



COVERSHEET

Minister	Hon Dr Megan Woods	Portfolio	Energy and Resources
Title of Cabinet paper	Release of Gas Transition Plan Issues Paper	Date to be published	5 October 2023

List of documents that have been proactively released		
Date	Title	Author
August 2023	Release of Gas Transition Plan Issues Paper	Office of the Minister of Energy and Resource
2 August 2023	Release of Gas Transition Plan Issues Paper DEV-23-MIN-0166 Minute	Cabinet Office

Information redacted

NO

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In Confidence

Office of the Minister of Energy and Resources

Cabinet Economic Development Committee

Release of Gas Transition Plan Issues Paper

Proposal

- 1 This paper seeks agreement to release an issues paper on the Gas Transition Plan for public consultation (Issues Paper).
- 2 This paper is a companion to “*Progressing the Next Phase of New Zealand’s Energy Transition: Release of Discussion Documents*” Cabinet Paper [DEV-23-MIN-0127] which sought the release of a package of documents related to the energy transition including the:
 - 2.1 Interim Hydrogen Roadmap
 - 2.2 Measures for Transition to an Expanded and Highly Renewable Electricity System
 - 2.3 Discussion document on Developing a Regulatory Framework for Offshore Renewable Energy
 - 2.4 Discussion document on implementing a ban on new fossil fuelled baseload generation.
- 3 The papers will be released as a package, with each paper addressing an aspect of New Zealand’s energy transition.

Relation to government priorities

- 4 The Government has committed to reaching net zero for all greenhouse gases, excluding biogenic methane, by 2050, set a target that 50 per cent of total final energy consumption will come from renewable sources by 2035, and has an aspirational target of 100 per cent renewable electricity by 2030.
- 5 This means that as New Zealand’s energy system decarbonises, the role of fossil gas will change and ultimately decrease. The Gas Transition Plan is intended to cover the first three emissions budgets out to 2035, while signalling the longer-term direction for the gas sector out to 2050.
- 6 The proposed Issues Paper also progresses a related action committed to in the Emissions Reduction Plan (ERP) and the Government’s commitment to develop an Energy Strategy by the end of 2024. The Issues Paper and any Government actions that result will be reflected in this strategy.

Executive Summary

- 7 In 2022, the Government started developing a Gas Transition Plan (GTP) to articulate the transition pathway for the phase-out of fossil gas over time, including where and when renewable gases may be required to offset fossil gas use. New Zealand's economy currently relies on fossil gas to meet our energy security needs, particularly for electricity generation, so it is critical we have a well-managed phase out for the use of fossil gas.
- 8 I seek your agreement to release an Issues Paper for public consultation as part of a broader energy transition package. The Issues Paper was developed in consultation with the Gas Industry Company (GIC). The Issues Paper seeks feedback on key issues and opportunities that the final GTP will need to address. These include:
- 8.1 The challenge of maintaining sufficient investment to support necessary gas supply when demand for gas is declining over the next 10–15 years;
 - 8.2 The relationship between the fossil gas sector and the electricity sector throughout the transition;
 - 8.3 The potential roles for hydrogen, biogas, and renewable gas trading in displacing fossil gas use; and
 - 8.4 The appropriate role for options to increase flexibility in the gas system through enhanced storage infrastructure or liquid natural gas (LNG) imports as a backstop.
- 9 Addressing these key issues in the transition of the fossil gas sector is critical to meeting our emission targets without sacrificing energy security or affordability.
- 10 I intend to release the package of papers during the week of 7 August 2023.

Aotearoa New Zealand faces an energy transition

- 11 Mitigating and adapting to climate change will require change across the economy – including the fossil gas sector. We will not achieve our climate goals without a managed transition from fossil gas use over the coming decades.
- 12 The gas sector faces opportunities and obstacles in transitioning, which will need to be carefully managed. We need to ensure that consumers have access to secure and affordable energy, that old and poor performing assets are not locked in, and that the transition supports the Government's vision for the energy and industry sector.
- 13 The fossil gas and electricity markets are closely intertwined. Fossil gas generation still plays a critical role in ensuring security of electricity supply. A higher renewable energy mix that relies on variable renewables like wind and solar will increase the need for the firming capacity that gas currently provides, especially during winter.

