

**YALDHURST RURAL RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION (INCORPORATED)**

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Telephone: 342-7850

Freepost 178  
Christchurch City Council  
"Our Community Plan – Christchurch Otautahi"  
**CHRISTCHURCH 8003**

Sirs & Mesdames

**CHANGE OF RATING DIFFERENTIAL – DRAFT COMMUNITY PLAN 2004/14**

**1. DRAFT PLAN**

This Association welcomes the opportunity to comment on the above draft Community Plan. It welcomes the new departure by the Council in its adoption of the principle of longer term Planning which has long been a feature of the Planning Process employed by most municipalities in the United Kingdom and probably by other local bodies in the Western World.

**2. CHANGE OF RATING – DIFFERENTIAL**

It is, therefore, with dismay that my Executive has learned that some members of my constituency and other rural ratepayers have received letters proposing that, unless the use of their properties meet land use criteria, such properties will, in future, be rated residential. My Executive believes that the despatch of such letters to individual ratepayers before consultation with the properly recognised Residents' Groups is a denial of the principle long espoused by the Council that executive action must follow full and adequate consultation. In these circumstances I ask, on behalf of my Executive, that these letters to individual ratepayers should be withdrawn forthwith. Only after full and adequate consultation with recognised associations, representing ratepayers, can executive action, such as has occurred, be permitted.

### **3. CONSULTATION ON DRAFT PLAN**

The City Council, true to its democratic tradition, has always afforded the opportunity to Residents' Groups throughout Christchurch to discuss the Proposed Plan for the ensuing year. Why was this not done this year? To attempt to apply by executive action such far-reaching proposals to rating criteria for rural and other ratepayers without prior consultation is a denial of the democratic tradition for which this Council has long prided itself.

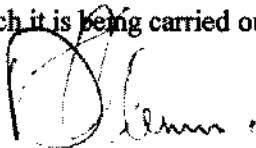
This necessary consultation process should be initiated immediately. Then and only after full and adequate consultation and a satisfactory solution reached should any alteration to rating principles be arrived at and properly promulgated. To do otherwise would be dictatorial, a denial of the democratic tradition and as it is being applied a gross invasion of human rights.

### **4. NEXT STEP**

My Association expects from the Council a ready response to this invitation for consultation.

### **5. CONCLUSION**

I am sending a copy of this submission to the Mayor, to each City Councillor and to each member of the Fendalton/Waimairi Community Board, our elected Representatives, who are responsible for the proper governance of this City and of our Constituency, to convey to them our depth of concern over the proposed change to the rating regime and the tendentious way in which it is being carried out.



Dennis Thomson

**CHAIRMAN**

**YALDHURST RURAL RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION (INCORPORATED)**

27 April 2004

cc: Mayor  
All Councillors  
Fendalton/Waimairi Community Board Members  
Mr and Mrs G Herriott  
Mr and Mrs P Bickley  
Other Residents Associations