



Energy Portfolio Weekly Report

Week commencing:	12/08/2024	Priority:	Medium
Security classification:	In Confidence	Tracking number:	2425-0498

Recipient	Action sought
HON SIMEON BROWN MINISTER FOR ENERGY	Note the contents of this report

Justine Cannon
General Manager
Energy Markets Branch
Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment

Privacy of natural persons

9 August 2024

Minister's comments:

**Energy Portfolio
Officials' Meeting Agenda
3:00 pm – 3:30 pm Monday 12 August 2024**

Item	Subject	People	Oral Item / Paper #	Action Required
1.	LNG	Gareth Wilson	Paper 2425-0661	Discussion
2.	ERP2	Scott Russell	Paper 2425-0257	Discussion
3.	Next steps for the Community Renewable Energy Fund	Scott Russell	Paper 2425-0443	Discussion
4.	Weekly Report & Work Programme	Minister	Oral	Discussion
5.	Any other business	All	Oral	Discussion

Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment officials attending:

Name	Position
Carolyn Tremain	Chief Executive and Secretary
Paul Stocks	Deputy Secretary, Building, Resources and Markets
Justine Cannon	General Manager, Energy Markets
Dominic Kebbell	Manager, Gas and Fuel Supply Policy
Tamara Linnhoff	Manager, Electricity Generation, Infrastructure and Markets Policy
Scott Russell	Manager, Energy Use Policy
Gareth Wilson	Strategic Advisor, Electricity Policy

Key Updates

Title	Comment
<p>Implementing Electrify NZ</p> <p>Daniel Brown <small>Privacy of natural persons</small></p>	<p>We briefed you and the Minister for Resource Management Reform on 25 July 2024 on proposed next steps for all remaining RMA commitments in the Electrify NZ programme, and an update on timing for non-RMA components including network regulation/new connections work.</p> <p>s 9(2)(f)(iv)</p> <p>Confidential advice to Government</p>
<p>New permitting regime for offshore renewable energy</p> <p>Melanee Beatson <small>Privacy of natural persons</small></p>	<p>As you are aware, the announcement of the details of the regime has been delayed. We are keen to work with your office to confirm a new date.</p> <p>We have provided you a briefing [2425-0577] on timing of the legislation, which also seeks approval to commence establishment of the Developer Working Group before announcements are made, to enable to us to keep on track with the development of regulations and implementation material.</p> <p>Confidential advice to Government</p>
<p>Fast-Track Consenting Regime</p> <p>Susan Hall <small>Privacy of natural persons</small></p>	<p>Select Committee process: On Thursday 15 and Friday 16 August 2024, agencies will brief the Select Committee on the Departmental Report and respond to their questions.</p> <p>Confidential advice to Government</p> <p>Listed projects: Ministers have received the Independent Advisory Group's report on applications to list projects in the Fast-Track Bill. MBIE is now coordinating departmental advice to support Ministers to decide which projects to list in the Bill. Confidential advice to Government</p>
<p>Review of the voltage range</p> <p>Tamara Linnhoff <small>Privacy of natural persons</small></p>	<p>We are reviewing whether a wider range of voltages should be allowed on low voltage networks (lines supplying households and businesses). This would align with some Australian states.</p> <p>Research is underway into the potential limitations that voltage regulations could place on distributed generation, like rooftop solar. Confidential advice to Government</p>
<p>Hazards from Trees</p> <p>Tamara Linnhoff <small>Privacy of natural persons</small></p>	<p>You agreed to modifications of the 'clear to the sky' amendment to exclude low voltage lines and heritage trees on 27 July 2024. Following your agreement we have issued final drafting instructions and continued to liaise with PCO to finalise the drafting of 'Phase 1'. 'Phase 1' remains on track with project timeframes.</p> <p>Targeted consultation for the 'Phase 2' amendments commenced on Friday 19 July and will conclude on 15 August 2024. This workstream remains on track with project timeframes [2324-3460 refers].</p>

