economic wellbeing benefits) are still presented in gross terms.



used in an economic assessment. In the case of this EA report, the counterfactual is (to be conservative) focussed on the alternate development outcome of the site itself (using baseline or status quo zoning provisions as discussed above). In this context, even development of the site under the counterfactual scenario would have resulted in transfer effects (competition) of housing demand, so the 'process' of transfer effects is not unique to the Project being approved in this case.⁵⁷ In residential consent applications where the land was not already zoned for housing, different approaches to potentially useful counterfactuals and transfer/displacement effects may apply i.e., it will be context specific.

This section provides further discussion around the issues of transfer effects, whether the Project influences Darfield's growth drivers, the relevance of urban growth displacement effects and the net additionality of economic benefits and construction impacts.

The EA report acknowledges that there is a large quantum of residential development capacity already zoned in the Darfield township relative to expected housing demand.⁵⁸ Under the status quo planning provisions, the site (DEV-DA3) contributes to that development capacity, but only to a minor extent relative to the Project master plan (and for a narrower range of section sizes and dwelling types). In proposing to increase the capacity (yield) and diversity of section sizes on the DEV-DA3 site, the following points are relevant:

- a. There are no material risks (disbenefits) to increasing the surplus of housing development capacity so long as the capacity contributes to a well-functioning urban environment and, in this case, the developer bears the cost of necessary infrastructure investments and upgrades.
- b. The Project will not influence the growth trajectory of Darfield. Increasing housing capacity in a township with surplus capacity and no likely latent demand, and where that proposed additional capacity is complementary to other forms of dwelling capacity already provided, would not have any impact on underlying housing demand. It will not attract any household growth from beyond the township (i.e. from elsewhere in Selwyn District or Greater Christchurch) than would otherwise have been expected based on recent trends – rather, it simply gives those new households more choice of housing locations within Darfield.
- c. As the Project is responding to household growth in Darfield, not influencing the quantum of growth that Darfield attracts, no increase in car dependency (a potential

⁵⁷ One could argue that such transfer effects of status quo zoning are anticipated by the District Plan.

⁵⁸ See for example section 2.3.1



disbenefit) can be attributed to the Project. On the contrary, the Project ensures more people can live closer to the Darfield commercial zones over the long term.

- d. The Project does not “commit” dwelling growth to the site.⁵⁹ Rather, it provides a more intensive development opportunity to provide for housing growth in Darfield (as a permitted activity on the lots created). As stated above and in the EA report, the Project will compete for housing demand in the Darfield township – promoting a more competitive housing market at certain housing densities than the status quo DEV-DA3 provisions.⁶⁰
- e. In economic assessments, opportunity costs are sometimes discussed in the context of greenfield development reducing the opportunity for growth to occur in more central, intensified areas, particularly where a local authority has a policy framework to support intensified development options. This disbenefit does not apply in Darfield or to this Project, which is already zoned urban land. The Project will deliver more section sizes already being developed across other existing zoned areas in Darfield that better meet the nature of household demand growth and in a location that complements, rather than detracts from, good urban form outcomes, particularly with regard to encouraging more households to live close to the centre of town.
- f. The extent to which the Project may decrease the rate of development achievable in other zoned growth areas in Darfield which may adversely affect private sector cost recovery or change the commercial feasibility of already planned private development staging, is not a relevant economic disbenefit of the Project. This same process would apply under the status quo provisions if developed.⁶¹
- g. In terms of any growth sequencing risks and inefficiencies for publicly funded infrastructure investment (a potential concern raised by the Economic Peer Review), this would seem most relevant for wastewater infrastructure given that this infrastructure is relatively new in Darfield (discussed previously). Council is currently in the process of installing pipes that (as a priority over the existing residential areas) reach the boundary

⁵⁹ This was suggested in the Economic Peer Review. Applying assumptions that the residential dwelling build out rate may take place over a 10 year period, for example, is not saying that housing growth will be forced to occur on the site in that time period, only that it may be reasonable for it to capture that level of demand if sections are released in that time period.

⁶⁰ In the NPS-UD, competition and better meeting housing needs is considered a positive economic outcome.

⁶¹ Under the status quo, DEV-DA3 would compete mostly with other development areas containing Large Lot Residential Zone. Under the Project, it could compete with all greenfield development areas (containing both residential zones).



of current growth areas of Darfield to avoid further proliferation of septic tanks.⁶² Laying pipes in existing residential areas where septic tanks already exist is indicatively scheduled over the short, medium and long-term in three stages.⁶³ The growth areas shown (see link in footnote 69) as priority network extension areas cover all of the existing development areas of Darfield, inclusive of DEV-DA3. This suggests that the Project does not alter any sequencing of expenditure already planned by Council on wastewater network infrastructure.

I anticipate that a relevant consideration for Council will be the projected revenue from new wastewater connections needed to help recover the cost of the new wastewater pipeline from the treatment plant, the Darfield wastewater pump and initial pipework to the growth areas.⁶⁴ However, I consider that the likely effect of the Project on the potential rate of wastewater connections (and therefore revenue) coming from new residential growth areas in the township will be neutral on cost recovery for Council. As above, this is because the Project is not expected to impact the total annual growth of new housing on site sizes required to connect to the new wastewater scheme – only the location of where that growth may occur in Darfield in any one year. Any new connections to the wastewater scheme in the Project site would be expected to generate the same level and rate of revenue for Council as may be expected from status quo growth across Darfield over the short-medium term.

Based on the discussion above, and consistent with the findings of the EA report in Section 4.4, I consider that there are no economic disbenefits or opportunity costs that extend beyond Darfield that are attributable to the Project. Nor are there any economic disbenefits or opportunity costs within Darfield that I consider material or applicable, including in relation to infrastructure sequencing and public investment efficiency. In short, there are no material undesirable urban form outcomes from the housing supply proposed by the Project.

The Expert Panel for the Ashbourne Fast Track Application found (at paragraph [517] of its decision) that ‘displacement’ or transfer effects should be accounted for in economic benefit assessment but only if that displacement or transfer effect is determined to be an economic disbenefit. It went on to conclude that “if the displacement is not determined to be an economic disbenefit, then there is no requirement to account for it in an assessment of

⁶² [Grip.co.nz](#) shows that pipes have been laid on Telegraph and Kimberly roads to date, but I understand that pipes to DEV-DA3 will be in place to match Project timing.

⁶³ <https://www.selwyn.govt.nz/services/water/wastewater/darfield-wastewater>.

⁶⁴ This is particularly the case as cost recovery in existing residential areas will be lower and uncertain, as for most houses, paving to connect to the wastewater scheme will be optional.



significant regional or national benefits". The Homestead Bay decision adopted the Ashbourne approach.

I consider that the potential for transfer effects should be acknowledged (as a matter of best practice) and this is the approach in this EA report. I also acknowledged that the gross economic impacts arising from construction of the project would not necessarily be net additional to the economy.⁶⁵ However, I agree that viewing displacement from the perspective of 'disbenefits' is a useful approach for dealing with transfer effects/displacement under the Act (particularly for housing projects as housing supply is explicitly identified as meeting the purpose of the Act in s 22). On that basis, I consider that the following paragraph contained in Section 3.4 of the EA report is already aligned with Ashbourne approach (emphasis added):

"Savvy acknowledges that depending on when the development of the Site occurs, it may be transferring economic impacts that would have been generated on other residential development sites (i.e. it is sustained by a transfer of demand). This occurs when the development competes for demand at the same time as other developments. However, competition in the market is considered positive in economic terms, and as such, transfer effects of construction impacts are not considered to detract from the economic impacts or significance of the Project".

When setting aside transfer effects in accordance with the Ashbourne approach (due to no associated disbenefits in the spatial pattern of growth in the short-medium term), I maintain that the gross economic impacts arising from the construction of the Project (summarised below) are significant in absolute terms.

4.2 Summary of Construction Impacts

For completeness, the following economic 'impacts' are associated with the Project but are not necessarily wholly net additional to the economy or wholly attributable to the Project as they arise from investment that responds to projected housing demand that is assumed in this case to be able to be met elsewhere in Darfield, if not on the Site. These economic impacts are however an indicator of the **significant** scale of the development proposed (in gross terms) and reflect the economic activity that is expected to occur in Canterbury Region if approval is granted under the Act. That is, they are the economic impacts catalysed or delivered by approval of the Project.

⁶⁵ Further discussion on this approach can be found in Section 3.4 and Appendix 6 of the EA report.



- Investment associated with the Project supports the economic viability and growth of local and regional businesses and the economy overall (with total direct, indirect and induced value added estimated at up to \$45834–496 million spread over 11.5 years (or \$27258–295 million in net present (2020) value terms)).
- Supports jobs (estimated at an annual average of up to 285–325300 direct, indirect and induced FTEs for around 11.5 years) and household incomes in Canterbury Region (estimated at \$21604–234 million spread over 11.5 years (or \$1292–139 million in net present (2020) value terms)⁶⁶ that support household consumption.⁶⁷
- ~~— To the extent that there may be additional investment in off-site infrastructure to facilitate the development (with further detail pending), this would stimulate further value added and employment than quantified above. As such, the economic impacts of the project can be considered a minimum of economic stimulus.~~

Savvy notes that the Economic Peer Review repeatedly equated the economic impacts associated with the construction of the Project with the claimed economic benefits of the Project. On the contrary, the gross economic impacts are deliberately summarised here separately from the economic benefits of the Project set out in Section 4.3 below to ensure that they are not treated as wholly wellbeing benefits. The gross economic impacts of construction are reported as a useful indicator of the absolute scale of the Project if delivered (i.e., what upstream economic activity approval would catalyse). Appendix 5 of this EA report is however provided to help illustrate that while economic impacts are not wholly economic benefits, there is still a wellbeing benefit component to them.

