

From: [Joanne Dowd](#)
To: [RPS](#)
Cc: [simon.peirce](#); [Bridget.iring](#); [Alec.Findlater](#)
Subject: Submission by Aurora Energy Limited.
Date: Friday, 3 September 2021 1:25:42 p.m.
Attachments: [Final Submission RPS21 as lodged 20210903.pdf](#)

Hi There,

Please see attached a submission by Aurora Energy on the Proposed Regional Policy Statement 2021.

Can you please confirm receipt?

Many thanks
Joanne

JOANNE DOWD
PLANNING PROPERTY & ENVIRONMENT
MANAGER



EMAIL joanne.dowd@auroraenergy.nz
DDI +64 (21) 610 378 **MOB** +64 (21) 610 378
PH 0800 22 00 05 **WEB** www.auroraenergy.co.nz
Aurora Energy, 10 Halsey Street, Dunedin 9016
PO Box 5140, Dunedin 9054



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Submission by Aurora Energy Limited

Proposed Otago Regional Policy Statement June 2021

3 September 2021

FORM 5

SUBMISSION ON PUBLICALLY NOTIFIED PROPOSAL FOR POLICY STATEMENT OR PLAN CHANGE OR VARIATION UNDER CLAUSE 6 OF THE FIRST SCHEDULE, RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACT 1991

To: Otago Regional Council
Private Bag 1954
DUNEDIN

Submission on: Proposed Otago Regional Policy Statement 2021

Name: Aurora Energy Limited
Address: Po Box 1404
Dunedin 9054

This is a submission on the following proposed policy statement: Proposed Otago Regional Policy Statement June 2021 (RPS21)

Aurora Energy Limited (Aurora Energy) could not gain an advantage in trade competition through this submission.

Overall issues that have determined the approach of Aurora Energy in preparing submissions on the Proposed District Plan are outlined below and attached as Appendix 1.

1 About Aurora Energy

Aurora Energy depends upon and fully supports the principles of sustainable management and efficient use of resources as outlined in Part 2 of the Resource Management Act (**RMA**). Aurora Energy has particular interests in ensuring that the RPS21 enables the continued and efficient operation of its electricity distribution network infrastructure, and in particular those parts of its network defined as Regionally Significant Infrastructure as well as generally ensuring that other existing and new regionally significant infrastructure within the Otago region is adequately provided for. In Aurora Energy's view, this has not been achieved in the notified version of the RPS21.

Aurora Energy owns, operates and maintains an electricity distribution network in the Dunedin and Central Otago region (including the Queenstown Lakes District). Aurora Energy's network distributes electricity from between the National Grid (from Grid-Exit Points) to more than 92,000 homes, farms and businesses across Otago. Aurora Energy's network comprises zone substations, overhead lines and underground cables located in public road reserve, as well as on private property.

In addition to the distribution network, Aurora Energy has the capacity to own and operate high voltage (up to 110kV) sub-transmission lines, and associated structures in future, and may be required to do so as regional electricity demand grows, especially in response to electrification in pursuit of national decarbonisation targets. Aurora Energy is committed to providing its customers in the region with an effective and secure supply of electricity, which in doing so provides a critical service to customers as well as a public good to local communities including hospitals, schools, offices and residential dwellings.

Background

Aurora Energy made submissions on the Regional Policy Statement notified in 2015 (**RPS2019**) and invested significant time and resources, engaging in that process, including through submissions, attendance at hearings, environment court appeals and mediation. The result of that process was to arrive at a position that was agreed between infrastructure providers and other interest groups.

The RPS2019 became partially operative on 15 March 2021, 3 months before the RPS21 was notified. It is extremely disappointing that many of the provisions that were achieved through RPS19 have not been carried through to the PRPS21. In essence, Aurora Energy is required to redefend the original position from 2015.

It is Aurora Energy's understanding that the review of the RPS2019 was predominantly to address freshwater management issues in response to Ministerial direction and to implement higher order planning documents, including the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020. In Aurora Energy's view, this did not warrant a wholesale review of the infrastructure provisions. There is little in the way of justification for such a review of the infrastructure provisions within the s 32 report and what appears to be a lack of understanding of what the previous framework tried to achieve in terms of infrastructure provision and protection from incompatible activities. This potentially would have been avoided if Aurora Energy had been provided the opportunity to review an advanced version of the plan¹.

RPS21 General Comments

Issues around reverse sensitivity effects associated with Aurora Energy's electricity distribution network assets, were extensively canvassed as part of the RPS2019 and resulted in a policy suite and associated implementation methods which addressed Aurora Energy's concerns. Aurora Energy then relied on this higher order policy direction, to inform submissions on both the Second-Generation Dunedin City District Plan (**2GP**) and the Proposed Queenstown Lakes District Plan Staged Review (**QLDC PDP**). The policy reversal in the RPS21 will have significant implications for Aurora Energy beyond this process. Aurora Energy is now in a situation where it must now make submissions on RPS21 to inform the outcomes that have been reached at a District level.

As noted in an extract from the s 32 Report, the provisions contained in RPS19 provided clear direction to district councils on their roles and responsibilities. Aurora Energy agrees. However, the RPS21 has removed this "clear direction", especially as it applies to Aurora Energy's electricity distribution network.

512. *Methods 3.1 and 4.1 require regional and district plans (respectively) to set objectives, policies and methods to implement the policies in the RPS. For infrastructure, Methods 3.1.5 and 4.1.16 require the regional council and territorial authorities to ensure the functional needs of infrastructure are not compromised. Method 4.1.17 requires district plans to identify National Grid transmission lines and corridors, and Method 4.1.18 requires identification of nationally or regionally significant infrastructure on planning maps. Both methods require plans to include provisions to avoid reverse sensitivity effects on the National Grid and nationally and regionally significant infrastructure and provide controls on activities to ensure their functional needs are not compromised. This provides clear direction to district councils on their roles and responsibilities, but there is a lack of specificity about some of ORC's functions. There is also a lack of direction about how adverse effects should be managed.*

¹ Section 52 of the s 32 Evaluation Report relates to Clause 3, Schedule 1 and lists Aurora Energy as a party to whom a draft copy of the PORPS was provided. Aurora Energy is unaware of receiving this consultation draft. On 11 August, Aurora Energy contacted the ORC to confirm to whom in the organisation the draft had been sent. At the time of writing this submission, no confirmation had been received from the ORC on this matter.

513 Methods 4.1.18 and 4.1.19 also specifically require territorial authorities to have regard to the NZECP34:2001 Electrical Code of Practice for Electrical Safe Distances and the Electricity (Hazards from Trees) Regulations 2003. It is less clear from the methods how ORC is required to implement the provisions in the regional plan and how adverse effects should be managed.

[Emphasis added]

One of the purposes of a regional policy statement is to provide clear direction to district councils on their roles and responsibilities². In particular, Section 61 of the RMA,³ requires a regional policy statement to have regard to any – “(i) Management plans and strategies prepared under other Acts”.

In Aurora Energy's view, this should include management plans and strategies prepared under the Electricity Act 1992 and including the Electricity (Safety) Regulations 2010 which includes by reference the New Zealand Electrical Code of Practice for Electrical Safe Distances 2001 (**NZECP34**). NZECP34 sets out mandatory minimum safe electrical distance requirements with respect to overhead conductors, installations and other works associated with the supply of electricity to consumers. In that regard, the introduction to NZECP34 records

“the minimum safe distances have been set primarily to protect persons, property, vehicles and mobile plant from harm or damage from electrical hazards”

At a high level, NZECP34 seeks to address issues associated with reverse sensitivity where land use or subdivision activities encourage or enable circumstances in which Aurora Energy's existing distribution network is compromised or its ability to be operated, maintained and development is hindered. The importance of those effects are elevated given the status that RPS19 afforded to electricity sub-transmission infrastructure and significant electricity distribution infrastructure.

Aurora Energy notes that the Resource Legislation Amendment Act 2017 (RLAA) introduced a procedural principle to ensure that council plans and policy statements include only matters relevant to the purpose of the RMA. Aurora Energy's considers that addressing reverse sensitivity and effects on public health and safety and wellbeing are germane to the purpose of the RMA and as such should be incorporated into RPS21. The submission that follows, and as outlined at **Appendix 1**, is in Aurora Energy's view the changes that would be required to effect this change.

Infrastructure Overview

Aurora Energy is responsible for the construction and maintenance of an efficient and safe electricity network, which involves without limitation the following infrastructure:

- Underground cables;
- Overhead lines;
- Substations/transformers/kiosks;
- Electricity structures (poles/pylons, earth rods and associated buildings); and
- Access tracks.

The operation, maintenance, development and upgrade of Aurora Energy's network has the potential to impact on land, water and vegetation resources to a varying degree. These impacts may arise from the excavation of land/earthworks and vegetation clearance associated with the

² Resource Management Act 1991 – 59 Purpose of regional policy statements - The purpose of a regional policy statement is to achieve the purpose of the Act by providing an overview of the resource management issues of the region and policies and methods to achieve integrated management of the natural and physical resources of the whole region.

³ Resource Management Act 1991, s 61(2)(a)(i)

erection, placement, upgrade, repair and maintenance of its infrastructure both on land and within the beds and margins of lakes and rivers.

Aurora Energy's key areas of concern are the objectives, policies and methods that will have effect on the activities or processes that are required to operate and develop its network over the short-medium and long-term. In particular, there are certain land use activities associated with establishing new infrastructure and maintaining existing infrastructure which involve:

- The excavation of land;
- The disturbance/deposition of soil;
- Vegetation clearance (including indigenous biodiversity); and
- Potential discharges to water arising from earthworks.

Currently, Aurora Energy undertakes these activities in accordance with strict Industry codes of practice, local authority requirements, and electricity network technical specification standards.

In March 2021 the Commerce Commission made a determination on an application by Aurora Energy for a Customised Price-Quality Path (CPP) which will apply for the five years between RY22 – RY26. This relates to a \$563.4 million programme of essential investments in network maintenance, renewal and upgrades to improve the safety, reliability and resilience of Aurora Energy's network. This will see a continuation of the significant uplift in works on the Aurora Energy network commenced in 2017 and unprecedented in prior years.

It is therefore appropriate, given the regional significance of Aurora Energy's network, that its ongoing management is comprehensively enabled and provided for in the RPS21. It is appropriate that RPS21 contains close and practical linkages between its objectives, policies and methods relating to the physical resources, at both the regional and district level. This will facilitate integrated resource management occurring within the region, particularly as it relates to significant physical resources, such as Aurora Energy's sub-transmission infrastructure and significant electricity distribution infrastructure.

Aurora Energy seeks to ensure that the RPS21 contains appropriate provisions to ensure that it can provide adequate guidance in the development of any new regional and/or district plan and/or plan changes. More specifically, the PRPS needs to adequately provide for the core strategic infrastructure that is required to support growth within the Otago region.

For Aurora Energy, the provisions of RPS21 need to:

- 1) Recognise the benefits of the electricity distribution network, including in particular electricity sub-transmission infrastructure and significant electricity distribution infrastructure;
- 2) Enable the ongoing operation and maintenance of its electricity distribution network;
- 3) Enable the existing network to be upgraded in order to meet foreseeable growth at all times;
- 4) Protect existing electricity distribution infrastructure from incompatible activities where there is the potential to create issues of reverse sensitivity; and
- 5) Provide an appropriate policy framework for the development of new lines.

In addition, Aurora Energy seeks that the RPS21 recognises the strategic and lifeline importance of its electricity network. This is essential to ensure that the RPS21 achieves the purpose of the RMA, in that the use, development, and protection of the electricity network (a physical resource) is managed in the most appropriate way to enable people and communities to provide for their social, economic and cultural wellbeing and for their health and safety.

The RPS21 goes some way to achieving these outcomes. In particular, it recognises the benefits of regionally significant infrastructure, and seeks to protect regionally significant infrastructure from new and incompatible land uses. Acceptable provisions are identified and sought to be retained.

However, some modifications and/or clarifications are required to the existing text, and additional text is required in order to address all of the relevant resource management issues identified above.

Electricity distribution networks are essential in the provision of safe, resilient, and cost-effective power supply in our communities and the promotion of the safe and efficient use of electricity. The distribution network and its assets are significant infrastructure in a local, regional, and even national sense (being that they play a key role in distributing electricity from the larger transmission network, (National Grid) and are of strategic importance. The electricity distribution network also plays a key role in New Zealand's climate change adaptation and mitigation policy and will be critical for achieving a transition to a low emissions economy.

Submission

The specific provisions that Aurora Energy's submission relates to are set out in **Appendix 1** using the numbering system and headings contained in the RPS21. The submissions are set out immediately following these headings, together with the decision sought from Council. The decision that has been requested may suggest new or revised wording for identified sections of the RPS21. This wording is intended to be helpful but alternative wording of like effect may be equally acceptable. The wording of decisions sought shows new text as underlined and original text to be deleted as strikethrough.

Unless specified in each submission point, the reasons for supporting are that the policies are consistent with the RMA and would support the enhancement or protection of regionally significant infrastructure.

Alongside provisions for integrating development and infrastructure, it is also important to ensure continued policy direction for the avoidance of reverse sensitivity effects on strategic infrastructure.

Relief Sought

Aurora Energy seeks a decision from the Independent Freshwater Commission that the amendments to the PRPS21 outlined at **Appendix 1**, be accepted.

For the avoidance of doubt, Aurora Energy seeks such similar, other, or consequential relief to issues, objectives, policies, methods, principal reasons and anticipated environmental results to provide the following outcomes which have guided the drafting of **Appendix 1**:

- The sustainable management of Aurora Energy's distribution network, including in particular its electricity sub-transmission infrastructure and significant electricity distribution infrastructure;
- Provide for the ongoing operation, maintenance, repair and upgrade of the distribution network, including in particular minor upgrading of existing network assets;
- Enabling the development of new distribution network infrastructure to provide for the health and wellbeing of people and communities, including their social, cultural and economic needs;
- Providing an appropriate effects management framework for the management of Aurora Energy's distribution network in sensitive environments and culturally valued places, including in particular by recognising the functional and operational needs of infrastructure;
- The protection of the existing network from incompatible activities, including where those activities may give rise to reverse sensitivity issues; and
- Appropriate provision for the planning and development of new electricity distribution infrastructure as a method of adapting and responding to issues in the Otago region, including

in particular: climate change, decarbonising the economy, natural hazards and the health and safety and wellbeing of people and communities.

Finally, in the event that the amendments set out above or in **Appendix 1** are not implemented partially or fully, Aurora Energy seeks RPS21 be withdrawn entirely.

Aurora Energy **wishes to be heard** in support of its submission.

If others make a similar submission, Aurora Energy **will consider presenting a joint case** with them at a hearing.



