

16 February 2011

**AECT SUPPORTS VECTOR'S DECISION TO APPEAL COMMERCE COMMISSION'S DETERMINATIONS**

Vector's major shareholder, the Auckland Energy Consumer Trust (AECT), is supporting the company's decision to appeal the Commerce Commission's determinations on input methodologies that will apply to electricity distribution businesses.

The AECT Trustees share Vector's concerns that the Commerce Commission's determination will stifle the company's ability to invest and innovate, leading to a negative impact on the value of the asset that the Trust is charged with protecting on behalf of its income beneficiaries, made up of over 300,000 Auckland households.

The AECT's 75.4 percent shareholding in Vector is its key asset, and because of Vector's ongoing investments and innovations that asset has grown over time, with beneficiaries receiving a total of \$98 million in dividends in 2010 alone.

In supporting Vector, the Trustees hope that a robust and balanced framework can be agreed that delivers maximum benefit for the community, both in the short and long term.

-ends-

The media contact for the AECT is Amy McKenzie [amy@shersonwillis.com](mailto:amy@shersonwillis.com) 021 2788221.

**About the AECT:**

The AECT is the largest consumer trust in New Zealand and was established in 1993 to own the assets of the former Auckland Electric Power Board ("AEPB"). These assets currently consist of a 75.4% shareholding in Vector Limited, worth approximately \$1.86 billion at current share values.

AECT holds these assets in trust for the energy consumers (income beneficiaries) living within the former AEPB boundaries (i.e. in Auckland, Manukau and Papakura) until 2073, at which point they will pass to the local government body or bodies (capital beneficiaries) functioning within the boundaries of the former AEPB. If no such body or bodies exist, the assets will pass to the Crown.

The Trust has five Trustees who are elected every three years by the income beneficiaries within the boundaries of the former AEPB. The Trustees duty is to distribute income earned to income beneficiaries and to maintain or enhance the value of the trust fund, which is the 75.4% shareholding in Vector.