- 14 Energy from fossil gas use is the equivalent of about two thirds of the energy consumed by vehicle transport, and about a third more energy than the entire electricity sector (including electricity produced by fossil gas)¹.
- 15 Fossil gas users in New Zealand are diverse, ranging from very large petrochemical plants to households. Methanex, which makes methanol for export, is by far New Zealand's largest energy consumer. The residential and small commercial gas sector features a large number of individual connections (290,000 household connections of the total number of 306,000 consumers)² but use less than ten per cent of our gas supply.
- 16 New Zealand will need a level of reliable gas supply in the near term. This supply will support the energy security of the electricity system as renewable energy scales-up, as well as maintaining industries where gas is critical and hard to replace.

International Context

- 17 Aotearoa New Zealand is not alone in facing an energy transition. Many countries have committed to reducing their reliance on fossil fuels following the introduction of The Paris Agreement in 2015.
- 18 Globally, fossil gas use grew rapidly this past decade, accounting for almost one third of total energy demand growth, more than any other fossil fuel. Fossil gas now accounts for about a quarter of global electricity generation.
- 19 However, Russia's invasion of Ukraine has changed the global energy landscape dramatically, raising concerns about global gas supply. Russia more than halved its pipeline gas supplies to the European Union in the last year. The European Union responded by ramping up non-Russian supply and reducing consumption.
- 20 The disruption caused by the war in Ukraine has prompted renewed interest in gas storage and previously unattractive gas supply developments, but this is unlikely to be a long-term trend. Today's tight gas markets are also accelerating pre-existing trends in Europe that have been dampening demand for fossil gas in recent years.
- 21 Renewables are increasingly cost-competitive in the power sector, and there is greater policy support for electrification of heat in both buildings and industry. Many countries and regions are now looking at how they can fast track a clean energy transition alongside economic recovery.

A Gas Transition Plan is needed to support our energy transition

- 22 On 20 December 2021, Cabinet agreed to the development of the Gas Transition Plan (GTP) to articulate the transition pathway for the phase-out of fossil gas over time, including where and when renewable gases may be required to offset fossil gas use and associated emissions [CAB-21-MIN-0547.03]. On 4 May 2022, the Cabinet Economic Development Committee agreed to the Terms of Reference for the GTP [DEV-22-Min-0096]. The GTP is a key action in the Energy and Industry section of the ERP.

¹ Analysis based on MBIE data.

² Analysis based on Gas Industry Co data.

- 23 The purpose of the GTP is to:
- 23.1 establish realistic, but ambitious, transition pathways for the fossil gas sector to decarbonise in line with the 2023-2025, 2026-2030, and 2031-2035 emissions budgets, noting the inherent uncertainties involved;
 - 23.2 provide a framework to inform and engage with industry and other stakeholders about the future challenges and opportunities for the sector, and to identify areas where further measures may be required to achieve an equitable transition
 - 23.3 establish a strategic view on the potential role for renewable gases, and potential measures for accelerating their uptake.
- 24 There is significant public interest in our energy transition, and in the future of the gas sector. While officials have engaged with industry groups during the development of the GTP to this point, I consider that there is a need to engage widely with the public on the key issues and opportunities before a final GTP can be developed.
- 25 I seek your agreement to release an Issues Paper to facilitate a wide range of views from the public, businesses, communities and iwi/Māori on the key issues and opportunities for the gas sector. The Issues Paper is attached at Annex One.
- 26 I intend to release this Issues Paper alongside the other energy transition papers that Cabinet has previously agreed to release [DEV-23-MIN-0127].
- 27 Feedback on the Issues Paper will also help to inform the final GTP. Depending on the nature of the feedback received, I may report back to Cabinet after public consultation on the main themes of feedback and any implications for the GTP's development.

The Issues Paper sets out the key context and strategic issues

- 28 The Issues Paper seeks public feedback on the nature of the key strategic context, issues and opportunities for New Zealand as we phase out fossil gas.

We know that how we use fossil gas for electricity generation needs to change

- 29 Fossil gas is currently used to generate both baseload electricity and electricity to meet peaks in demand. Fossil gas required for gas-fired peaking generation is supplied by a range of services including contracted gas, gas storage, and, rarely, from gas demand response when gas is in short supply.
- 30 We need to ensure that the energy system can continue to meet the needs of New Zealanders through the transition. Electrification is New Zealand's major opportunity to reduce emissions from the energy and industry sector and in land transport.
- 31 Gas is likely to remain critical to the security of the electricity system for some time, even as demand for gas for electricity generation is likely to become lower and more variable over time. The New Zealand Battery Project will play a key role in replacing the role that fossil fuels currently play in our electricity system.