Signed

Joanne Dowd

Resource Planning, Property & Environmental Manager

Address for Service:

Aurora Energy Limited

10 Halsey Street

PO Box 5140

DUNEDIN 9058

Contact Details:

Attention: Joanne Dowd

Telephone: 021 610 378

Email: joanne.dowd@auroraenergy.nz
bridget.iring@gallawaycookallan.co.nz
simon.peirce@gallawaycookallan.co.nz

APPENDIX 1: RELIEF SOUGHT

No.	Provision	Text	Oppose/ Support	Discussion	Submission – decision sought by Council
Part 1 – Introduction and General Provisions					
Interpretation					
1.	Definition Additional Infrastructure	<p>has the same meaning as in clause 1.3 of the National Policy Statement on Urban Development (as set out in the box below)</p> <p>means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) public open space b) community infrastructure as defined in section 197 of the Local Government Act 2002 c) land transport (as defined in the Land Transport Management Act 2003) that is not controlled by local authorities d) social infrastructure, such as schools and healthcare facilities e) a network operated for the purpose of telecommunications (as defined in section 5 of the Telecommunications Act 2001) f) a network operated for the purpose of transmitting or distributing electricity or gas 	Support	<p>Aurora Energy supports the use of consistent terms used in higher order documents such as the National Policy Statement on Urban Development.</p> <p>The definition of “additional infrastructure “includes “a network operated for the purpose of transmitting or distributing electricity or gas” and it is appropriate that this definition is included within the RPS21 .</p>	Retain the definition as notified.
2.	Definition Distribution Network	<p>has the same meaning as in regulation 3 of the Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Freshwater) Regulations 2020 (as set out in the box below)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) means lines and associated equipment that are used for conveying electricity and are operated by a business engaged in the distribution of electricity; but b) does not include lines and associated equipment that are part of the national grid 	Support, in part	<p>Aurora Energy owns, operates and maintains an electricity distribution network in the Dunedin and Central Otago region (including the Queenstown Lakes District). This network carries electricity from the National Grid to more than 92,000 homes and businesses across Dunedin City and Central Otago Region.</p> <p>The definition “Distribution Network” includes all of Aurora Energy’s network.</p> <p>The definition of Distribution network does not refer to “cables” which are installed underground as opposed to lines which are erected overhead. Both convey electricity. Given that the term is not relied on with respect to the natural wetland provisions (which instead relies on specified or other infrastructure) this change is considered to be appropriate and assists to avoid confusion.</p>	<p>Amend the definition as follows:</p> <p>has the same meaning as in regulation 3 of the Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Freshwater) Regulations 2020 (as set out in the box below)</p> <p><u>Means</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) means lines, cables and associated equipment that are used for conveying electricity and are operated by a business engaged in the distribution of electricity; but b) does not include lines and associated equipment that are part of the national grid <p>Add the following text as a note below the definition to assist RPS21 readers:</p> <p>Note: Includes electricity sub-transmission infrastructure and significant electricity distribution infrastructure.</p>
3.	Definition Electricity sub- transmission infrastructure	<p>means electricity infrastructure which conveys electricity between energy generation sources, the National Grid and zone substations and between zone substations.</p>	Support	<p>Aurora Energy owns substations, lines and cables located in public road reserve, as well as on private property which convey electricity between the National Grid and zone substations, including</p>	Retain definition as notified.

No.	Provision	Text	Oppose/ Support	Discussion	Submission – decision sought by Council
				<p>between Aurora Energy's 39 zone substations in the Otago Region.</p> <p>In addition to the electricity sub-transmission network, Aurora Energy has the capacity to own and operate high voltage (up to 110kV) transmission lines, and associated structures and may be required to do so as regional electricity demand grows, especially in response to electrification in pursuit of national decarbonisation targets.</p>	
4.	Definition Effects Management Hierarchy	<p>has the same meaning as in clause 3.21 of the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020 (as set out in the box below) and in this RPS also applies to natural wetlands</p> <p>in relation to natural inland wetlands and rivers, means an approach to managing the adverse effects of an activity on the extent or values of a wetland or river (including cumulative effects and loss of potential value) that requires that:</p> <p>a) adverse effects are avoided where practicable,</p> <p>b) where adverse effects cannot be avoided, they are minimised where practicable,</p> <p>c) where adverse effects cannot be minimised, they are remedied where practicable,</p> <p>d) where more than minor residual adverse effects cannot be avoided, minimised, or remedied, aquatic offsetting is provided, and</p> <p>e) if aquatic compensation is not appropriate, the activity itself is avoided</p>	Support	Aurora Energy supports the use of consistent terms used in higher order documents such as the National Policy Statement on Freshwater Management 2020.	Retain , definition as notified.
5.	Definition Functional Need	<p>has the same meaning as in Standard 14 of the National Planning Standards 2019 (as set out in the box below)</p> <p>means the need for a proposal or activity to traverse, locate or operate in a particular environment because the activity can only occur in that environment</p>	Support	<p>Aurora Energy supports the use of consistent terms as required by the National Planning Standards 2019.</p> <p>The definition of "functional need" holds particular importance for Aurora Energy given that its infrastructure is highly constrained in terms of the environments that it is able to operate in. For that reason, the provision of electricity distribution infrastructure must be provided for where there is a functional need for it to be located there.</p>	Retain definition as notified.
6.	Definition Infrastructure	has the same meaning as in section 2 of the Resource Management Act 1991 ... [refer RPS21 text]	Support	Aurora Energy supports the inclusion of a definition for "Infrastructure"	Retain definition as notified.
7.	Definition Lifeline Utility	means utilities provided by those entities listed in Schedule 1 of the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002	Support	Schedule 1 of the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002 - Part B Entities Carrying on Certain Businesses includes "An entity that generates	Retain definition as notified.

No.	Provision	Text	Oppose/ Support	Discussion	Submission – decision sought by Council
				<p>electricity for distribution through a network or distributes electricity through a network."</p> <p>Aurora Energy distribution network satisfies that purpose and is therefore defined as a lifeline utility.</p>	
8.	Definition Operational Need	<p>has the same meaning as in Standard 14 of the National Planning Standards 2019 (as set out in the box below)</p> <p>means the need for a proposal or activity to traverse, locate or operate in a particular environment because of technical, logistical or operational characteristics or constraints</p>	Support	<p>Aurora Energy supports the use of consistent terms as required by the National Planning Standards 2019.</p> <p>The definition of "operational need", much like its counterpart "functional need" holds particular importance for Aurora Energy. Various engineering requirements for the type of infrastructure that is to be installed often dictates where it can traverse, locate or operate. For that reason, the provision of electricity distribution infrastructure must be provided for where there is an operational need for it to be located there.</p>	Retain definition as notified.
9.	Definition Other Infrastructure	<p>has the same meaning as in regulation 3 of the National Environmental Standard for Freshwater 2020 (as set out in the box below)</p> <p>means infrastructure, other than specified infrastructure, that was lawfully established before, and in place at, the close of 2 September 2020</p>	Support	<p>Aurora Energy supports the use of consistent terms used in higher order documents such as the National Environmental Standard for Freshwater.</p> <p>The definition of "other infrastructure" is important in terms of the suite of provisions which Aurora Energy is seeking below.</p>	Retain definition as notified.
10.	Definition Regionally Significant Infrastructure	<p>means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) roads classified as being of regional importance in accordance with the One Network Road Classification, (2) electricity sub-transmission infrastructure, (3) renewable electricity generation facilities that connect with the local distribution network but not including renewable electricity generation facilities designed and operated principally for supplying a single premise or facility, (4) telecommunication and radiocommunication facilities, (5) facilities for public transport, including terminals and stations, (6) the following airports: Dunedin, Queenstown, Wanaka, Alexandra, Balclutha, Cromwell, Oamaru, Taieri, (7) navigation infrastructure associated with airports and commercial ports which are nationally or regionally significant, (8) defence facilities, (9) community drinking water abstraction, supply treatment and distribution infrastructure that provides no fewer than 25 households with drinking water for not less than 90 days each calendar year, and community water supply abstraction, treatment and distribution infrastructure (excluding delivery systems or infrastructure primarily deployed for the delivery of 	Support, in part	<p>Aurora Energy's distribution network supplies electricity to approximately 92,000 homes across the Otago Region. "Electricity sub-transmission infrastructure" is not all of Aurora's network. Rather, it is those parts of its network which conveys electricity between the National Grid and renewable energy generation sources to zone substations and between zone substations as defined in the RPS21.</p> <p>As discussed further below, RPS19 contained a definition for <i>Significant Electricity Distribution Infrastructure</i>, which has been removed from PRPS21.</p> <p>The term was picked up in Policy 4.4.5(e) of RPS19 such that those lines were identified and effects on those lines from potentially incompatible activities were managed through methods such as corridors. The use of corridors was then picked up in the methods section.</p> <p>Aurora Energy seeks to re-insert the definition of Significant Electricity Distribution Infrastructure into the definition of Regionally Significant Infrastructure.</p>	<p>Amend sub-clause (2) as follows:</p> <p>means:</p> <p>(2) <u>electricity sub-transmission infrastructure and significant electricity distribution infrastructure.</u></p>

No.	Provision	Text	Oppose/ Support	Discussion	Submission – decision sought by Council
		<p>water for irrigation of land or rural agricultural drinking-water supplies),</p> <p>(10) community stormwater infrastructure,</p> <p>(11) wastewater and sewage collection, treatment and disposal infrastructure serving no fewer than 25 households, and</p> <p>(12) Otago Regional Council's hazard mitigation works including flood protection infrastructure and drainage schemes.</p>			
11.	Definition Specified Infrastructure	<p>has the same meaning as in clause 3.21 of the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020 (as set out in the box below)</p> <p>means any of the following:</p> <p>a) infrastructure that delivers a service operated by a lifeline utility (as defined in the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002),</p> <p>b) regionally significant infrastructure identified as such in a regional policy statement or regional plan,</p> <p>c) any public flood control, flood protection, or drainage works carried out:</p> <p>i. by or on behalf of a local authority, including works carried out for the purposes set out in section 133 of the Soil Conservation and Rivers Control Act 1951, or</p> <p>ii. for the purpose of drainage by drainage districts under the Land Drainage Act 1908</p>	Support in part	<p>Aurora Energy's infrastructure is included in the term "Specified Infrastructure" to the extent that RPS21 defines it as "regionally significant infrastructure".</p> <p>The circular nature of this definition is confusing and unhelpful as it simply directs the reader's attention to the definition of regionally significant infrastructure, which RPS21 has been tasked to define.</p>	<p>Amend the definition of "specified infrastructure" as follows:</p> <p>has the same meaning as in clause 3.21 of the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020 (as set out in the box below)</p> <p>Means any of the following:</p> <p>a) infrastructure that delivers a service operated by a lifeline utility (as defined in the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002),</p> <p>b) regionally significant infrastructure identified as such in a regional policy statement or regional plan,</p> <p>c) any public flood control, flood protection, or drainage works carried out:</p> <p>i. by or on behalf of a local authority, including works carried out for the purposes set out in section 133 of the Soil Conservation and Rivers Control Act 1951, or</p> <p>ii. for the purpose of drainage by drainage districts under the Land Drainage Act 1908</p>
12.	Term Electricity Transmission Network	N/A	N/A	<p>The term "electricity transmission network" has been used in the below provisions but has not been defined:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EIT-INF-O6 – Long-term planning for electricity transmission infrastructure EIT-INF-P16 – Providing for electricity transmission and the National Grid EIT-INF-M5 – District plans 	<p>Replace all instances of the term "electricity transmission network" with "distribution network" consistent with how that term has been defined in RPS21</p>

No.	Provision	Text	Oppose/ Support	Discussion	Submission – decision sought by Council
				The drafting of the provisions suggests that the term refers to infrastructure for electricity transmission other than the National Grid. The only infrastructure that could be referring to is the electricity distribution network, as defined by PRPS21.	
13.	Definition – new – Significant Electricity Distribution Infrastructure	N/A	N/A	<p>RPS19 contained a definition for Significant Electricity Distribution Infrastructure, which has been removed from PRPS21. The definition and methods associated with it was included following considerable discussion between interested parties.</p> <p>The term was picked up in Policy 4.4.5(e) of RPS19 such that those lines were identified and effects on those lines from potentially incompatible activities were managed through methods such as corridors. The use of corridors was then picked up in the methods section.</p> <p>The s 32 Report contains no discussion on the reason for removing this protection from these important lines. That is a critical issue for Aurora Energy given the lines serves an important role in providing for the social, economic, cultural and health and safety of the community. The term does this by identifying key functions, places and communities for which the resilience of the electricity distribution network is particularly important, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maintaining the functionality of healthcare infrastructure such as hospitals and other emergency services; - Maintaining electricity supply to other regionally significant infrastructure including ports, airports, etc; and - Ensuring the resilience of the electricity supply to isolated communities where there is limited redundancy available, or repairs are likely to be challenging is protected. <p>Including this definition in the RPS21 supports provisions relating to managing natural hazards, preparing for an adapting to climate change and supporting the health and wellbeing of the community.</p>	<p>Add a new definition for significant electricity distribution infrastructure as follows:</p> <p><u>Significant Electricity Distribution Infrastructure means electricity distribution infrastructure which supplies:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Essential and emergency services (such as hospitals and lifeline facilities);</u> 2. <u>Other regionally significant infrastructure or individual consumers requiring supply of 1MW or more;</u> 3. <u>700 or more consumers; or</u> 4. <u>Communities that are isolated and which do not have an alternative supply in the event the line or cable is compromised and where the assets are difficult to replace in the event of failure.</u>
14.	Definition – new – Effects management hierarchy (other matters)		N/A	The existing definition of "effect management hierarchy" applies only to natural inland wetlands and rivers. However, the term can usefully be applied to managing adverse effects arising on other natural resources. It is a particularly important tool for	Add a new definition for "effects management hierarchy (Other Matters)" as follows:

No.	Provision	Text	Oppose/ Support	Discussion	Submission – decision sought by Council
				<p>managing infrastructure because infrastructure often has functional and operational needs that mean it must be located in a particular location, or there are operational requirements that affect the type of mitigation measures that can be applied.</p> <p>The effects management hierarchy provides clear and significant obligations on infrastructure providers to take all practicable steps to address the effects of their activities but acknowledges that in some cases it is not possible to avoid effects entirely.</p>	<p><u>Effects Management Hierarchy (other matters) means</u></p> <p><u>An approach to managing the adverse effects (including cumulative effects and loss of potential value) of an activity on the extent or values of a significant natural area, outstanding natural feature or landscape, outstanding water bodies (excluding rivers and natural wetlands), area of high or outstanding natural character, area or place of significant or outstanding historic heritage, wāhi tapu, wāhi taoka, areas with protected customary rights, and areas of high recreational and high amenity value that requires that:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>(a) Adverse effects are avoided where practicable.</u> <u>(b) Where adverse effects cannot be avoided, they are minimised where practicable.</u> <u>(c) Where adverse effects cannot be minimised, they are remedied where practicable.</u> <u>(d) Where adverse effects cannot be remedied, they are mitigated to the extent practicable.</u> <u>(e) Where more than minor adverse effects cannot be avoided, minimised, remedied or mitigated offsetting and/or environmental compensation must be considered, where appropriate.</u> <p><u>Any further other or consequential relief to provide an appropriate effects management regime for infrastructure in sensitive locations, including such locations set out in ss 6 and 7 RMA.</u></p>
Part 2 Resource Management Overview					
SRMR – Significant Resource Management issues for the region					
15.	Significant Resource Management Issue - New -	N/A	N/A	Aurora Energy does not support the SRMI as currently drafted as the introductory text is inconsistent with (and does not achieve) the sustainable management purpose of the RMA. The text is mainly	Add a new significant resource management issue addressing the extent to which the aspirations, challenges and resource management issues are

