



Media release

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Local company wins contract to build Ballance's new Service Centre in Hastings

Local construction company Herbert Construction is to build Ballance Agri-Nutrients' new Service Centre in Hastings. The 40-person company, which has a 400-strong operation in Fiji, won the contract after a competitive tender process.

Managing Director Malcolm Herbert says he is delighted to have won the contract and that earthworks have commenced already.

Ballance North Island Distribution Manager Greg Delaney says the Hastings Service Centre is the last of 20 new stores which have been opened by the company nation wide over the last four years.

"Construction has begun and the service centre is projected to open in late spring. With Ballance Service Centres in Waipukurau, Dannevirke, Pahiatua and Masterton, the Hastings Service Centre completes the East Coast network. It's the last piece of the puzzle."

Conveniently situated 4 km out of Hastings on Maraekakaho Rd (SH50A), the store is 2500 m², contains 17 bulk bins, with underfloor heating to keep the floor dry, and has an extensive bag store offering the full range of Ballance products.

"The site has great access to the main roading network, making it very convenient for both farmers and carriers. It also has three bulk despatch lanes for quick turnarounds for spreaders and carriers," says Greg.

The centre offers one of the most technically advanced blending plants available in New Zealand. "The design of the plant is very sophisticated," says Greg. "It uses the latest in screening technology and is designed in a way that increases the speed of the process as well as producing a well-mixed blend."

The receiving plant operates 24/7. It also has an automatic intake process which improves productivity and maximises the volumes that are processed through the centre.

"Trucks can deliver at night and the product will be automatically conveyed to the bulk bins, which leaves the loader and staff dedicated to despatching during the day."

The position of the Hastings Service Centre site is very important says Greg. "We took care to find a site which was easily accessible and also situated so as to have a minimum impact on the environment. The site includes a storm water treatment

pond, fast acting roller doors to contain the spread of dust and will have extensive landscaping once the construction phase is complete.”

Herbert Construction has recently completed a number of well-known local developments, including the Harvey Norman store in Hastings, the Acute Assessment Unit for Hawke’s Bay Regional Hospital, a three storey Omahu Rd Office Building for Hawke’s Bay District Health Board and the three-storey Hawke’s Bay Regional Council building.

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