

137A Hamilton Avenue
Ilam
Christchurch 8004

13th May 2005

Alec Newman
City Streets
Christchurch City Council
P.O.Box 525
Christchurch

Dear Alec,

Submission: Hamilton Avenue Undergrounding - Proposed 50% contribution to cost.

We ask that you take the following submission into consideration and that you pass it on to the relevant committee. We are not proposing to talk to the submission.

Our understanding is that in general the present policy is to have a 50/50 split in the cost of placing underground power and electricity wiring when streets are rebuilt. This does not seem to be justified. Our grounds for saying this are as follows.

Past rates have been collected on the assumption that wiring and its placement, along with other city necessities, would be improved from the increasing rates income. It is difficult to understand why the Council has left the wiring so long unattended. In the case of a very old street (Hamilton Avenue was in part the drive to the old St. Barnabas church, we believe!) One can have wiring left for fifty to seventy years unimproved and this appears to be so in the case under consideration. The 'improvements', such as they are have been done higgledy-piggledy. There are eleven different styles of power poles.

We understand that many other Councils do not split the cost in this way and one can understand why. It would be very difficult for individual property owners to agree among themselves when the ultimate cost is unknown and there might be very large differences between estimates and the actual cost of the contractors' works. A degree of leadership by the Council seems necessary.

In this case there is the prospect, if the wiring can be undergrounded, of a very considerable enhancement of the area, Hamilton Avenue and the surrounding streets, as well as an aesthetically more pleasing appearance for the city.

Yours sincerely,

J.R. Trainor
Luke Trainor
(Luke & J.R. Trainor)