

## CPP

Whatever CPP means to you - Communist Peoples' Party or Aurora Energy's Customised Price Path, if you live in New Zealand this opinion piece/Submission is relevant to all who flick a switch. In this democratic country we have just had a fair vote for our representatives in comparison with other countries, so we should be happy, eh ? However, this Southern Woman is not, especially having invested in Aurora's constituency and infrastructure and is now faced with increasing local, electric line charges and potentially more to supply hydroelectricity via The National Grid to the North Island which seems like an unsatiated spoilt child.

We are told that we must pay more line charges whether we like it or not if we want to flick a switch and enjoy the benefits of 21st Century living. We can choose our friends, fund provider, power retailer seemingly, but not the company that owns the lines, poles and transformers even though some of them have been so neglected over the years that they are a danger and outages are getting more frequent. It is all very well to blame a *Twister* but the fact remains that the fading dots in George St, Dunedin were not put there to avoid getting electrocuted. How can a business be expected to have to triple dip - lines, insurance and a self help generator and still remain profitable in today's climate ?

Some of us oldies have paid line charges for quite a few years that were earmarked for maintenance and future needs, to secure supply. So where did those dollars go ? Let me tell you in case you have forgotten - The Directors of a previous Aurora Energy Company Board thought they would play *Monopoly* with our money and invest it in land even though it was not part of their core business. The bean counters played with 90,000 customers' counters and did not stick with the Electric Co's utility but bought " Mayfair, Regent St and The Strand." They must have had A Get Out of Jail Free Card as they have never been charged with losing millions. It may not have had the voltage of \$ 609m but was enough to cause an outrage and blow a fuse. It was also in series and parallel with other white collar crimes involving The Southern District Health Board and Otago Rugby so the amperage did make a potential difference then and now. It is probably a bit late to play *Guess Who* so I guess we just have to build another cable and get over it. The motivation behind their attempted corporate raid on Alpine Energy in South Canterbury was suspect and the reverse may even happen in the future if *Scrabble* is popular among the investors.

Maybe it was more like a game of *Snakes and Ladders*. If it wasn't for a Whistle Blower the snakes may have got away with what was actually not happening up the ladders. In a Submission to The Queenstown Lakes District Council about how Aurora's contractor, Delta, had wedged The Ladies' Mile trees to safeguard their lines, I mentioned that Aurora's Duty of Care was suspect, but I did not then know the extent of the neglect of the network.

Take a Chance with them again, says The Commerce Commission. \$383m over 3 years or \$609 over 5. Take it on your chest, community, some say. Your charges have been low, if not the lowest for years. Pioneer Energy subsidizes power for some community amenities eg. Alpine Aqualand. It may very well be colder down south but we need air conditioning up north, others say. I say get your long eyes and short arms off our southern environment. Remember The Save Manipouri, Waitaki and Central Campaigns ? Hydroelectricity is not sustainable when it involves more destruction of the land. A TransPower corridor north of Tiwai is not a happening due to compensation, up to 30% distribution losses and in spite of a promised differential pricing system. Lake Onslow is a maybe using an Archimedes screw to transport swift Clutha water uphill. Small communities use something similar in The Amazon. The Government, could play *Connect Four* down both The Clutha and The Waitaki Rivers then with Tekapo, Benmore, Aviemore and Waitaki. And on the swiftest river in New Zealand Hawea, Clyde, Roxburgh and Onslow. What a shame it does not now own all of them. When " The Team of 5 million" decides to play *Ludo* and tries to beat each other home the grid must go into overdrive. It must be a managerial nightmare and now factor in Lockdown, Global Warming and America's Cup etc. Surely it would be better to again play simple *Tiddlywinks* where we all try to get our money into a Socialist, State Owned Enterprize pot. *Bingo*, isn't that what we in fact have now, disguised as a Claytons integrated one, with so much regulation and price fixing from the likes of The Electrical Authority, Commerce Commission and High Court. Maybe our Health, Education, Police, Defence and Justice systems would all be better concentrated and run solely from The Beehive.

Central Electric used to own power stations at Glenorchy, Roaring Meg and The DCC, Waipori, which kept rates and power charges down but sorry, politicians thought that competition would keep power prices low and reduce our national debt so they sold off our assets to ourselves. The whole power thingo is confusing enough and took me a lifetime to see and visualize parts I have not seen and I still have probably got it wrong. You know what thought, thought. Anyway, you can spend valuable time trying to pick the cheapest retailer and deal but realistically we should have the cheapest power in the world since it is mainly hydroelectric. The wise say that If you play your cards right, play The Game of Life and manage to go past GO and avoid that Tax Assessment either side and collect the \$200 bonus, paying your electricity bill will be a breeze in Struggle St. even when there is not enough for fresh air let alone generation.

