



Waimate Mayor, John Coles, would like to confirm that the Sale and Purchase contract between the Waimate Medical Centre and Dr Sarah Creegan is now unconditional.

In November 2008 the medical centre commissioned an independent report on the practice which resulted in two recommendations being made; that council divest itself of the medical centre and that Dr Creegan consider purchasing the business.

Both parties entered into negotiations, in what was obviously a major change of direction for them, with both parties having to satisfy themselves re the best possible future outcome for the community.

Waimate had some very vocal supporters who were in favour of Dr Creegan taking over the medical centre (as indeed, council were) and these supporters organised a public meeting to express their views. Council appreciated this happening, and on the day of the meeting negotiations between Council, Waimate Medical Centre Limited and Dr Creegan reached a point where the terms of a conditional contract were agreed upon and this was announced at the public meeting.

The written contract that was subsequently entered into was conditional upon Dr Creegan working through due diligence and managing to secure a satisfactory lease on the premises. It was also conditional upon Council working through the legal requirement of consultation with the community. Consultation was achieved through a public statement and written submission process, culminating in an extraordinary council meeting on 3rd April where members of the public could speak to their submissions. The majority of attendees were in favour of the sale, however there was opposition to some of the terms of the contract. At a further extraordinary council meeting on 7th April, council unanimously agreed to support the previous decision to divest itself of the medical centre.

Since 2003 the team have worked hard to ensure that we have supported the community by providing an ongoing service and for that we thank them. Unfortunately the transaction will result in redundancies for many of the current staff and we can only express our gratitude for their loyalty over this uncertain time.

We would also like to thank the Waimate community for their loyalty and ongoing support of the medical centre

Council wish Dr Creegan and her team all the best for the future.

A J Alden
Chief Executive Officer