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STAGE TWO OF \$100 MILLION TOURISM PROJECT SET TO COMMENCE

Latitude Group has recently completed the stage one earthworks for the \$100 million Waipara Wine Village & Day Spa project in Hurunui and is about to commence stage two of the development.

Stage two earthworks have just been signed off with Hawkins Construction and sub-contractors, Issac's, will start work on the site next week. The stage two earthworks will take between 12 and 16 weeks to complete.

Latitude Group's Director Ken Wimsett says with a project this size the company has to ensure everything is done professionally and that nothing is overlooked.

"This is a sizeable project and we have to make sure that all the processes are followed through and that nothing is left to chance. The size of this development means we have to cross all the 't's' and dot all the 'i's'," he says.

The Waipara Wine Village & Day Spa will become part of the internationally recognised Accor Group's prestigious Grand Mecure Collection.

The luxury hotel will comprise 132 rooms, made up of a combination of hotel suites and two and three bedroom villas. Full conference facilities, a wine bar and restaurant, international alehouse, wine-tasting facilities and a luxury day spa will establish the Grand Mecure complex as one of New Zealand's leading holiday resorts.

Latitude Group announced late last year that the project will now include a Greg Turner designed golf course and that it will release a number of house sites around the golf course.

Ken Wimsett says, “the addition of a golf course meant there was a variation to the original consent and we had to go back and make all the changes necessary. But it’s been worth all the extra work because we’ve just been granted the resource consent for the golf course. “We’ve had to jump a few hurdles with this project and we’ve had to ensure that the whole process is completed in a timely and diligent manner.”

Ken Wimsett says the construction work on the hotel site is just one part of the Waipara Wine Village & Day Spa development. The company has just completed a multi-million dollar purchase with Barbara and Brian Harris who owned 200 acres adjacent to the site.

He says the entrance road and hotel car park are underway, the main power transformer is on site and the hotel building platforms are complete.

The company is also in the process of finalising arrangements with the Hurunui District Council to establish a new water bore and ring-main to service the Waipara Wine Village & Day Spa and also to enhance the Waipara Town Water Supply. This bore will be vested to the Hurunui District Council and Latitude Group has already spent more than \$200,000 of the budgeted \$300,000.

Ken Wimsett says despite the additional complexities the project remains on target.

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