	<p>Confidential advice to Government</p>
<p>Whirinaki diesel power plant</p> <p>Dominic Kebbell <small>Privacy of natural persons</small></p>	<p>We met with Contact Energy on Tuesday, 6 August 2024, to discuss the current state of the electricity and gas markets. Contact Energy own and operate the Whirinaki diesel-fired power plant located in Hawke’s Bay. Approximately four million litres of diesel can be stored on site, enabling the plant to operate at full capacity for 92 hours.</p> <p>Contact has been operating the Whirinaki plant at full capacity in order to balance the tight electricity supply – when operating at full capacity (as it has this week) it uses one million litres of diesel a day. Its storage is four million litres. For context, New Zealand consumes about ten million litres of diesel per day. The use of diesel is one factor pushing spot prices up (as it’s the highest cost plant operating, with long run marginal cost around \$750MW/h)).</p> <p>Contact relayed that fuel suppliers have confirmed they have plenty of diesel and there is no concern about security of supply issues for diesel. Contact do not expect that their increased demand for diesel will impact retail diesel prices.</p>

Confidential advice to Government



Title	Comment																																								
<p>Gas security of supply</p> <p>Dominic Kebbell <small>Privacy of natural persons</small></p>	<p>Ahuroa Gas Storage Facility</p> <p>On Monday, 5 August 2024 FlexGas, the operator of the Ahuroa Gas Storage Facility, reported an unscheduled outage of one of the AGS wells. FlexGas said that it estimates the well will be back online on 12 August 2024. Discussions with GIC suggest that this is an initial estimate and once work is begun the length of the outage will be clearer.</p> <p>The outage has reduced Ahuroa’s capacity to deliver gas by around half, from 65 terajoules/day to 36 terajoules/day.</p> <p>The storage facility provides gas to Contact and Nova for electricity generation. We will continue to work with GIC to monitor the situation and provide you with updates on progress resolving the outage, as well as any impacts.</p> <p>Commercial Information</p> <p>[Redacted]</p> <p>Other updates</p> <p>BusinessDesk reports that Methanex New Zealand’s parent company is reviewing how it operates in this country. It is running at less than half capacity because of a lack of gas and is likely to do so for the foreseeable future, losing hundreds of millions of dollars in revenue.</p> <p>New Zealand Energy Corp has announced a gas sale agreement covering 2 PJ of gas from its upcoming Tariki-5 well to an unnamed buyer. The deal includes provision for the parties to negotiate for Tariki to serve as a gas storage facility once Tariki-5 has been drilled, completed and evaluated. NZEC expects to beginning drilling the well in September and take 28 days to complete.</p> <p>Vector announced the conditional sale of its LPG business for \$150 million. The buyer's identity has not been disclosed. The deal will need Commerce Commission approval.</p>																																								
<p>Security of Electricity Supply</p> <p>Tamara Linnhoff <small>Privacy of natural persons</small></p>	<p>ELECTRICITY CAPACITY (for the week to Sunday 4 August)</p> <p>Residual generation margins remained healthy last week reflecting high thermal commitment in line with low hydrology and sustained high wholesale electricity prices. Residual generation was over 1,000 MW during the peaks last week.</p> <p>Lowest Residual Points - MW</p> <table border="1"> <caption>Lowest Residual Points - MW</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Date</th> <th>AM (MW)</th> <th>PM (MW)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>29 Jul</td><td>~1000</td><td>~1000</td></tr> <tr><td>30 Jul</td><td>~1000</td><td>~1000</td></tr> <tr><td>31 Jul</td><td>~1000</td><td>~1000</td></tr> <tr><td>01 Aug</td><td>~1000</td><td>~1000</td></tr> <tr><td>02 Aug</td><td>~1000</td><td>~1000</td></tr> <tr><td>03 Aug</td><td>~1000</td><td>~1000</td></tr> <tr><td>04 Aug</td><td>~1000</td><td>~1000</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>Source: System Operator, Market Operations - Weekly Market Movements</i></p> <p>The N-1-G margins in the NZGB look ahead are mostly healthy for August-September.</p> <p>NZGB Look-Ahead (excluding next 7 days)</p> <table border="1"> <caption>N-1-G Margin (MW)</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Date</th> <th>N-1-G Margin (MW)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>18 Aug</td><td>~1000</td></tr> <tr><td>25 Aug</td><td>~1000</td></tr> <tr><td>01 Sep</td><td>~1000</td></tr> <tr><td>08 Sep</td><td>~1000</td></tr> <tr><td>15 Sep</td><td>~1000</td></tr> <tr><td>22 Sep</td><td>~1000</td></tr> <tr><td>29 Sep</td><td>~1000</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>Source: System Operator, Market Operations - Weekly Market Movements</i></p>	Date	AM (MW)	PM (MW)	29 Jul	~1000	~1000	30 Jul	~1000	~1000	31 Jul	~1000	~1000	01 Aug	~1000	~1000	02 Aug	~1000	~1000	03 Aug	~1000	~1000	04 Aug	~1000	~1000	Date	N-1-G Margin (MW)	18 Aug	~1000	25 Aug	~1000	01 Sep	~1000	08 Sep	~1000	15 Sep	~1000	22 Sep	~1000	29 Sep	~1000
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ENERGY (HYDRO) STORAGE RELATIVE TO MEAN (for the week to 4 August)

