

Ferguson Brothers finds new owner

News release
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Selwyn Investment Holdings Ltd (SIHL) - the Selwyn District Council's investment company - has purchased a 75% shareholding in the Greymouth-based roading and earthmoving contractor Ferguson Brothers.

Selwyn Investment Holdings Investment Manager Arjan Bartlema said the Ferguson family would retain a 25% interest, and Mackley Ferguson and his brother Graham would continue managing the business.

"This was a big decision for us, but we're satisfied Selwyn Investment Holdings will value our customers and staff, respect our strong culture and roots in the West Coast and grow the business," said managing director Mackley Ferguson.

"Operationally, nothing will change at Ferguson Brothers, with all our staff being retained and it will be business as usual."

The company is well-known on the West Coast and was founded by the Ferguson family in the 1930s. Based in Greymouth, the company employs over 60 staff and recently expanded its operations into quarrying, crushing and concrete.

Selwyn Investment Holdings is an independent company managing a total of over \$100 million in assets, and for the 2007 year has budgeted to pay a dividend of \$5.1 million to its owner, Selwyn District Council.

The company had signalled its intention two years ago to acquire further suitable investments in addition to its holdings in contractor SICON Ltd, Selwyn Plantation Board Ltd and Orion Group Ltd. The purchase of Ferguson Brothers along with the purchase of KB Irrigation Ltd, in 2006, forms part of this acquisition strategy.

For further information contact
Arjan Bartlema
Tel: 03 366 5601
Fax: 03 366 5608
Mobile: 0274 726 756
Email: arjan.bartlema@sih.co.nz