

# 2005/06 DRAFT ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

Submissions close on 13 May 2005

I do not wish to make a personal submission at the hearings.

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**Your Submission:**

I wish to make a submission regarding the under-grounding of power and phone services.  
CCC has a policy of under-grounding which is to be commended for the future of all Christchurch residents.  
I fully support all aspects of the submission from the Hamilton Ave / Chilcombe St Residents Action Group.  
In practice under-grounding (aside from arterial routes) is not happening to fulfill the CCC policy. Streets are being upgraded with poles carrying services being left in place.  
The imposition of 50/50 funding from residents is demonstrated to be unworkable in a number of instances. CCC does implement realistic support to residents to help them achieve their 50% target. Furthermore the CCC does not have budgeting set aside to carry out its part of the deal so despite the best efforts of residents to raise funds the likelihood of successful under-grounding is slim to say the least.  
The sorry site of upgraded streets with ugly power poles still in place could be likened to repainting a damaged car without first removing the dents.  
The legacy of the deteriorating and ugly overhead services is a woeful legacy left for future generations of Christchurch residents to correct.  
I recommend CCC seriously look implementing one of the many successful under-grounding programmes from other NZ towns and cities. Bearing in mind other Councils face the same economic pressures as does Christchurch.  
Given the current Christchurch street upgrades without under-grounding at some unplanned time in the future will only add considerably to costs.  
Working within the existing budget it would be far better option to redevelop some street completely (with under-ground services) rather than more streets being upgraded badly.  
To carry on redevelopments at the current pace including under-grounding could be funded from the Orion profits where residents have already paid large amounts of money as line rental fees with the reasonable expectation that rentals include the cost of upgrades.  
Surely the CCC elected Council members and CCC staff can work towards a better outcome for Christchurch.