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19 August 2021

Electricity Authority
PO Box 10041
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By email: infoframework@ea.govt.nz

CONSULTATION PAPER - IMPROVING THE FRAMEWORK FOR THE AUTHORITY'S INFORMATION GATHERING

We welcome the opportunity to submit our views on the Electricity Authority's (the Authority) "*Improving the framework for the Authority's information gathering – Consultation paper*" (the Consultation Paper).

Aurora Energy is an electricity distribution business (EDB), serving more than 92,000 homes and businesses in the Dunedin and Central Otago regions.

In principle, we are not opposed to the proposal to broaden the Authority's information gathering powers. However, it is important that any additional powers are exercised firmly in accordance with the Authority's statutory objective and functions granted by the Electricity Industry Act 2010 (Act). These are an important check of the ambit of the Authority's powers and ensure that the lines between different regulators are not blurred, particularly for EDBs, which are also subject to information disclosure regulation made by the Commerce Commission pursuant to the Commerce Act 1986.

To that end, we are pleased to see the Authority's proposed drafting for new clauses 2.16 (Authority may specify information that participants must collect, collate and/or provide regularly in response to events) and 2.19 (Factors the Authority must take into account before publishing a notice), which both provide the boundaries that we believe are necessary to ensure that the Authority exercises its broadened powers within the scope of the Act. We therefore encourage the Authority to retain that drafting after this consultation process.

We do not consider any part of our submission to be confidential.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Shaan Ross

Regulatory Manager