4.14.3 Economic Benefits Attributable to the Project

Based on the assessment carried out for this report, and in the context of the perspective taken on the counterfactual scenario discussed above, Savvy considers that the Project will deliver a range of economic benefits. The economic benefits of the Project are summarised as follows and are not impacted by transfer or displacement effects and are net positive changes that are attributable to the Project that would not be realised under the status quo:

- Significantly Increasing standalone housing capacity and supply in Darfield to help meet housing needs and support a more competitive housing market generally, and specifically in the greenfield low density housing market in the short-medium term. The

⁶⁶ At an 8% discount rate.

⁶⁷ Household incomes form part of value added, so these two impacts are not additive. They do however contribute to economic wellbeing in different ways.



Project achieves this by providing significantly more commercially feasible housing development capacity in the short-medium term compared with the status quo planning provisions (an indicative ~~57940–640~~ net additional dwelling capacity based on Savvy's assumptions, out of a gross housing yield of ~~74100–800~~).⁶⁸

- Supporting the supply of relatively more affordable housing (to buy and rent) relative compared to status quo planning provisions in the short-medium term in a district facing steady increases in median house prices and mean rents, by avoiding costs associated with investment in potential future infrastructure being added to section prices in the short-medium term and by supplying more a mix of smaller sections with associated lower land prices.
- Contributing to a well-functioning urban environment by encouraging higher density development/intensification in the short-medium term (i.e. more efficient use of the land resource relative to the status quo planning provisions) in a location where households will have good accessibility to employment (including agricultural and agricultural product processing jobs), shops and services, schools, recreation and open space.
- ~~— While not examined in this report, the Project provides the opportunity for some of the convenience retail and schooling needs of the future Bangor Village community to be met within the Site, which will reduce reliance on car-based travel if they are developed in future.⁶⁹ These facilities would also benefit the wider community in that part of Darfield Township, as well as households from the wider Darfield environs/Catchment for whom that supermarket or school would be the closest to their point of entry to Darfield. Savvy considers that this opportunity benefit would be unlikely if the Site was developed under the existing provisions of DEV-DA3 for reasons discussed in Section 3.1.~~
- Savvy considers that the master planned development will result in a more cohesive community within the Site and a more attractive neighbourhood relative to the status quo planning provisions in the short-medium term. The development approach required for DEV-DA3 may lead to under-investment on private property and more

⁶⁸ Net effects assume that Development Area 3 would, in the counterfactual, have been developed despite the risks to commercial feasibility associated with a requirement to front-load infrastructure capacity to provide for potential future intensification. An alternative scenario is that the land is not developed in the short-medium term to await a plan change to increase the density.

⁶⁹ ~~The capital and operational expenditure impact of these potential activities has not been captured in the scope of this report and would be not additional to the land development and dwelling construction impact estimated.~~



sparsely located dwellings, particularly if future subdivision potential is anticipated (although not guaranteed).

- More intensive development of the Site in the short-medium term also reduces the marginal costs of the infrastructure and reserves planned within the Site, and the infrastructure upgrades required beyond the Site boundary (i.e., the proposed higher density increases the benefits of that new infrastructure relative to the cost of that investment).
- ~~At the time of drafting this report, the approach to connecting the Site to the Wastewater Treatment Plant had yet to be determined. Savvy understands that depending on which option is adopted, this~~ Infrastructure upgrades/-investment by the Applicant ~~will~~ may have wider benefits for the Darfield community over the long term by facilitating the development of other greenfield land and improving road and pedestrian accessibility, connectivity and safety. Such potential benefits ~~have not~~ are ~~not yet~~ been quantifiable.

Savvy considers that the economic benefits delivered by the Project (if approved) will, in aggregate, be significant at the local, district and regional level. Some of those benefits will continue to have a positive effect on economic and social wellbeing over the long term.

A further note on 'significance'

I consider that the way in which 'significance' is interpreted for housing-related projects under the FTAA requires a different approach from how significance may be measured for other applications under the Act.⁷⁰ Housing projects are by nature localised in terms of both demand and supply outcomes. They do not tend to generate ongoing economic benefits after the developments are completed and fully occupied (unlike industrial developments that contain new businesses or infrastructure projects that continue to support economic activity, for example).⁷¹ Yet the FTAA states that increasing the supply of housing, addressing housing needs, or contributing to a well-functioning urban environment, may be considered as criteria by which a project can be considered to have significant regional or national benefits and therefore meet the purpose of the Act.⁷²

While the Economic Peer Review sought to discount individual benefits as not being significant, the EA report does not claim that individually all of the economic benefits are

⁷⁰ I consider that the findings of the Waihi North decision [842-843] support my interpretation.

⁷¹ They may however continue to deliver social or environmental benefits into the long term. The infrastructure upgrades specific to this Project also have long-term economic benefits.

⁷² Section 22(2)(iii) FTAA. I acknowledge that Darfield is an urban area subject to urban form planning considerations but is not part of the Greater Christchurch urban environment.



significant. Rather, it is the aggregation of the economic benefits that I consider become significant in the context of Darfield, Selwyn District and Canterbury Region. That said, the net increase in housing supply (capacity) of 579 more standalone dwellings than would be expected by the current DEV-DA3 provisions is considered regionally significant in its own right.⁷³ The gross supply of 741 standalone dwellings is even more so. So too are the indicative gross economic impacts stimulated from the Project's delivery (i.e., construction).

4.24.4 Economic Costs Attributable to the Project

Savvy has considered the actual and potential economic costs /disbenefits of the Project, again relative to the status quo development anticipated on the Site in the short-medium term (the counterfactual). This includes regard to the components of GDP and employment impacts that do not enhance economic wellbeing (as set out in Appendix 5 and considered relevant to the Project).

While the Site is LUC 3, the land is already zoned for residential development and so the provisions of the NPS-HPL do not apply and there is no change in the loss of HPL for future generations that is not already anticipated by the District Plan. Nor is there any change in the loss of existing agricultural activity on the land relative to the status quo.

As residential development that will respond to housing demand, whether this occurs on the Site as currently enabled in DEV-DA3 (the counterfactual) or as proposed, or met elsewhere in Darfield (through transfer effects), the consumption of resources during the construction stages is likely to be the same (or similar) and so the development does not materially increase the consumption of resources (sustainable or otherwise) over the medium-long term.

To the extent that any negative wellbeing effects arise from employment associated with the Project (directly, indirectly or induced), these too are likely to apply under the counterfactualstatus-quo scenario.

~~Infrastructure costs on and off the Site will be met upfront by the applicant (and ultimately borne (equitably) by the purchasers of the sections who will directly benefit from that infrastructure). This is a neutral effect on economic wellbeing at the Darfield or wider Selwyn District level.~~

Overall, Savvy does not consider that there are any material adverse effects on economic wellbeing attributable to the Project. The Economic Peer Review did not lead me to alter this conclusion.

⁷³ 741 dwellings less an indicative 162 large lots.



4.34.5 Conclusions on Economic Significance

Primary industries (specifically farming) in Canterbury Region contribute more to GDP than any other region in New Zealand. Agriculture is the foundation of Selwyn's economy. Darfield is a Service Township whose role is to support, and provide a hub for, the Rural Townships and the surrounding rural farming area in its extensive Catchment (that covers three quarters of the Selwyn District's land area).

Housing growth in Darfield is first and foremost driven by growth in the primary production industry (including linked processing activity) in its Catchment, with that growth in households then stimulating additional rounds of growth (to meet the needs of a larger workforce and population). The growth prospects of Darfield Township are strongly tied to the growth prospects of the district's primary industries.

This pattern of economic growth and housing demand is expected to continue over the medium and long term and will see Darfield Township play an increasingly important role within the wider Darfield Catchment (as has already become evident in recent years). Ensuring a competitive and unconstrained housing market in Darfield that is aligned with household needs will increase the opportunity for workers in primary industry to live close to their workplaces and find suitable and affordable accommodation with the added benefits of the functional and social amenity provided by a KAC.

The Project will make a significant contribution to that housing market over the short-medium term, and the role it plays in supporting primary industry. The Project is a large scale [master planned](#) residential development that will deliver a range of section sizes to meet household needs. It provides a commercially feasible solution to realise more intensive residential growth in DEV-DA3 without the investment risks and adverse effects that are likely to arise from a 'lower density with future proofed infrastructure' development approach that speculates on future intensification being enabled and taken up.

Savvy considers that the Site is an efficient location for the proposed densities of housing development in the context of Darfield's existing and planned urban form. [The Project supports a well-functioning urban environment while also mitigating its effects on Darfield's network infrastructure and, based on my understanding, creating no financial burdens or disbenefits for Council's infrastructure investment and planning.](#) It does not extend the current urban boundary of the township and by ensuring more intensive use of already zoned land, it extends the time when rural Urban Growth Overlay areas located on HPL will need to be up-zoned (reducing primary production activity that the economy relies on).



Savvy considers that the Bangor Village Project can be supported from an economic perspective. Actual and potential economic benefits and costs that are attributable to Project (and over and above the status quo development scenario) have been assessed. Although not all economic benefits and costs are quantified, the costs [/disbenefits](#) on economic wellbeing are considered to be minimal.

