

Appeal mulled

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best-practice biosecure production, growing a single-year class of fish on one site, so its production was decreasing from 7500 tonnes to 6000 tonnes this year. "We have an extreme shortage of salmon at the moment and high demand. So that space is critical for us."

Conditions laid down by the board of inquiry required up to two years' monitoring before a new farm could be put in, and it was another year before fish were harvested, "so unfortunately we will not see any fish off these licences until November 2015".

There had been multiple levels of hearings and stretching out the legal process any further would be both wrong and unfair, he said.

"It's just ridiculous to keep dragging that on. If every New Zealand company has to go through this sort of review and scrutiny when it's trying to create growth and jobs, we are in a bad place in terms of our economy."

The application and court case had cost the company \$9.8 million, Mr Rosewarne said. "You don't need a \$10m review process when something is up the top end of being sustainable, we use a small amount of space for what we create, and when it self-remediates."

In his decision, Justice Dobson said the five-member board of inquiry, including a retired Environment Court judge and the environment commissioner, had conducted extensive hearings on all aspects of the issues and was "substantially better placed to decide on the weight to be given to each of the relevant considerations than a judge could be".

He said the appellants had competently and responsibly advanced legitimate public interests, but he allowed King Salmon 28 days to file an application for costs.

The Little Things

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Being happy because they're happy.

Farmers 'staying put'

Store has no plans to leave

Laura Basham
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Farmers will not quit Nelson if its proposed new store does not go ahead, says its chief financial officer, Michael Power.

A proposal for a new Farmers store on the Nelson City Council-owned Wakatu Square carpark was unveiled this week, and is out for public consultation.

The council could have called for expressions of interest for developing the site but has said its main aim in selling the \$2 million public asset is to keep the department store in the central city.

Mayor Aldo Miccio on Wednesday talked of some urgency in securing the deal and of Farmers leaving town if the project did not go ahead, saying the Nelson central business district could not afford to lose the store.

However, Mr Power told the *Nelson Mail* that Farmers had no thoughts of leaving Nelson. "If it did not go ahead we would stay exactly where we are

and renew the lease. We are committed to staying in Nelson."

On Wednesday the city council publicly released an outline of the project it has been working on behind closed doors.

It proposes selling two parcels of land in Wakatu Square to Auckland developer Windermere Holdings expressly for the purpose of developing a retail anchor store to house Farmers and some smaller retailers. Windermere is to buy the 3056sqm of land for \$2m and build a 6000sqm two-storey retail centre with the bulk of it for Farmers to lease and 500sqm for six smaller gift and fashion shops.

The project has been put out for a one-month public consultation which means submissions can be made by September 9.

The council's proposal makes clear that the prime driver for the project is to keep Farmers in Nelson. "Council has been advised that the main retailer of importance to the city is Farmers. This is because it is the only large retailer in the city centre and it attracts much of the fashion and other retail activities to the city centre," the proposal statement says.

While the council weighed up four options, it is offering the public just one, selling the public land to Windermere for a Farmers store.

The other options the council assessed are: calling for expressions of interest for a similar development proposal, or for an open development proposal, or do nothing and retain Wakatu Square in council ownership.

However, in assessing calling for expressions of interest it says: "The timeframe involved with this option is unlikely to suit Farmers whose lease expires in May 2015. There is a risk that Farmers will vacate its current premises and will not relocate within the city centre, thereby adversely affecting other retail activities in the city centre."

The information in the proposal provided to the public does not give any detailed information on the developer.

Windermere Holdings is a 1000-share company principally owned by Paul and Robyn Smith of Karaka in south Auckland. Mr Smith, the company's director, said he would not make any comment because the project was under a public process. He declined to give any information on the company or its previous projects.

"The public process may kill the project off and that's the end of it or it may not and then we will tell all about it. Until then I'm not prepared to discuss anything with anyone," he said.

Windermere has a history of working with Farmers. Two years ago in

Blenheim the development company was to build a two-storey building on Marlborough District Council land, with the building to be leased to the council and car parking on the roof to be sold to the council.

