

Date: 13-7-2020

Commerce Commission New Zealand
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Dear Commissioner

I wish to make this submission to the Commerce Commission to object to the unreasonably high electricity network prices planned in Otago by Aurora Energy.

The financial situation Aurora finds itself in is not the fault of consumers but of the company's management and owners (the Dunedin City Council).

Whilst I accept that electricity costs do rise and that transmission costs are higher here in Wanaka than elsewhere because of our relative isolation, in no way do I accept what Aurora is asking for.

Recently Meadowstone Drive had two day-long outages, and in the middle of a Central Otago winter I find that unacceptable. Yes, there will always be unexpected supply interruptions but why doesn't Aurora have plans in place for emergency power supply systems for just such events? In my opinion, bad management planning equates to an unreliable network.

I am a superannuitant with no option but to use electricity for space heating, water heating and cooking, so an additional \$21 per month for the first year, plus \$10 per month the second year, and a further \$10 per month the third year, just on line charge increases alone, has me anxious for my health and quality of life. Our electricity retailer could increase its costs during that time as well!

Is it possible for Aurora's claim to be both of a lesser amount and spread over a longer time frame?

As Dunedin customers seemed to have benefitted from Aurora's previously badly-managed business (dividends to the Dunedin City Council the company could ill-afford to pay), why can't any lines charge increase be more equitably spread over the whole region?

I appreciate the Commerce Commission providing information and leadership with this issue, because in my opinion, Aurora has been woefully lacking in both.

Yours sincerely

