

Lincoln Subdivision under construction

By Adrienne Rewi

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Plans to convert a former Lincoln University dairy farm into a leading-edge, sustainable residential subdivision are on track with construction having started on March 1.

The \$130-million development is a joint venture between Lincoln University and Ngai Tahu Property. Covering 117 hectares, the development will provide 880 residential sections, shops, a supermarket and potential for a new school. Planned around a network of ponds, parks and waterways, the subdivision will be developed in line with the sustainable principles of LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design), an internationally recognised green building certification system developed by the US Green Building Council.

The Selwyn District is one of the fastest growing populations in New Zealand and Ngai Tahu Property Development Manager David Schwartzfeger is confident the

development – designed by Stephen Brown Environments – will help cement Lincoln as a vibrant university town.

“It is very pleasing to see construction commence on site and we look forward to seeing new families move into the area on completion of the construction works at the end of this year,” says Mr Schwartzfeger.

“The lead contractors are focusing on the construction of new storm water treatment basins and will turn their attention to the formation of roads and streets in the second half of the year.

“Fifty-thousand wetland native plants have been pre-ordered for the first stage from local firm Southern Woods. The locally sourced native plants have



Te Mairiki Williams with kaumatua from Taumutu at the blessing of the new Lincoln sub-division

been selected with the guidance of the Lincoln Envirotown Trust and the local Taumutu Runanga advisory group.

“ It is great to have such a high level of community involvement and support which assists us to deliver popular results on the ground. ”

The stormwater designer, Rob Kerr, says the enhancement and naturalisation of the Lincoln Main Drain will create an ecological corridor and turn it into an asset for the Lincoln community, with significant positive impacts on downstream waterways and Te Waihora (Lake Ellesmere).

“A similar system that we designed for Northbrook Wetlands, Io Io Whenua, at Rangiora recently won an Environment Canterbury Award for sustainable land use so this is not an entirely new concept,” Mr Kerr says. “Importantly, it is one that fits well within the values and objectives of the Ngai Tahu Fresh Water Management Policy and we hope it will raise the benchmark for subdivision stormwater management.”

The first stage of the development (100 houses) is expected to generate in the vicinity of \$10-million worth of labour, and of course once completed, the new families will further enrich the fabric of the Lincoln community.



Parks and green space is an important component of the new Lincoln Land Development subdivision