

27. 7. 2000

**SATURN SUBCOMMITTEE
10 APRIL, 24 MAY, 7 JUNE, 20, 27 JUNE, 4, 11, 18 JULY 2000**

**Meeting of the Saturn Subcommittee
were held on 10 April, 24 May, 7 June, 20, 27 June, 4, 11 and 18 July 2000**

PRESENT: Councillor David Close (Chairman),
Councillors Anna Crighton (Chairman 27 June
meeting), Carol Evans (Chairman 11 July meeting),
Ian Howell, Charles Manning, Dennis O'Rourke
(Chairman 18 July meeting) and Ron Wright.

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were received and accepted
from Councillors David Close (27 June, 11, 18 July),
Anna Crighton (4, 11, 18 July), Denis O'Rourke
(27 June, 11 July) and Ron Wright (18 July).

The Subcommittee reports that:

**PART C – REPORT ON DELEGATED DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE
SUBCOMMITTEE**

**1. TELSTRA SATURN - INSTALLATION OF CHRISTCHURCH
NETWORK**

BACKGROUND

At its meeting on 23 March 2000 the Council appointed a subcommittee, comprising Councillors Close (Chairman), Councillors Crighton, Evans, Howell, Manning, O'Rourke and Wright, and delegated to it the power to approve the application from Telstra Saturn to install its cable network throughout the city and to impose conditions on that application.

Since its appointment, the Subcommittee has met on eight occasions. At its first three meetings on 10 April, 24 May and 7 June the members addressed a range of issues relating to the installation of the network, including the terms and conditions of the agreement, the undergrounding of cables in sensitive areas, the design and landscaping of street furniture and the reinstatement of streets. A communications plan has also been developed for keeping Christchurch residents, elected members and Council staff informed of the roll-out. At its most recent meetings the Subcommittee approved the plans for the first stage of the rollout and the conditions to be imposed on the Telstra Saturn application to install its Christchurch network.

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The Subcommittee met with Telstra Saturn's Chief Executive Officer, Mr Jack Matthews, on 7 June. Mr Matthews outlined the benefits of the new service to the city and confirmed that his company planned to have a long term presence in Christchurch and would be competing with other telecommunications companies for market share.

Mr Matthews advised that the company would be making a \$200M investment in the city over the next 18 months which would bring significant benefits to Christchurch including:

- Access to a range of "state of the art" telecommunications services and cable TV at a very competitive price
- Employment opportunities for local people
- Business opportunities for local firms

Mr Matthews gave an assurance that the network will not be excessively intrusive with mostly 2 to 3 bundle cables being used. The heavier 6, 7 and 8 bundle cables widely used in Wellington will not be used in Christchurch. Telstra Saturn will underground its cables in those streets in which other services are already placed underground and will convert its overhead network as Orion converts its network.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT CONDITIONS AND DEED

The Legal Services Manager reported to the 4 July meeting of the Subcommittee on the proposed contents of the above documents.

The legal relationship between the Council and Telstra Saturn is set out in the conditions under the Telecommunications Act 1987 and a deed which covers those matters which do not fall within the scope of the conditions.

The purpose of the deed is essentially to enshrine in a legally binding document the commitments made to the Council by Telstra Saturn in respect to the installation of its network.

The Subcommittee, acting under delegated authority, approved the deed and conditions recommended by the Legal Services Manager and authorised staff to finalise the deed and conditions in consultation with Telstra Saturn.

(Note: Councillor Howell abstained from the discussion and voting on the conditions and deed.)

INSTALLATION OF NETWORK

For installation purposes, Telstra Saturn has divided the city into approximately 200 nodes, each containing about 500 properties. In addition to the cable network, each node will contain two items of street furniture, namely a multiplex telephone unit (mux) an optical transitional node (otn).

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The otns are 1m high x 600mm wide x 450mm deep. They are required for cable TV and in simple terms transform the light signal to radio frequency. The mux boxes are 1.5m x 1.8m x 400mm. These boxes perform a similar function as the otns, but for telephone, rather than television, transmission. All boxes will be painted in a graffiti resistant green paint. Telstra Saturn has agreed to meet the cost of landscaping each site at an additional cost of \$500,000. In addition to this equipment, approximately 10 amplifiers will be installed in each node. The amplifiers will be installed on the overhead cables and will be placed between 500mm and 1 metre from power poles.