Fossil gas demand from major industrial and process heat users will continue to reduce

- 32 As renewable alternatives to fossil gas become more established, and electrification becomes more attractive (either due to new technology enabling electrified processes, or due to cheaper prices) we expect that fossil gas consumption by the industrial sector will continue to reduce.
- 33 Large industrial process heat users are making active efforts to reduce their use of fossil fuels and Government support through the Government Investment in Decarbonising Industry (GIDI) fund has to date supported around 20 projects that will reduce or eliminate gas use for low and medium-temperature process heat.
- 34 The Climate Change Commission's 2021 advice projected a steady decline in gas use for process heat between 2022 and 2035.³ The timing and drivers of the change remain highly uncertain as there is a limit to the rate at which industrial process heat users can upgrade or replace their infrastructure, and change will be dependent on international prices and trends to a degree.
- 35 As fossil gas demand continues to reduce from each sector and larger consumers fuel switch or close, it is likely that remaining total fossil gas demand will be highly variable. The petrochemical sector provides considerable stability to current fossil gas demand as does electricity generation. If this demand profile changes, there will be a greater need for gas storage to match supply and demand.

Commercial and household users face risks from a poorly managed transition

- 36 Although the costs of switching options for households, like heat pumps, electric water heating, and electric or induction stovetops have greatly reduced, switching can still be inaccessible for some. Switching involves not just an ongoing operational cost, but also capital investment in appliances, and can involve substantial renovation costs where re-modelling is required.
- 37 As demand for gas declines, there is a risk that gas will become increasingly expensive for consumers and accelerate the pace of network disconnections. This poses a particular risk for households and smaller commercial users.
- 38 For households and smaller consumers who cannot afford to switch away from fossil gas, the possibility of gas prices rising as more users exit the system also carries with it the likelihood that the remaining cost of upkeeping the gas network is divided between a diminishing pool of users and as such, costs further increase and fall on those least able to afford it.
- 39 A successful transition will need to manage the impacts on small consumers so that individuals, households and whānau are able to obtain and afford adequate energy services to support their wellbeing in their home or kāinga.

³ Ināia tonu nei: a low emissions future for Aotearoa (climatecommission.govt.nz) pg 115.

Māori and the fossil gas transition

- 40 The Government is committed to developing a transition that is equitable and achievable while supporting Māori interests and honouring the commitments made in Te Tiriti o Waitangi.
- 41 Before preparing the final Plan, there is more work to do to listen to iwi, hapū and Māori organisations to understand their interests and perspectives on the transition.
- 42 Some iwi, particularly in Taranaki, have expressed strong opposition to continued petroleum extraction because it is a major contributor to climate change.⁴ Other iwi emphasise the importance of energy wellbeing for iwi and hapū.⁵

Managing the transition – Supply side issues

As fossil gas demand falls, there may be insufficient investment in fossil gas infrastructure

- 43 New Zealand relies on significant ongoing investment in gas infrastructure to maintain supply. While I consider that there are gas reserves and resources to meet New Zealand’s expected demand over the coming decades, it is not clear whether the level of investment over time will be sufficient and occur far enough in advance to meet our energy needs.
- 44 The economics of New Zealand’s offshore fields have been underpinned by the ability of large customers particularly in the petrochemical sector to make long term commitments on volume and price (such as Methanex).
- 45 The decisions of major gas consumers directly relate to investment in our gas system. This includes users like Methanex, Ballance Agri-Nutrients and the electricity sector. The pace at which these users reduce their gas demand is uncertain and makes investments in gas infrastructure more difficult.
- 46 I have heard from stakeholders that investments now attract a higher risk premium to compensate for the higher risk of reduced return on investment. This in turn, reduces the likelihood of these investments occurring. This could lead to a greater reduction in gas availability than would be desirable to balance the broader outcomes for the gas sector transition.
- 47 We will need to navigate how sufficient gas supply can continue to be produced as the market shrinks. The Issues Paper seeks stakeholder views on this.

