

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?

Name:

Ollie Turner

Organisation Name:

Organisation Role:

Contact Address:

100 Memorial Ave

Postcode:

8053

Daytime Phone:

351 2638

Evening Phone:

351 2638

Email:

ollieandbrenda@xtra.co.nz

Email Address for copy of submission:

ollieandbrenda@xtra.co.nz

Date:

13 April 2009

Your Submission:

Christchurch prides itself on looking after its citizens. Given the current economic downturn, creating amongst other things considerable spare capacity in the Christchurch based civil construction industry, and thus the potential for large numbers of skilled construction workers to be unemployed in late 2009 to 2011 as the civil construction industry adjusts to this greatly diminished workload, I consider it prudent that Council considers bringing forward a number of sewerage, water and roading infrastructural projects to not only lessen the impact of the reduction in private sector development activity, but take advantage of the very competitive market by publicly tendering any such capital works. Very competitive bid prices could be expected. Interest costs are historically quite low, enabling further fiscal benefits. Some Northern regions will not be similarly impacted as they will be the beneficiaries of the already outlined key Central Government projects. Not only will this benefit direct employment in the construction industry, but the economic multiplier is very high with heavy inputs from Christchurch based professional engineering services, aggregate suppliers, ready mix concrete, concrete and plastic pipes and fittings, etc. etc.

Some benefits will be:

- * Less unemployment
- * Substantial economic impact due to the high multiplier factor
- * Lower interest costs given the interest rate cycle
- * Lower bid prices given the subdued civil construction market

In short, better value for ratepayers dollar whilst progressing the city.