
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 12/08/2020 6:43:39 p.m.
To: Feedback Aurora Plan [feedbackauroraplan@comcom.govt.nz]
Subject: Re: Key issues paper released for Commission's assessment of Aurora Energy's investment plan /submission

Dear John !

Thank you very much for your informing me and the associated material.

I have (not all and every background paper) read both the company's and the Commission's assessment papers.

While I cannot judge or assess the technical documents of Aurora (the company) nor the Commission's one, i.e. the validity of the figures given or used, I still have an opinion of what should happen.

The fact remains-confirmed by the High Court-that the company did not maintain its network adequately, and thus exposing its clients/consumers to hardship (power failures and related consequences, including health risks).

So, the questions simply boils down to the question, who should pay for that failure (mass)? Or, who should pay to fix this mass? This issue is further complicated by the fact that the company is a publicly owned one, i.e. owned by the Dunedin Council through a holding company. The business model is a CCO - that I believe is similar to state-owned enterprises)-basically a public company to make a profit with the profits going to the parent organisation, the government, or here, the Council . Where did the profits go during the last years? I suppose to the Dunedin City council, and they -I think- built rather a stadium than ensure a safe electricity supply.

The previous councils and mayor appears to have failed. So, this represents a policy failure, and that's where the correction must start. And while I realize that this policy change is not the Commerce Commission's business, the Commission's business must still be to not only make a fair deal happen, but to also protect the consumers.

Anyway, I want the Council and the company to save money (ratepayer money/funds), and not take even more (indirect) rates. The company should be asked for a management plan as to how they would save money, e.g. employ fewer directors, cut salaries, etc.; or take out a loan, which had to be repaid on the profits of the company, or some way that would not hurt/disadvantage the consumers/ratepayers further, who already suffered enough.

Please rewrite your paper, in the sense of my proposal/suggestions, as it seems that so far, the Commission only assessed how justifiable the figure were, which the company presented. The Commission's paper, shown by the way they employed a company to only scrutinize the figures of the electricity company, and nothing else; that's the wrong approach.

With kind regards,

[REDACTED]

Te Aroha

On 30/07/2020 8:59 am, Feedback Aurora Plan wrote:

Dear [REDACTED]

Today we have released our consultation paper on the key issues we have identified during our initial assessment of Aurora Energy's plan to make its electricity network safer and maintain reliability.

The paper covers a range of issues we want your feedback on including:

- Options for minimising consumer price shocks
- The length of the investment period
- Consumer preferences on the communication, timing and management of planned and unplanned power cuts while Aurora works to fix its network
- Consumer and stakeholder confidence in Aurora's ability to deliver on its plan to time, budget and to a high quality, including how Aurora should be held to account for completing the work
- Whether the COVID-19 pandemic has changed consumer feedback on Aurora's proposal and how the Commission should account for growth and demand uncertainty caused by the pandemic
- Ensuring Aurora's proposed spending is cost effective in areas like safety improvements, tree trimming, staffing and business costs and that it is targeting the right equipment for replacement at the right time.

Feedback on our key issues paper will help to shape our draft decision which we expect to release in November for consultation.

The issues paper, including a consumer summary and submission form, along with more information on the project can be found at www.comcom.govt.nz/aurora

Feedback can also be provided by email to feedbackauroraplan@comcom.govt.nz

Consultation closes on 20 August 2020.

Public drop-in sessions

We are also holding public drop-in sessions in Dunedin, Alexandra, Cromwell, Wanaka and Queenstown between 6-13 August. RSVP to your nearest session by using this [link](#).

Kind regards,

John



John Crawford

Associate Commissioner

Commerce Commission | *Te Komihana Tauhokohoko*
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www.comcom.govt.nz

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