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				<p>focused on the use of, and impacts on, natural resources and fails to contemplate the use, development and protection of important physical resources.</p> <p>Aurora Energy seeks that the SRMI be amended to provide a more fulsome approach to achieving the purpose of the RMA in respect of promoting the sustainable management of important physical resources. This can be achieved by the insertion of a new SRM Issue</p> <p>In Aurora Energy's view a new significant resource management issue is required to recognise the significant role that the distribution network will have in achieving the goals set out by RPS21, including overcoming the issues set out in other SRMI. The following SRMI are of particular importance to Aurora Energy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SRMRI-I1 – Natural hazards pose a risk to many Otago communities - SRMI-I2 – Climate change is likely to impact our economy and environment - SRMI-I4 – Poorly managed urban and residential growth affects productive land, treasured natural assets, infrastructure and community well-being. <p>It is important to ensure that the distribution network is resilient in terms of its ability to adapt to or respond to natural hazard events. In the short-term this may be through the use of temporary generators immediately following a natural hazard event. In the medium to long term this may be through the development of new lines that provide alternative or reinforced electricity supply. The issue is most severe with isolated communities who may be supplied electricity by <i>Significant Electricity Distribution Infrastructure</i>.</p> <p>The regions' ability to adapt to the effects of climate change is interconnected with the distribution network in two key ways:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Providing for connection to small-scale electricity generation sources; 2. Increasing the resilience of the network to anticipate and adapt to the effects of climate change on the frequency and magnitude of natural hazards. 	<p><u>supported by a well-functioning electricity distribution network, suggested drafting as follows:</u></p> <p><u>SRMIX</u></p> <p><u>Resilient electricity supply is critical to the health, wellbeing and prosperity of Otago, particularly in adapting to climate change.</u></p> <p><u>Statement</u> <u>Electricity supply is essential to our way of life. It supports community wellbeing, health, safety and economic prosperity. It also has a critical role to play in adapting to climate change by supporting communities to become less reliant on fossil fuels for heating and transport. As such there will be a need for electricity network providers to undertake significant development and upgrades to support the communities needs in the future.</u></p> <p><u>Context</u> <u>Otago's electricity supply comprises electricity generation (primarily from hydro-electricity generation); transmission through the National Grid; distribution from grid-exit points to zone substations, electricity sub-transmission infrastructure and finally through the distribution network to consumers.</u></p> <p><u>The electricity distribution network connects Otago to electricity supply. As such, faults in the network can have a direct impact on the health and safety and wellbeing of people and communities. The importance of electricity distribution to the community is reinforced by its identification as a lifeline utility. Electricity distribution providers have obligations to plan and prepare for significant natural hazard events to ensure that supply is able to be maintained and/or reinstated as soon as practicable.</u></p> <p><u>Climate change will have adverse effects</u></p>

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				<p>The distribution network (much like other infrastructure) is constrained in its ability to locate in particular environments, including treasured natural assets such as ONL/ONF/SNA/ONCC (including highly valued historic environments and wāhi tupuna) or other highly valued natural environments. The functional and operational needs of the distribution network are such that it may not be possible or practicable to avoid locating in these environments.</p>	<p><u>on these network providers by increasing the risks to the infrastructure due to increasing storm intensity, increasing temperatures etc. This will occur in conjunction with increasing demands on the network due to population growth and greater reliance on electricity. Providers will need to adapt to other changes including more small-scale community electricity generation (such as in home solar), and should be avoided by providing a framework for the operation, maintenance, upgrade and development of that infrastructure.</u></p> <p><u>Impact Snapshot</u></p> <p><u>Environmental</u> The distribution network has adverse effects on the environment which need to be appropriately managed. However, the management of the distribution network is limited by its functional and operational needs which often dictate where it can be located in the environment.</p> <p><u>The development, operation, maintenance and upgrade of the distribution network can be constrained or adversely affected by the establishment of incompatible activities around the network which can give rise to reverse sensitivity effects.</u></p> <p><u>Economic</u> The distribution network is critical to the economic wellbeing of people and communities. Faults in the distribution network arising from natural hazards; adverse effects from climate change and incompatible activities increase the risk of network faults.</p> <p><u>Failing to proactively manage incompatible activities in proximity to the distribution network may require those activities to be dis-established and cause unintended economic loss.</u></p>

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					<p><u>A lack of integrated management and long-term strategic planning for land-use activities can delay urban growth and land use changes reliant on an electricity supply.</u></p> <p><u>Social</u> <u>Incompatible activities can have adverse effects on the distribution network and may give rise to reverse sensitivity effects. This is particularly the case where urban expansion and intensification seeks to locate near the distribution network to a degree that can create risks to the health and safety and wellbeing of people. To avoid those risks, it is appropriate to manage incompatible activities near the distribution network, including primarily electricity sub-transmission infrastructure and significant electricity distribution infrastructure.</u></p> <p><u>Where the electricity network is not resilient enough it can exacerbate the adverse effects and consequences of adverse weather events and natural hazards which can impact on communities already affected by these events.</u></p> <p>OR, as alternative relief</p> <p>Amend <u>the SRMR to include a new issue that addresses the need to operate, maintain, develop and upgrade regionally significant infrastructure.</u></p> <p><u>Aurora Energy welcomes the opportunity to work with the Council and other infrastructure providers to develop this text and in doing so, acknowledges that the new issue does not need to be exclusive to the distribution network, but may also relate to other important infrastructure and should recognise the critical role of electricity supply in achieving New Zealand's carbon zero future.</u></p>

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IM – Integrated Management					
16.	Policy IM-P2 – Decision priorities	Unless expressly stated otherwise, all decision making under this RPS shall: 1) firstly, secure the long-term life-supporting capacity and mauri of the natural environment, 2) secondly, promote the health needs of people, and 3) thirdly, safeguard the ability of people and communities to provide for their social, economic, and cultural well-being, now and in the future.	Oppose	Aurora Energy opposes Policy IM-P2 on the basis that it could result in a hierarchy that is not supported by section 5 of the RMA. It is inappropriate to insert an objective from the NPSFM that applies to freshwater management and seek to apply it to direct the management of all natural and physical resources. Such an approach does not align with the purpose of the RMA or achieve integrated management.	Delete Policy IM-P2 in its entirety.
17.	Policies IM-P14 – Human Impact	Preserve opportunities for future generations by: 1) identifying limits to both growth and adverse effects of human activities beyond which the environment will be degraded, 2) requiring that activities are established in places, and carried out in ways, that are within those limits and are compatible with the natural capabilities and capacities of the resources they rely on, and 3) regularly assessing and adjusting limits and thresholds for activities over time in light of the actual and potential environmental impacts.	Oppose	Policy IM-P14 appears to draw on concepts included in the consultation draft of the Natural and Built Environments Bill. Aurora Energy considers that such an approach is inappropriate because the RPS21 has been notified under the RMA and integrated management must achieve the sustainable management purpose of that legislation as opposed to possible draft future legislation. Further, Aurora Energy considers that the concept of environmental limits is uncertain in the context of the RPS21. Aurora Energy is therefore concerned that this provision may prevent activities occurring beyond those undefined limits, which may impact on Aurora's distribution network, because it cannot avoid adverse effects in all circumstances.	Delete Policy IM-P14 in its entirety.
18.	Policies IM-P15 – Precautionary approach	IM-P15 – Precautionary approach Adopt a precautionary approach towards proposed activities whose effects are uncertain, unknown or little understood, but could be significantly adverse, particularly where the areas and values within Otago have not been identified in plans as required by this RPS.	Oppose	Aurora Energy opposes Policy IM-P15 on the basis that the policy lacks specificity to the extent that the policy suggests that for unknown activities, that have unknown effects, in areas with unknown values a precautionary approach (not defined) should be taken. Aurora Energy considers that, if the policies in the RPS21 are crafted to achieve the purpose of the RMA and implemented accordingly, there should be more clarity in respect of the management of natural and physical resources than is implied by this Policy. Aurora Energy seeks the deletion of this Policy and notes that the absence of this Policy does not prevent the application of a precautionary approach on a case-by-case basis.	Delete Policy IM-P15 in its entirety.
19.	IM-M1; IM-M5;		Oppose in part		Any consequential amendments to: Methods IM-M1 and IM-M5

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	IM-E1; IM-PR1; IM-AER1 IM-AER2 IM-AER3				Explanation IM-E1; Principal reasons: IM-PR1 Anticipated environment results IM-AER1; IM-AER2 and IM-AER3 To give effect to the above relief.
Part 3 Domain Topics					
AIR					
Policies					
20.	AIR-P6 – Impacts on mana whenua values	Avoid <i>discharges</i> to air that adversely affect <i>mana whenua</i> values by having particular regard to values and areas of significance to <i>mana whenua</i> .	Oppose in part	<p>Aurora Energy supports the rationale of this policy. However, the current drafting of this policy may lead to unintended consequences in terms of activities undertaken by Aurora Energy on its network, particularly in regard to the deployment and use of temporary and back-up diesel generators. Aurora Energy relies on temporary diesel generators for unplanned outages (such as those associated with emergency situations including significant weather events) or for planned works, to minimise outages on affected communities and the health and safety of staff undertaking the work. The use of these generators is to maintain a consistent electricity supply in the affected area.</p> <p>In the majority of cases, temporary generators are deployed within the road reserve, but some outages will require deployment on private property depending on the nature, significance and location of the outage. The locational need for generators is functional. Aurora Energy has undertaken modelling with respect to contaminants to air arising from the expected use of temporary generators. Modelling suggests that use of the generators used by Aurora Energy would not exceed relevant NESAQ and NZAAQG criteria levels for PM10, SO2 and NO2. The results indicate that emissions from the generators (30kVa and 100kVA) operated by Aurora Energy would result in no significant adverse health effects.</p> <p>Aurora Energy has sought to proactively engage with relevant iwi stakeholders and intends to consult on its proposal for the use of diesel generators in the future. However, Aurora Energy opposes the use of an avoid policy, particularly since the extent of areas affected is unclear. Without spatial and methodological parameters, areas to be avoided cannot be</p>	<p>Delete AIR-P6</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Amend as follows:</p> <p><u>Avoid, Remedy or mitigate</u> discharges to air that adversely affect <i>mana whenua</i> values by having particular regard to values and <u>identified</u> areas of significance to <i>mana whenua</i>.</p>

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				objectively determined or implemented. If areas of cultural significance which are likely to be affected by the use of diesel generators can be identified (or if a site is a sensitive cultural site, use alert layers to advise of sensitive cultural sites without disclosure) then there is the opportunity to avoid (where practicable given the functional needs of the asset) and in areas where it is not possible to avoid, then opportunities should be provided to remedy or mitigate.	
CE Coastal Environment					
Objectives					
21.	CE-O5 – Activities in the coastal environment	Activities in the coastal environment: 1) make efficient use of space occupied in the coastal marine area, 2) are of a scale, density and design compatible with their location, 3) are only provided for within appropriate locations and limits, and 4) maintain or enhance public access to and along the coastal marine area, including for customary uses.	Oppose, in part	Parts of Aurora Energy's network are located within the coastal environment and may be required to be upgraded or developed in order to reinforce the supply to that area or to increase capacity to the network. As such, there may be a functional and/or operational need for Aurora Energy to locate its network in the coastal environment. Aurora Energy's view is that consistent with the NZCPS, appropriate locations for infrastructure are where they have a functional or operation need to locate in that environment.	Amend CE-O5 (3) as follows: (3) are only provided for within appropriate locations and limits, or, in the case of infrastructure where there is a functional or operational need, and
Policies					
22.	CE-P2 – Identification	Identify the following in the coastal environment: 1) the landward extent of the coastal environment, recognising that the coastal environment includes: a. the coastal marine area, b. islands within the coastal marine area, c. areas where coastal processes, influences or qualities are significant, including coastal lakes, lagoons, tidal estuaries, saltmarshes, coastal wetlands, and the margins of these, d. areas at risk from coastal hazards as identified in CE-P2(4), e. coastal vegetation and the habitat of indigenous coastal species including migratory birds, f. elements and features that contribute to the natural character, landscape, visual qualities or amenity values, g. items of cultural and historic heritage in the coastal marine area or on the coast,	Support, in part	It is important to recognise existing electricity distribution infrastructure located in the coastal environment. Aurora Energy's network includes assets within and around the Otago Harbour and coastal areas south of Dunedin. This infrastructure represents significant capital investment that provides economic and social benefits to the coastal communities and should be recognised by this policy.	Retain Policy CE-P2 in so far as it provides for the recognition of existing physical resources that have modified the coastal environment.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> h. inter-related coastal marine and terrestrial systems, including the intertidal zone, and i. physical resources and built facilities, including infrastructure, that have modified the coastal environment, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2) areas of water quality in the coastal marine area that are considered to have deteriorated so that it is having a significant adverse effect on ecosystems, natural habitats, or water-based recreational activities, or is restricting existing uses, such as aquaculture, shellfish gathering, and cultural activities such as mahika kai and harvesting of kaimoana, 3) areas of coastal water where takata whenua have a particular interest, 4) areas that are potentially affected by coastal hazards (including tsunami), giving priority to the identification of areas at high risk of being affected, and 5) the nationally significant surf breaks at Karitane, Papatowai, The Spit, and Whareakeake and any regionally significant surf breaks. 			
23.	CE-P4 – Natural character	<p>Identify, preserve and restore the natural character of the coastal environment by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) identifying areas and values of high and outstanding natural character which may include matters such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. natural elements, processes and patterns, b. biophysical, ecological, geological and geomorphological aspects, c. natural landforms such as headlands, peninsulas, cliffs, dunes, wetlands, estuaries, reefs, freshwater springs and surf breaks, d. the natural movement of water and sediment, e. the natural darkness of the night sky, f. places or areas that are wild or scenic, g. a range of natural character from pristine to modified, h. experiential attributes, including the sounds and smell of the sea, and their context or setting, 2) avoiding adverse effects on natural character in areas identified as having outstanding natural character, 3) avoiding significant adverse effects and avoiding, remedying or mitigating other adverse effects on natural character outside the areas in (2) above, 4) encouraging de-reclamation of redundant reclaimed land where it would restore the natural character and resources of 	Oppose, in part	<p>Parts of Aurora Energy's network are located within the coastal environment and may be required to be upgraded or developed in order to reinforce the supply to that area or to increase capacity to the network. As such, there may be a functional and/or operational need for Aurora Energy to locate its network in the coastal environment.</p> <p>The current drafting of this policy seeks to avoid any adverse effect on areas identified as having outstanding natural character in the coastal environment. That level of protection is prohibitive in terms of providing for Aurora Energy's existing network.</p> <p>To ensure that infrastructure is provided for in these environments, Aurora Energy seek to rely on the "effects management hierarchy (other matters)" as defined in this submission</p>	Amend CE-P4 to provide a carve out for existing infrastructure in the coastal environment to be operated, maintained and upgraded by applying the effects management hierarchy (other matters).

