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Sent: 20/08/2020 2:02:55 p.m.
To: Feedback Aurora Plan [feedbackauroraplan@comcom.govt.nz]
Subject: Submission re Aurora Energy

DCC/Aurora network going forward

Firstly, thank you for the opportunity to meet with the Commerce Commission staff in Cromwell last week. We really appreciated being able to discuss the situation and share ideas.

Money for Aurora's asset maintenance has been paid by consumers.

Aurora's budgets in past years included maintenance, and should have been realistic as per normal business practice. The fact that maintenance money was not used for maintenance is not the consumers' problem. The consumer has paid to maintain the system year in, year out. Now, we are being told we must pay a second time for the same purpose.

- Do we trust them not to do the same thing again? No.
- Do we trust them to wisely use the proposed re-payment of maintenance money? No.
- How do consumers get transparency?
- Dunedin City Council should be paying for maintenance upgrade

There must be so many maintenance issues. Safety of people must be first. The all-day outage in Clyde on a -9°C to 0°C day; the power pole falling at Clyde School - preventing issues like this should be top of the list.

Consumer compensation is a hard one, ultimately if higher compensation is required, we suspect that would also need to be recovered from the consumers' pockets.

We have been told we have to contribute.

We have a problem with Central Otago residents having to pay more than those in other areas. At the drop in session it was explained that the Central Lakes Trust was set up with the proceeds of the initial sale, and you say the benefits of that must be recognized by way of Dunedin residents paying less. Central Lakes Trust allocates to all of Central Otago, through to Wanaka and Wakatipu. If we are all getting the benefit of the Trust, we must all share equally in the re-payment of maintenance cost.

Population density should not come into the calculation - there is no justification in charging more on the basis of there being few people and more open spaces in the Cromwell/Alexandra/Roxburgh area instead of the higher population of Wanaka and Queenstown. Spread the load evenly.

Dunedin also got benefits from the network sale. It got money with which to build the stadium, and a guaranteed, on-going revenue stream. Plus it got the stadium at its doorstep. It seems that the benefits were received by all Aurora's Otago residents, so let's all pay an equal share in this fix-up fiasco.

Monthly charges need to be kept as low as possible, over a long period of time. Businesses and families are having to deal with Covid 19 impacts, and older people have virtually no interest income if they do have savings.

Finally, you refer to this as an 'Investment Plan', please consider renaming it 'DCC/Aurora network going forward'.

To summarise:

- We feel conned by the Dunedin City Council and do not trust them
- Maintenance needs to be prioritised for the safety of people
- No additional consumer compensation for outages

- We do not want to contribute again to the maintenance but if consumers must contribute
 - Apportion evenly over the network
 - Make it a longer term to reduce payments

Regards

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