New Zealand hydro storage dropped by 2% to 57% of the historic mean last week. North Island hydro storage decreased from 35% to 31% of the historic mean for the time of year, and South Island storage decreased from 63% to 61%. Hydro storage continues to decline, although the electricity risk also shifts downward in the coming months as inflows are expected to increase based on historic trends, along with lower demand over spring and summer.

Confidential advice to Government

Transpower has commenced consultation on changes to bring forward hydro generators' ability to access contingent hydro storage.

ENERGY (HYDRO) STORAGE LEVEL BY MAJOR LAKE

Thursday 8 August 2024

		Last	Δ	Previous	Change	1 Day	1 Week
UPSTREAM							
Water							
		Daily					
Hydro system storage	% LT avg	56.9%	▼	57.6%	-0.7%	-0.7%	-2.7%
Pukaki - Meridian	% full	21.8%	▼	23.0%	-1.2%	-1.2%	-5.4%
Manapouri - Meridian	% full	10.6%	-	10.6%	0.0%	0.0%	-13.8%
Tekapo - Genesis	% full	34.1%	▼	34.4%	-0.3%	-0.3%	-1.5%
Hawea - Contact	% full	15.0%	▼	15.6%	-0.6%	-0.6%	-4.8%
Taupo - Mercury	% full	15.7%	▼	16.4%	-0.7%	-0.7%	-4.3%

Source: Enerlytica

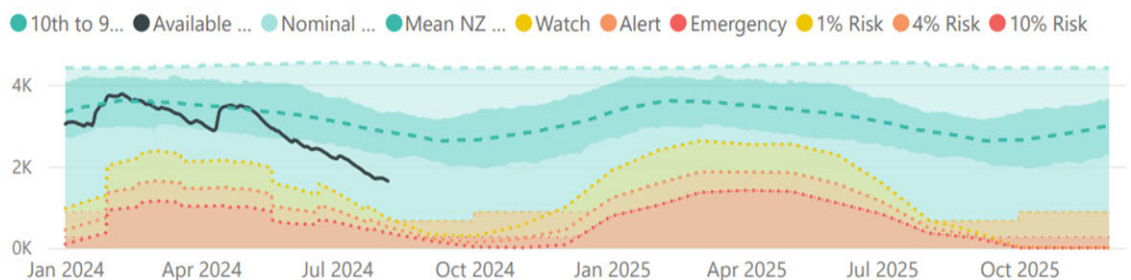
ELECTRICITY ('ENERGY') SUPPLY RISK (as of 4 August 2024)

The level of 'energy risk' is measured by hydro storage levels relative to the electricity risk status curves.



New Zealand controlled energy storage is below average for this time of year:

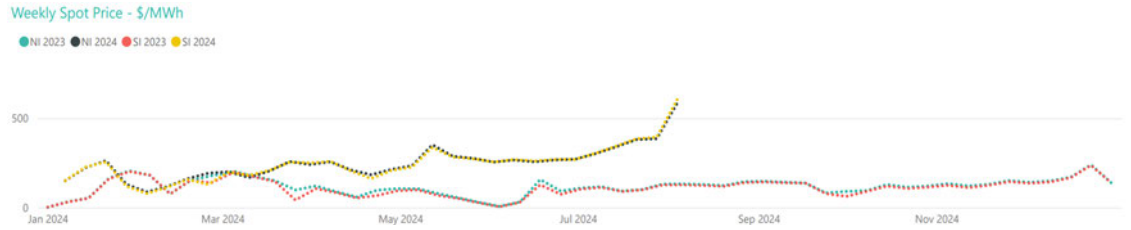
New Zealand Electricity Risk Status Curves (Available GWh)