Improving the flexibility of the gas system

- 48 Increased storage capacity for domestically produced fossil gas could help to balance supply and demand, particularly as gas demand becomes more variable. New Zealand currently has one underground fossil gas storage facility, Ahuroa Gas Storage, operated by FlexGas.

⁴ Taranaki iwi strategic plans.

⁵ Ka Mahana I Taku Kiri: Māori Perspectives on the Measurement of Energy Wellbeing, Haemata Limited, June 2022.

- 49 A specific use case for enhanced gas storage may be electricity. As we increase our renewable electricity generation capacity, there will still be a small but declining need for dispatchable thermal electricity demand to meet system peaks or periods of cloudy still weather.
- 50 For longer periods (such as dry year coverage) demand response from other gas consumers is likely more economic than storing gas at significantly increased volumes. This may also help to prevent the locking in of additional fossil fuel assets until renewable options for dry year coverage are in place, as being explored by the New Zealand Battery Project.
- 51 One option that has been discussed is the importation of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) to increase the flexibility of the gas system. While this would enable New Zealand to access international markets for gas, there are significant downsides.
- 52 LNG is more expensive, would require new infrastructure (with a wide range of potential costs, depending on the import options pursued). It would also mean that we would not be obtaining the same royalty/tax, employment, and broader economic outcomes that we receive from our domestic gas industry.
- 53 We may become more exposed to gas supply risks as we transition, and our fields continue to age. LNG could be considered as a backstop option for domestic gas production, should there be a significant supply deficit (such as a significant field failure). There may be additional investigations that could be undertaken to better understand LNG's role as a backstop option.

Opportunities

- 54 New Zealand needs to transition away from the use of fossil gas and do so at a pace that ensures risks are managed. There are a range of opportunities and technologies that are available that could help us manage that transition.
- 55 These opportunities will need private sector investment and possibly regulatory changes to support their deployment. The Issues Paper seeks feedback on the role that these opportunities and technologies could play in the transition. The key opportunities are described below.

Biogas will help reduce emissions and allow some carbon neutral gas use to continue

- 56 Biogas is produced from a range of organic wastes, but contains impurities (like hydrogen sulphide and carbon dioxide). Biogas can be upgraded to biomethane through additional processing and is identical to fossil gas in use.
- 57 Emissions from the use of biogas represents a 70 per cent emissions reduction when compared to fossil gas. In addition to those emissions reductions, large net reductions in emissions intensity result when biogas is derived from a material going to landfill.
- 58 Current estimated biogas production in New Zealand is about five per cent of the size of the fossil gas market. Currently landfill gas capture is the largest source of biogas in New Zealand (around 3 PJ/year). Other production sites include wastewater

treatment plants and industrial facilities such as milk and meat processors. Biogas production from organic municipal wastes, while mature overseas, is not yet common in New Zealand.

- 59 A significant volume of additional biogas potential exists in New Zealand in the form of agricultural and forestry wastes. However, much of the volume of biogas feedstock identified is currently challenging to access economically. It is also likely that there would be a level of competition with biomass and biofuel production for these resources, particularly forestry residues.
- 60 It is highly unlikely that a complete transition to biogas for the gas sector could be achieved in the short to medium term. However, smaller quantities of biogas can be produced at much more economic cost and play an important role in decarbonising key areas of the fossil gas sector.
- 61 Because of the small relative cost of gas as a component of final energy bills, biogas blending into distribution networks for use by residential and commercial consumers could be feasible in the short-term.

There is potential for hydrogen to support the gas transition

- 62 Hydrogen is a versatile carrier of energy due to its high energy density and wide range of uses, including as a feedstock in industrial chemical processes, as a combustible gas that can be used in the same ways as fossil gas, and to generate electricity through a fuel cell.
- 63 Green hydrogen is hydrogen produced through electrolysis of water using renewable electricity to separate hydrogen and oxygen from water. This process requires large amounts of electricity to produce, and additional energy throughout the supply chain to its end use. Direct electrification is likely preferable in some applications due to this energy requirement. Hydrogen is most attractive in critical activities that may be infeasible or impractical to electrify, such as industrial chemical processes and some heavy transport applications.
- 64 Hydrogen can be blended with fossil gas and biogas. However, hydrogen's volumetric energy density is approximately one third that of fossil gas at the pressures used in the reticulated system. This means that around three times the volume of hydrogen gas is needed to deliver the equivalent energy of fossil gas.
- 65 In its current state, the existing gas pipeline system could carry up to 20 percent hydrogen blended with fossil gas without significant modification. To carry greater proportions of hydrogen up to 100 per cent, capital investment would be required to upgrade the gas pipeline system. The cost of these modifications across all distribution networks in New Zealand have been estimated to be in the order of \$270 million over the next 30 years.⁶
- 66 Although hydrogen as a complete gas transition solution appears uncertain, it may have a role to play as part of the gas transition. Blended hydrogen is costly and therefore unlikely to be cost-effective in the short term at reducing emissions compared to other options.