In view of the demanding timetable Telstra Saturn is working to and the consequent need for decisions to be made quickly, the Subcommittee has agreed to meet weekly to approve the installation of a network on a node-by-node basis.

At each meeting the Committee is provided with the following information:

- A large scale map showing the boundaries of each node, the location of the cables, the sections of the network to be undergrounded and, in the case of the overhead reticulation, the cable sizes.
- Photographs showing the proposed siting of each mux box and otn. Both items of street furniture are superimposed on each photograph.
- Location of protected trees and heritage buildings.

At its meetings on 20 and 27 June and 11 and 18 July the Committee approved the plans for nodes 1-7 and 11 subject to minor adjustments to allow for draughting errors or to accede to residents' reasonable wishes.

A plan showing the location of the above nodes is tabled.

Telstra Saturn plan to commence delivering its Christchurch service early next year.

VISUAL IMPACT

The aesthetic problems experienced with the Wellington network are not expected to occur in Christchurch as smaller diameter cables will be used for the local network. Cable sizes will vary from 1-4 bundles, whereas in Wellington a high ratio of 6-8 bundle cables were installed. As will be seen from the table below, 2 and 3 bundle cables will make up approximately 80% of the Christchurch network:

Single cable	10%
2 bundle cable	40%
3 bundle cable	30%
4 bundle cable	20%

Samples of the cable will be tabled at the meeting, together with a power cable to enable a comparison to be made with other utility networks.

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SUBMARINE CABLE - ROUTE

The route for the Christchurch section of the national fibre optic cable is detailed below:

Beach Road - New Brighton

From intersection Marine Parade to intersection Bower Avenue - 1000m

Bower Avenue - New Brighton

From intersection Beach Road to intersection New Brighton Road - 1900m

New Brighton Road - New Brighton

From intersection Bower Avenue to intersection Wainoni Road - 100m

Wainoni Road/Kerrs Road - Bexley/Avonside

From intersection New Brighton Road to intersection Woodham Road - 3300m

Woodham Road - Avonside

From intersection Kerrs Road to intersection Worcester Street - 400m

Worcester Street - Linwood

From intersection Woodham Road to intersection Linwood Avenue - 900m
U/G already

From intersection Linwood Avenue to intersection Barbadoes Street - 1800m

Barbadoes Street - City

From intersection Worcester Street to intersection Hereford Street - 150m
U/G already

For security reasons, this cable which is Telstra Saturn's main link with the remainder of New Zealand will be installed underground.

SENSITIVE AREAS

In terms of its agreement with the Council, Telstra Saturn will underground its network in those areas of the city where other services are already underground. In addition, Telstra Saturn has recognised that in certain "sensitive" areas of the city some mitigation of the visual impact of cables may be necessary and has agreed to give special consideration to undergrounding its network in these areas. The Subcommittee has identified sensitive areas as being (in priority order):

1. Lifeline routes
2. Tourist routes and coastal/river frontages
3. Major and minor arterials
4. Local streets in neighbourhood improvement areas and special amenity areas
5. Major park frontages
6. The area within the four avenues

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In the areas of the city where planning has been finalised, Telstra Saturn has confirmed that it will underground its network in the following streets which presently have overhead power reticulation:

Marine Parade
Part of New Brighton Road
Part of Owles Terrace

In Avonside Drive, another sensitive area, only two bundle cables will be installed overhead. If thicker cables are required along this section of the Avon River Scenic Drive they will be undergrounded.

The bulk of the distribution cables along the submarine cable route will also be undergrounded.

CONSULTATION WITH RESIDENTS

Telstra Saturn have held several meetings with residents' groups in the eastern suburbs to outline their construction programme, and to answer residents' questions.

Telstra Saturn propose to give 30 days advance notice of commencing work in each node and to two days notice of commencing work in individual streets.

CONSIDERED THIS 27TH DAY OF JULY 2000

MAYOR