

As a long term resident of Central Otago my feelings of dismay and disillusionment go a long way back to the Bradford reforms. Overnight our power bill doubled and from that point on have been climbing regularly since. Now our monthly bill is our biggest expense, no longer earning, our income is more or less fixed and unable to meet the increases envisaged by the Aurora plans.

I feel disappointed and betrayed by the City of Dunedin Holdings who milked the Aurora profits to cover outgoings on the Dunedin stadium by reducing maintenance spending on the lines. Aurora is once again coming back with catchup expense even though earlier projections have not brought an efficient network.

There are failings of systems which could well be disastrous for orchardists and vineyard owners trying to protect from frost damage. Extreme hardship failings for local groups who have had to cope with freezing temperatures in winter while regular repairs are being completed.

A quiet walk down the street in Alexandra will highlight the huge number of poles that still require attention. There are many different companies who have been subcontracted in the last few years. Who has oversight of these finished sections?

Each week large advertisements appear advising the areas which will have power outages for urgent maintenance. The ongoing collective inconvenience imposed on the community is huge.

There is a need to have regional representation on the board of Aurora. This governance needs to be spread outside the interests of Dunedin. Shonky accounting has been present in the Dunedin City Council, Dunedin City Holdings as well as Delta/Aurora.

Though I recognise the predicament Aurora now faces I do not feel that I have a responsibility for bearing the cost of poor decision making by the various organisations that have been involved along this chequered pathway.

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