

In today's ODT Mr Crawford said 'We are not here to talk about Aurora's past failures- that has been well traversed'

I get the impression that you are saying 'we have made the opportunity for customers to have their say and now we are here to ask, how much do customers think they should pay to correct Aurora's failures' and over what period of time.

Here is the answer, None.

My reasoning is this. Nothing in this appalling situation Aurora finds its self in is the fault of the customers. Other lines companies have charged lower line charges over a long period of time and still managed to maintain their assets.

The Commerce Commission in 2014 issued a formal warning to Aurora regarding the inadequate level of maintenance it was carrying out. Since then the commission appears to have sat by and watched it continue. This is evidenced by the fact that Aurora disclosed to the Commission that it contravened its quality standards for each of the years between 2016 and 2019. Finally, in 2020 the Commission, through the high court, effectively fined Aurora almost \$5,000,000 for contravening its network quality standards. Interestingly, this revenue goes straight to central govt. coffers. The cost of this would inevitably fall on customers.

So who should pay for the catch up?

Dunedin City Council, as the ultimate owner of Aurora received significant dividends requiring Aurora to borrow to pay them at times. This is well documented. Interesting to note also that only 3 of 13 Zone substations in Central have backup transformers. All in Dunedin have backup.

The Commerce Commission, as the watchdog organisation, whose role is to monitor monopoly situations such as this, failed between 2012 and 2020 to do any more than ensure that Aurora customers would be expected to pay even more. The taxpayers of NZ deserve better from a govt. funded organisation.

I conclude that The DCC, and Central Govt. on behalf of the Commerce Commission should be paying for the catch up.