Some in Central have paid an extra \$4m for themselves to be charged by a retailer when the politicians auctioned off their local providers a few years back. Dunedin's debt would be much, much less if they had kept their dam. Sure, owning their own lines company must have been a help this year when the other members of The Group - Dunedin Airport, Dunedin Ventures Ltd, Dunedin Rail were hard hit. Not so free parking and Forestry also helped tip the balance in favour of credit but what could happen in the future. The poor old consumer in the form of businesses, Bank of Mum & Dad have to cough up again and again regardless of whether they are on Princess or Struggle St. And what about our neighbours. Sure, Christchurch, we may not have rocked and rolled on The Richter to the same logarithm but what happened to collaboration, co-operation and conservation since. Dunedin's Stadium, to my knowledge did not get a massive government grant. Are they playing *The City Version*

*of Monopoly ?* Only two stadiums per game so be in quick and either build a hazard or a bonus building to be a pain, drain, gain, main or rain on Otago's parade.

The paragraph link as well as the island one is Haywards or The Cook Strait Cable. No matter how many times us South Islanders verbalize and threaten a not so *Trivial Pursuit*, it remains, even mended and maintained as the maritime, reciprocal power link. I agree with Rio Tinto that they should not be made to pay for lines and maintenance, and new ones that they do not use. We have to believe the powers that be, that the electrons run southwards at times of low southern rainfall and drought. For sure, irrigation is an agricultural, horticultural and viticultural lifeline especially at certain times of the year and that we have to play *Chinese Checkers* no matter who they leap over. I realize that Lake Coleridge and The Waitaki Dam were built about the same time for synergy and energy. That Roxburgh was virtually built by hand post WW2 and that Benmore was built to safeguard the Waikato System in times of low northern rain. Aviemore was built out of spare resources, Clyde was a think Big Project and Manipouri was built specifically for The Tiwai Point smelter. I owe Kew 3 of my 8 lives and Southland will probably like to play *Hangwoman* with my last 9th one but I am trying to safeguard your jobs, environment and future. You are up against low representation, low population, high pressure and high stakes. I believe in the Southern spirit and that you will not allow this Te Waipounamu waka to sink into The southern Ocean.

If this great little clean, green, Covid free (ish), Nuclear free, 100% pure country is to live up to its reputation certain things will have to happen from now on and I number them in my 10 point plan.

- 1) Aurora, you have 5 years. Rio Tinto you as well if you wish. Lake Onslow is in the 5 year plan also.
- 2) Do not extend Transpower's corridor north from Tiwai but maintain it well otherwise. Since a greenie would also share and care with other genie ideas that were easy on the eye, economy and environment some sort of Data Centre or similar would also be a good fit. However some of us will not forget Project Aqua in a hurry, Meridian Energy.
- 3) Allow a Kiwi Hermit Crab Co to move into The Bluff Aluminium Smelter and continue separating Al from bauxite with cheap electricity but on a reduced scale and deal with the end product better. No concrete Yuck Mountains nor ammonia risks in water vulnerable buildings.
- 4) Use increasingly electrified Kiwi Rail to gather up recyclable plastics nationwide, repurpose them using cheap Manapouri power at Tiwai Point and distribute them by sea which is already set up harbour wise etc.
- 5) Establish a Hydrogen Cell manufacturing plant to pass cheap electricity through sea and or salt water by electrolysis and export the cells by sea. A totally sustainable and recyclable process.
- 6) Establish a Wind Farm at Tiwai, Kiwi owned. And advertise all secret generation plans especially solar, thermal and geothermal.

7) Establish a Wave Farm at Tiwai, Kiwi owned. Biofuels and forestry scraps could also provide renewable energy.

8) Reduce Immigration into New Zealand and cap the population around say 7m otherwise we are looking at Nuclear options or more fossil fuels.

9) Reduce consumption and the rampant housing market by building much smaller abodes.

10) Last but not least. Stop this second phase land grab that does not follow the first phase Treaty of Waitangi settlements. The line was drawn in the sand long ago. (AC) The alternating current must not pull us under or back to (BC) before Covid. (DC) as more direct communication is straight talking and fair. After all, " we are all in this together."

Can we rely on Aurora australis to colour the way at this time of year ? Perhaps a lucky Leprechaun at the end of the rainbow with a pot of gold will help. Otherwise the next generations will have to flick the switch and turn off the lights when they leave.

Written by Judy Stevenson, Oamaru. December 18th 2020