[redacted]

From: Infrastructure Regulation
Sent: [redacted]
To:
Subject: FW: A post-Brexit economic policy reset for the UK is essential | Letters | The Guardian. my Orion submission

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From: Hessel Vanwieren <[redacted]>
Sent: Monday, 24 August 2026 7:29 pm
To: Infrastructure Regulation <infrastructure.regulation@comcom.govt.nz>
Subject: A post-Brexit economic policy reset for the UK is essential | Letters | The Guardian. my Orion submission

[redacted]

A post-Brexit economic policy reset for the UK is essential | Letters | The Guardian
https://share.google/smwQGPyEILoIIsOBF

Attn.
Ben Woodham

This is my submission on the recent Orion Application for approval for a $1. 5 billion spending plan..
The effect of this spending under the existing legislative model will be passed on directly to consumers
This will effect me as a retired Nat super dependant consumer.

Apologies but not able to use the word document option.

Im now retired ,but i was for many years while living in Cromwell self employed in Property Maintenance.
During that time i did a lot of work subcontracting contracting in 3 waters infrastrucure for companies and a friend who was a Consulting Engineer . I also did quite a bit of work as a Survey assistant..
I was involved in politics for over 25 years and stood for Parliament on 4 occasions.
Im deeply interested in Economics and Govt nfrastructure Funding.

The above attached article letter is from. The UK Guardian in 2016 to the UK Govt . In paragraph 4 it highlights a better option than Debt for Funding Infrastructure Strategic Assetts.

Orion is a Strategic Asset and due to Flawed Regulation Law from the 1980s and 90s like the rest of the Electricity Industry is a Competive max /profit Model .
The old. NZED was NOT competive model but was efficient as a Interdependant Strategic part profit and Social responsibily Electricity provider.

Im really concerned ,as due to decades of Govt failure to allow a long term Funding Mechanism for Capital Maintenance and upgrades because of the FLAWED Model in NZ wide infrastrucure, its being passed increasingly but unequally to rate payers and consumers to pay for the upgrades
.

Of course the same flawed Successive Govt Economic Ideology has facilitated,massive unplanned Immigration impact, and allowed huge Asset / property price value inflation.
This has effected Return on Equity on all Assetts including the Electricity. Industry.
IE. Meridian Energy assett value has about DOUBLED in 10 years.
WHO then pays for that increased return ,? the consumers . !!!!
But the top tire of society investors get the rewards.

EXAMPLE. Recently before the cold snap the wholesale Electricity was 0.07c a KWH yet we all pay about 26c KWH. So the profiteering was incredible!!!!

The govts have distorted the industry but have avoided the responsibility.
The Same is happening wth the proposed Local Body reforms!!!!

Even a recent Govt Sponsored report by Martin Jenkins Consultants ,mentions that Successive Govts have increasingly loaded Councils with more and more Legislation and Infrastructure responsibilty without the Funding provision..

Even unfortunately the Commerce Commision like the Electricity Authority are there to make us all believe we a have a " market driven trickle down Economy," but still need Regulators to ensure it ,but with limited impact anyway .bizzare.

Just look at the Heirarchy of the Electricity system.!!
We have Transpower who have "regulatory opreational control" of so called mixture of Public and private Generators, they in addition run the Wholesale Electricity Market !!!! Why?
Then we have multiple retailers , as well as Profit making Lines Companies many owned by Councils.
Then additionally we have the Electricity Authority, to ALSO "regulate the Market" and your Commerce Commision as well.

BUT for all that the costs have been steadily alarmingly increasing beyound many other many costs, how vizzare is that???

So much for the 1990s Minister of SOE Max Bradfords famous words to defend the Electricity Reforms " The price will go down" BUT IT NEVER HAS !!!
That says it all.

My summary advice is that as the Commerce Commision is in between a rock and a hard place , it would be better to get Economic advice on the Funding Non Debt option shown on the attached letter .

You could the Submitt this option for Orion to the Govt for Consideration..
(If you require any more evidence the previous Lavour Govt did actually use this Quantatative Easing option for the Covid response. Its NOT repayable debt!!! I have the detailed OIA article produced by a respected Journalist in 2021.
Its all there ,and Minister Willis will try to use a Report being formulated by her office ,to hypocritically attack the opposition in September when its due.

The big mistake then ,as The RB governor warned the Finance Minister then, was to allow $ billions to prop up the Banking system which facilitated the massive cheap interest Mortgage speculative Binge in to the big Property inflation Bubble and effecting the whole economy.)
Big mistake .

Thanks

Hessel Van Wieren
Christchurch

Ph [redacted]