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5th May 2004.

I, Adrienne Reeves, wish to speak to the main points in my submission, at the hearings.

Draft Community Plan 2004 / 14.

I wish to submit this submission in opposition to the proposed change for small landholders *from* rural to residential general rates.

In support of our opposition I would like to state the following:

- An increase in general rates will not improve services to our property, because the cost of improving services would be prohibitive.

Farrells Road is a no exit road, and until approximately 3 years ago it was a dirt track.

It has since been sealed, but there is no curb and channelling and so weeds are growing through the seal at the edges. When I tire of this unsightly look, I spray at my own cost.

It is also a **one**-lane road, and has the roughest, most untidy roadsides that we have ever seen. The edges are occasionally mown.

There are **no** lights on the road, nor are there any lights where the road intersects the next road.

- The Christchurch City Council wishes to change our rating to residential, seemingly so that they might collect more monies through our rates.

Yet for everything else we classified '**rural**', full stop.

The Christchurch Press is not delivered to our gate because of this classification, if we want a Star paper, we buy it from a retailer, for the same reason.

Our mail delivery is rural, and so again does not come to our gate, the letterboxes for Farrells Road are situated together 'down the road'.

- We border a portion of Chaney's Forest – no one maintains it near us, the weeds and black berry grow and encroach the roadside until we finally pay someone to tidy up the mess.
- We see that we use our land for rural activities that would not be suitable, acceptable or even possible on a residential section in the city. Uses include a large garden, fruit trees, trees for firewood, walnut trees, olive trees and a kune-kune pig.

The Christchurch City Council says that we are not rural and so we should pay residential general rates.

We strongly disagree with this, and the policy.

As my points illustrate, if one lives in a country environment – rural area, then you are faced with the challenges of rural life.

We have accepted these challenges, in part with the knowledge that we pay less rates. Until now, we have viewed a lesser general rate charge as a small retribution for these rural challenges.

However, if the Christchurch City Council adopts the proposed change then we shall expect huge changes to our immediate environment, and we would expect these to happen as quickly as we and all the others who are affected begin to pay residential general rates.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this submission.

Adrienne Reeves.