[Importantly, the economic benefits and costs of the Project are not finely balanced in my opinion due the absence of any material economic costs or disbenefits. Overall, I consider that the Project's economic benefits are based on sound reasoning, are specific in the context in which they apply, and are not overstated.](#)

Savvy concludes that the Project delivers significant net economic benefits including but not limited to additional housing supply to the Selwyn District. Housing supply and the efficient growth of Darfield KAC is a regional issue, albeit one that is addressed at the district level. On that basis, the Project is considered to meet the significant regional benefits test.



Appendix 1 – Author CV

I (Natalie Hampson) am the owner and director and Savvy Consulting, which was established in November 2023. Prior to establishing Savvy, I was a director at Market Economics Limited. I have worked in the field of economics for over 20 years for commercial and public sector clients with a particular focus on economic assessment within the framework of the Resource Management Act (RMA). Since 2001 I have specialised in studies relating to land use analysis, assessment of demand and markets, the form and function of urban economies and growth, policy analysis, and evaluation of economic outcomes and effects, including costs and benefits.

I have considerable experience assessing economic costs and benefits of proposed plan changes, district plan reviews, structure plans, resource consents, fast track applications and policy proposals throughout New Zealand. I have been heavily involved in the preparation of HBAs in Rotorua and Queenstown. I have been contracted to provide inputs to (and peer review of) future development strategies. I was the co-author of the Section 32 assessment and Cost Benefit Analysis (CBA) for the proposed NPS-HPL. I was the author of the CBA for the proposed NPS-Indigenous Biodiversity and amendments to the NES-Plantation Forestry.

I have considerable experience carrying out economic assessments within Queenstown Lakes District (QLD) over the last 20 plus years and have been a resident in the district for 10 years. As such, I have a sound knowledge of the district's economic growth pressures and development patterns.

My private sector work in the district has included assessments in relation to plan changes, submissions and appeals in Frankton Flats (Plan Change 19), Remarkables Park (Plan Change 34), the Wakatipu Basin, and Wanaka. I provided economic assessment to support the Silverlight Studios Fast Track (Covid-19 Recovery) consent application. Recently, I have been involved as an expert witness in the Land Valuation Tribunal case regarding RPL's claim for compensation under the Public Works Act 1981 in respect of some Remarkables Park Limited (RPL) land taken by the Queenstown Airport Corporation (QAC) ("Lot 6"). I am also providing evidence for RPL for the change of a covenant that applies to land adjoining the Queenstown Airport.

My recent experience in Greater Christchurch includes (but is not limited to):



- Evidence on behalf of 5 submitters in the Waimakariri PDP hearings.
- Evidence on behalf of 2 submitters in the Christchurch City PC14 hearings.
- Evidence on behalf of 2 submission on the Selwyn District PDP hearings (industrial and LFRZ)
- Evidence on behalf on an appellant on the Selwyn District PDP (residential and commercial).
- Resource consent applications for Halswell North and North-West Belfast commercial centres. Various other commercial and residential consent application in Christchurch including the recent Woolworths consent application for Madras Street in St Albans.
- Multiple industrial plan changes and one residential plan change in Christchurch City.
- Assessment/evidence/advice to Christchurch International Airport Limited, including on property portfolio matters, regional policy frameworks and economic assessment to support resource consent applications.
- Assessment/evidence/advice to Lyttelton Port Limited.
- Advice to Ngai Tahu in relation to investment opportunities in Selwyn District.

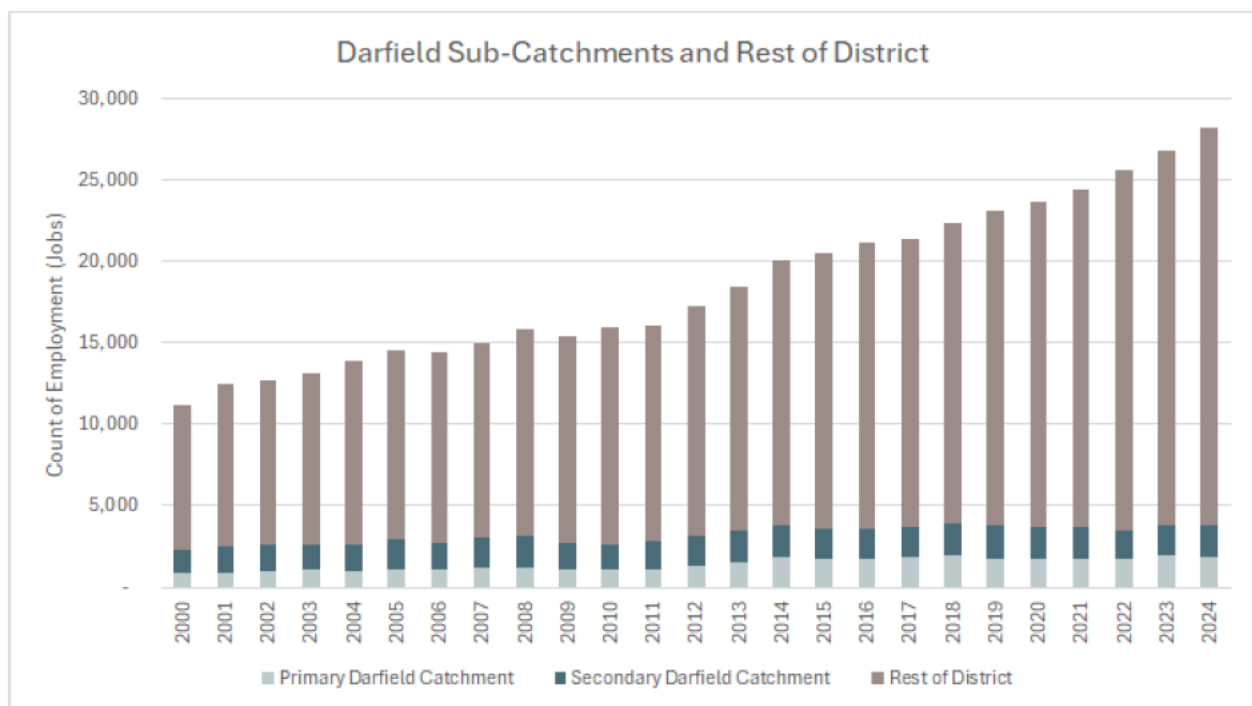
Savvy is providing economic assessment support to a range of development and infrastructure Fast Track applications in the South Island. This includes peer review roles for local government commentators. Natalie is also on the Fast Track Expert Panel for the Taranaki VTM project.



Appendix 2 – Business & Employment Analysis

The figure below illustrates Selwyn District's strong growth path, with this employment data series beginning in the year 2000. As expected, this growth is largely occurring in the Rest of District, but particularly Rolleston as the main economic hub of the district. The Darfield Catchment plays only a small role in total employment activity in the district but has also experienced growth since 2000.

Figure 1 – Darfield Catchment Employment – Selwyn District Context 2000–2024



The following tables provide a breakdown of employment and business growth in the Darfield Catchment, by township and balance rural areas.



	Count of Businesses			Change in Businesses		Share of District			Share of Darfield Catchment		
	2000	2014	2024	2014-2024 (n)	2014-2024 (%)	2000	2014	2024	2000	2014	2024
Primary Darfield Catchment	355	444	549	105	24%	9%	7%	6%	33%	32%	36%
Darfield	222	244	329	84	34%	6%	4%	4%	21%	18%	21%
Rural	133	200	221	21	11%	3%	3%	3%	13%	15%	14%
Secondary Darfield Catchment	707	932	980	48	5%	18%	15%	11%	67%	68%	64%
Arthurs Pass	6	6	9	3	52%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	1%
Castle Hill Village	2	3	9	6	207%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%
Coalgate	9	24	27	3	12%	0%	0%	0%	1%	2%	2%
Glentunnel	2	9	12	3	34%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	1%
Hororata	6	9	18	9	101%	0%	0%	0%	1%	1%	1%
Kirwee	35	62	114	51	82%	1%	1%	1%	3%	5%	7%
Sheffield-Waddington	15	24	33	9	38%	0%	0%	0%	1%	2%	2%
South Malvern-Whitecliffs	2	6	21	15	254%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%
Springfield	18	36	30	-6	-16%	0%	1%	0%	2%	3%	2%
Rural	613	753	708	-45	-6%	15%	12%	8%	58%	55%	46%
Total Darfield Catchment	1,062	1,376	1,529	153	11%	26%	22%	18%	100%	100%	100%
Rest of District	2,972	4,808	7,134	2,325	48%	74%	78%	82%			
Total District	4,034	6,184	8,663	2,479	40%	100%	100%	100%			

Source: StatisticsNZ Business Demography Data, Savvy

	Count of Total Employment			Change in Employment		Share of District			Share of Darfield Catchment		
	2000	2014	2024	2014-2024 (n)	2014-2024 (%)	2000	2014	2024	2000	2014	2024
Primary Darfield Catchment	866	1,829	1,889	59	3%	8%	9%	7%	37%	48%	50%
Darfield	750	1,110	1,129	19	2%	7%	6%	4%	32%	29%	30%
Rural	116	719	759	40	6%	1%	4%	3%	5%	19%	20%
Secondary Darfield Catchment	1,470	1,967	1,864	-103	-5%	13%	10%	7%	63%	52%	50%
Arthurs Pass	37	33	33	-4	-1%	0%	0%	0%	2%	1%	1%
Castle Hill Village	2	4	5	1	31%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Coalgate	15	46	61	15	33%	0%	0%	0%	1%	1%	2%
Glentunnel	3	4	24	20	445%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%
Hororata	16	21	30	9	40%	0%	0%	0%	1%	1%	1%
Kirwee	43	113	172	59	52%	0%	1%	1%	2%	3%	5%
Sheffield-Waddington	56	98	79	-18	-19%	1%	0%	0%	2%	3%	2%
South Malvern-Whitecliffs	4	3	9	6	230%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Springfield	45	59	68	9	16%	0%	0%	0%	2%	2%	2%
Rural	1,248	1,586	1,384	-203	-13%	11%	8%	5%	53%	42%	37%
Total Darfield Catchment	2,336	3,796	3,753	-43	-1%	21%	19%	13%	100%	100%	100%
Rest of District	8,839	16,260	24,457	8,196	50%	79%	81%	87%			
Total District	11,175	20,057	28,210	8,153	41%	100%	100%	100%			

Source: StatisticsNZ Business Demography Data, Savvy. Total employment includes the employee count and estimated working proprietors.

