

2008/09 DRAFT ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

Submissions close on 21 April 2008

I wish to talk to the main points in my written submission at the hearings to be held between Monday 12 May 2008 and Wednesday 14 May 2008.

Are you completing this submission:	On behalf of a group or organisation
If you are representing, how many people do you represent?	200
Name:	Brendon Burns
Organisation Name:	Christchurch Central Labour Electorate Committee
Organisation Role:	Candidate
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Date:	21 April 2008

Your Submission:

Submission to the Draft Annual Plan 2008-09, page 29

On behalf of the members of the Christchurch Central Labour Electorate Committee and wider membership, I respectfully request that councillors reconsider the 24 percent rent increase recently approved for council housing rentals.

We urge you to instead take up a very genuine offer from the Christchurch Labour team, which includes three Cabinet Ministers, to work together on a detailed approach to Government for a substantial injection into the council's social housing budget.

Over recent days I have visited several council housing blocks. Tenants are distressed at what the increases might mean for them.

There is analysis that robustly challenges the figures used by council in reaching its decision; the conclusion is that our most vulnerable citizens are going to be hit hard. At the very least, the 24 percent rent increases were done in rapid fashion, without any chance for input.

We are asking that council agree to review the rent changes.

The Labour Party in Christchurch is committed to working with council to see what Government assistance might be provided to upgrade and replace council housing, without imposing huge rent increases. There are precedents in Wellington and Auckland.

We urge you to take up that very genuine offer to work together on a detailed approach to Government for a substantial injection into the council's social housing budget.

The last thing that Christchurch would want is for the council to be at odds with a whole range of organisations which share the council's long-standing commitment to assisting those most in need.

This city and its council have a long and proud history of providing support to our most vulnerable and of working in partnership with Government, the community and voluntary sector. I think we would all want that to continue.

Yours, sincerely

Brendon Burns
Labour candidate
Christchurch Central
on behalf of Christchurch Central Labour Electorate Committee