

Request By C.C.C. For Comments ✓ On 2007 Annual Plan

From W. T. Williams
20 Woodlawn Rise
CHCH. 8022 (HUNTSBURY) 12/5/07

I am a previous C.C.C. employee.
I was Assistant City Planner Chch. 1967-'78
and
City Planner Chch. C.C. 1978-'87

Special Projects Officer
& part time Building Industry Commissioner 1987-'91
(retired 1991)

My reasons for making this submission are that during the 1970's the Council sent me on a number of overseas study trips — in particular one to the U.K., Europe, Canada & the United States. I was hosted by about 50 City & Regional Authorities.

I returned with a report containing many recommendations.

One rec. that was not implemented was related to Chch's. ugly overhead wiring.

Quote from my 1977 report :-

"Our masses of crooked power poles & wires everywhere are a serious detraction from the City's amenities.

They are made worse by virtue of the fact that the city is mostly flat. Poles & wires are seen in perspective. Also they are more obtrusive because

they are silhouetted against the sky." 99

I advocated accelerated undergrounding in the following years to little avail, and since my retirement it has continued at a snail's pace.

Parts of Christchurch look positively primitive.

In terms of local amenities undergrounding would outdo many of the other type improvements money has been spent on in Chch. over the years.

The decision several years ago not to underground in the case of all road reconstruction works, was to say the least very disappointing.

By comparison Auckland has set aside \$30m to complete undergrounding & Palmerston North has completed the process.

Submission

Please increase the vote for undergrounding power lines in Christchurch, by a substantial amount, & prepare a long term strategy for complete undergrounding.

I request the opportunity to address the Cmtee.

W J Williams