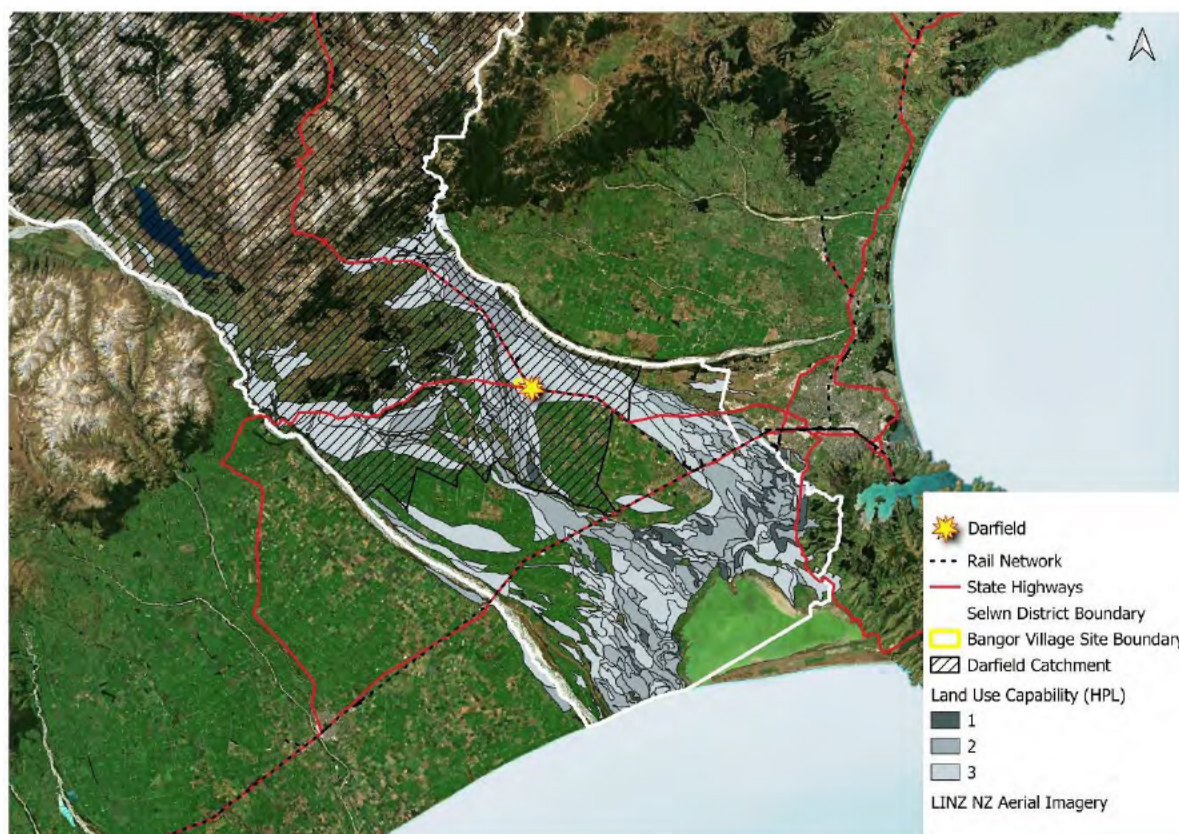


Appendix 3 – Highly Productive Land

Highly Productive Land (“HPL”) as currently defined in the NPS-HPL⁷⁴ equates to all land that is categorised Land Use Capability (“LUC”) 1-3 in the Land Resource Inventory dataset. HPL is a significant feature of Selwyn District and the Darfield Catchment and is covered here briefly as it provides relevant context for why the Darfield Catchment is strongly focussed on land based agriculture (discussed further in the economic analysis).

Figure 1 below shows that Darfield Township is located in a large cohesive area of LUC 3 land, with some fringe residential zone areas located on pockets of LUC 2 land. Extensive areas of the wider Darfield Catchment – that form part of the Canterbury Plains (i.e. excluding the Malvern Hills and ranges further inland) – are also covered extensively by LUC 2 and 3 land. While agriculture is likely to be more productive on HPL, areas that are on lower class land (i.e. LUC 4) do not preclude farming activities.

Figure 1 – HPL in Selwyn District, Including in the Darfield Catchment



⁷⁴ Until such time as the Canterbury Regional Council maps HPL and this becomes operative.



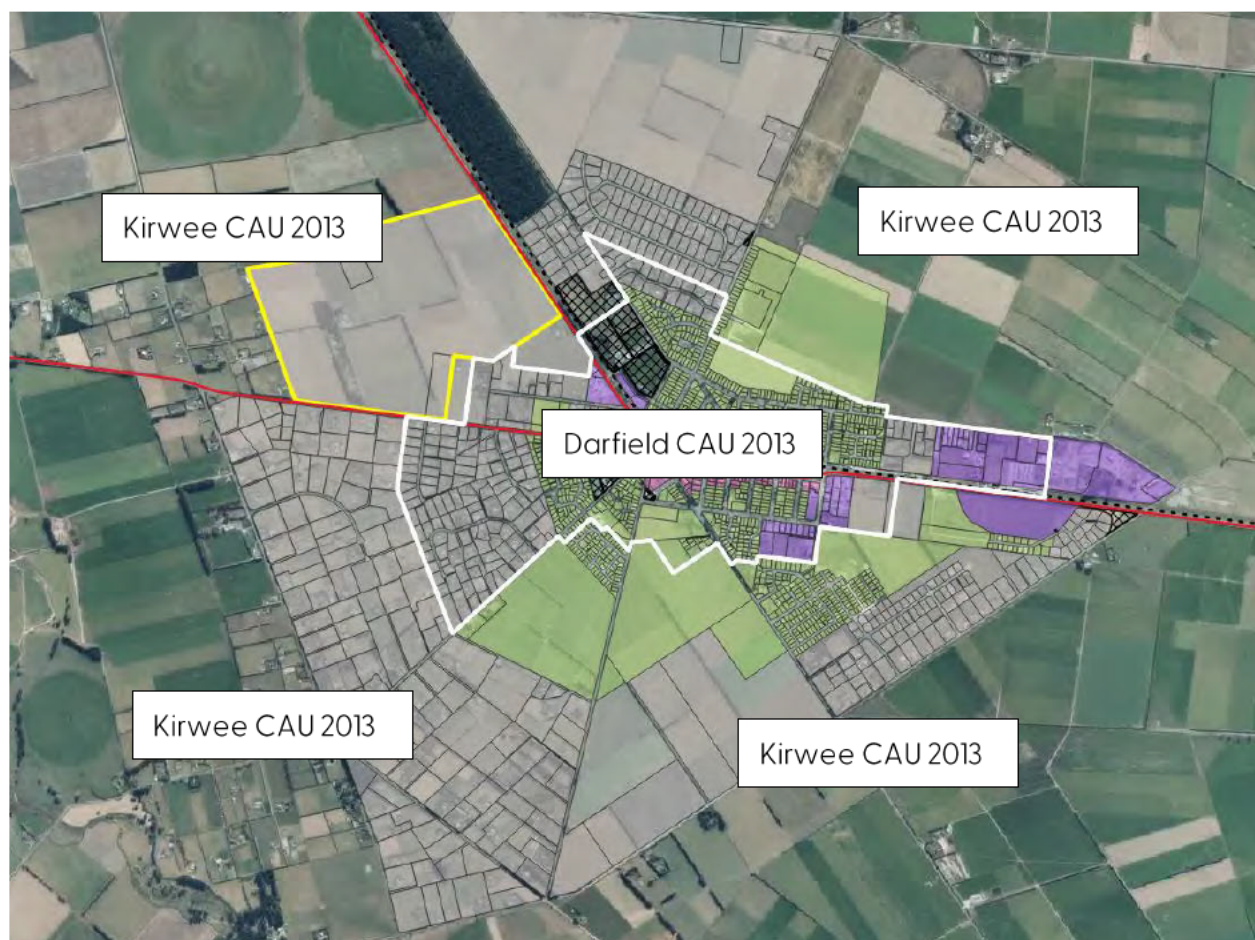
Appendix 4 – Housing Market Indicators

This appendix examines selected housing market indicators in the Darfield Township and wider Selwyn District in the period between 2022 and 2025. It shows the direction of change that has occurred in the housing market since the SRCMD 2023 modelling took place. The following housing market indicators are taken from the MHUD⁷⁵ Urban Development dashboard as well as StatisticsNZ dwelling consents data.

