

SUBMISSION FORM

MY SUBMISSION

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Signature



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

Undergrounding of services is recognized as an essential part of development plans for new subdivisions and estates. These developments are all on the fringe of settled areas and their pleasant aspects, uncluttered by overhead services, encourage sale and the development of more new estates yet further afield.

Urban sprawl is being promoted and is accelerating.

All other councils, bar one, recognize that meeting the cost of undergrounding existing services is a basic budget item, and an ongoing commitment, which will uplift and encourage continued consolidation and redevelopment of 'inner' city areas without the need for extensions to the infrastructure.

The increase in population density may also generate sufficient growth in consumer demand to make public transport services more viable as an alternative to the car.

Hamilton Avenue contributes a large sum in rates. Disregarding inflation, small subdivision and redevelopment has resulted in a very substantial increase in the amount of rates collected annually in recent years and this trend is likely to continue.

Despite the ever growing contribution to the city coffers there has been little maintenance input and the condition of the street generally has deteriorated. Overhead wiring is drooping and uneven, posts are out of plumb.

It is appropriate for the Council to put in place a policy which provides for undergrounding to be included in the overall costs of street redevelopment.

The Council has said that its objective is to make Christchurch a 'pleasant and fun' place to live. We, the ratepayers and electors, agree. We believe that our rates should cover the costs of making our city more pleasant, as do other Councils.