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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 16/06/2020 8:26:40 p.m.  
**To:** Feedback Aurora Plan [feedbackauroraplan@comcom.govt.nz]  
**Subject:** Re: Subject line: Commission receives Aurora Energy's application to increase prices to fund \$383 million network investment plan

Kia ora John

My feedback is that I believe Aurora needs to account for dividend payments made to shareholders over recent years in lieu of retaining earnings to upgrade infrastructure. The shareholders who benefit are not the same as Aurora's customers. Therefore customers outside of Dunedin City Council boundaries are being unfairly penalised for price increases.

Thank you  
[REDACTED]

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**From:** Feedback Aurora Plan <feedbackauroraplan@comcom.govt.nz>  
**Date:** Tuesday, 16 June 2020 at 9:00 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Subject line: Commission receives Aurora Energy's application to increase prices to fund \$383 million network investment plan

Dear [REDACTED]

We are writing to inform you that we have received Aurora's application to increase its prices to fund a \$383 million three-year plan to address safety and reliability issues on its electricity lines network. To pay for this investment, Aurora is proposing significant increases to power bills from April 2021.

Undoubtedly, significant investment is needed in Aurora's network. Our role over the coming months is to decide the maximum revenue it should be allowed to recover from its consumers to carry out its plan and over what period.

We are acutely aware of the impact COVID-19 has had on consumers in Dunedin, Central Otago and Queenstown Lakes. As part of our assessment we will consider what options there are to manage price shocks, while ensuring Aurora's investment plans are for the long-term benefit of their consumers.

We have also received a report by independent experts, farrierswier, whose role it was to review Aurora's plan ahead of it being submitted. The report is designed to help us focus our review on the key issues which warrant closer scrutiny.

We will formally consult over the coming months, including holding meetings in Dunedin, Central Otago and Queenstown Lakes after we publish our issues paper in late July. We plan to issue our draft decision before Christmas, with our final decision to be made in March 2021.

In the meantime, we welcome feedback on Aurora's final proposal from consumers and other stakeholders. This can be emailed to feedbackauroraplan@comcom.govt.nz

A copy of Aurora's investment application, the expert's report and background information on the project is available at [www.comcom.govt.nz/aurora](http://www.comcom.govt.nz/aurora)

Kind regards,

John



**John Crawford**

Associate Commissioner

Commerce Commission | *Te Komihana Tauhokohoko*

[feedbackauroraplan@comcom.govt.nz](mailto:feedbackauroraplan@comcom.govt.nz)

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