Housing Market Indicators

Unfortunately, the MHUD Urban Development dashboard uses old 2013 Census Area Unit (“CAU”) boundaries for data at the sub-district level and the Darfield CAU captures only the older core of the Township and not the newer growth areas of Darfield which fall within the surrounding Kirwee CAU (Figure 1).

Figure 1 – 2013 Darfield CAU Boundary Relative to Urban Area Extent

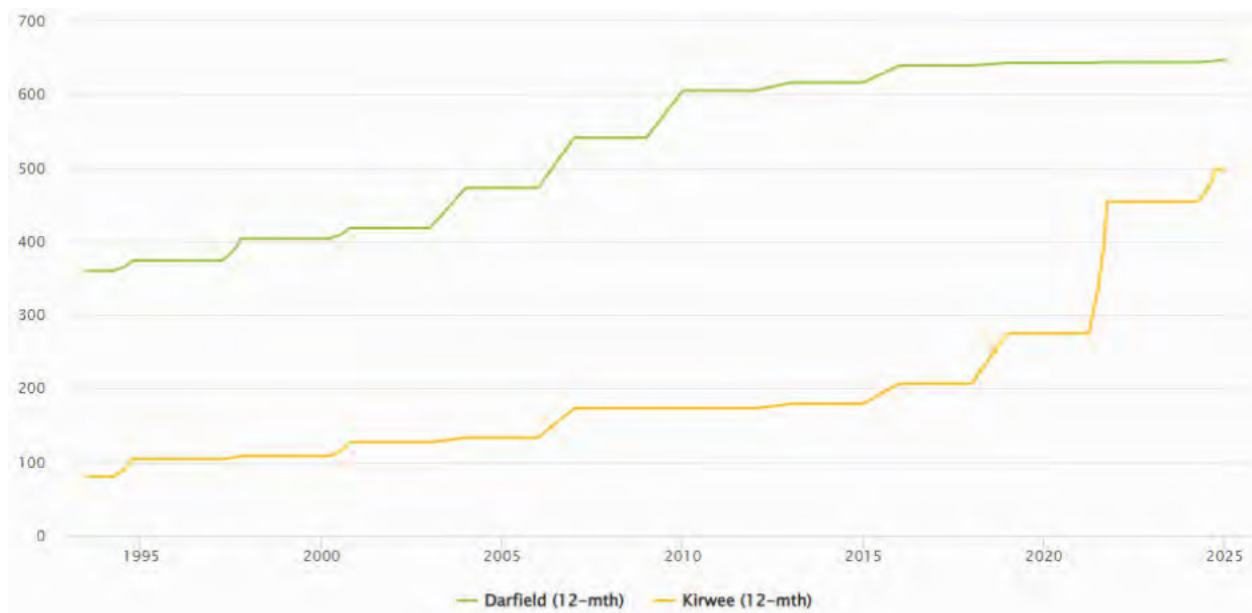


⁷⁵ Ministry for Urban Housing and Development.



While the Kirwee CAU includes the smaller Kirwee township and an extensive rural area, it is expected that most of the change evident in that CAU over time is attributable to the new growth areas in Darfield Township. Both CAUs are presented in the following analysis, and it is expected that the Darfield Township proper sits somewhere between the results for both CAUs when referring to mean or median prices.

Figure 2 – 12 Month Rolling Dwelling Stock by CAU



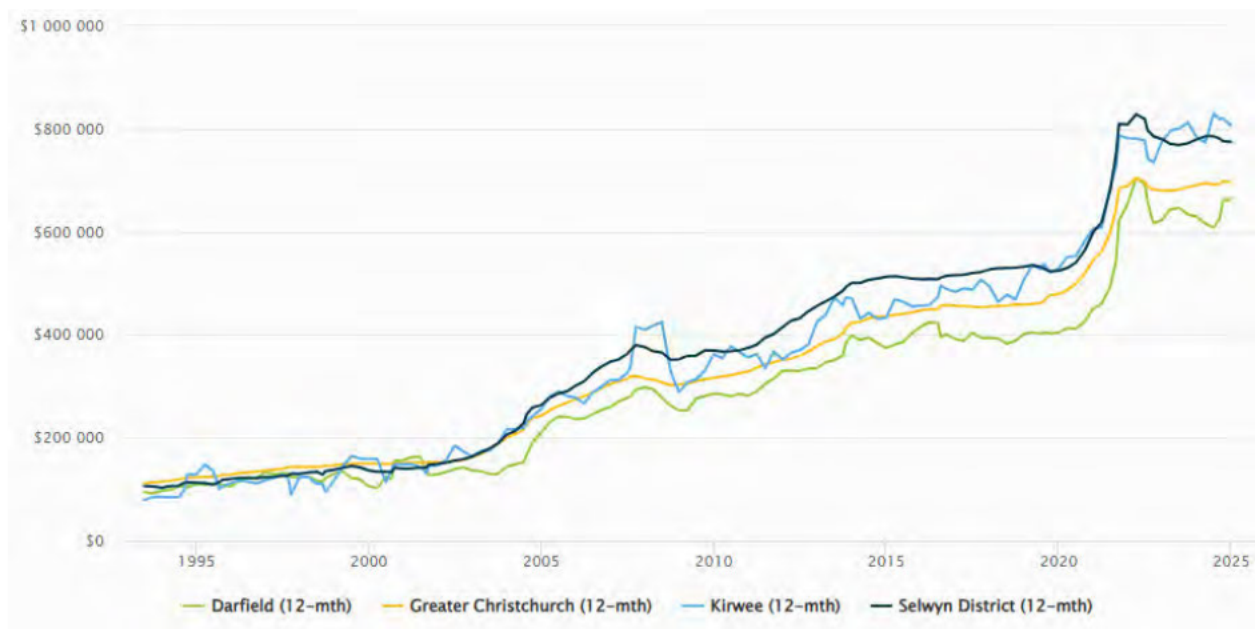
To illustrate the effect of the old CAU boundaries, Figure 2 summaries the cumulative count of dwellings in the Darfield CAU (older core area of Darfield Township) and the surrounding Kirwee CAU. While there remain some vacant parcels (including parcels that could be further subdivided), there has been extremely limited growth in the Darfield CAU since the end of 2015 (change from 639 dwellings to 646 dwellings, or an increase of 7 dwellings). At the same time as growth substantially slowed in the Darfield CAU, growth in dwellings in the Kirwee CAU started to take off – with significant additions to the dwelling count over the last decade as zoned greenfield land is progressively developed. The dwelling count in the Kirwee CAU has increased from 207 in the end of 2015 to 498 at the end of 2024 (more than doubling). This data shows that Darfield’s residential growth is strongly focused on greenfield zoned land.

Figure 3 shows that median dwelling prices across Selwyn District, and to a lesser extent across the whole of Greater Christchurch, experienced a rapid surge in median prices starting in early 2020 through to early 2022. Dwelling sales prices in both the Darfield CAU and surrounding Kirwee CAU followed the district-wide trend during that period, with significant increases in dwelling prices.



According to MHUD data, Darfield CAU currently has a median dwelling price of \$665,000 (December 2024) and the Kirwee CAU is higher at \$805,500 – higher than the district median price. This is expected to be driven by more LLRZ properties included in the Kirwee CAU (with larger sections costing more but also supporting larger dwellings). Across the Darfield township, median house prices are expected to be somewhere between these two CAU values. This compares with \$774,500 for Selwyn District overall in December 2024, and \$695,400 for Greater Christchurch. Overall, Darfield represents a slightly more affordable place to live relative to the district as whole. This contributes to the economic benefits of enabling more dwelling growth in Darfield. Median house prices have been generally stable in the last three years.

Figure 3 – 12 Month Rolling Median Dwelling Sales Price (Actual Prices) – Darfield CAUs, Selwyn District and Greater Christchurch



Since June 2023 (the indicative base year of the demand projections in the SRCDM) average rent in the Darfield CAU has increased from \$495/week to \$515/week in December 2024 (growth of \$20/week or 4%), while in that same period, average rents in the Kirwee CAU, which includes the newer areas of Darfield, have decreased from \$572/week to \$561/week (-2%) (Figure 4). This was however preceded by a rapid increase in weekly rents in the Kirwee CAU during 2022. At times during late 2023 and early 2024, average rents in the Kirwee CAU were higher than the district average and peaked at \$639/week. It is expected that across the Darfield township, average weekly rents currently sit somewhere between \$515-\$561/week – slightly below the district average but above the average for Greater Christchurch.



As with home ownership, Darfield provides opportunities for relatively more affordable housing rents compared with some parts of Selwyn District, but rental costs continue to rise across the board.