Source: System Operator, Market Operations - Weekly Market Movements

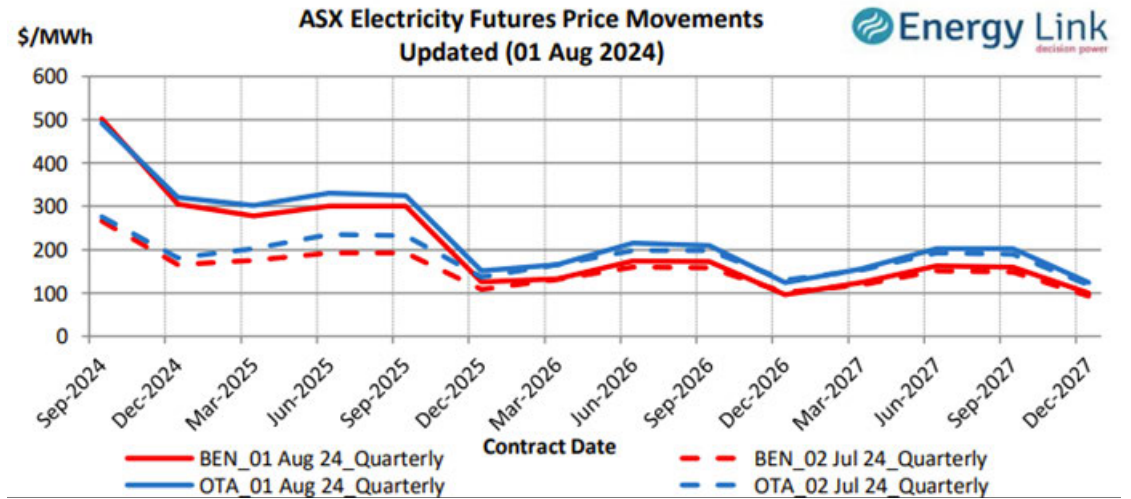
WHOLESALE ELECTRICITY PRICES

Weekly Spot Price (week ended 4 August 2024)



Source: System Operator, Market Operations - Weekly Market Movements

ASX Electricity Futures Prices (as of 4 August 2024)



Source: Energy Link, Energy Trendz Weekly

Space weather risk to electricity supply

Tamara Linnhoff
Privacy of natural persons

The term ‘space weather’ describes electromagnetic phenomena that result from variable conditions on the Sun. Some – like aurora – are benign, but severe space weather – particularly large ‘coronal mass ejections’ (CMEs) - can adversely affect satellite systems and electricity systems. In a severe geomagnetic storm, the CME interacts with the Earth’s magnetic field, inducing additional electrical currents in long electricity transmission lines. These currents can permanently damage equipment such as power transformers, which take a long time to repair or replace.

Transpower has protocols in place to receive early warnings of solar storms (12 to 48 hours ahead) and respond to them by temporarily removing some transmission lines from service to reduce the magnitude of these additional currents. Transpower responded in this way to such a warning on 11 May 2024, when a moderate CME resulted in Aurora Australis being observed in NZ and elsewhere. Transpower’s precautionary action on that occasion had no impact on consumers, but any warning of a larger CME could potentially trigger further precautionary actions with greater consumer impacts.

The risk posed by space weather is currently receiving additional focus in New Zealand and internationally. While severe space weather events can occur at any time, they are associated with regular cycles of solar activity. The sun’s current cycle is estimated to peak in 2025, which may represent a period of greater space weather risk that warrants greater readiness planning. MBIE is working with DPMC and NEMA on a national readiness plan. We will keep you updated on implications for electricity supply.