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		<p>the coastal marine area and provide for more public open space, and</p> <p>5) promoting activities and restoration projects that will restore natural character in the coastal environment where it has been reduced or lost.</p>			
24.	CE-P9 – Activities on land within the coastal environment	<p>The strategic and co-ordinated use of land within the coastal environment is achieved by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) avoiding sprawling or sporadic patterns of subdivision, use and development, 2) considering the rate at which built development should be enabled to provide for the reasonably foreseeable needs of population growth without compromising the values of the coastal environment, 3) recognising the importance of the provision of infrastructure to the social, economic and cultural well-being of people and communities, maintaining or enhancing public access to the coastal environment, and 4) considering where activities that maintain the character of the existing built environment should be encouraged, and where activities resulting in a change in character would be acceptable. 	Support, in part	<p>Policy 6 of the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement provides direction about infrastructure activities located in the coastal environment, and in particular</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) recognise that the provision of infrastructure, the supply and transport of energy including the generation and transmission of electricity, and the extraction of minerals are activities important to the social, economic and cultural well-being of people and communities; (relevant to clause 3). (e) consider where and how built development on land should be controlled so that it does not compromise activities of national or regional importance that have a functional need to locate and operate in the coastal marine area. (h) consider how adverse visual impacts of development can be avoided in areas sensitive to such effects, such as headlands and prominent ridgelines, and as far as practicable and reasonable apply controls or conditions to avoid those effects. (i) set back development from the coastal marine area and other water bodies, where practicable and reasonable, to protect the natural character, open space, public access and amenity values of the coastal environment; and <p>(2) Additionally, in relation to the coastal marine area:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (c) recognises that there are activities that have a functional need to be located in the coastal marine area and provide for those activities in appropriate places. 	<p>Amend CE-P9 by adding a new clause as follows:</p> <p>(5) <u>Recognise and, where appropriate, provide for infrastructure with a functional or operational need to locate in the coastal environment.</u></p>
25.	CE-P10 – Activities within the coastal marine area	<p>Use and development in the coastal marine area must:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) enable multiple uses of the coastal marine area wherever reasonable and practicable, 2) maintain or improve the integrity, form, function and resilience of the coastal marine area, and 	Support, in part.	<p>This policy appears to be a reflection of RPS19 policy 5.4.9 albeit it has been drafted with a “broad brush” approach.</p> <p>It is important to recognise Aurora Energy's electricity distribution network where it has a functional and</p>	<p>Retain Policy CE-P10 subject to amendments that do not require compliance with point (2) where there is a functional or operational need to locate in that environment.</p>

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		3) have a functional or operational need to be located in the coastal marine area, or 4) have a public benefit or opportunity for public recreation that cannot practicably be located outside the coastal marine area.		operational need to be located in the coastal marine area. The policy has been framed conjunctively such that even if Aurora Energy can demonstrate a functional and operational need to locate in that environment it may not be able to maintain or improve the integrity, form, function and resilience of the coastal marine area, which is a new aspect that has been included in this policy from PRPS19.	
Methods					
26.	CE-M3 – Regional plans	1. Otago Regional Council must prepare or amend and maintain its regional plans no later than 31 December 2028 to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) map areas of deteriorated water quality in the coastal environment, in accordance with CE-P2(2) and CE-P2(3), 2) map the areas and characteristics of, and access to, nationally and regionally significant surf breaks, 3) require development to be set back from the coastal marine area where practicable to protect the natural character, open space, public access and amenity values of the coastal environment, 4) manage the discharge of contaminants into coastal water by: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. only enabling the use of small mixing zones before the water quality standards need to be met in the receiving environment and minimising adverse effects on the life-supporting capacity of water within any mixing zone, b. prohibiting the discharge of untreated human sewage directly to water in the coastal environment, c. prohibiting the discharge of treated human sewage directly to water in the coastal environment unless: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (i) there has been adequate consideration of alternative methods, sites and routes for undertaking the discharge, and (ii) it can be demonstrated that the proposal has been informed by consultation with tangata whenua and the affected community, and (a) reducing the discharge of sediment by: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (i) requiring that subdivision, use, or development will not increase sedimentation of the coastal marine area or other coastal water, 	Oppose	The functional and operational needs of Aurora Energy's electricity distribution network is such that it is not always practicable to setback infrastructure from the coastal marine area. Although Aurora Energy's preference would be to ensure that it is, there are often instances where remote or isolated communities in proximity to the coastal marine area present limited opportunities for the placement of infrastructure elsewhere than the CMA. For that reason, Aurora Energy considers it important that reference to "where practicable" is maintained. Amendments are required to this method consistent with Aurora Energy's submission on CE-P3.	Retain reference to "where practicable" at (1)(3). Amend CE-M3 such that the operation, maintenance and upgrade of infrastructure is provided for in accordance with the effects management hierarchy (other matters).

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (ii) controlling the impacts of vegetation removal on sedimentation including the impacts of harvesting plantation forestry, and (iii) reducing sediment loadings in runoff and in stormwater systems through controls on land use activities, and (b) avoiding cross-contamination between sewage and stormwater systems where new systems are proposed and remedy cross-contamination where they currently exist in established systems, and (c) having particular regard to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the sensitivity of the receiving environment, (ii) the nature of the contaminants to be discharged, the contaminant concentration thresholds not to be exceeded to achieve the required water quality in the receiving environment, and the risks if that concentration of contaminants is exceeded, (iii) the capacity of the receiving environment to assimilate the contaminants, and (iv) avoiding significant adverse effects on ecosystems and habitats after reasonable mixing, (2) control the use and development of the coastal marine area, in order to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) preserve the natural character; natural landscapes, features, and seascapes; and indigenous biodiversity of the coastal marine area in accordance with CE-P4, CE-P5 and CE-P6, and b) manage Otago's nationally and regionally significant surf breaks in accordance with CE-P7, (3) include provisions requiring the adoption of a precautionary approach to assessing the effects of activities in the coastal environment in accordance with IM-P15 where: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) there is scientific uncertainty, or (b) there are potentially significant or irreversible adverse effects, <p>.....</p>			

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27.	CE-M4 – District plans	<p>Territorial authorities must prepare or amend and maintain their district plans to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) control the location, density and form of subdivision in the coastal environment (outside the coastal marine area), (2) control the location, scale and form of buildings and structures in the coastal environment (outside the coastal marine area), (3) control the location and scale of earthworks and vegetation planting, modification and removal in the coastal environment (outside the coastal marine area), (4) require resource consent for uses of land on reclamations that have occurred after the date this RPS becomes operative, (5) provide for the establishment of esplanade reserves and esplanade strips, (6) include provisions requiring the adoption of a precautionary approach to assessing the effects of activities in the coastal environment in accordance with IM-P15 where: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) there is scientific uncertainty, or (b) there are potentially significant or irreversible adverse effects, (7) provide for walking access to the coastal marine area in accordance with Policy 19 of the NZCPS, (8) control vehicle access to the coastal marine area in accordance with Policy 20 of the NZCPS, (9) recognise takata whenua needs for papakāika, marae and associated developments within the coastal environment and make appropriate provision for them, (10) provide access to nationally and regionally significant surf breaks, and (11) provide for and encourage activities undertaken for the primary purpose of restoring natural character, features, or landscapes in accordance with CE-P4 and CE-P6. 	Oppose	Amendments are required to this method consistent with Aurora Energy's submission on CE-P3.	Amend CE-M3 such that the operation, maintenance and upgrade of infrastructure is provided for in accordance with the effects management hierarchy (Other Matters).
Principal reasons					
28.	CE-PR1 – Principal reasons	<p>The coastal environment includes the coastal marine area, islands within the coastal marine area and the area landward of the line of mean high-water springs. The landward extent of the coastal environment is determined by the natural and physical elements, features and processes set out in Policy 1(2) of the NZCPS. The importance of the coastal environment is reflected in the statutory resource management framework, particularly as identified in sections 6 and 7 of the RMA 1991 and as set out in the NZCPS.</p> <p>A number of activities occur within or affect the coastal environment including urban development, recreational activities, transport infrastructure, port activities, infrastructure, energy generation and transmission, food production and other farming activities, plantation forestry, rural industry and mineral extraction. These activities can be important contributors to the existing and future health and well-being of communities. However, poorly located or managed activities can have adverse effects that compromise the values of the coastal</p>	Oppose, in part	<p>CE-PR1 paints a broad summary of the application of the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement in terms of how the coastal environment is to be preserved.</p> <p>In the case of infrastructure, and in particular, infrastructure of regional significance (including sub-transmission infrastructure and significant electricity distribution infrastructure) the NZCPS seeks to recognise and provide for its ongoing operation where there is a functional or operational need for it to locate in the coastal environment.</p> <p>Aurora Energy owns infrastructure in the coastal environment which has a functional and/or operational need to be located in that environment. Accordingly, amendments have been sought to this section to provide for the operation, maintenance</p>	<p>Amend CE-PR1 as follows:</p> <p>A number of activities occur within or affect the coastal environment including urban development, recreational activities, transport infrastructure, port activities, infrastructure, energy generation and transmission, food production and other farming activities, plantation forestry, rural industry and mineral extraction.</p> <p><u>Some activities, particularly infrastructure have a functional or operational need to locate in the coastal environment and are important to the social, economic and cultural well-being of people and</u></p>

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		environment such as natural character, biophysical processes, water quality, surf breaks, indigenous biodiversity and natural landscapes.		and upgrade of that infrastructure which ought to be reflected in this section.	<u>communities should be recognised and provided for.</u> These activities can be important contributors to the existing and future health and well-being of communities. However, poorly located or managed activities can have adverse effects that compromise the values of the coastal environment such as natural character, biophysical processes, water quality, surf breaks, indigenous biodiversity and natural landscapes.
29.	CE-E1; CE-PR1; CE-AER1; AND CE-AER6		Oppose in part		Any consequential amendments to: Explanation: E1 Principal reasons: PR1 Anticipated environment results: AER1 AND AER6 To give effect to the above relief.
LF Land and Fresh Water					
LF-FW – Fresh water					
Objectives					
30.	LF-FW-O10 – Natural character	The natural character of wetlands, lakes and rivers and their margins is preserved and protected from inappropriate subdivision, use and development.	Support, in part	Aurora Energy supports this objective as a general reflection of s 6(b) of the RMA. However, in Aurora Energy's view the operation of regionally significant infrastructure is an appropriate activity to be located in outstanding natural environments outside of the coastal environment.	Retain Objective LF-FW-O10 as notified.
Policies					
31.	LF-FW-P9 – Protecting natural wetlands	Protect natural wetlands by: 1. avoiding a reduction in their values or extent unless: a. the loss of values or extent arises from: i. the customary harvest of food or resources undertaken in accordance with tikaka Māori, ii. restoration activities, iii. scientific research, iv. the sustainable harvest of sphagnum moss, v. the construction or maintenance of wetland utility structures, vi. the maintenance or operation of specific infrastructure, or other infrastructure, vii. natural hazard works, or b. the Regional Council is satisfied that:	Support in part	Without appropriate carve-outs for specified infrastructure, this policy could operate as a prohibition on the installation of new electricity infrastructure within a natural wetland. That would be contrary to the discretionary activity pathway set out at regulation 45 of the National Environmental Standards for Freshwater 2020. For that reason, Aurora Energy supports the reference to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- The maintenance or operation of specified infrastructure or other infrastructure; and- the activity is necessary for the construction or upgrade of specified infrastructure,	Replace "specific" in Policy LF-FW-P9 1(a)(vi) with "specified". Retain (1)(a)(vi); 1(b)(i) and (iii) which provides a carve out for specified infrastructure and other infrastructure. Delete 1(b)(ii). Any further or consequential relief to align this policy with the National Environmental Standards for Freshwater 2020.

No.	Provision	Text	Oppose/ Support	Discussion	Submission – decision sought by Council
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. the activity is necessary for the construction or upgrade of specified infrastructure, ii. the specified infrastructure will provide significant national or regional benefits, iii. there is a functional need for the specified infrastructure in that location, iv. the effects of the activity on indigenous biodiversity are managed by applying either ECO-P3 or ECO-P6 (whichever is applicable), and v. the other effects of the activity (excluding those managed under (1)(b)(iv)) are managed by applying the effects management hierarchy, and <p>2. not granting resource consents for activities under (1)(b) unless the Regional Council is satisfied that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the application demonstrates how each step of the effects management hierarchies in (1)(b)(iv) and (1)(b)(v) will be applied to the loss of values or extent of the natural wetland, and b. any consent is granted subject to conditions that apply the effects management hierarchies in (1)(b)(iv) and (1)(b)(v). 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - there is a functional need for the specified infrastructure in that location, <p>However, Aurora Energy does not support the inclusion of "the specified infrastructure will provide significant national or regional benefits" which goes beyond regulation 45.</p>	
32.	LF-FW-P12 – Protecting outstanding water bodies	<p>The significant and outstanding values of <i>outstanding water bodies</i> are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) identified in the relevant <i>regional</i> and <i>district plans</i>, and (2) protected by avoiding adverse <i>effects</i> on those values. 	Oppose, in part	<p>The Policy seeks to protect outstanding water bodies by avoiding adverse effects on the outstanding values of those waterbodies. This avoidance approach is considered to be impractical for infrastructure that may have functional and operational requirements to locate in such areas.</p> <p>Aurora Energy is of the view that there should be scope within the policy to allow for the remediation or mitigation of adverse effects, associated with infrastructure. It is important that all of Aurora Energy's network be subject to an effects management hierarchy that is consistent and workable for its infrastructure, while also providing appropriate levels of effects mitigation.</p> <p>The inclusion of a reference to the proposed effects management hierarchy (Other Matters) in this policy will achieve this outcome.</p>	<p>Amend Policy LF-FW-P12 as follows</p> <p>The significant and outstanding values of <i>outstanding water bodies</i> are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) identified in the relevant <i>regional</i> and <i>district plans</i>, and (2) protected by avoiding adverse <i>effects</i> on those values; or <u>(3) In the case of infrastructure, managed in accordance with EIT-INF-P13.</u>
33.	LF-FW-P13 – Preserving natural character	<p>Preserve the natural character of lakes and rivers and their beds and margins by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) avoiding the loss of values or extent of a river, unless: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. there is a functional need for the activity in that location, and b. the effects of the activity are managed by applying: 	Support, in part	<p>Aurora Energy is supportive of the proposed carve out in this policy for activities that have a functional need to be located within the lakes and rivers and their beds and margins. River and lake beds, and their riparian margins, often provide the location for new electricity distribution assets, many of which may not be able to locate elsewhere.</p>	<p>Amend add new clause (9), as follows:</p> <p><u>(9) despite (1)-(8), in the case of infrastructure the effects of the activity are managed by the effect's management hierarchy (other matters) in accordance with EIT-INF-P13.</u></p>

No.	Provision	Text	Oppose/ Support	Discussion	Submission – decision sought by Council
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. for effects on indigenous biodiversity, either ECO-P3 or ECO-P6 (whichever is applicable), and ii. for other effects, the effects management hierarchy, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2) not granting resource consent for activities in (1) unless Otago Regional Council is satisfied that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. the application demonstrates how each step of the effects management hierarchies in (1)(b) will be applied to the loss of values or extent of the river, and b. any consent is granted subject to conditions that apply the effects management hierarchies in (1)(b), 3) establishing environmental flow and level regimes and water quality standards that support the health and well-being of the water body, 4) wherever possible, sustaining the form and function of a water body that reflects its natural behaviours, 5) recognising and implementing the restrictions in Water Conservation Orders, 6) preventing the impounding or control of the level of Lake Wanaka, 7) preventing modification that would reduce the braided character of a river, and 8) controlling the use of water and land that would adversely affect the natural character of the water body. 		<p>Aurora Energy is of the view that there should also be scope within the policy to allow for the remediation or mitigation of adverse effects, associated with infrastructure. It is important that all of Aurora Energy's network be subject to an effects management hierarchy that is consistent and workable for its infrastructure, while also providing appropriate levels of effects mitigation.</p> <p>The inclusion of a reference to the proposed effects management hierarchy (Other Matters) in this policy will achieve this outcome.</p>	
Methods					
34.	LF-FW-M6; LF-FW-E3; LF-FW-PR3		Oppose in part		<p>Any consequential amendments to:</p> <p>Methods: LF-FW-M6</p> <p>Explanation: LF-FW-E3</p> <p>Principal reasons: LF-FW-PRS</p> <p>To give effect to the above relief.</p>
Topics					
ECO – Ecosystems and indigenous biodiversity					
Policies					
35.	ECO-P3 – Protecting significant natural areas and taoka	<p>Except as provided for by ECO-P4 and ECO-P5, protect significant natural areas and indigenous species and ecosystems that are taoka by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) avoiding adverse effects that result in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) any reduction of the area or values (even if those values are not themselves significant) identified under ECO-P2(1), or b) any loss of Kāi Tahu values, and 2) after (1), applying the biodiversity effects management hierarchy in ECO-P6, and 3) prior to significant natural areas and indigenous species and ecosystems that are taoka being identified in accordance with 	Oppose	<p>This policy is effectively a prohibition on the operation, maintenance and upgrade of Aurora Energy's network. Furthermore, the policy does not take into account the functional or operational needs for Aurora Energy's regionally significant infrastructure.</p> <p>The policy, without significant amendment, would constrain the ability to install regionally significant infrastructure, which by nature of its existence has regional benefits.</p>	<p>Delete ECO-P3</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Amend by adding a carve out for infrastructure in which the policy framework of EIT-INF applies, including by adding the following text:</p> <p><u>or, in the case of infrastructure, adverse effects are managed in accordance with EIT-INF-P13.</u></p>

