



## Te Rūnanga o Ōtākou Inc

45 Tamatea Road  
Ōtākou RD2  
Otago Peninsula  
Dunedin 9077  
New Zealand

2 May 2024

Sandy Graham  
Chief Executive Officer  
Dunedin City Council

### ***Re: Sale of Aurora Energy***

Tēnā koe Sandy,

This letter is sent by the respective Chairs for Te Rūnanga o Ōtākou Inc. Soc. and its commercial arm (Te Rūnanga Ōtākou Ltd.).

Ōtākou is 'home' to Waitaha, Rapuwai, Kāti Hāwea and Kāti Māmoe; where in the early 19th century, Ngāi Tahu, Ngāti Māmoe and Waitaha had blended into a single tribal entity. Our tūpuna laid claim to the eastern coast of Otago stretching inland to Whakatipu and Piopiotahi (Milford Sound). The original settlement was centred on Pukekura, the fortified pā at Taiaroa Head, and the Otago Harbour. Ōtākou was the name of a channel running in the lower harbour and became applied to the entire region. Of significant importance is Ōtākou Marae, which was one of the places where the Treaty of Waitangi was signed in 1840. Those who signed were descended from ancestors of all three tribes.

As per the Ngāi Tahu Settlement, Ōtākou is 1 of 18 Papatipu Runanga who govern Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu. We are the mana whenua for Dunedin and are committed to advancing a strategic relationship with the Dunedin City Council (DCC). We acknowledge the work and leadership of the DCC in sharing this intent.

We are providing a submission regarding the proposed sale of Aurora Energy. **We strongly support the DCC in advancing the sale of Aurora Energy** for the following reasons:

- The cost-of-living crisis is having a significant impact on our whānau and we support any measures the DCC can take in minimising rates increases and improving economic sustainability for the city;
- Importantly, electricity prices will not be directly impacted from a sale as consumer rights would continue to be protected by the Commerce Commission and Electricity Authority under any new ownership.
- The sale of Aurora seems a prudent option, particularly as Aurora is a capital intensive investment with minimal dividends provided to DCC;
- The establishment of a new diversified investment fund is an opportunity to support increased dividends to DCC, in addition to potentially enabling new investment that can support the long-term future of Dunedin; and

- We welcome any opportunity to consider the scope for Ōtākou to co-invest with the new diversified investment fund.

Hai konā mai, nā



Nadia Wesley Smith

Chair

Te Rūnaka o Ōtākou Inc. Soc.



Brett Ellison

Chair

Te Rūnaka Ōtākou Ltd.