Amending the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Act 2000

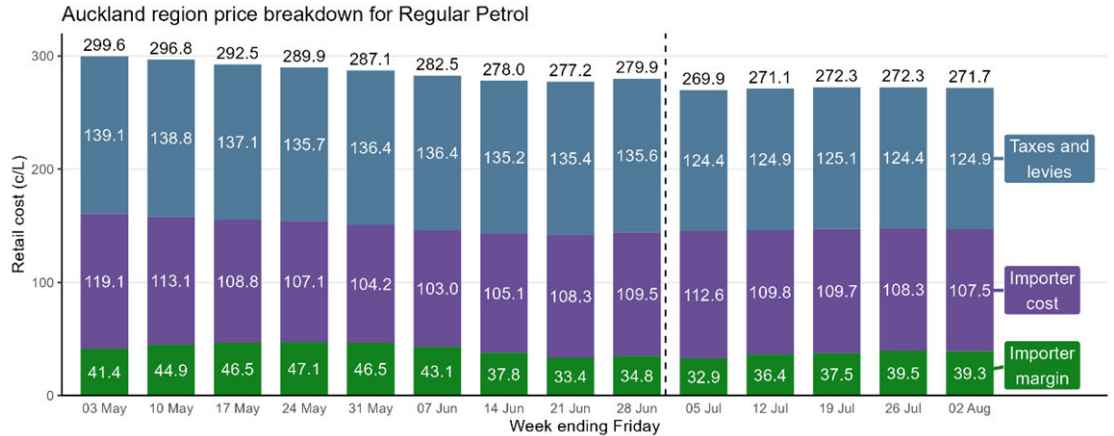
Scott Russell
Privacy of natural persons

On Friday 9 August we provided your office with a final version of the Cabinet paper, *Delivering a more effective energy efficiency regime*, setting out proposed amendments to the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Act 2000. The paper incorporates feedback received during Ministerial consultation, including a greater emphasis on the regulatory efficiencies the proposed amendments will deliver. The final RIA panel statement will be provided to your office separately early next week, prior to lodging on Thursday 15 August.

Monitoring the removal of the Auckland Regional Fuel Tax

Mike Hayward
Privacy of natural persons

In the week ending 2 August, retail prices decreased by 0.6 c/L for regular petrol, while importer margins decreased by 0.2 c/L to 39.3 c/L. This is comparable with importer margins prior to the removal of the ARFT.



The graph above shows the median discounted retail price for regular petrol in the Auckland region each week from May 2024. This price is broken down into importer cost (how much it costs to buy the fuel and ship it to New Zealand), taxes and levies (including the ARFT, ETS, and GST), and importer margin (the gross margin applied to these costs by fuel importers). The importer margin covers distribution and retail costs as well as profit margins.

APEC Energy Ministerial Meeting

Peter Bartlett
Privacy of natural persons

The APEC Energy Ministers Meeting will occur on 15 and 16 August in Lima, Peru. You have agreed that an MBIE official attend in your stead. **International relations**

[Redacted content]

	<p>International relations [REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>
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Upcoming Ministerial Items

1. Upcoming Energy meetings

Meeting date	Meeting	Details
Tuesday 13 August 2024 9:00 am – 10:00 am	EV charging network roundtable	Briefing due: Transport Lead, updated briefing being provided by MoT.
Wednesday 14 August 2024 9:30 am – 10:00 am	Golden Bay Cement	Briefing due: 12 August 2024
Wednesday 14 August 2024 11:00 am -11:30 am	Henrik Mosser and Kevin Goulet, incoming GM, OMV	Briefing due: 12 August 2024
Wednesday 14 August 2024 4:00 pm – 4:30 pm	Darryl Sycamore, Guardians of Lakes Manapouri, Monowai and Te Anau and Hon Tama Potaka	Briefing due: 12 August 2024
Friday 16 August 2024 2:00 pm – 2:30 pm	Ian Blair, Managing Director and Grant Hodges, Director-Strategic Advisory, WSP	Briefing due: Local Government lead

2. Upcoming Briefings, Aides Memoires and Cabinet Papers

Confidential advice to Government		
Project:	Electricity Hazards from Trees regulations	
15 August 2024	Confidential advice to Government	[Redacted]
Project:	Developing transmission infrastructure for Offshore Renewable Energy	
23 August 2024	Briefing	To provide further advice on the in-principle decisions made by Cabinet and seek direction on the level of intervention required to manage the development of transmission infrastructure for offshore renewables.
Project:	Minimum stockholding obligations	
Confidential advice to Government	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
Project:	Fast track legislation	
Late August	Confidential advice to Government	

Project:	Amending the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Act 2000.	
August	Briefing	Advice on projects to list in the Fast-Track Bill.
Project:	Electrify NZ: RMA legislative reform	
Mid-August 2024	Briefing to infrastructure Ministers	Electrify NZ-related policy for consenting energy projects in RM Bill #2 (MfE coordinating this paper with MBIE's input).
Project:	Consumer data right for electricity	
Mid – Late August	Cabinet paper and draft discussion paper	Joint Cabinet paper (with Minister of Commerce and Consumer Affairs) seeking agreement to consult on a potential electricity designation. Confidential advice to Government

3. Written Parliamentary Questions

None this week.