No.	Provision	Text	Oppose/ Support	Discussion	Submission – decision sought by Council
		ECO-P2, adopt a precautionary approach towards activities in accordance with IM-P15.		Furthermore, it is unclear how this policy will give effect to the impending national policy statement for indigenous biodiversity. It is important that sufficient scope be provided to enable amendments to this policy and others to incorporate and give a fix to that higher order document.	OR Amend as necessary to give effect to the NPSIB. Any consequential amendments to ECO-M4 – Regional plans to give effect to the relief sought.
36.	ECO-P4 – Provision for new activities	Maintain Otago's indigenous biodiversity by following the sequential steps in the effects management hierarchy set out in ECO-P6 when making decisions on plans, applications for resource consent or notices of requirement for the following activities in significant natural areas, or where they may adversely affect indigenous species and ecosystems that are taoka: 1) the development or upgrade of nationally and regionally significant infrastructure that has a functional or operational need to locate within the relevant significant natural area(s) or where they may adversely affect indigenous species or ecosystems that are taoka, 2) the development of papakāika, marae and ancillary facilities associated with customary activities on Māori land, 3) the use of Māori land in a way that will make a significant contribution to enhancing the social, cultural or economic well-being of takata whenua, 4) activities that are for the purpose of protecting, restoring or enhancing a significant natural area or indigenous species or ecosystems that are taoka, or 5) (5) activities that are for the purpose of addressing a severe and immediate risk to public health or safety.	Oppose	Aurora Energy is concerned about the wide-ranging application of this policy to all indigenous biodiversity in New Zealand, including biodiversity that does not qualify an area as a Significant Natural Area which appears inconsistent with the national direction in the NPSIB	Delete policy ECO-P4 OR Amend by adding a carve out for infrastructure in which the policy framework of EIT-INF applies, including by adding the following text: <u>or, in the case of infrastructure, adverse effects are managed in accordance with EIT-INF-P13.</u> OR Amend the policy to give effect to the NPSIB.
37.	ECO-P5 – Existing activities in significant natural areas	Except as provided for by ECO-P4, provide for existing activities within significant natural areas and that may adversely affect indigenous species and ecosystems that are taoka, if: 1) the continuation of an existing activity will not lead to the loss (including through cumulative loss) of extent or degradation of the ecological integrity of any significant natural area or indigenous species or ecosystems that are taoka, and 2) the adverse effects of an existing activity are no greater in character, spatial extent, intensity or scale than they were before this RPS became operative.	Oppose	ECO-P5 appears to be the counterpart to new activities provided for in ECO-P4. However, it is unclear whether the policy extends to the operation, maintenance and upgrade of existing activities, including all of Aurora's existing electricity distribution network as at the date of the PRPS21 becoming operative. Furthermore, inherent in the operation and maintenance of an electricity distribution network is the requirement to maintain vegetation (indigenous or otherwise) in proximity to Aurora Energy's network as set out in the Electricity (Hazards from Trees) Regulations 2003.	Delete Policy ECO-P5 OR Amend the policy to provide for the ongoing operation, maintenance and upgrade of existing infrastructure, such as the inclusion of a new (3) <u>(3) or, in the case of infrastructure, adverse effects are managed in accordance with EIT-INF-P13.</u>
38.	ECO-P6 – Maintaining indigenous biodiversity	Maintain Otago's indigenous biodiversity (excluding the coastal environment and areas managed under ECO-P3) by applying the following biodiversity effects management hierarchy in decision-making on applications for resource consent and notices of requirement:	Oppose, in part	Aurora Energy supports the use of an effects management hierarchy particularly with respect to infrastructure, that is constrained in its ability to locate by its functional and operational requirements.	Amend by removing the term "demonstrably" and providing a carve out for infrastructure in which the policy framework of EIT-INF applies, including by adding the following text:

No.	Provision	Text	Oppose/ Support	Discussion	Submission – decision sought by Council
		1) avoid adverse effects as the first priority, 2) where adverse effects demonstrably cannot be completely avoided, they are remedied, 3) where adverse effects demonstrably cannot be completely avoided or remedied, they are mitigated, 4) where there are residual adverse effects after avoidance, remediation, and mitigation, then the residual adverse effects are offset in accordance with APP3, and 5) if biodiversity offsetting of residual adverse effects is not possible, then: a) the residual adverse effects are compensated for in accordance with APP4, and b) if the residual adverse effects cannot be compensated for in accordance with APP4, the activity is avoided.			<u>or, in the case of infrastructure, adverse effects are managed in accordance with EIT-INF-P13.</u> OR Amend as necessary to give effect to the NPSIB.
Methods					
39.	ECO-M4 – Regional plans	Otago Regional Council must prepare or amend and maintain its regional plans to: 1) if the requirements of ECO-P3 and ECO-P6 can be met, provide for the use of lakes and rivers and their beds, including: a. activities undertaken for the purposes of pest control or maintaining or enhancing the habitats of indigenous fauna, and b. the maintenance and use of existing structures (including infrastructure), and c. infrastructure that has a functional or operational need to be sited or operated in a particular location, (2) require: a. resource consent applications to include information that demonstrates that the sequential steps in the effects management hierarchy in ECO-P6 have been followed, and b. that consents are not granted if the sequential steps in the effects management hierarchy in ECO-P6 have not been followed, and (3) provide for activities undertaken for the purpose of restoring or enhancing the habitats of indigenous fauna.	Oppose, in part	Aurora Energy repeats its submission with respect to ECO-P3 and ECO-P6 noting that policy effectively acts as a prohibition on the operation, maintenance and upgrade on Aurora Energy's network.	Delete reference to ECO-P3. Any consequential relief to give effect to Aurora Energy's submission on ECO-P3 to ECO-P6.
40.	ECO-M5 – District plans	Territorial authorities must prepare or amend and maintain their district plans to: 1) if the requirements of ECO-P3 and ECO-P6 are met, provide for the use of land and the surface of water bodies including: a. activities undertaken for the purposes of pest control or maintaining or enhancing the habitats of indigenous fauna, and b. the maintenance and use of existing structures (including infrastructure), and c. infrastructure that has a functional or operational need to be sited or operated in a particular location, 2) control the clearance or modification of indigenous vegetation,	Oppose, in part	Aurora Energy repeats its submission with respect to ECO-P3 noting that policy effectively acts as a prohibition on the operation, maintenance and upgrade on Aurora Energy's network.	Delete reference to ECO-P3. AND Amend (2) as follows: <u>control the clearance or modification of indigenous vegetation, including where required to provide for the ongoing operation, maintenance and upgrade of infrastructure.</u>

No.	Provision	Text	Oppose/ Support	Discussion	Submission – decision sought by Council
		<p>3) promote the establishment of esplanade reserves and esplanade strips, particularly where they would support ecological corridors, buffering or connectivity between significant natural areas,</p> <p>4) require:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. resource consent applications to include information that demonstrates that the sequential steps in the effects management hierarchy in ECO-P6 have been followed, and b. that consents are not granted if the sequential steps in the effects management hierarchy in ECO-P6 have not been followed, and <p>5) provide for activities undertaken for the purpose of restoring or enhancing the habitats of indigenous fauna, and</p> <p>6) prohibit the planting of wilding conifer species listed in APP5 within areas identified as significant natural areas.</p>			Any consequential relief to give effect to Aurora Energy's submission on ECO-P3 to ECO-P6.
41.	ECO-E1; ECO-PR1;		Oppose in part		<p>Any consequential amendments to:</p> <p>Explanation: ECO-E1</p> <p>Principal reasons: ECO-PR1</p> <p>To give effect to the above relief.</p>

EIT – Energy, infrastructure and transport

EN - Energy

Policies

42.	EIT-EN-P8 – Small and community scale distributed electricity generation	Provide for small and community scale distributed electricity generation activities that increase the local community's resilience and security of energy supply.	Support, in part	<p>Aurora Energy supports the provision for small and community scale distributed electricity generation activities within Otago. This is important in areas where substantial upgrades to the local electricity distribution network is not economically viable and provides remote communities such as Glenorchy, the opportunity to explore solar power and battery storage systems to reduce peak demand. More generally, small and community scale distributed electricity generation activities will play an increasingly important role in meeting national decarbonisation/electrification targets.</p> <p>Aurora Energy considers that recognition of the symbiosis between small and community scale generation activities and the distribution network is required and that provision for the distribution network with respect to those activities should be encouraged.</p>	<p>Amend Policy EIT-EN-P8 as follows:</p> <p>Provide for small and community scale distributed electricity generation activities that increase the local community's resilience and security of energy supply, <u>including by providing for connection to the distribution network.</u></p>
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INF – Infrastructure

Objectives

No.	Provision	Text	Oppose/ Support	Discussion	Submission – decision sought by Council
43.	EIT-INF-O4 – Provision of infrastructure	Effective, efficient and resilient infrastructure enables the people and communities of Otago to provide for their social and cultural well-being, their health and safety, and supports sustainable economic development and growth within the region within environmental limits.	Oppose, in part	The terminology “within environmental limits” has been pre-emptively carried over from the Natural and Built Environments Exposure draft and carries little meaning in the current RMA context. Furthermore, it is unclear when any environmental limits will be imposed or the extent to which they will be applicable to regionally significant infrastructure. Although we can expect to see this language being used more and more it does not provide any guidance in the current context. Aurora Energy would support the use of this language in a later variation once the NBEA has been passed into law.	Delete EIT-INF-O4 Or Amend to remove the wording “within environmental limits” in this provision and elsewhere in RPS21.
44.	EIT-INF-O5 – Integration	Development of nationally and regionally significant infrastructure, as well as land use change, occurs in a co-ordinated manner to minimise adverse effects on the environment and increase efficiency in the delivery, operation and use of the infrastructure.	Support	Aurora Energy supports the integrated development of infrastructure recognising that nationally and regionally significant infrastructure have a higher importance in terms of their function and benefits to the Otago Region.	Retain Objective EIT-INF-O5 as notified.
45.	EIT-INF-O6 – Long-term planning for electricity transmission infrastructure	Long-term investment in, and planning for, electricity transmission infrastructure, and its integration with land use, is sustained.	Support, in part	<p>New Zealand is embarking on a journey to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050. There is consensus that electrification of the transport sector provides one of the lowest cost opportunities to decarbonise the economy.</p> <p>One of the goals of the Government is an increase in the take up of electric vehicles. This will require an increase in the supporting infrastructure which is predominantly driven at the electricity distribution level. Therefore, long-term investment in and planning for electricity transmission and distribution should be promoted to ensure Otago can meet its regional obligations.</p> <p>Long term planning for the National Grid and distribution network will also support provision of additional infrastructure to support the objectives of the NPSUD and provision of adequate housing and business land capacity.</p> <p>Using the words electricity transmission infrastructure can cause confusion and is not a term that is defined within the plan. Furthermore, parts of Aurora Energy’s network include sub-transmission infrastructure. Aurora Energy submits that the objective should be reworded to utilise defined terms to ensure that the objective is clear and unambiguous.</p>	Amend Policy EIT-INF-O6 – Long-term planning for electricity transmission infrastructure as follows: <i>Long-term investment in, and planning for the national grid and distribution network electricity transmission infrastructure, and its integration with land use, is sustained.</i>

No.	Provision	Text	Oppose/ Support	Discussion	Submission – decision sought by Council
Policies					
46.	EIT-INF-P10 – Recognising resource requirements	Decision making on the allocation or use of natural and physical resources must take into account the needs of nationally and regionally significant infrastructure.	Support in part	<p>The intention of the policy is supported on the basis that land uses that rely on natural and physical resource ought to take into account electricity distribution infrastructure, particularly insofar as those activities give rise to potential reverse sensitivity issues. The policy, as notified, has been drafted at a high level that it is unclear what the “needs” of NSI and RSI are and how activities take them into account.</p> <p>Given the terms “functional needs” and “operational needs” are defined in PRPS21 it is considered that they should be included to provide focus and direction to this policy.</p>	<p>Amend Policy EIT-INF-P10 as follows:</p> <p>Decision making on the allocation or use of natural and physical resources must take into account the <i>functional and operational</i> needs of nationally and regionally significant infrastructure.</p>
47.	EIT-INF-P11 – Operation and maintenance	<p>Except as provided for by ECO-P4, allow for the operation and maintenance of existing nationally and regionally significant infrastructure while:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) avoiding, as the first priority, significant adverse effects on the environment, and 2) if avoidance is not practicable, and for other adverse effects, minimising adverse effects. 	Oppose, in part	<p>For the reasons set out earlier in this submission, Aurora Energy is concerned about the wide-ranging application of Policy ECO-P4 to all indigenous biodiversity in New Zealand, including biodiversity that does not qualify an area as a Significant Natural Area.</p>	<p>Delete reference to ECO-P4 OR, any consequential amendments required to give effect to the NPSIB.</p> <p>Otherwise retain policy.</p>
48.	EIT-INF-P12 – Upgrades and development	<p>Provide for upgrades to, and development of, nationally or regionally significant infrastructure while ensuring that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) infrastructure is designed and located, as far as practicable, to maintain functionality during and after natural hazard events, 2) it is, as far as practicable, co-ordinated with long-term land use planning, and 3) increases efficiency in the delivery, operation or use of the infrastructure. 	Support, in part	<p>Aurora Energy supports the provision for upgrades to and development of its electricity distribution network. This will be particularly important over the next 5-10 years as Aurora Energy carries out significant investment to its network in accordance with its Customised Price Quality Path, approved by the Commerce Commission in March 2021. The investment in the network will enable Aurora Energy to</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Address historical under-investment that has resulted in degraded infrastructure; b) Expand and enhance existing levels of infrastructure renewal; c) Invest in growth and security to support growth and new electricity connections; and d) Lay the foundations for electrification and decarbonisation activities. <p>It is therefore important that the ability to upgrade and develop the network is expanded beyond just those assets which are considered regionally significant. It should be widened to allow for “infrastructure” in general.</p>	<p>Amend Policy EIT-INF-P12 as follows:</p> <p>Provide for upgrades to, and development of, nationally or regionally significant infrastructure while ensuring that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) infrastructure is it is designed and located, as far as practicable, to maintain functionality during and after natural hazard events, 2) it is, as far as practicable, co-ordinated with long-term land use planning, and 3) increases efficiency in the delivery, operation and use of the infrastructure <u>is efficient</u>.
49.	EIT-INF-P13 – Locating and managing effects of infrastructure	<p>When providing for new infrastructure outside the coastal environment:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) avoid, as the first priority, locating infrastructure in all of the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. significant natural areas, 	Oppose	<p>The supply of electricity is critical to the Otago region. Businesses and the larger community rely on the availability of electricity to function.</p>	<p>Delete policy,</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Replace the policy as follows:</p>

