

The proposal to sell and privatise Aurora Line Company is incomprehensible; this is an irreplaceable, essential infrastructure with a monopoly on electricity distribution. Aurora's recent history when run as a semi-autonomous entity highlights what to expect from a private company: maximising profits and returns to stakeholders, minimising maintenance and high charges to users. Monopoly assets simply don't do well in private hands.

This crucial infrastructure has been built over many years paid by taxpayer. To sell this is an insult to past generations, a major concern to current ratepayers and a not to be underestimated liability for future generations.

The decision to sell cannot be purely on financial grounds; social impact and loss of control of an essential service must be a priority. The gains from a potential sale are very much a short term benefit, a "band-aid" for the DCC's current financial woes. While the investment fund sounds attractive it is subject to the vagaries of the market; money in the bank is a temptation often too easy to resist and use.

Strong interest from private investor is anticipated highlighting that Aurora is a valuable company – why would DCC sell such a valued company that has just returned a profit? Ultimately if sold, DCC will have lost control over a crucial asset that cannot be reversed and the taxpayer will be at the mercy of the new owners.

This proposal is pure hypocrisy given the stance DCC choose when facing losing control of three waters, another essential and monopoly infrastructure asset.

The DCC simply has no mandate to sell public assets, this would be an undemocratic decision as this was never mentioned before the election. A public, binding referendum if in support, would be the only way to give the DCC the mandate to sell.