Figure 4 – 12 Month Rolling Mean Dwelling Rents (Actual Weekly Prices) – Darfield CAUs, Selwyn District and Greater Christchurch

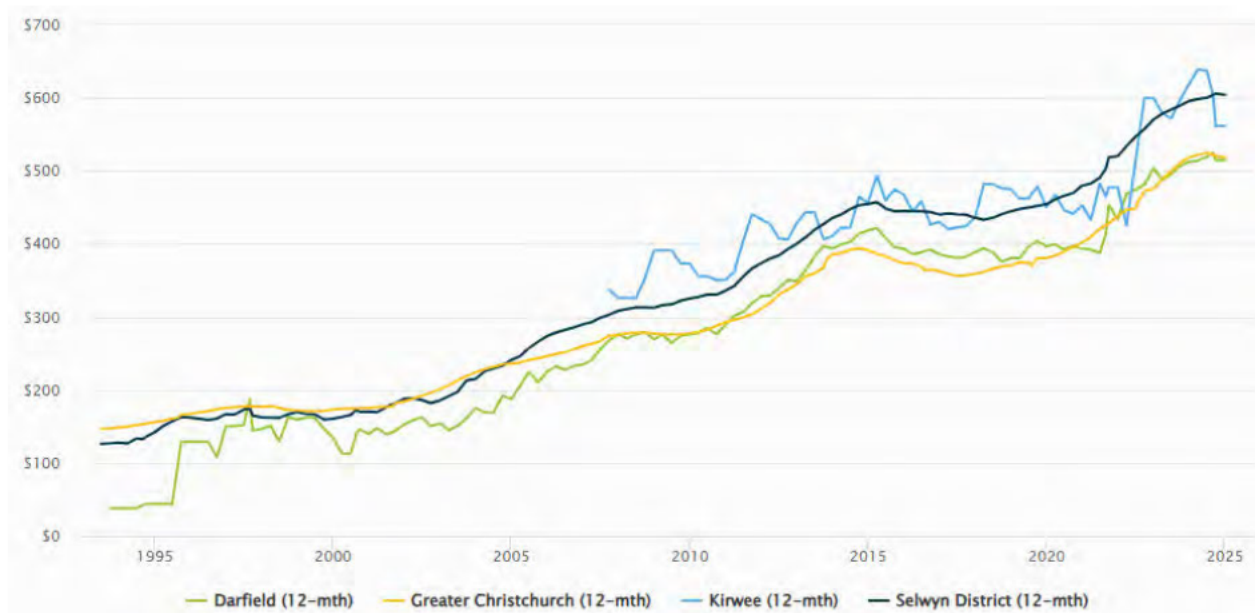
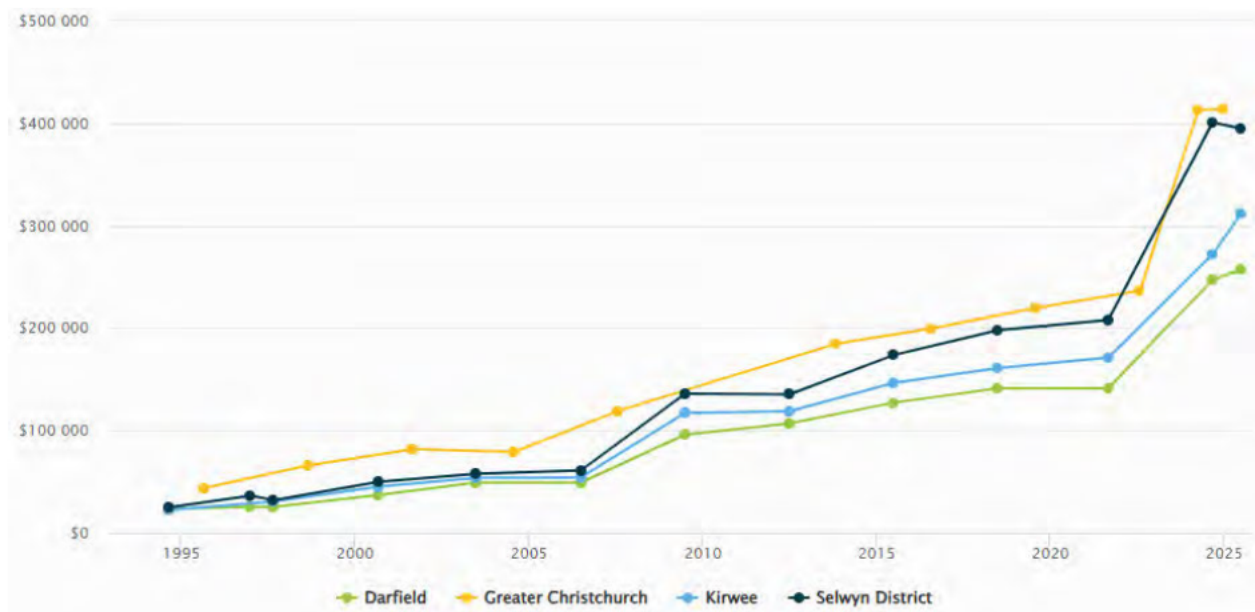


Figure 5 graphs the mean land price of dwellings at each valuation period. Residential land values in the Darfield CAU have increased from around \$141,100 in August 2021 to \$257,200 in June 2025 (an 82% rise). In the Kirwee CAU, residential land prices have increased from \$171,100 to \$312,100 (also an 82% increase). Across Selwyn District overall, residential land prices have increased by 90% in that period to reach \$394,800. While land prices are increasing in Darfield Township, they are still relatively more affordable, at between 65–79% of the district average.



Figure 5 – Mean Land Price of Dwellings by Valuation Period – Darfield CAUs, Selwyn District and Greater Christchurch



Rising residential property values – which may or may not be a result of factors within Council’s control (i.e. due to planning or infrastructure) – can create issues for housing affordability, particularly when household incomes are not rising commensurate with house prices. Overall, Selwyn performs relatively well compared to other territorial authorities on housing affordability indicators monitored by MHUD and the above analysis indicates that Darfield is relatively more affordable than the district average. Nonetheless, several housing indicators are trending upwards and it will remain important in Selwyn District to ensure an ample amount of zoned and infrastructure served residential land is provided relative to demand to maximise the potential for competition in the housing land market and to avoid any constraints on land supply that could contribute to rising prices. Ensuring a range of housing typologies and housing locations are enabled is also necessary to meet housing needs and provide opportunities for relatively lower cost housing for those most in need.

Recent Supply Trends

The following analysis examines recent supply trends in Darfield Township in the form of residential dwelling consents. This data from StatisticsNZ is available at SA2 (2023) level.



Figure 6 – Total Dwelling Consents by Type Issued in Darfield Township SA2 2000–2025

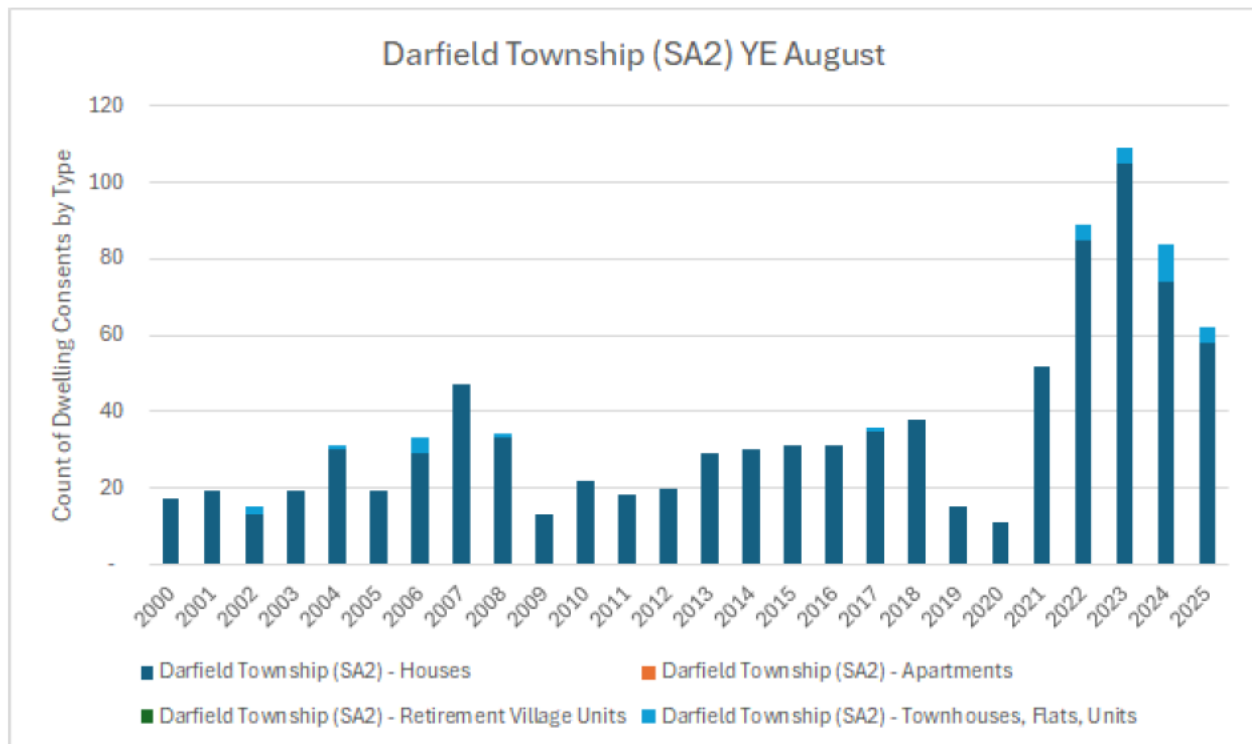


Figure 6 shows the annual count of dwellings consented in Darfield Township (SA2) since the year ending (“YE”) August 2000 through to the YE August 2025. Dwelling supply is influenced by the staging of development across the residential zones, the number of sections released by developers at any one time and housing demand (including wider economic factors). Annual consented dwellings have been as high as 109 recently in 2023 in Darfield Township but have averaged 53 dwellings per annum over the last decade (2015–2025).