No.	Provision	Text	Oppose/ Support	Discussion	Submission – decision sought by Council
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b. outstanding natural features and landscapes, c. natural wetlands, d. outstanding water bodies, e. areas of high or outstanding natural character, f. areas or places of significant or outstanding historic heritage, g. wāhi tapu, wāhi taoka, and areas with protected customary rights, and h. areas of high recreational and high amenity value, and <p>(2) if it is not possible to avoid locating in the areas listed in (1) above because of the functional or operational needs of the infrastructure manage adverse effects as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) for nationally or regionally significant infrastructure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. in significant natural areas, in accordance with ECO-P4, ii. in natural wetlands, in accordance with the relevant provisions in the NESF, iii. in outstanding water bodies, in accordance with LF-P12, iv. in other areas listed in EIT-INF-P13 (1) above, minimise the adverse effects of the infrastructure on the values that contribute to the area's importance, and b) for all infrastructure that is not nationally or regionally significant, avoid adverse effects on the values that contribute to the area's outstanding nature or significance. 		<p>It is of the utmost importance to provide for the protection of strategic infrastructure such as the electricity distribution network in the RPS21.</p> <p>Aurora Energy operates an extensive electricity distribution network, including numerous sub-transmission and distribution lines, substations and other network assets to provide electricity supply to the Dunedin, Queenstown Lakes and Central Otago communities. Aurora Energy will also need to expand its network in the future to continue to meet demand for servicing as communities grow.</p> <p>It is essential that Aurora Energy's distribution network, is able to connect people wherever they may be located, including through reinforcing and improving the resilience of Aurora Energy's existing network. For those reasons, it is important that all of Aurora Energy's network be subject to an effects management hierarchy that is consistent and workable for its infrastructure, while also providing appropriate levels of effects mitigation. While Aurora Energy's preference is to seek to avoid locating infrastructure in sensitive locations, there will be instances where this is not possible or practicable. For example, within the Queenstown Lakes District, where 97% of the district is subject to an Outstanding Natural Landscape overlay.</p> <p>Given the scope of the effects management hierarchy (other matters) proposed much of the complicated drafting of this clause can be removed. It is expected that the suggested approach will provide a clear, workable and appropriate mechanism for operating Aurora Energy's network across various environments outside the coastal environment.</p>	<p>Provide for new infrastructure outside the coastal environment by:</p> <p>(1) avoiding, as the first priority, locating infrastructure in all of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. significant natural areas, b. outstanding natural features and landscapes, c. natural wetlands, d. outstanding water bodies, e. areas of high or outstanding natural character, f. areas or places of significant or outstanding historic heritage, g. wāhi tapu, wāhi taoka, and areas with protected customary rights, and h. areas of high recreational and high amenity value, <u>or</u>, <p>2) <u>if it is not possible to avoid locating in the areas listed in (1) because of the functional or operational needs of infrastructure, manage adverse effects as follows:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. <u>in natural wetlands, in accordance with the relevant provisions in the NESF, and</u> b. <u>for other locations applying the effects management hierarchy (other matters).</u> <p>Any further or consequential relief so that in the event of conflict between EIT-INF-P13 and any other policy in the regional policy statement then EIT-INF-P13 applies.</p>
50.	EIT-INF-P14 – Decision making considerations	<p>When considering proposals to develop or upgrade infrastructure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) require consideration of alternative sites, methods and designs if adverse effects are potentially significant or irreversible, and 2) utilise the opportunity of substantial upgrades of infrastructure to reduce adverse effects that result from the existing infrastructure, including on sensitive activities. 	Oppose	<p>It is accepted that consideration of alternative sites is an appropriate measure in terms of assessing the efficacy of a particular proposal for infrastructure. However, in the case of developing or upgrading Aurora Energy's existing network functional or operational needs dictate the scope of options that can be assessed and implemented. For that reason, consideration of the functional or operational needs should be incorporated into this policy.</p>	<p>Delete Policy EIT-INF-P14</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Amend policy by adding a new (3) as follows:</p> <p>(3) <u>by taking into account the functional and operational needs of infrastructure.</u></p>
51.	EIT-INF-P15 – Protecting nationally or regionally	<p>Seek to avoid the establishment of activities that may result in reverse sensitivity effects on nationally or regionally significant infrastructure,</p>	Support, in part	<p>Aurora Energy supports the inclusion of a policy that seeks to manage activities that may be incompatible</p>	<p>Retain Policy EIT-INF-P15 provided that Significant Electricity Distribution</p>

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	significant infrastructure	and/or where they may compromise the functional or operational needs of nationally or regionally significant infrastructure.		<p>with the operation of its electricity distribution network.</p> <p>However, the definition of “regionally significant infrastructure” excludes “Significant Electricity Distribution Infrastructure” (as defined in this submission) which was previously provided for by RPS19 policy 4.4.5 where it sought to identify significant electricity distribution infrastructure and manage effects of potentially incompatible activities through methods such as corridors.</p> <p>Although the drafting of that policy could have been improved by including a method (addressed below), it served an important function in terms of recognising and providing for this type of infrastructure.</p>	<p>Infrastructure is included in the definition of Regionally Significant Infrastructure;</p> <p>Or as consequential relief to that submission, amend the policy as follows:</p> <p>Seek to avoid the establishment of activities that may result in reverse sensitivity effects on nationally or regionally significant infrastructure <u>and significant electricity distribution infrastructure</u>, and/or where they may compromise the functional or operational needs of that infrastructure.</p>
52.	EIT-INF-P16 – Providing for electricity transmission and the National Grid	<p>Maintain a secure and sustainable electricity supply in Otago by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) providing for development of, and upgrades to, the electricity transmission network and requiring, as far as practicable, its integration with land use, 2) considering the requirements of and constraints on the functional or operational needs of the electricity transmission network, 3) providing for the efficient and effective development, operation, maintenance, and upgrading of the National Grid, 4) enabling the reasonable operation, maintenance and minor upgrade requirements of established electricity transmission assets, and 5) minimising the adverse effects of the electricity transmission network on urban amenity, and avoiding adverse effects on town centres, areas of high amenity or recreational value and existing sensitive activities. 	Oppose	<p>Aurora Energy supports this policy to the extent that it seeks to maintain a secure and sustainable electricity supply in Otago. However, the drafting of the sub-clauses to this policy do little to provide for that outcome and require significant amendment.</p> <p>The term “electricity transmission network” has not been defined, so the extent/scope of this policy is unknown.</p> <p>Aurora Energy expects that Transpower New Zealand Limited will make a submission that will seek to provide a bespoke approach for the National Grid. That has generally been appropriate given the National Grid is supported by a National Policy Statement. For that reason, it is appropriate for Aurora Energy’s distribution network to be provided for, on the basis that it is the fundamental cog between the National Grid and electricity supply to consumers. Therefore, electricity supply to consumers can only be provided for to the extent that the electricity distribution network is provided for.</p> <p>Resilient, efficient and effective electricity supply from Aurora Energy’s network is supported by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) the ability to operate and maintain the network, particularly through minor upgrading i.e. pole replacement, new conductors, installation of mid-span poles, etc. and b) The development of new electricity sub-transmission infrastructure to reinforce the existing network 	<p>Delete Policy EIT-INF-P16</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Amend as follows to split out a separate policy with respect to the distribution network:</p> <p><u>Recognise and provide for the distribution network by:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) <u>providing for development and upgrade, and requiring, as far as practicable, its integration with land use;</u> (2) <u>Providing for the functional and operational needs of the distribution network;</u> (3) <u>Enabling the operation, maintenance and minor upgrading of existing distribution network.</u> (4) <u>Minimising, as far as practicable, adverse effects of the distribution network on existing land uses, including amenity values.</u> (5) <u>Identifying electricity sub-transmission infrastructure and significant electricity distribution infrastructure and managing effects of potentially incompatible activities.</u>

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53.	EIT-INF-P17 – Urban growth and infrastructure	Provide for development infrastructure and additional infrastructure required to service existing, planned and expected urban growth demands in the short, medium and long term, taking in account UFD-P1 to UFD-P10.	Support	As Otago grapples with an increasing housing crisis and continues to adapt to climate change it is important that development of existing infrastructure and additional infrastructure (which includes the provision of electricity supply) is a key consideration in terms of the provision of infrastructure for urban growth.	Retain policy as notified.
54.	EIT-INF-PX	N/A	N/A	<p>Aurora Energy is concerned that the existing policy suite in HAZ-NH does not adequately provide for the ongoing nature of upgrades and developments to the distribution network to adapt to and respond to the effects of climate change and how that will increase the frequency of or magnitude of natural hazards in Otago.</p> <p>In Aurora Energy's view, developing its network to respond to the effects of climate change is an ongoing task that will inevitably require long-term strategic planning and integrated management with other lifeline utilities. This form of adaptation is not necessarily "event-based" in the sense that Aurora Energy intends to carry out works to its network over time with the effect of increasing the resilience of the network to respond to the effects of climate change, as well as reinforcing the network with respect to increased electricity demand.</p> <p>To that end, Aurora Energy has sought an additional provision be added to HAZ-NH to provide for the ongoing adaptation to climate change which will inevitably require incremental upgrades to the network as opposed to responding to isolated events.</p>	<p>Add a new policy to EIT-INF- as follows:</p> <p><u>EIT-INF-PX</u> <u>Encourage and support the development or upgrade of infrastructure necessary to mitigate risks of natural hazards including the adverse effects of climate change.</u></p>
Methods					
55.	EIT-INF-M4 – Regional plans	<p>Otago Regional Council must prepare or amend and maintain its regional plans to:</p> <p>(1) manage the adverse effects of infrastructure activities that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) are in the beds of lakes and rivers, or (b) are in the coastal marine area, or (c) involve the taking, use, damming or diversion of water or, (d) involve the discharge of water or contaminants, and <p>(2) require the prioritisation of sites for infrastructure where adverse effects on highly valued natural and physical resources and mana whenua values can be avoided or, at the very least, minimised.</p>	Support, in part	<p>Aurora Energy supports the prioritisation of particular sites where adverse effects can be avoided to the extent that this is practicable taking into account the functional and operation needs of infrastructure. To that end, an amended is sought to Clause (2) that considers the practical constraints that can limit the ability to prioritise sites.</p>	<p>Amend EIT-INF-M5 clause (2) as follows:</p> <p>(2) require the prioritisation of sites for infrastructure where adverse effects on highly valued natural and physical resources and mana whenua values can be avoided or minimised <u>to the extent practicable.</u></p>
56.	EIT-INF-M5 – District plans	<p>Territorial authorities must prepare or amend and maintain their district plans to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) require a strategic approach to the integration of land use and nationally or regionally significant infrastructure, 2) enable planning for the electricity transmission network and National Grid to achieve efficient distribution of electricity, 	Oppose	<p>Aurora Energy has expended considerable time and cost involving itself in district plan processes for the past 5 years to seek positive outcomes with respect to the operation, maintenance, development or upgrade of its infrastructure, which was facilitated by the provisions of the PRPS19. Aurora seeks that this</p>	<p>Delete EIT-INF-M5 District Plans</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Amend as follows:</p>

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		<p>3) map the electricity transmission network, and in relation to the National Grid, identify a buffer corridor within which sensitive activities shall generally not be allowed, and</p> <p>4) manage the subdivision, use and development of land to ensure nationally or regionally significant infrastructure can develop to meet increased demand,</p> <p>5) manage the adverse effects of developing, operating, maintaining, or upgrading nationally or regionally significant infrastructure that are on:</p> <p>a) the surface of rivers and lakes and on land outside the coastal marine area, and</p> <p>b) the beds of lakes and rivers,</p> <p>6) ensure that development is avoided where:</p> <p>a. it cannot be adequately served with infrastructure,</p> <p>b. it utilises infrastructure capacity for other planned development, or</p> <p>c. the required upgrading of infrastructure is not funded, and</p> <p>7) require the prioritisation of sites where adverse effects on highly valued natural and physical resources and mana whenua values can be avoided or, at the very least, minimised.</p>		<p>provision be amended such that it provides a framework for the types of provisions that have been agreed to by various parties to those district plan review processes.</p> <p>In particular, amendments are required to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - replace the use of the non-defined term “electricity transmission network” with Electricity Sub-transmission infrastructure; or Significant Electricity Distribution Infrastructure; or Electricity Distribution Network where appropriate. - Expand the scope of the “buffer corridor” beyond the National Grid to include Electricity Sub-transmission infrastructure and Significant Electricity Distribution Infrastructure as previously provided for in RPS2019; and - Require prioritisation of sites in accordance with the effects management hierarchy (other matters) as set out above. 	<p>Territorial authorities must prepare or amend and maintain their district plans to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) require a strategic approach to the integration of land use and nationally or regionally significant infrastructure, 2) <u>provide for the operation and maintenance of the National Grid and the Distribution Network to achieve a resilient electricity supply,</u> 3) <u>enable planning for the development and upgrade of the National Grid and Distribution Network,</u> 4) <u>map the National Grid, and identify a buffer corridor within which sensitive activities shall generally not be allowed, and</u> 5) <u>Map Electricity Sub-transmission infrastructure and Significant Electricity Distribution Infrastructure and identify a corridor within which incompatible activities shall generally not be allowed, and</u> 6) manage the subdivision, use and development of land to ensure nationally or regionally significant infrastructure can develop to meet increased demand, 7) manage the adverse effects of developing, operating, maintaining, or upgrading infrastructure that are on: c) the surface of rivers and lakes and on land outside the coastal marine area, and d) the beds of lakes and rivers, 8) ensure that development is avoided where: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. it cannot be adequately served with infrastructure, b. it utilises infrastructure capacity for other planned development, or c. the required upgrading of infrastructure is not funded, and

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					9) <u>require the prioritisation of sites in accordance with the effects management hierarchy (other matters).</u>
57.	EIT-INF-M6 – Advocacy	Local authorities must: 1) advocate for the upgrading or replacement of existing nationally or regionally significant infrastructure if the operation of infrastructure results in significant adverse effects; and 2) work proactively with infrastructure providers to co-ordinate the upgrading or development of nationally or regionally significant infrastructure to support co-location or concurrent construction to reduce adverse effects	Oppose, in part	Aurora Energy is presently carrying out a significant programme of works in accordance with its recently approved Customised Price Path, to upgrade, repair and maintain its aging infrastructure. This work can occur much more efficiently and effectively where that work is provided for by the planning framework in the Otago Region, including the Regional Policy Statement, Regional Land and Water Plan, and District Plans. Given the above, there may be significant adverse effects arising from existing infrastructure that is sought to be remedied but cannot proceed in an efficient or effective manner on the basis that the planning framework does not allow it. Therefore, to the extent that there is a known significant adverse effect arising from existing infrastructure and the ability to remedy that issue is significantly reduced by the nature of the planning framework subject to it, then it is considered that co-ordination between the local authority and infrastructure provider in terms of a private plan change should be encouraged to assist in resolving that issue.	Amend Method EIT-INF-M6 as follows: Local authorities must: 1) advocate <u>encourage</u> for the upgrading or replacement of existing nationally or regionally significant infrastructure if the operation of infrastructure results in significant adverse effects; and 2) work proactively with infrastructure providers to co-ordinate the upgrading or development of nationally or regionally significant infrastructure to: a. support co-location or concurrent construction to reduce adverse effects; b. <u>Initiate a private plan change to remedy the significant adverse effects.</u>
58.	EIT-EN-E1; EIT-EN-PR1; EIT-EN-AER1; EIT-EN-AER2; EIT-EN-AER4; EIT-INF-E2; EIT-INF-PR2; EIT-INF-AER5; EIT-INF-AER6 EIT-INF-AER7; EIT-INF-AER8				Any consequential amendments to: Explanation: EIT-EN-E1; EIT-INF-E2; Principal reasons: EIT-EN-PR1; EIT-INF-PR2 Anticipated environment results: EIT-EN-AER1; EIT-EN; EIT-INF-AER5; EIT-INF-AER6; EIT-INF-AER7; EIT-INF-AER8. To give effect to the above relief.
HAZ – Hazards and risks					
HAZ-NH – Natural hazards					
Policies					
59.	HAZ-NH-P3 – New activities	HAZ-NH-P3 – New activities Once the level of natural hazard risk associated with an activity has been determined in accordance with HAZ-NH-P2, manage new activities to achieve the following outcomes: (1) when the natural hazard risk is significant, the activity is avoided,	Oppose in part	Aurora Energy opposes Policy HAZ-NH-P3 on the basis that it includes an avoid policy which does not recognise situations where Aurora Energy's distribution network has a functional or operational need to locate in such areas.	Amend Policy HAZ-NH-P3 as follows: "Once the level of natural hazard risk associated with an activity has been determined in accordance with HAZ-NH-