4. Ministerial Correspondence received

Due date	Tracking number	Correspondent	Summary of Correspondence
12 August 2024	SB24-608	Privacy of natural persons	Concerns regarding 50% increase in fixed daily charge on low-income workers
12 August 2024	SB24-609		Gas ban and the impact on requesters business and employees
14 August 2024	SB24-620		Pending NZ electrical energy crisis
15 August 2024	SB24-640		Green Hydrogen-Hiringa
16 August 2024	SB24-641		Electricity Pricing
16 August 2024	SB24-644		Energy Market
16 August 2024	SB24-645		Petrol Prices
16 August 2024	SB24-646		Power Rebate
16 August 2024	SB24-647		Fuel prices
16 August 2024	SB24-648		Petrol Prices
16 August 2024	SB24-649		Power Outages
19 August 2024	SB24-653		Hydrogen Power
19 August 2024	SB24-657		Electricity lower user rate
20 August 2024	SB24-659		IMVANO Projects

22 August 2024	SB24-674	Privacy of natural persons	Suggestion to make regulatory changes to relax regulations for biofuel hemp
27 August 2024	SB24-679		Energy crisis – increase in prices
28 August 2024	SB24-685		Provision of solar power systems attract the full rate of GST
28 August 2024	SB24-686		Mercury Energy customer service issues
28 August 2024	SB24-687		Review of the Electricity (Hazards from Trees) Regulations 2003

5. Ministerial Official Information Act Requests

Due date to the office	Tracking number	Requester	Summary of request	Status	Sign Out Manager
16 August 2024	OIA24-316	Privacy of natural persons	Speaking note attended the ETNZ conference in April or May 2024	Review	Tamara Linnhoff

6. Departmental Official Information Act Requests

None this week.

7. Output plan

Confidential advice to Government

Confidential advice to Government



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Tracking number: 2425-0499

Recipient

Action sought

**HON SIMEON BROWN
MINISTER FOR ENERGY**

Note the contents of this report

Justine Cannon
General Manager
Energy Markets Branch

Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment

Privacy of natural persons

16 August 2024

Minister's comments:

**Energy Portfolio
Officials' Meeting Agenda
4:00pm – 5:00pm Monday, 19 August 2024**

Item	Subject	People	Oral Item / Paper #	Action Required
1.	Debrief from Cabinet	Minister	Oral	Discussion
2.	LNG	Gareth Wilson	2425-0705	Discussion
3.	Electricity market settings	Tamara Linnhoff John McCabe	2425-0726	Discussion
4.	CREF redesign	Scott Russell	2425-0443	Discussion
5.	Weekly Report & Work Programme	Minister	Oral	Discussion
6.	Any other business	All	Oral	Discussion

Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment officials attending:

Name	Position
Carolyn Tremain	Chief Executive and Secretary
Paul Stocks	Deputy Secretary, Building, Resources and Markets
Justine Cannon	General Manager, Energy Markets
Tamara Linnhoff	Manager, Electricity Generation, Infrastructure and Markets Policy
Scott Russell	Manager, Energy Use Policy
Gareth Wilson	Strategic Advisor, Electricity Markets Policy
John McCabe	Team Leader, Electricity Markets Policy

