
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 15/08/2020 12:44:54 p.m.
To: Feedback Aurora Plan [feedbackauroraplan@comcom.govt.nz]
Subject: Aurora Submission

Dear Sir / Madam

I was looking forward to coming to the Lake Wanaka Session so I could have my say about Aurora's plans to impose outrageous price increases in the Central Otago & Wanaka areas. However being heard in person was not to be for quite understandable reasons, so putting it in writing by email will have to do.

Please excuse my lack of formality. It doesn't imply that I'm casual about my submission, or that it should be assumed frivolous. It's simply because I have never made a submission before any formal hearing before, but on this occasion I feel sufficiently motivated to submit, even although I expect many or even most of the submitters will be saying essentially the same thing. So - I'll keep this as short as possible.

So, Dunedin City Council have historically demanded millions in dividends from Aurora. Every dollar in dividends to the DCC is a dollar rate relief to DCC ratepayers. No one could deny this.

In doing this it is quite evident that for some years insufficient provision was being made by Aurora for maintenance and upgrading its aging network. No one could deny this.

If the Directors of Aurora were acting with any kind of corporate responsibility, they would have ensured their owners knew that dividends in lieu of provision for maintenance and upgrading was a huge financial risk to the business. Minutes of board meetings should disclose this.

Nonetheless, the DCC demanded the dividends which the DCC ratepayers enjoyed the benefit over a substantial period of time. I understand the sum is \$108m, although I am not sure of this.

So now D-Day has arrived, and woe is me, Aurora have to face the reality of their future costs. Their owners, the DCC have acted like the proverbial "Highwayman" and instructed them to get on with it and recover the costs from retail customers across the region.

Anyone can see this is not fair nor just. At the very least, the sum of all dividends paid to the DCC over the last 5 years should be extracted from all retail customers in the DCC geographic area, and the balance could then be shared amongst retail customers in the region, including the DCC area.

Thank you for the opportunity to be heard, and thanks for taking the time to read my submission.

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