If this average supply continued over the period 2023–2033 (i.e. to represent demand), then is directly aligns with the medium term dwelling demand modelled for Darfield in the SRCDM (i.e. 63 per annum excluding the competitiveness margin). However, there has been a real step change in dwelling demand/growth since 2021 in the township. The average count of consented dwellings in the last four years (2022–2025) has been 86 per annum. If this higher growth rate were to continue over the period 2023–2033 (103 per annum including the competitiveness margin), it would mean that the SRCDM medium term dwelling projections for Darfield could prove to be too conservative by 2033. As discussed however, the housing capacity of Darfield Township is sufficient to accommodate higher demand growth than modelled.

Figure 6 shows that the Darfield Township has delivered almost entirely standalone dwellings. There has been a total of 31 “multi-unit” dwellings (townhouses/flats/other) consented since



2021, with multi-unit housing⁷⁶ a regular, but minor, share of total dwellings delivered annually since 2022.

Relative to the total Darfield Catchment, the consent data also shows that Darfield Township is playing an increasing role in economic growth. Back in 2000, dwelling consents in Darfield Township accounted for a third of all consents issued in the total Catchment. By 2025, it accounted for 56% (and has been as high as a 69% share in 2024). Savvy expects that this trend will continue, with Darfield attracting an increasing share of growth in the Catchment over time.

There is a strong correlation between the pattern of dwelling consents issued in Darfield Township and the wider district – with similar peaks and troughs (and likely reflecting the influence of external economic factors on the wider housing market).

⁷⁶ Which could include minor dwellings not attached to the standalone house according to StatisticsNZ consent data.



Appendix 5 – GDP Impact vs Wellbeing Framework Example

The following example is tailored to a residential development project.⁷⁷

GDP Impact		Wellbeing Impact	
Benefits to Wellbeing			
Increased investment: Construction activity boosts the 'investment' component of GDP		New housing increases the supply of dwellings, potentially improving affordability, choice and living conditions.	
Job creation: Employment in construction, engineering, architecture, and related services. Indirect and induced employment creation.		Jobs that are safe, fairly paid and meaningful and allow work-life balance enhance wellbeing. Income generation supports household consumption and reduces underemployment and unemployment.	
Infrastructure development: Roads, utilities, and public amenities built alongside housing.		Enhances accessibility, safety, and community cohesion.	
Long term consumption: New residents contribute to local economic activity (e.g., retail services).		Supports vibrant communities and local businesses.	
Environmental Improvements: Investment improves ecological areas or addresses contamination or risk.		Enhances ecosystem services, human health and enables sterilised land to be utilised.	
Costs to Wellbeing			
Increased investment: Defensive expenditure (to offset negative effects of development) are a component of GDP.		While these may mitigate harm, they do not enhance wellbeing. <i>This is more neutral than a 'cost'.</i>	
Environmental degradation: Not subtracted from GDP.		Loss of rural character, productive land, biodiversity, increased carbon emissions etc can reduce long term health and ecological stability.	
Job Creation:		Opportunity cost of the time people spend working (rather than time spent with family, at	

⁷⁷ Savvy has used AI to help inform and test aspects of this framework.



Employment in construction, engineering, architecture, and related services. Indirect and induced employment creation.	leisure, on personal development or on community engagement), particularly if work hours are excessive, stressful or poorly compensated.
Resource depletion: Use of material (timber, concrete, energy) adds to GDP.	Unsustainable resource use can threaten future generations access to natural capital.
Urban sprawl and infrastructure strain: More spending on transport and utilities boosts GDP.	Development can lead to traffic congestion, longer commutes, and pressure on public services and infrastructure. Bringing forward or diverting local government funding to address infrastructure may create opportunity costs on other investment or lead to increased rates.
Speculative development: High-value developments inflate GDP.	If housing is unaffordable or left vacant, it doesn't improve social outcomes.



Appendix 6 – Economic Impact Terminology & Assumptions

Multiplier analysis is a commonly used modelling technique for measuring economic impacts. Direct, indirect and induced economic impacts can be estimated using multipliers derived from regional or national input-output tables. Multipliers are summary measures of the economic interdependence between industries and final demand. The contribution of an industry to an economy is not limited to the value it creates directly. This is because an increase in final demand for an industry has repercussions throughout the whole economy, causing increases in output beyond the initial change in demand. This is known as the multiplier effect. The higher the multiplier the more far-reaching the local value added and employment impacts are likely to be from an increase in demand.

The most common limitations of all input-output based modelling (including multiplier analysis) is the historical and fixed nature of multipliers which are typically calculated from input-output tables from surveys undertaken several years earlier. Therefore, they may not accurately reflect the relationships between sectors in the current economy.⁷⁸ This assessment relies on the [2020~~latest~~](#) national input-output table prepared by StatisticsNZ⁷⁹ which reflects the economy in the year ending June 2020. While the construction sector has faced significant cost increases since 2020, it is considered that the supply chain structure of all industry sectors (including the construction sector) is still broadly relevant today. [A more detailed examination of input-output modelling limitations is set out further below.](#)

This assessment includes the following types of economic impacts:

- a) Direct effects – which capture onsite and offsite activities directly engaged by the proposed project;
- b) Indirect effects – which arise when businesses working directly on the project stimulate the creation of further demand through the purchases that they make in other sectors of the economy; and

⁷⁸ In the real world, technical relationships will change over time. These changes are driven by new technologies, relative price shifts, product substitutions and the emergence of new industries. For this reason, input-output analysis is generally regarded as suitable for short-run analysis, where economic systems are unlikely to change greatly from the initial snapshot of data used to generate the base input-output table.

⁷⁹ Accessed, with thanks, from Insight Economics.



- c) Induced effects – which arise from the increased demand for goods and services made by households who have received increased income as a result of the direct and indirect effects of the project.

These economic impacts have been measured in terms of:

- Contributions to value-added (akin to GDP). Value added is the principal measure of economic activity, and is estimated as operating surplus, wages and salaries paid to staff and working proprietors, depreciation, taxes and subsidies. It measures the contribution of individual sectors, industries, or firms to the economy.
- The number of FTEs employed – which is measured in terms of full-time equivalent workers (FTEs) for a 12-month period.
- Total wages and salaries paid to workers, which are often labelled 'gross household incomes'.

Assumptions and Modelling Inputs

For simplicity, Savvy has adopted the multipliers from the following industry sectors contained in the national input-output table (where applicable):

- Design/planning/consents – 100% to the 'Scientific, architectural and engineering services' sector.
- Land development – 100% to the 'Heavy and civil engineering construction' sector.
- [Infrastructure updates - 100% to the 'Heavy and civil engineering construction' sector.](#)
- Residential construction – 100% to the 'Residential building construction' sector.
- ~~[Commercial construction - 100% to the 'Non-residential building construction' sector.](#)~~

Other key assumptions for the modelling are as follows:

- Anticipated expenditure is deflated to June 2020 prices prior to applying the June 2020 multipliers. This is done using the Producers Price Index.
- Economic impacts are expressed in 2020 dollar and employment terms. It is not appropriate to re-inflate economic impacts to dollars of the day.
- The national multipliers are assumed to represent the multipliers that applied in the Project's district and region in June 2020. That is, it is assumed that industries in the district/regional economy have the same interdependencies with other industries as they do nationally. Savvy acknowledges that using national multipliers is not as



accurate as applying multipliers specific to the district/region, such as can be sourced from multi-regional input-output (MRIO) tables. However, national level multipliers are considered adequate for the purposes of this report.

- All or most direct expenditure on the proposed development, including indirect and induced spending, is assumed to be with business located in the Project's region. That is, 100% (or close to 100%) of the impact is assumed to accrue to the regional economy, with no/limited leakage to other regions.

I take this opportunity to provide further detail on implied dwelling construction costs associated with my modelling assumptions of construction economic impacts (Section 3.4). The table below provides the underlying detail from my modelling and based on the finalised lot count and sizes. It shows that based on the indicative building footprints for each of the proposed section size bands, and the assumption of average construction costs of \$3,000/sqm, that dwelling construction costs could range between \$555,000 and \$900,000. Importantly, more than half of the dwellings potentially delivered by the Project are in the lowest price band which means the weighted average construction costs is likely closer to \$638,000 and median construction price for the Project is likely \$555,000.

More Detailed Breakdown of Dwelling Construction Impact Inputs (Building Costs Exclude Section Prices and Do Not Represent House and Land Sales Prices)

Section Size (sqm)	Count of Lots	Share of Total Lots	Indicative Building Footprint (sqm)	Assumed average Construction Cost/sqm	Indicative Building Cost
3,500+	46	6%	300	\$ 3,000	\$ 900,000
1,250-3,500	55	7%	275	\$ 3,000	\$ 825,000
850-1,250	257	35%	225	\$ 3,000	\$ 675,000
594-850	383	52%	185	\$ 3,000	\$ 555,000
Total	741	100%	157,605		\$ 472,815,000
Average Building Cost (Weighted)			213		\$ 638,077
Median Building Cost			185		\$ 555,000

Source: HDL, Savvy Consulting. Inputs to construction impacts modelling.

Detailed Discussion of IO Modelling Limitations in the Context of this Project

The limitations of multiplier analysis have been a common discussion point for applications under the FTAA (noting that the methodology has been applied in most applications to date). This section seeks to provide more discussion on the limitations of the multiplier analysis applied for this EA report to ensure that results are appropriately interpreted.