Key Updates

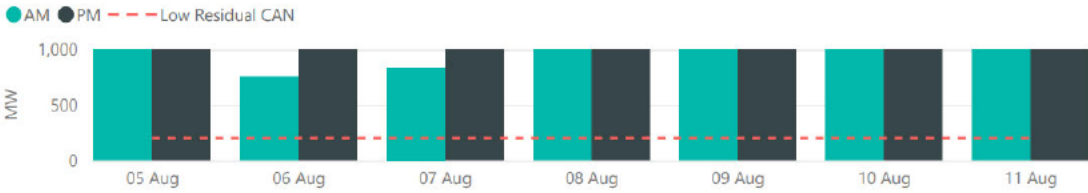
Title	Comment
<p>Implementing Electrify NZ</p> <p>Daniel Brown <small>Privacy of natural persons</small></p>	<p>We understand your office intends to announce details of the Electrify NZ work programme on 21 August 2024. Subject to your approval [2425-0257 refers], we will proactively release key ERP2 energy advice, which includes details on Electrify NZ, on 22 August 2024.</p> <p>s 9(2)(f)(iv)</p> <p>Confidential advice to Government</p>
<p>New permitting regime for offshore renewable energy</p> <p>Melanee Beatson <small>Privacy of natural persons</small></p>	<p>Offshore renewable energy will be a part of the package of announcements on 21 August 2024. We are prepared for document releases and engagement to follow shortly after that.</p> <p>Confidential advice to Government</p>
<p>Fast-Track Consenting Regime</p> <p>Susan Hall <small>Privacy of natural persons</small></p>	<p>Fast-Track Ministers are meeting on Monday 19 August to discuss a number of proposed policy and technical amendments to the Fast-Track Bill. This includes amendments that could make the Fast-Track legislation more responsive to urgent energy projects. In addition to the agenda and meeting papers, we have provided you with talking points.</p> <p>Confidential advice to Government</p> <p>MBIE and MfE co-led the presentation of the Departmental Report to the Environment Select Committee in two sessions, and responded to the Committee’s questions.</p>
<p>Hazards from Trees</p> <p>Tamara Linnhoff <small>Privacy of natural persons</small></p>	<p>Parliamentary Counsel Office has been drafting the ‘Phase 1’ amendments. The drafting has been more complex than expected and a PCO staffer has fallen sick. As a result, we will be providing you with the Cabinet paper later than signalled in the table of forward briefings (on 21 August). However, as the project has been ahead of schedule, this will not impact overall timeframes for ‘Phase 1’. Confidential advice to Government</p> <p>Targeted consultation for the ‘Phase 2’ amendments closed on 15 August 2024 and we have begun submissions analysis. This workstream remains on track with project timeframes.</p>
<p>ERP2</p> <p>Scott Russell <small>Privacy of natural persons</small></p>	<p>Following requests from a range of stakeholders for more time, the Ministry for the Environment has decided to extend the submission deadline for ERP2 consultation from 21 August, to 11.59pm Sunday 25th August. While we do not expect this to materially impact overall timeframes, it will increase resourcing pressure on submissions analysis.</p>

Stakeholder Updates

Title	Comment
<p>Gentailer year-end profit announcements</p> <p>Tamara Linnhoff <small>Privacy of natural persons</small></p>	<p>We expect a focus on gentailers' year-end profits in coming weeks - expected announcement dates are: Contact Monday 19 August, Mercury 20 August, Genesis 22 August, Meridian 28 August.</p> <p>The generation market is concentrated, and profits earned by gentailers frequently attract negative comment. Response lines will be prepared in advance for you, and updated on the day if appropriate.</p>
<p>Air New Zealand sustainable aviation fuel</p> <p>Dominic Kebbell <small>Privacy of natural persons</small></p>	<p>Air New Zealand and the government co-funded a feasibility study into producing sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) from woody biomass. Funds came from the Tourism and Hospitality (\$500,000), Trade (\$175,000) and Research, Science and Innovation portfolios (\$95,000). <small>Confide</small></p> <p>[Redacted]</p> <p>[Redacted]</p> <p>[Redacted]</p>
<p>Genesis acquires solar development from Helios Energy</p> <p>Tamara Linnhoff <small>Privacy of natural persons</small></p>	<p>Genesis Energy has acquired a site for a 127 MW solar development. The site is consented, with grid connection agreements in place. Final Investment Decision is expected in mid-2025 followed by the start of construction. The agreement with New Zealand based developer Helios Energy is expected to go unconditional in late 2025.</p> <p>The site is located near Edgecumbe in the Bay of Plenty and is expected to start generating electricity in 2026. It will hold approximately 220,000 solar panels and generate around 230 GWh annually, enough to power around 30,000 houses. Genesis intends to take a similar approach to its Lauriston development, using panels that allow for dual use of the land so sheep can graze underneath them.</p> <p>Helios Energy Founder and Managing Director Jeff Schlichting said the sale of the site would support the development of Helios' broader national solar development pipeline.</p>

