

# submission form

## Your Submission

You may use this form for your submission if you wish. Whether you use this form or not, please follow the guidelines for preparing submissions on the previous page.

Name H.A. & MS. ROBERTSON

Address 53 A HAMILTON AVENUE.

Contact Telephone 03 - 357 5071

Email (if applicable) harob@xtra.co.nz

Signature 

Please tick which applies:

I do NOT wish to make a personal submission at the hearing, and ask that this written submission be considered.

I wish to talk to the main points in my written submission at the hearings to be held between Tuesday 7 June and Friday 10 June 2005.

See ATTACHMENT.

We became residents of Hamilton Avenue in 2002. We are senior citizens and pensioners and as such find it quite unacceptable to be asked to make a contribution towards the cost of undergrounding the electrical and telephone services that we are unlikely to benefit from in our lifetime.

We were residents of Clyde Road from 1965 through 1994 (29 years), paid full rates throughout and enjoyed no benefits from street improvements during that period. We feel we are entitled to recognition for our contribution to the city over those years. Furthermore we understand the residents of Clyde Road were not asked to contribute to undergrounding of services. Ironically had we stayed in Clyde Road we would not have been asked to contribute! Is this the way fairness works?

From what we can see the current services in Hamilton Avenue have never been upgraded since installation, probably back in the forties, but only just maintained since. We believe that had the depreciation claimed over those 60 odd years been prudently invested, there would be sufficient funds to meet the cost of undergrounding which is now being quite wrongfully asked of the ratepayers.

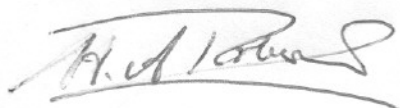
As homeowners, if we were to rent our home we would not expect our tenants to contribute, outside of rent, to the capital cost of any essential improvements and we believe it is an unjust request to expect tenants of the city to pay. We understand it is the council's number one priority, against rates, to provide updated services and suggest that rather than contributing to non-essential activities, the council would be serving the ratepayers much better by directing funds towards the beautification of the city by way of street improvements etc.

We understand that in many similar situations in the city, and in many other cities, ratepayers have not been asked to make a similar contribution. We do not accept that if the council has to meet the total cost, the project timeframe would need to be extended. That is not an acceptable excuse after 60 odd years of nil improvements.

We do not see any fairness in a concept where some elderly ratepayers, in particular pensioners, are being asked to pay for capital improvements when there is no way they will be able to reap the long-term benefits.

With respect, and recognising we have only been in the street for 3 years, we strongly suggest that the council rethink the idea of ratepayer contributions and find an alternative way of funding the undergrounding, without adding a further burden or delays to the ratepayers who have done their bit over the last 60 years, and in particular over recent years by putting up with the footpaths and guttering in very bad condition.

Bearing in mind that the ratepayers currently contribute approx. 1/2 a million Dollars in rates per year, what have they received in return? Very little. During the past 60 years or so the ratepayers of Hamilton Avenue, through rates paid, have contributed to most other undergrounding throughout the city. The thinking behind this request is badly flawed and we ask that those involved reconsider the fairness of the current thinking and find an alternative way to fund the undergrounding of services without delaying the project. Please put ratepayer interests first and get the project completed forthwith.



03/05/2005