

Our Community Plan Christchurch O-Tautahi 2004/14 SUBMISSION

Submissions close on 6 May 2004

I wish to talk to the main points in my written submission at the hearings.

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Your Submission: Change in rating differential - Draft Community Plan 2004 / 14.

The Ouruhia Residents Association opposes this proposal, and wishes to present the following comments in support of its opposition.

We agree with the Yaldhurst Rural Residents Association (Inc), that there should have been consultation prior to the announcement of this proposed change. Had this happened the Council may have avoided the 'uproar' it now faces, as the proposal is widely - and publicly - opposed.

Landowners are emotional about their properties and in the main do not expect to receive letters from anyone, let alone the Christchurch City Council announcing changes that will cost them money, which in this incident is through higher rates.

Discussion with many of those concerned in the Ouruhia District, reveals that these people are adamant that they will not receive any extra 'services' if the general rates increase.

They ask; (quiet rightly) is the council going to upgrade and install extensive 'street / road' lighting, curb and channelling, bring the berms up to the same standard which city residents enjoy and maintain the 'streets / roads' to the same high standard as city streets? They and this residents' association is sceptical of the answer to this, as we believe that the cost of doing so would be high - too high?.

The Ouruhia Residents Association Inc, recommends that those who live in rural areas on land holdings, regardless of size or use, be rated rural and not residential - as proposed in the draft Community Plan 2004 / 14.

The services in these areas are clearly not of the same standard as those in the city, and we cannot see that they ever will be, the cost to achieve this is too prohibitive.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Ouruhia Residents Association.
Adrienne Reeves.
Secretary.