⁶ New Zealand Hydrogen Scenarios and the Future of Gas, Castalia, 2022

There is a possible role for Carbon Capture, Utilisation, and Storage, but need to understand the risks

- 67 Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage (CCUS) could help New Zealand meet our emissions budgets during a transition period while we continue to rely on fossil gas and other fossil fuels for secure energy supply.
- 68 CCUS involves the capture of CO₂ from large point sources, such as power generation or industrial facilities that use either fossil fuels or biomass as fuel, or from gas production. If captured CO₂ is not used on-site, it can be compressed and transported to be used in a range of applications or for permanent storage in geological formations.
- 69 In New Zealand, there are a range of potential places for CO₂ to be stored. A preliminary study into the viability of CCUS in New Zealand has found that it is both technically and economically feasible and could be operational from the mid-2020s.⁷ CCUS by gas producers during fossil gas production has been identified as the easiest option for development.
- 70 CCUS technology could provide an opportunity to build more resilience into CO₂ supply in New Zealand through increasing the number of businesses that can capture CO₂ and either use or supply it. This would help to reduce our reliance on imports.
- 71 The interaction of CCUS with existing regulatory and legislative regimes is complex. For injection of CO₂ ‘behind the meter’ (before the emissions are counted), producers could benefit by reducing their emissions before New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme (NZETS) obligations are imposed.
- 72 The trading of CO₂ between parties (i.e. from emitter to CCUS operator) is not recognized as a removal activity of NZ ETS. This means that the NZETS does not currently provide an incentive to capture emissions through CCUS. Further work is required to understand whether including CCUS in the NZETS is preferable. Public consultation will help to inform the approach taken.

Cost-of-living Implications

- 73 The transition away from fossil gas, if not managed carefully, could have a direct impact on the cost of living (as described in paragraphs 36 – 49). For consumers, there is a risk that as demand for fossil gas reduces over time fossil gas will become increasingly expensive and accelerate the pace of network disconnections. There is also a risk that energy prices may increase, if we do not address the role that fossil gas plays in our electricity system.
- 74 For households and smaller consumers who cannot afford to switch away from fossil gas, the possibility of gas prices rising as more users exit the system also carries with it the likelihood that the remaining cost of upkeeping the gas network is split between a diminishing group and as such is more expensive. These costs would be on top of projected increases in NZETS costs for the use of fossil fuels.

⁷ Review of CCUS/CCS Potential in New Zealand, WoodBeca, 2023

Financial Implications

75 There are no financial implications from this paper.

Legislative Implications

76 There are no legislative implications from this paper.

Impact Analysis

Regulatory Impact Statement

77 Treasury's Regulatory Strategy Team has advised that this paper does not require a regulatory impact statement. Regulatory impact analysis will be part of the policy development process for future work.

Climate Implications of Policy Assessment

78 The Climate Implications of Policy Assessment (CIPA) team has been consulted and confirms that the CIPA requirements do not apply to this proposal. This proposal seeks to develop a consultation document that sets out different scenarios in the gas transition plan with the intention of establishing transition pathways for the fossil gas sector to decarbonise in line with the 2022-2025, 2026 – 2030, and 2031-2035 emissions budget and therefore, at this stage, emissions impacts are considered indirect. Any emissions impacts will be assessed and disclosed to Cabinet when appropriate as this work progresses.

Population Implications

79 The costs to the population for transitioning is dependent on the pace, scale and ability to leverage existing infrastructure for renewable gases. Of the current 300,000 gas connections, the vast majority are residential consumers. Residential gas consumers skew include higher income groups, young families, and families with stretched budgets, but not rural groups.

