

**Media statement****Status: Reactive****Thursday March 11, 2010****Council risking more than 100 jobs in Ashburton economy**

The Ashburton District Council's last minute change to a plan for a second bridge may cost the town 100 jobs and millions of dollars of work for local businesses.

The developer of TerraceView Retirement Village, a purpose built facility offering a continuum of care including villas, a resthome and hospital, was informed this week that the council had voted on a preferred site for its second bridge across the Ashburton River.

That route, which is likely to be used by heavy traffic, is to cut across the proposed development site and down Grove Street in Tinwald, currently a quiet residential area.

Developer Brent Ennor said today he was reconsidering his plan to build a retirement facility in Ashburton.

"It has taken more than 18 months to find a suitable site and when we met with the council representatives in November and showed them our plans for 37 Carters Tce, there was no mention of the bridge project impacting on our site.

"The most disturbing part about this is the way it has come out of the blue, with little convincing reason for the change, yet appears to be set in concrete already.

"The ongoing revenue brought into the district by this development would have contributed to the council's coffers as well as local business.

"Shifting the bridge and its surrounds back a few hundred metres to rural land would be a sensible option. It would be a shame for Ashburton to lose this opportunity."

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