

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 question the equity of the CCC policy that residents pay 50% of the total costs of underground wiring of their street.

This policy has come to my attention since recently moving to Hamilton Ave finding that the CCC is considering renovating the street (and removing all the trees) and are not intending to do underground wiring at the same time. Thus, the misaligned, non-matching, power poles will be the most prominent feature in this (at the moment picturesque) street.

Under the current policy, it is estimated that each resident's contribution will be \$3500.00. Some residents will be able to afford this, others will find it a real hardship, and others will be in an embarrassing position of having to admit to their neighbours that they will not be able to contribute. It is expected that their neighbours will subsidise these people. Another issue is that the CCC collects the resident's contribution and then claims GST on it!!

This policy should be altered to allow equitable situation for all Christchurch residents, affluent or otherwise. Upgrades of streets should include underground wiring and should only be taken out when the council can afford to upgrade all services at the same time. It doesn't seem to be economically sensible to up-grade a street then several years later dig it up again.

It is my understanding that there is a CCC policy to have all Christchurch streets with underground wiring by 2040, so surely budgeting for this is a CCC responsibility. It may mean looking carefully at the budget and allocating more money to *essential* (basic) services. For example almost half million dollars is collected from Hamilton Ave per annum and there must be a contribution from Orion to cover some of the costs of the street upgrade.

The CCC policy requiring 50% contribution from residents is incredibly inequitable and extreme. No other council in the country expects this kind of contribution. I submit the opinion that it is time to change this policy to reflect fairness to all Christchurch residents.

Thank you for your consideration

Barbara Dolamore