

CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL

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Submissions close on 16 April 2009

I wish to talk to the main points in my written submission at the hearings to be held between Monday 11 May 2009 and Monday 18 May 2009.

Are you completing this submission:

For yourself

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

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Date:

9 April 2009

Your Submission:

COMMITMENT TO UNDERGROUNDING OF POWER WIRES IN MATURE SUBURBS USING ORION NZ LTD DIVIDENDS PAID TO COUNCIL AS FINANCE SOURCE.

1. The issue of trees clashing with overhead power lines has reached a watershed point in that the cost of trimming trees that has historically been met by the lines companies will in the near future be imposed upon the owner of the land on which the "offending" trees are growing.
2. This major change in policy will inevitably result in many "offending" trees being cut down in order to avoid major ongoing (generally annual) exorbitant "arborist" charges.
3. It is generally accepted that trees are more pleasing to look at than overhead power lines, but the effect of the change in policy as to where costs fall will inescapably be a powerline-dominant street scene rather than a "garden city" one. In other words the trees will go, the power lines will remain, the net effect being significantly increased ugliness, or a "refugee camp" look.
4. Although undergrounding of power lines is expensive, the alternative of trimming trees on a yearly basis very soon adds up to the cost of undergrounding, and is in simple terms a no-brainer in the long term.
5. My understanding is that Orion NZ Ltd pay very substantial annual dividends to Council via City Holdings Ltd.
6. I request that a minimum of 90% of those Orion dividends be applied to undergrounding of power supplies in mature urban areas of Christchurch, with early priority being given to SH75 (Halswell Rd) between the Junction Rd intersection and Halswell School.