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		(2) when the natural hazard risk is tolerable, manage the level of risk so that it does not become significant, and (3) when the natural hazard risk is acceptable, maintain the level of risk.		Clause (1) of the policy manages the activity (by 'avoiding') rather than providing an avenue to manage and reduce the risk in certain situations.	P2, manage new activities to achieve the following outcomes: 1. when the natural hazard risk is significant, the activity is avoided <u>unless the activity is nationally or regionally significant infrastructure that has a functional need or operational need for its location and the risk is appropriately managed.</u>
60.	HAZ-NH-P4 – Existing activities	Reduce existing natural hazard risk by: 1) encouraging activities that reduce risk, or reduce community vulnerability, 2) restricting activities that increase risk, or increase community vulnerability, 3) managing existing land uses within areas of significant risk to people and communities, 4) encouraging design that facilitates: (a) recovery from natural hazard events, or (b) relocation to areas of acceptable risk, or (c) reduction of risk, 5) relocating lifeline utilities, and facilities for essential and emergency services, away from areas of significant risk, where appropriate and practicable, and 6) enabling development, upgrade, maintenance and operation of lifeline utilities and facilities for essential and emergency services.	Oppose, in part Support, in part	Clause 5 of Policy HAZ-NH-P4 is opposed on the basis that Aurora Energy's entire network is identified as a lifeline utility and it may be inappropriate to relocate parts of Aurora Energy's network were doing so would reduce the resilience of the electricity supply to a particular location. That may create additional health and safety risks associated with the relocation. Clause 6 of Policy HAZ-NH-P4 is supported to the extent that it seeks to enable lifeline utilities for essential and emergency services.	Delete Clause 5 of Policy HAZ-NH-P4 OR Amend as follows: 5) relocating lifeline utilities, and facilities for essential and emergency services, away from areas of significant risk, where appropriate and practicable, and Retain Clause 6 of Policy HAZ-NH-P4.
61.	HAZ-NH-P8 – Lifeline utilities and facilities for essential or emergency services	Locate, relocate, and design lifeline utilities and facilities for essential or emergency services to: 1) maintain their ability to function to the fullest extent possible, during and after natural hazard events, and 2) take into account their operational co-dependence with other lifeline utilities and essential services to ensure their effective operation.	Oppose, in part	The Policy is not supported on the basis that the appropriate location and design of lifeline utilities is adequately addressed under the Civil Defence and Emergency Management Act 2002 and does not require duplication of process under the RMA. Electricity Distribution Infrastructure may need to be maintained, repaired or upgraded including through the provision of temporary generators in hazard areas to serve communities due to functional and operational requirements. A more appropriate policy focus for lifeline utilities is to require district plans to adequately identify and map natural hazards to enable lifeline utility providers to have adequate information available in deciding where to locate their infrastructure.	Amend Policy HAZ-NH-P8 as follows: <i>Locate, relocate, and design lifeline utilities and facilities for essential and emergency services to:</i> 1. <i>Maintain their ability to function to the fullest extent possible, during and after natural hazard events, and</i> 2. <i>Take into account their operational co-dependence with other lifeline utilities and essential services to ensure their effective operation.</i>
62.	HAZ-NH-P9 – Protection of hazard mitigation measures	Protect the functional needs of hazard mitigation measures, lifeline utilities, and essential or emergency services, including by: 1) avoiding significant adverse effects on those measures, utilities or services,	Support	Aurora Energy supports this policy to the extent that it seeks to avoid reverse sensitivity effects on the operation, maintenance, upgrade or development of its significant electricity distribution infrastructure	Retain Policy HAZ-NH-P9 as notified.

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		2) avoiding, and only where avoidance is not practicable, remedying or mitigating other adverse effects on those measures, utilities or services, 3) maintaining access to those measures, utilities or services for maintenance and operational purposes, and 4) restricting the establishment of other activities that may result in reverse sensitivity effects on those measures, utilities or services.		which (in addition to all of Aurora Energy's infrastructure) is a defined lifeline utility.	
63.	HAZ-NH-PX – new policy	N/A	N/A	<p>Aurora Energy is concerned that the existing policy suite in HAZ-NH does not adequately provide for the ongoing nature of upgrades and developments to the distribution network to adapt to and respond to the effects of climate change and how that will increase the frequency of or magnitude of natural hazards in Otago.</p> <p>In Aurora Energy's view, developing its network to respond to the effects of climate change is an ongoing task that will inevitably require long-term strategic planning and integrated management with lifeline utilities. This form of adaptation is not necessarily "event-based" in the sense that Aurora Energy intends to carry out works to its network over time with the effect of increasing the resilience of the network to respond to the effects of climate change, as well as reinforcing the network with respect to increased electricity demand.</p>	<p>Add a new policy to HAZ-NH that addresses the ongoing development and upgrades to the distribution network that will be required to adapt to the adverse effects climate change will have on the frequency and magnitude of natural hazards, including by adding the following text:</p> <p><u>HAZ-NH-PX</u> <u>Recognise and provide for the ongoing development and upgrade of the distribution network to adapt to the effects of climate change by:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) <u>Encouraging long-term planning for the development and upgrade of the distribution network; and</u> 2) <u>Integrated management with infrastructure and lifeline utilities.</u> <p>Add any further or consequential relief to M3-M4 to give effect to this policy relief.</p>
Methods					
64.	HAZ-NH-M3 – Regional plans	<p>Otago Regional Council must prepare or amend and maintain its regional plans to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) manage activities in the coastal marine area, beds of lakes and rivers, and wetlands to achieve policies HAZ-NH-P2 to HAZ-NH-P6 and APP6, 2) include natural hazard reduction measures, such as removing or restricting existing land uses, where there is significant risk to people or property, 3) protect natural or modified features and systems that provide mitigation from the adverse effects of natural hazards in accordance with HAZ-NH-P6, 4) provide for hard protection structures in accordance with HAZ-NH-P7, 5) provide for the functional needs of hazard mitigation measures, lifeline utilities, and essential or emergency services in accordance with HAZ-NH-P8 and HAZ-NH-P9, 6) include provisions that require decision makers to apply the precautionary approach set out in HAZ-NH-P5 when considering applications for resource consent for activities that 	Support, in part	Retain method insofar as it is consistent with Aurora Energy's relief on policies.	Retain Method HAZ-NH-M3 insofar as it is consistent with Aurora Energy's relief on policies.

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		<p>will change the use of land and thereby increase the risk from natural hazards within areas subject to natural hazard risk that is uncertain or unknown, but potentially significant or irreversible, and</p> <p>7) require a natural hazard risk assessment be undertaken where an activity requires a resource consent to change the use of land which will increase the risk from natural hazards within areas subject to natural hazards, and where the resource consent is lodged prior to the natural hazard risk assessment required by HAZ–NH–M2(1) being completed, the natural hazard risk assessment must include:</p> <p>a) an assessment of the level of natural hazard risk associated with the proposal in accordance with APP6, and</p> <p>b) an assessment demonstrating how the proposal will achieve the outcomes set out in Policies HAZ–NH–P3 and HAZ–NH–P4.</p>			
65.	HAZ–NH–M4 – District plans	<p>Territorial authorities must prepare or amend and maintain their district plans to:</p> <p>1) achieve policies HAZ–NH–P2 to HAZ–NH–P6 and APP6 on land outside the coastal marine area, beds of lakes and rivers, and wetlands by managing the location, scale and density of activities that may be subject to natural hazard risk,</p> <p>2) require implementation of natural hazard risk reduction measures, including to existing activities in accordance with HAZ–NH–P4,</p> <p>3) protect the role of natural or modified features and systems that provide mitigation from the adverse effects of natural hazards in accordance with HAZ–NH–P6,</p> <p>4) provide for hard protection structures in accordance with HAZ–NH–P7,</p> <p>5) provide for the functional needs of hazard mitigation measures, lifeline utilities, and essential or emergency services in accordance with HAZ–NH–P8 and HAZ–NH–P9,</p> <p>6) include provisions that require decision makers to apply the precautionary approach set out in HAZ–NH–P5 when considering applications for resource consent for activities that will change the use of land and which may increase the risk from natural hazards within areas subject to natural hazard risk that is uncertain or unknown, but potentially significant or irreversible, and</p> <p>7) require a natural hazard risk assessment be undertaken where an activity requires a plan change or resource consent to change the use of land which will increase the risk from natural hazards within areas subject to natural hazards, and where the application is lodged prior to the natural hazard risk assessment required by HAZ–NH–M2(1) being completed, the natural hazard risk assessment must include:</p> <p>a) an assessment of the level of natural hazard risk associated with the proposal in accordance with APP6, and</p>	Support in part	Retain method insofar as it is consistent with Aurora Energy's relief on policies.	Retain Method HAZ-NH-M4 insofar as it is consistent with Aurora Energy's relief on policies.

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		b) an assessment demonstrating how the proposal will achieve the outcomes set out in Policies HAZ–NH–P3 and HAZ–NH–P4.			
66.	HAZ-NH-M2 HAZ-NH-M5; HAZ-NH-E1; HAZ-NH-PR1; HAZ-NH-AER1; HAZ-NH-AER2; HAZ-NH-AER3; HAZ-NH-AER4; HAZ-NH-AER5.		Oppose in part		Any consequential amendments to: Methods: HAZ-NH-M5 Explanation: HAZ-NH-E1 Principal reasons: HAZ-NH-PR1 Anticipated environment results: HAZ-NH-AER1; HAZ-NH-AER2; HAZ-NH-AER3; HAZ-NH-AER4; HAZ-NH-AER5. To give effect to the above relief.
HCV – Historical and cultural values					
HCV-WT – Wāhi tūpuna					
Policies					
67.	HCV-WT-P2 – Management of wāhi tūpuna	Wāhi tūpuna are protected by: 1) avoiding significant adverse effects on the cultural values associated with identified wāhi tūpuna, 2) where adverse effects demonstrably cannot be completely avoided, remedying or mitigating adverse effects in a manner that maintains the values of the wāhi tūpuna, 3) managing identified wāhi tūpuna in accordance with tikaka Māori, 4) avoiding any activities that may be considered inappropriate in wāhi tūpuna as identified by Kāi Tahu, and 5) encouraging the enhancement of access to wāhi tūpuna to the extent compatible with the particular wāhi tūpuna.	Oppose in part	Aurora Energy supports the principle of this policy. However, it is unworkable in its current format. Due to the nature of Aurora Energy's infrastructure, it can often be impossible to completely avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse effects on Wahi Tupuna as these can extend over significant areas of land (such as in the Queenstown Lakes District). However, there may be instances in which adverse effects that cannot be avoided, remedied or mitigated are deemed to be acceptable by relevant iwi and stakeholders. Nevertheless, as clause 4 is drafted, this effectively provides a veto power to Kai Tahu, regardless of the functional or operational needs of that infrastructure. Given the functional and operational needs of infrastructure, it is appropriate to provide for infrastructure to meet this policy, even where all effects cannot be avoided. That is particularly so with respect to Wahi Tupuna in urban areas, roads or areas which Aurora Energy may be able to undertake as of right, under relevant District Plans. This policy, puts into question the permitted activity status of those activities which may severely hinder Aurora Energy's ability to maintain its network and provide for the health and wellbeing of the community.	Delete Clause 4 Policy HCV-WT-P2 OR Amend by inserting the following clause 6) <u>recognising that for infrastructure, EIT-INF-P13 applies instead of HCV-WT-P2(1) to (5).</u>
68.	HCV-WT-M2; HCV-WT-E1; HCV-WT-PR1; HCV-WT-AER2		Oppose in part		Any consequential amendments to: Methods: HCV-WT-M2 Explanation: HCV-WT-E1

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					Principal reasons: HCV-WT-PR1 Anticipated environment results: HCV-WT-AER2 To give effect to the above relief.
HCV-HH – Historic heritage					
Policies					
69.	HCV-HH-P5 – Managing historic heritage	Protect historic heritage by: 1) requiring the use of accidental discovery protocols, 2) avoiding adverse effects on areas or places with special or outstanding historic heritage values or qualities, 3) avoiding significant adverse effects on areas or places with historic heritage values or qualities, 4) avoiding, as the first priority, other adverse effects on areas or places with historic heritage values or qualities, 5) where adverse effects demonstrably cannot be completely avoided, remedying or mitigating them, and 6) recognising that for infrastructure, EIT-INF-P13 applies instead of HCV-HH-P5(1) to (5).	Support in part	There are approximately 3,500 archaeological sites recorded in the national database (ArchSite) and 480 heritage places listed in the HNZPT Rarangi Kōrero located in the Otago region and which are supplied electricity by Aurora. Undertaking works in proximity to known Wāhi Tapu or Archaeological Sites is therefore not a new phenomenon for Aurora. Any work that will affect archaeological sites requires an archaeological authority from Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga (HNZPT) as set out in the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014 and Aurora has developed processes and protocols for how works in these areas are: planned; managed and carried out. Aurora Energy is also supportive of the carve-out provided for infrastructure, subject to the necessary amendments being made to EIT-INF-P13 as set out in this submission.	Retain Policy HCV-HH-P5 as notified, subject to the necessary amendments being made to EIT-INF-P13 as set out in this submission.
70.	HCV-HH-M4; HCV-HH-M5; HCV-HH-E2; HCV-HH-PR2; HCV-HH-AER3; HCV-HH-AER4; HCV-HH-AER5.				Any consequential amendments to: Methods: HCV-HH-M4; HCV-HH-M5; Explanation: HCV-HH-E2 Principal reasons: HCV-HH-PR2 Anticipated environment results: HCV-HH-AER3; HCV-HH-AER4; HCV-HH-AER5; To give effect to the above relief.
NFL – Natural features and landscapes					
Objectives					
71.	NFL-O1 – Outstanding and highly valued natural features and landscapes	The areas and values of Otago's outstanding and highly valued natural features and landscapes are identified, and the use and development of Otago's natural and physical resources results in: 1) the protection of outstanding natural features and landscapes, and	Support, in part	Aurora Energy is generally supportive of this objective insofar as it is a reflection of s 6(b) of the RMA which seeks to protect outstanding natural features and landscapes from inappropriate subdivision, use, and development. However, Aurora Energy seeks	Retain Objective NFL-O1 subject to relief being granted with respect to NFL-P2, OR