However, Windermere pulled out of the \$15 million project, with mayor Alistair Sowman saying the company had been unable to make it work.

Farmers is instead redeveloping on its existing Blenheim site. Windermere went on to develop a new Farmers store in Pukekohe which opened in February.

Farmers has been looking in Nelson for six or seven years for a solution to its problem of having two stores, needing more floor space, and wanting to get both stores in the one location, said Mr Power. Farmers had been dealing with Windermere for about five years.

The arrangement for the proposed Nelson store is "they build us a store and we fit it out", said Mr Power.

Windermere would continue to own it and Farmers would lease it.

Farmers owns its Bridge St home-ware store, and if it moved to Wakatu Square it would continue that ownership and look to lease it out, he said. It had been checked following the Seddon earthquakes and there were no issues, he said.

Festival to try new venues

More than 70 events and six international acts will feature in this year's Nelson Arts Festival.

The Nelson City Council presents the festival and last night Mayor Aldo Miccio launched the programme which will run from October 11 to 28.

The popular Masked Parade will be on October 18 and this year's theme is "Adventurous Journeys".

Festival highlights include spectacular international dance work *Fault Lines* performed by 20 dancers from the Le-shan Song and Dance Troupe in China; darkly passionate cabaret noir with *The Words and Songs of Jacques Brel*, and Australian contemporary circus spectacular *Knee Deep*.

The heart of the festival, the Granary Festival Cafe will be based at Founders Heritage Park.

However, festival director Sophie Kelly said: "Some performances will step outside traditional theatres, for example we are using a local hairdressing salon to stage a site specific work and the Founders Livery will create a rural experience unlike any other. It's certainly going to push the boundaries a bit for our audiences."

Other major venues include the Suter Theatre, the Theatre Royal, Nelson School of Music, Neudorf Vineyards, Woollaston Estates and the Playhouse



Good to go: Sophie Kelly, left, with Ali Boswijk at the opening of the 2013 Nelson Arts Festival at the Refinery Artspace last night.

Photo: ALDEN WILLIAMS/FAIRFAX NZ

Theatre in Tasman. Mr Miccio said the festival brought economic, social and cultural benefits.

"Around half of people who visited Nelson during last year's festival came specifically for the event. It also attracted 17 per cent new attendees - that proves we're developing and engaging new audiences."

The festival programme is available from the city council, libraries, retailers, cafes and visitor outlets in Nelson or visit nelsonartsfestival.co.nz to book your earlybird tickets.

Journalist puts his hat in council ring

Former Nelson *Leader* journalist Matt Lawrey is standing for the Nelson City Council.

Mr Lawrey, 44, announced his candidacy yesterday as an independent for the October elections.

He is being nominated by retiring, long-serving councillor Gail Collingwood and Independent Nursing Practice director Annette Milligan.

The Victory resident said he had always been interested in local government and his involvement with community-focused journalism had given him an understanding of the issues and a wide range of contacts.

Mr Lawrey, who left the *Leader* last month after 12 years, believed local government had an increasingly important role, particularly in bringing the community together.

One of the four key policies for Mr Lawrey's campaign was to keep the city's creative heart beating by

retaining cultural events.

"Some candidates have been talking about back to basics, but I haven't heard many tell us what they are going to cut."

"Things like the masked parade, Light Nelson and the summer festival, they to me are not nice-to-haves, they are have-to-haves."

Mr Lawrey said Nelson's future would partly depend on attracting talented people.

"They don't just want sunshine, scallops,

sauvignon blanc and nice kerbing," he said. "They want a town with a heart, where things happen and there is a bit of a buzz."

That fed into one of his other policy areas to encourage more people to live in the central city.

He also wanted to maintain a focus on protecting the natural environment, and developing an improved, more attractive commercial centre for Stoke.



Matt Lawrey

Tributes paid to Kiwi Keith as Nats gather

The many sides of long-serving prime minister Sir Keith Holyoake have been marked by family, and current and former politicians.