There are several inherent limitations of using multipliers in an Input-Output ("I-O") based framework, such as reported in Section 3.4 of this EA report. In short, I-O based multipliers tend



to overstate economic impacts, and so they should be considered as an indicative upper limit, subject to a range of assumptions. The following table provides a brief discussion of those assumptions and their implications in the context of Bangor Village Project.

<u>Limitation/Caveat</u>	<u>Implications</u>
<u>Multiplier models are typically derived from historical input–output tables and therefore reflect the structure of the economy at a point in time – in this case, 2020. To the extent that inter-industry relationships, production technologies, or supply chain patterns have evolved since then, the estimated multipliers may not fully capture current economic conditions.</u>	<u>In assessing the relevance of this limitation, it is necessary to consider whether there has been a material structural shift in the economy from which the multipliers are derived since 2020. At a high level, available data⁸⁰ suggests that the broad composition of the New Zealand economy has remained relatively stable over this period. For example, a comparison of the relative contribution of one-digit ANZSIC sectors to national GDP between 2020 and 2025 indicates a largely consistent economic structure, with only modest changes, such as a slight increase in the share of services and a small decline in manufacturing (from approximately 9% to 8%).</u> <u>While this type of comparison does not capture more granular changes in production relationships within sectors, it provides some assurance that the overall inter-industry structure underpinning the multipliers has not materially shifted. As such, the use of 2020-based multipliers is unlikely, in and of itself, to be a significant source of error in the modelling.</u> <u>Nevertheless, the results should still be interpreted as indicative, recognising that more subtle changes in technology, sourcing patterns, or firm behaviour may not be fully reflected in the results.</u>
<u>I-O modelling assumes no supply constraints (goods, services and labour) to meet new demand. This often raises concerns that increased demand can only be achieved</u>	<u>This limitation is most relevant for new (growth) activities, whether they already exist in an economy or are entirely new economic activities in a particular region. New activities place additional (and sometimes novel) demands on supply sectors that may already be operating at full capacity. In reality,</u>

⁸⁰<https://regions.infometrics.co.nz/selwyn-district/economy/structure?compare=new-zealand>



(except where there is high unemployment or labour is sitting idle) by displacing economic effort/activity elsewhere. If displacement occurs, the implication is that the modelled impacts are not net additional economic growth.

there are often (but not always) constraints to growth at the business level. Shortages or competition for resources and labour can drive up costs and drive down multipliers. When this happens, the model's estimates of value added and employment impacts should be seen as an upper-bound rather than a guaranteed outcome and more of the impact is likely to be a transfer effect due to displacement.

I note that the construction sector in Selwyn District exhibited slightly above-average annual GDP growth in 2020, when the multipliers were derived (3.2% per annum compared with 2.9% for the district economy overall), alongside relatively low unemployment. While the growth differential is modest, in combination with low unemployment it is suggestive of a relatively tight operating environment, where firms may have been approaching higher utilisation rates. In such conditions, additional demand for construction activity would be more likely to result in a mix of expanded output, input cost escalation, and some degree of resource reallocation across projects, rather than a purely unconstrained increase in real activity. This implies that standard multiplier estimates, which assume no supply constraints, may overstate the net economic impact.

At the same time, sustaining a large and growing construction sector requires a consistent pipeline of projects to maintain output and employment. The EA report does not position the Project as generating net additional housing demand in Darfield or the wider district; rather, it is assumed to respond to underlying demand and therefore to form part of the expected construction pipeline. In this context, the relevant question is less whether the Project creates entirely new activity, and more how it affects the timing, composition, and distribution of construction activity



within that pipeline. Even where overall demand is unchanged, projects can still compete for limited labour and materials, implying that some degree of displacement may occur across projects. Accordingly, the modelling results are more appropriately interpreted as illustrating the Project's role in supporting or sustaining sectoral activity, rather than generating wholly additional economic output.

More recent data⁸¹ suggests that conditions in the construction sector may have softened. Between 2024 and 2025, construction GDP in Selwyn District declined by \$26.4 million (-6.8%), while the wider district economy grew by 1.7%. Construction employment also fell by 71 (-1.9%), compared with overall district employment growth of 0.5%. Although unemployment remains relatively low, it increased to around 3%.⁸² If such conditions persist, they may indicate an easing of capacity pressures relative to 2020, potentially allowing new projects to translate more fully into net increases in activity rather than primarily displacing other work. However, this depends on the extent to which the observed downturn reflects genuine spare capacity (e.g. underutilised labour and capital) rather than short-term volatility or project timing effects.

On balance, the earlier (2020) conditions point to a higher likelihood of supply constraints and partial displacement, while more recent trends suggest that the degree of constraint may have lessened. As such, the economic impacts of the Project are best understood as lying on a spectrum between sustaining existing activity and contributing to

⁸¹ <https://regions.infometrics.co.nz/selwyn-district/economy/growth-contributors>

⁸² <https://regions.infometrics.co.nz/selwyn-district/employment/unemployment?compare=new-zealand>



	<u>incremental growth, rather than representing a fully unconstrained expansion of the construction sector.</u>
<u>Multipliers are fixed-coefficient relationships, assuming constant input proportions and prices. They do not account for substitution between inputs, changes in relative prices, or economies of scale.</u>	<u>This limitation is partly reflected in the discussion above, particularly in relation to construction activity associated with the Project. Under a standard multiplier framework, increases in output are assumed to require proportionate increases in inputs. In practice, this implies that additional demand for goods or services translates directly into additional labour demand, with employment impacts interpreted as the creation of “new” jobs.</u> <u>In reality, firms have a range of adjustment mechanisms available. In response to increased demand, businesses may increase utilisation of existing staff (e.g. longer hours or reduced downtime), improve productivity, reallocate resources internally, or make greater use of capital and subcontracting, rather than hiring additional workers in direct proportion to output. In some cases, particularly where capacity constraints begin to emerge, increased demand may also result in higher prices rather than fully translating into higher real output.</u> <u>This limitation is therefore particularly important when interpreting employment effects (including indirect and induced impacts). Reported employment impacts should not be understood as a one-for-one measure of net new jobs, but rather as an estimate of labour requirements expressed in full-time equivalents under fixed production relationships. In practice, these impacts are likely to reflect a combination of sustaining existing employment, increasing utilisation of current workers, and creating some new jobs, with the balance depending on sector-specific characteristics and prevailing economic conditions.</u>



Multipliers are an average across each economic sector (and in this case across the whole of New Zealand) in the model and may not reflect the productivity of actual businesses engaged by the Project.

Multiplier models rely on sector-wide average production functions, which in this case are calibrated at the national level.⁸³ As such, they implicitly assume that all firms within a sector exhibit similar productivity, input structures, and supply chain relationships. In practice, the businesses engaged in delivering the Project may differ from these averages in terms of efficiency, technology use, scale, and sourcing patterns. For example, more productive firms may generate higher output with fewer inputs, while firms with more localised supply chains may generate stronger regional spillovers.

This means that multiplier-based estimates should be interpreted as indicative rather than precise measures of impact. They provide a useful benchmark for the typical economic relationships within a sector but may either overstate or understate actual impacts depending on the characteristics of the firms involved. Accordingly, the results are best viewed as an approximation of potential effects in Selwyn District and Canterbury Region, rather than a definitive prediction of the Project's realised economic contribution in those locations.

Overall, the known limitations of multiplier analysis are a reminder that modelled impact results contained in this EA report are gross impacts and should be treated as indicative rather than absolute. The quantum of direct, indirect and induced GDP/Value Added and employment stimulated and/or sustained throughout upstream supply chain is a theoretical upper limit and may be somewhat lower in practice. Despite these limitations, I consider that the modelled impacts remain a useful way to quantify and contextualise the extent of gross (or net) economic impacts associated with the construction activity proposed on the site by the Project.

⁸³ The EA report acknowledges that district level or regional level multipliers would be optimal over national level multipliers and would help reduce some of the potential error associated with the limitations of multiplier analysis. However, for the purpose of the EA report, where economic impacts from construction form only a component of the economic effects of the Project, they are considered sufficient.



Caveats (Impacts not Unique to Site/Transfer Effects)

These assumed district/region economic impacts apply to the proposed development. It is important to acknowledge that these same or similar impacts would arise from a development of a similar scale and composition in another location in the district or region and are not entirely unique to this proposal/site.

Furthermore, some of these impacts would be a result of expenditure that is transferred from other locations in the district/region. Specifically, if the proposal was not approved for development, one would typically expect that the demand for activities proposed on the site would be satisfied in another location in the same housing market. This means that at a district/region level much of the economic value associated with the proposal may not be net additional or new, as this value would occur regardless of whether the proposed development occurs or not.

That said, to the extent that a proposal addresses a shortfall in zoned capacity in a locality of demand, that may not necessarily be addressed through other planning processes or market based development (including profit driven development) in a timely manner, then more of the economic impact can be considered net additional. This is because a shortfall of zoned capacity in a locality may result in some growth being directed elsewhere (or being suppressed) or delivered in a less efficient, sustainable or affordable manner. In this light, a proposed development can be seen as enabling projected growth. *This caveat is not applicable to this Project.*

Development is also contingent on available land in suitable locations for urban growth, landowners willing to develop that land, and landowners having the financial capability and experience to develop – such as the applicant. These combined attributes are rare in any district and do not always align temporally. When these factors do not align, this means that more, rather than less, of estimated economic impacts can be treated as net additional and specific to a proposal.

[Note – transfer effects are discussed in more detail in Section 3.4.2 and Section 4.1.2 of this report.](#)