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		2) the maintenance or enhancement of highly valued natural features and landscapes.		amendments to the implementing policies such that provision is made for the operation, maintenance and upgrade of its electricity distribution network.	Amend as necessary to provide for the operation, maintenance and upgrade of the distribution network.
Policies					
72.	NFL-P2 – Protection of outstanding natural features and landscapes	Protect outstanding natural features and landscapes by: 1) avoiding adverse effects on the values that contribute to the natural feature or landscape being considered outstanding, even if those values are not themselves outstanding, and 2) avoiding, remedying or mitigating other adverse effects.	Support, in part	Aurora Energy supports this policy insofar as it is a reflection of s 6(b) of the RMA which seeks to protect outstanding natural features and landscapes from inappropriate subdivision, use, and development. Aurora Energy is the primary electricity distribution provider in the Queenstown Lakes District, of which approximately 97% is located within an ONL/ONF. On the face of this policy, it is unclear whether the operation, maintenance, upgrade or development of Aurora Energy's network would be contrary to this policy. Given the regional significance of Aurora Energy's network, greater certainty is required as to the extent to which effects are to be avoided, remedied or mitigated. In Aurora Energy's view, an appropriate mechanism to address adverse effects is to apply an appropriate effects management hierarchy that focuses on infrastructure.	Amend Policy NFL-P2 by including a carve-out for infrastructure as follows: <u>(3) with respect to infrastructure, EIT-INF-P13 applies instead of NFL-P2.</u>
73.	NFL-P3 Maintenance of highly valued natural features and landscapes	NFL-P3 – Maintenance of highly valued natural features and landscapes Maintain or enhance highly valued natural features and landscapes by: 1) avoiding significant adverse effects on the values of the natural feature or landscape, and 2) avoiding, remedying or mitigating other adverse effects.	Support, in part	Aurora Energy repeats its submission with respect to NFL-P2.	Amend Policy NFL-P3 by including a carve-out for infrastructure as follows: <u>(3) with respect to infrastructure, EIT-INF-P13 applies instead of NFL-P3.</u>
74.	NFL-M2; NFL-M3; NFL-E1; NFL-PR1; NFL-AER1; NFL-AER2.				Any consequential amendments to: Methods: NFL-M2; NFL-M3 Explanation: NFL-E1 Principal reasons: NFL-PR1 Anticipated environment results: NFL-AER1; NFL-AER2 To give effect to the above relief.
UFD – Urban form and development					
Objectives					
75.	UFD-O2 – Development of urban areas	The development and change of Otago's urban areas: 1) improves housing choice, quality, and affordability, 2) allows business and other non-residential activities to meet the needs of communities in appropriate locations,	Support in Part	Aurora is generally supportive of this objective, as it is appropriate to ensure that infrastructure is developed and able to be developed, in response to growth	Retain clause 9 of Objective UFD-O2 as notified.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3) respects and wherever possible enhances the area's history, setting, and natural and built environment, 4) delivers good urban design outcomes, and improves liveability, 5) improves connectivity within urban areas, particularly by active transport and public transport, 6) minimises conflict between incompatible activities, 7) manages the exposure of risk from natural hazards in accordance with the HAZ–NH – Natural hazards section of this RPS, 8) results in sustainable and efficient use of water, energy, land, and infrastructure, 9) achieves integration of land use with existing and planned development infrastructure and additional infrastructure and facilitates the safe and efficient ongoing use of regionally significant infrastructure, 10) achieves consolidated, well designed and located, and sustainable development in and around existing urban areas as the primary focus for accommodating the region's urban growth and change, and 11) is guided by the input and involvement of <i>mana whenua</i>. 		and development in urban areas. This approach supports well -functioning urban environments.	
Policies					
76.	UFD–P1 – Strategic planning	<p>Strategic planning processes, undertaken at an appropriate scale and detail, precede urban growth and development and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) ensure integration of land use and infrastructure, including how, where and when necessary development infrastructure and additional infrastructure will be provided, and by whom, 2) demonstrate at least sufficient development capacity supported by integrated infrastructure provision for Otago's housing and business needs in the short, medium and long term, 3) maximise current and future opportunities for increasing resilience, and facilitating adaptation to changing demand, needs, preferences and climate change, 4) minimise risks from and improve resilience to natural hazards, including those exacerbated by climate change, while not increasing risk for other development, 5) indicate how connectivity will be improved and connections will be provided within urban areas, 6) provide opportunities for iwi, hapū and whānau involvement in planning processes, including in decision making, to ensure provision is made for their needs and aspirations, and cultural practices and values, 7) facilitate involvement of the current community and respond to the reasonably foreseeable needs of future communities, and 8) identify, maintain and where possible, enhance important features and values identified by this RPS. 	Support in Part	Aurora is generally supportive of this policy, as it is appropriate to ensure integration of land use and infrastructure and to maximise existing and future opportunities to increase resilience to meet changing needs and demands and climate change.	Retain Clause (2) and (3) of Policy UFD-P1 as notified.
77.	UFD–P3 – Urban intensification	Within urban areas intensification is enabled where it:	Oppose, in part	Clause 2 of Policy UFD-P3 supports enablement of intensification in urban areas where it is well served by	Amend Clause 3 of Policy UFD-P3 as follows:

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		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) contributes to establishing or maintaining the qualities of a well-functioning urban environment, 2) is well-served by existing or planned development infrastructure and additional infrastructure, 3) meets the greater of demonstrated demand for housing and/or business use or the level of accessibility provided for by existing or planned active transport or public transport, 4) addresses an identified shortfall for housing or business space, in accordance with UFD-P2, 5) addresses issues of concern to iwi and hapū, including those identified in any relevant iwi planning documents, and 6) manages adverse effects on values or resources identified by this RPS that require specific management or protection. 		<p>existing or planned development infrastructure and additional infrastructure. This aspect of Clause 2 is supported. However, the clause should also address the safe and efficient ongoing use of regionally significant infrastructure as promoted in Clause 9 of Objective UFD-O2 to ensure well-functioning urban environments.</p>	<p>Within urban areas intensification is enabled where it:</p> <p>....</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Is well served by existing or planned development Infrastructure and additional infrastructure, <u>and does not compromise the safe and efficient ongoing use of regionally significant infrastructure.</u>
78.	UFD-P4 – Urban expansion	<p>Expansion of existing urban areas is facilitated where the expansion:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) contributes to establishing or maintaining the qualities of a well-functioning urban environment, 2) will not result in inefficient or sporadic patterns of settlement and residential growth, 3) is integrated efficiently and effectively with development infrastructure and additional infrastructure in a strategic, timely and co-ordinated way, 4) addresses issues of concern to iwi and hapū, including those identified in any relevant iwi planning documents, 5) manages adverse effects on other values or resources identified by this RPS that require specific management or protection, 6) avoids, as the first priority, highly productive land identified in accordance with LF-LS-P19, 7) locates the new urban/rural zone boundary interface by considering: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) adverse effects, particularly reverse sensitivity, on rural areas and existing or potential productive rural activities beyond the new boundary, and b) key natural or built barriers or physical features, significant values or features identified in this RPS, or cadastral boundaries that will result in a permanent, logical and defensible long-term limit beyond which further urban expansion is demonstrably inappropriate and unlikely, such that provision for future development infrastructure expansion and connectivity beyond the new boundary does not need to be provided for, or c) reflects a short or medium term, intermediate or temporary zoning or infrastructure servicing boundary where provision for future development infrastructure expansion and connectivity should not be foreclosed, even if further expansion is not currently anticipated. 	Support, in part	<p>Aurora is generally supportive of this policy as it is appropriate to enable the expansion of existing urban areas to achieve good urban form.</p> <p>In order to effectively operate the electricity distribution network, aurora Energy has numerous sub-transmission and distribution lines, substations and other network assets near residential areas including areas where proposed urban expansion may occur. Aurora Energy will also need to expand its network in the future to continue to meet demand for electricity as communities grow. This means that over time, residential developments could potentially encroach on Aurora Energy's network assets. The operation, maintenance and development of electricity distribution infrastructure can create noise and other disturbances to sensitive activities, such as residential activities, in close proximity.</p> <p>This gives rise to the potential for reverse sensitivity effects to adversely impact on Aurora Energy's operations. It is therefore important that the RPS21 retains an appropriate balance between enabling urban expansion while ensuring that this development is done in a way that protects electricity network infrastructure.</p>	<p>Amend UFD-P4 clause (3) as follows:</p> <p>Expansion of existing urban areas is facilitated where the expansion:</p> <p>....</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3) is integrated efficiently and effectively with development infrastructure and additional infrastructure in a strategic, timely and co-ordinated way, <u>while restricting the establishment of those activities that may result in reverse sensitivity effects.</u>
79.	UFD-P3 – Urban intensification	Refer text of RPS21	Support, in part	Aurora Energy is supportive of policies in UFD which seeks to provide for urban expansion across various zones. To ensure that the integrated management of	Add a new sub-clause to each policy as follows:

No.	Provision	Text	Oppose/ Support	Discussion	Submission – decision sought by Council
	<p>UFD-P3 - Urban intensification</p> <p>UFD-P4 - Urban expansion</p> <p>UFD - P5 Commercial Activities</p> <p>UFD-P6 - Industrial Activities</p> <p>UFD-P7 - Rural Areas</p> <p>UFD-P8 – Rural lifestyle and rural residential areas</p>			<p>distribution network activities and land use activities that may be the subject of urban expansion or intensification provision is required to ensure that incompatible activities are managed and sufficiently set-back from that infrastructure.</p>	<p><u>Recognise and provide for the distribution network by identifying electricity sub-transmission infrastructure and significant electricity distribution infrastructure and managing effects of potentially incompatible activities.</u></p> <p><u>Any further or consequential relief to M1-M3 to reflect submission sought</u></p>
80.	<p>UFD-M1;</p> <p>UFD-M2;</p> <p>UFD-E1;</p> <p>UFD-PR1;</p> <p>UFD-AER2;</p> <p>UFD-AER3;</p> <p>UFD-AER4;</p> <p>UFD-AER7;</p> <p>UFD-AER8;</p>				<p>Any consequential amendments to:</p> <p>Methods: UFD-M1; UFD-M2 to provide setbacks from urban form and development from electricity sub-transmission infrastructure and significant electricity distribution infrastructure.</p> <p>Explanation: UFD-E1</p> <p>Principal reasons: UFD-PR1</p> <p>Anticipated environment results; UFD-AER2; UFD-AER3; UFD-AER4; UFD-AER7; UFD-AER8</p> <p>To give effect to the above relief.</p>
Appendices					
81.	APP3 – Criteria for biodiversity offsetting	<p>1) Biodiversity offsetting is not available if the activity will result in:</p> <p>a) the loss of any individuals of Threatened taxa, other than kānuka (<i>Kunzea robusta</i> and <i>Kunzea serotina</i>), under the New Zealand Threat Classification System (Townsend et al, 2008), or</p> <p>b) reasonably measurable loss within the ecological district to an At Risk-Declining taxon, other than manuka (<i>Leptospermum scoparium</i>), under the New Zealand Threat Classification System (Townsend et al, 2008).</p> <p>2) Biodiversity offsetting is available if the following criteria are met:</p> <p>a) the offset addresses residual adverse effects that remain after implementing the sequential steps required by ECO-P6(1) to (3).</p>	Oppose, in part	<p>APP3 imposes too high a bar in terms of when biodiversity offsetting can occur. That is particularly problematic for infrastructure such as Aurora Energy's electricity distribution network which is constrained in terms of its ability to locate in particular environment by its functional and operation needs.</p> <p>Furthermore, it is expected that the NPSIB will be released at the end of this year, at which point amendments to this policy will very likely be required. Until that document has been released, alignment with the draft NPSIB should be achieved to ensure a consistent national approach.</p>	<p>Remove limits as to when offsetting can be offered in clause (1).</p> <p>Or otherwise align to achieve consistency with national direction via the Draft NPSIB.</p> <p>Amend the offsetting requirements and outcomes so as to achieve consistency with recommended best practice for offsetting and/or national direction via the Draft NPSIB.</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b) the offset achieves no net loss and preferably a net gain in indigenous biodiversity, as measured by type, amount and condition at both the impact and offset sites using an explicit loss and gain calculation, c) the offset is undertaken where it will result in the best ecological outcome, and as the first priority be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. close to the location of the activity, and ii. within the same ecological district or coastal marine biogeographic region, d) the offset is applied so that the ecological values being achieved are the same or similar to those being lost, e) the positive ecological outcomes of the offset endure at least as long as the impact of the activity and preferably in perpetuity, f) the offset achieves biodiversity outcomes beyond results that would have occurred if the offset was not proposed, g) the time delay between the loss of biodiversity and the realisation of the offset is the least necessary to achieve the best possible outcome, h) the outcome of the offset is achieved within the duration of the resource consent, and i) any offset developed in advance of an application for resource consent must be shown to have been created or commenced in anticipation of the specific effect of the proposed activity and would not have occurred if that effect was not anticipated. 			
82.	APP4 – Criteria for biodiversity compensation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Biodiversity compensation is not available if the activity will result in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the loss of an indigenous taxon (excluding freshwater fauna and flora) or of any ecosystem type from an ecological district or coastal marine biogeographic region, b) removal or loss of viability of habitat of a Threatened or At Risk indigenous species of fauna or flora under the New Zealand Threat Classification System (Townsend et al, 2008), c) removal or loss of viability of a naturally rare or uncommon ecosystem type that is associated with indigenous vegetation or habitat of indigenous fauna, or d) worsening of the New Zealand Threat Classification System (Townsend et al, 2008) conservation status of any Threatened or At Risk indigenous fauna. 2) Biodiversity compensation is available if the following criteria are met: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) compensation addresses only residual adverse effects that remain after implementing the sequential steps required by ECO-P5(1) to (4), 	Oppose, in part	<p>APP3 imposes too high a bar in terms of when biodiversity compensation can occur. That is particularly problematic for infrastructure such as Aurora Energy's electricity distribution network which is constrained in terms of its ability to locate in particular environment by its functional and operation needs.</p> <p>Furthermore, it is expected that the NPSIB will be released at the end of this year, at which point amendments to this policy will very likely be required. Until that document has been released, alignment with the draft NPSIB should be achieved to ensure a consistent national approach.</p>	<p>Remove limits as to when biodiversity compensation can be offered in clause (1). Or otherwise align to achieve consistency with national direction via the Draft NPSIB.</p> <p>Amend the compensation requirements and outcomes so as to achieve consistency with recommended best practice for compensation and/or national direction via the Draft NPSIB.</p>

No.	Provision	Text	Oppose/ Support	Discussion	Submission – decision sought by Council
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b) compensation is undertaken where it will result in the best practicable outcome and preferably: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. close to the location of the activity, and ii. within the same ecological district or coastal marine biogeographic region, c) compensation achieves positive biodiversity outcomes that would not have occurred without that compensation, d) the positive biodiversity outcomes of the compensation are enduring, e) the time delay between the loss of biodiversity through the proposal and the gain or maturation of the compensation's biodiversity outcomes is the least necessary to achieve the best possible outcome, f) the outcome of the compensation is achieved within the duration of the resource consent, g) biodiversity compensation developed in advance of an application for resource consent must be shown to have been created or commenced in anticipation of the specific effect of the proposed activity and would not have occurred if that effect was not anticipated, and h) the biodiversity compensation is demonstrably achievable. 			