The National Party's first ever Nelson conference began last night with the launch of an exhibition at the Nelson Provincial Museum honouring Sir Keith, who died in 1983.

The exhibition, *Kiwi Keith - Portrait of a PM*, was compiled by Nelson historian Karen Stade, with the support of the National Party and members of the Holyoake family.

Sir Keith was raised in Riwaka, was pivotal in the formation of the National Party in the 1930s, and went on to be leader for 15 years and prime minister for 12 years.

The exhibition includes a kiwi feather korowai

(cloak) that belonged to Sir Keith, donated by the Holyoake family, and Sir Keith's personal typewriter, donated by Prime Minister John Key after he purchased it at a charity auction.

Sir Keith's eldest daughter, Diane Comber, told the story of attending a National Party conference when she was a teenager, and walking home to her hotel with a Young Nats member.

At her doorstep was her father, sitting in his pyjamas, waiting for her.

On the flight back home the next day, instead of reading his Cabinet papers, he spoke to her about "the birds and the bees", though using a more familiar metaphor for a former agriculture minister - cattle.

Former National Party Cabinet minister Sir

William Birch said Sir Keith was an outstanding parliamentarian and leader. His most famous advice to incoming MPs was to "breathe through your nose" or, keep your mouth shut.

Mr Key said Sir Keith had always been someone he had looked up to, although he questioned his wisdom in talking to his daughter about the birds and the bees.

In some ways Sir Keith had been very lucky, as he had not had to deal with Kim Dotcom, the GCSB, Twitter, or a 24-hour news cycle, Mr Key said.

■ *Kiwi Keith - Portrait of a PM* will run at the Nelson Provincial Museum until November 3.

■ *Kiwi Keith*, p11

THE GOSS

The Nelson City Council this week unveiled a proposal to sell most of Wakatu Square to Auckland developer Windermere Holdings to develop a two-storey building for Farmers' new store and six smaller retailers. We ask Nelson people what they think of the proposal.

Frank Freeman, lawyer: "I don't like it. It's just another block. This is an open space and it's taking more light out. Parking is scarce as it is so I'd be concerned if we lost any."



Sharm Schweder, owner of Sprog Hog Kidz in Wakatu Square: "I am very worried about the height of the building, we are going to end up stuck in the cold."



Sandra Robson, retired: "I think it's fine. I would be concerned for the store Farmers is moving out of, there seems to be a lot of vacant space around Nelson city."



Bryce Riordan, builder: "It's a good idea. It might put a bit more money in the town and more work for builders."



Paula Jones, retail worker: "I like it because it's expansion of shopping. I hope they don't lose any car parking. Free car parking would be good."



Don Harris, owner of Korker Sandal Company in Wakatu Square: "I am not happy. We came down here because we wanted a nice sunny aspect and this is going to create an ugly hole. It's going to block out the sun and the footpath is going to be reduced. Our property value is going to get stuffed. Long-term I thought it was a good investment but not now."



Beach fire scare

Nelson firefighters were called to a bonfire at Tahunanui Beach last night after receiving calls from members of the public. The fire service was alerted at 8.50pm and quickly had the blaze under control.

CHECK YOUR BONE HEALTH WITH A BONE DENSITY - DEXA SCAN

Osteoporosis, which literally means porous bone, is a disease where the density and quality of bone is reduced silently over time. One in every two women, and one in every three men over the age of 65, are likely to suffer a bone fracture due to osteoporosis.

You have a greater risk of developing Osteoporosis if you are/have any of the following : are female, over 65 years of age, had early onset of menopause/hysterectomy, have frequent falls, a previous fracture, a family history of a parental hip fracture, are taking steroid based medications.

A bone density - DEXA scan at Nelson Radiology will assess the extent of the disease, and enable your doctor to consider treatment options, where necessary.

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*Original price last offered on 12 June. Not all products have further reductions for clearance. While stocks last. Not all items available in stores. Styles, colours, and sizes may vary between stores.