80 Preliminary analysis suggests that approximately 19 per cent of these consumers fall into the deciles eight to ten of the Environmental Health Intelligence New Zealand deprivation index.

81 The phase down of fossil gas may disproportionately affect these groups, with limited ability for these consumers to afford switching to electricity, or due to other barriers that may be in place. As an indication of transition costs for a household, Kāinga Ora – Homes and Communities estimates that it costs, on average, around \$8000 per residence to convert its properties from gas to electricity. In addition, increasing fossil gas costs due to the factors highlighted in this paper (such as rising ETS pricing) may exacerbate existing fuel poverty issues.

Human Rights

82 The proposals in this paper are not inconsistent with the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 and the Human Rights Act 1993.

Use of external resources

- 83 I have worked with the Gas Industry Company (GIC) in developing the Gas Transition Plan Issues Paper. The GIC is the approved industry body under the Gas Act 1992 and co-regulates the gas industry with the Government. It is not funded by the Crown; instead it is funded by a levy on the gas industry.
- 84 The GIC has funded a range of modelling reports and other technical information that have informed the development of the GTP.
- 85 MBIE engaged specialist modelling and consultancy services as part of the ongoing development of the GTP, particularly to understand potential gas transition scenarios. MBIE does not have these modelling capabilities and tools in house. The work performed will inform the longer-term development of the GTP and are not reflected in the Issues Paper. One person was engaged for this work for a period of eight weeks.
- 86 Further use of external resources will be determined based on the results of public consultation, and the direction that the final GTP takes.

Consultation

- 87 In developing the Issues Paper, officials and the GIC also have undertaken targeted consultation with various groups, including gas sector and electricity sector participants. This targeted consultation has been used to inform the consideration of some issues, but further, more comprehensive engagement will also be required.
- 88 Government agencies were consulted on versions of the Issues Paper. These agencies have included the Treasury, Commerce Commission, Ministry for Primary Industries, Te Arawhiti, Ministry for the Environment, New Zealand Infrastructure Commission, Te Puni Kōkiri, the Electricity Authority, and the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority.
- 89 Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet has been informed.

Communications

- 90 I propose to release this paper as part of the package of energy transition papers during the week of 7 August 2023 for a 12-week consultation period.
- 91 Cabinet had previously noted that the package of energy transition papers would be released on 10 July 2023 for a 3-month consultation period [DEV-23-MIN-0127 refers]. This package will now be released in August 2023 so that the Issues Paper is included as part of this consultation process.
- 92 The documents will be launched on the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment's (MBIE) website with an accompanying press release and proactive release of the relevant Cabinet papers.
- 93 As this paper is intended to be released alongside the other package of energy transition consultation papers, I intend to provide a longer than usual period for consultation MBIE will be undertaking an active programme of engagements and hui to discuss the issues and make inputting as easy as possible. This is intended to

include a combination of dedicated engagement with Māori, public webinars and social media, and engagements on specific papers.

Proactive Release

- 94 This Cabinet paper will be proactively released alongside the relevant consultation papers. This meets the requirement for release within 30 business days of Cabinet's confirmation of this decision.

Recommendations

The Minister of Energy and Resources recommends that the Committee:

- 1 **Note** that while New Zealand has a highly renewable electricity system, wider energy use makes up 40 per cent of our emissions and as such will require a significant effort to decarbonise;
- 2 **Note** that a managed transition from fossil gas use will need to be carefully managed to maintain energy security;
- 3 **Note** that a range of opportunities and emerging technologies are available to assist with the transition from fossil gas;
- 4 **Note** that the consultation on a Gas Transition Plan Issues Paper (Issues Paper) will inform the development of the final Gas Transition Plan;

Release of Issues Paper

- 5 **Approve** the release of the Issues Paper for public consultation;
- 6 **Note** that Cabinet had previously agreed to release a package of energy transition consultation papers on 10 July 2023 [DEV-23-MIN-0127];
- 7 **Note** that the package of energy transition consultation documents, Issues Paper, and overarching context paper, will be released during the week of 7 August 2023 for a 12-week consultation period.
- 8 **Authorise** the Minister of Energy and Resources to make minor technical and editorial amendments to the Issues Paper before it is published.

Hon Dr Megan Woods

Minister of Energy and Resources