
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 13/08/2020 10:13:19 a.m.
To: Feedback Aurora Plan [feedbackauroraplan@comcom.govt.nz]
Subject: Aurora Energy - feedback

Greetings

I wish to register my feedback regarding the ownership of Aurora Energy. I realise that this is outside the scope of the current Com Com investment plan assessment, however I feel that it is the crux of the whole matter.

The ownership of Aurora Energy by a metropolitan/district authority that only covers one part of the geographical area operated by Aurora Energy is ethically wrong. Two other geographical operating areas are within separate district councils, who have no stakeholding in the ownership and consequently have no way of influencing the supply to those consumers. The current ownership model means that Aurora is controlled by the Dunedin City Council with scant regard for consumers outside the DCC boundaries.

The majority of New Zealand lines companies are owned by trusts or by investors, it is only a few in the south that have maintained the metropolitan ownership model from the past. This has to stop for the good of the consumers in the South, particularly those in Queenstown Lakes District and Central Otago District.

My suggestion is that the DCC ought to publicly float Aurora Energy. This would:-

- release the DCC from the debt burden that they currently have related to Aurora Energy and their recovery plans (which does contain some risks for the DCC)
- enable Aurora Energy to seek the funding it needs from the investment market
- ensure a fairer, more customer centric pricing and service model to be applied to all consumers

Regards

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