

2008/09 DRAFT ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

Submissions close on 21 April 2008

I do NOT wish to present my submission at the hearing, and ask that this submission be considered.

Are you completing this submission:

For yourself

If you are representing, how many people do you represent?

Name: Bill Rosenberg

Organisation Name:

Organisation Role:

Contact Address: 26 Beckenham St
Christchurch 8023

Daytime Phone: 3642801

Evening Phone:

Email: bill.rosenberg@canterbury.ac.nz

Date: 19 April 2008

Your Submission:

Submission to Christchurch City Council on Draft Annual Plan, April 2008

I am appalled at both the size of the increase in rental for Council tenants, and the way it was rammed through Council. This has been made even worse by the subsequent actions of the Mayor to close down debate by Councillors. The Council is an elected body whose function is to represent the citizens of Christchurch. It is not a board of directors striving for unanimity and hanging together when a decision has been made. That would make a farce of the democratic process.

Accordingly I am supporting The Coalition for Fair Rents as follows.

Proposed 24% increase in rent for Council tenants

1. At its meeting on March 27th the City Council resolved to increase rents for tenants in Council housing by 24%. I object strongly to an increase of this size.

2. I consider that the Council's recent decision should be set aside and that the rental income from housing should be that set out in the Draft Annual Plan 2008-09, page 29, where the budgeted total rents are stated as \$12.924m.

3. I understand that total rents of \$12.924m are an increase of about 2.5%. I do not object to such an increase because I recognise that costs for maintenance are increasing.

4. I object very strongly to the proposed increase of 24% because:

(i) Tenants, residents and ratepayers had no warning that the Council was considering an unprecedented rent increase until a day or two before the Council meeting on 27th March.

(ii) The Council's Social Housing Strategy (June 2007) did not indicate that the condition of the housing stock would require a huge rent increase within a year.

(iii) The Council's Long Term Community Plan 2006-2016 indicated rent increases of only about 2.5% a year.

(iv) Using rent from tenants to build a fund of \$34m by 2015 is a new policy on which people should be consulted, in accordance with the Local

Government Act and the City Council's own policy.

5. I urge the Council to rescind its decision of March 27th to increase rents by 24% and to keep to the rental income set out in the Draft Annual Plan with a rent increase of about 2.5%.