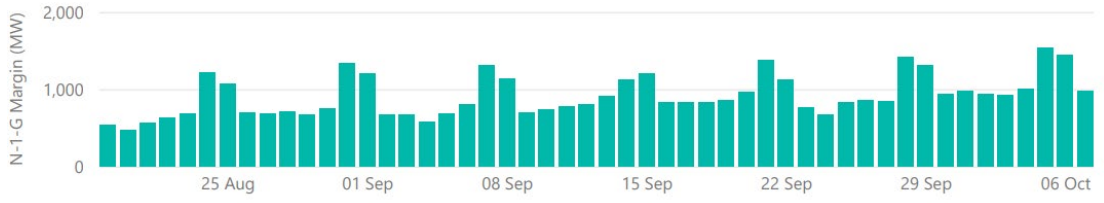
Confidential advice to Government

Other Updates

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<p>Gas security of supply</p> <p>Dominic Kebbell <small>Privacy of natural persons</small></p>	<p>On 13 August 2024, Methanex confirmed it will idle its remaining plant at Motunui until October and sell its remaining gas to Contact Energy and Genesis Energy. Contact Energy and Genesis Energy have confirmed they have secured 3.5 PJ and 3.2PJ of gas respectively to keep their gas-fired electricity units operating until October 2024.</p> <p>On 14 August 2024, the Ahuroa Gas Storage facility returned to normal operation following an unscheduled outage of one of its wells. The outage had reduced the facility’s capacity to deliver gas by around half, from 65 terajoules/day to 36 terajoules/day.</p>																								
<p>Electricity security of supply</p> <p>Tamara Linnhoff <small>Privacy of natural persons</small></p>	<p>ELECTRICITY CAPACITY (for the week to Sunday 11 August)</p> <p>Margins remained healthy last week reflecting high thermal commitment, in line with low hydrology and sustained high wholesale electricity prices. Residual generation was healthy at over 700 MW during the peaks last week.</p> <p>Residuals for week to 11 August 2024 were above the preferred 200MW threshold.</p> <p>Lowest Residual Points - MW</p>  <table border="1"> <caption>Lowest Residual Points - MW</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Date</th> <th>AM (MW)</th> <th>PM (MW)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>05 Aug</td> <td>~900</td> <td>~900</td> </tr> <tr> <td>06 Aug</td> <td>~750</td> <td>~900</td> </tr> <tr> <td>07 Aug</td> <td>~850</td> <td>~900</td> </tr> <tr> <td>08 Aug</td> <td>~900</td> <td>~900</td> </tr> <tr> <td>09 Aug</td> <td>~900</td> <td>~900</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10 Aug</td> <td>~900</td> <td>~900</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11 Aug</td> <td>~900</td> <td>~900</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>Source: System Operator, Market Operations - Weekly Market Movements</i></p>	Date	AM (MW)	PM (MW)	05 Aug	~900	~900	06 Aug	~750	~900	07 Aug	~850	~900	08 Aug	~900	~900	09 Aug	~900	~900	10 Aug	~900	~900	11 Aug	~900	~900
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10 Aug	~900	~900																							
11 Aug	~900	~900																							

The N-1-G margin is also sufficient to meet peak demand in the look-ahead for August-September:

NZGB Look-Ahead (excluding next 7 days)



Source: System Operator, Market Operations - Weekly Market Movements

ENERGY (HYDRO) STORAGE RELATIVE TO MEAN (for the week to 11 August)

National hydro storage has dropped further - to 54% of average for this time of year. North Island hydro storage decreased from 32% to 28% of the historic mean for the time of year and South Island storage decreased from 61% to 58%.

Despite ongoing decline in hydro storage, Transpower’s assessment of electricity risk is also reducing for the coming months - as inflows are expected to increase based on historic trends, along with lower demand over spring and summer.

Transpower has consulted on changes to bring forward hydro generators’ ability to access contingent hydro storage and is considering this change.

ENERGY (HYDRO) STORAGE LEVEL BY MAJOR LAKE

Wednesday 14 August 2024

UPSTREAM

Water

Hydro system storage	% LT avg	53.8%
Pukaki - Meridian	% full	18.9%
Manapouri - Meridian	% full	19.4%
Tekapo - Genesis	% full	33.5%
Hawea - Contact	% full	14.0%
Taupo - Mercury	% full	14.3%

	Last	Δ	Previous	Change	1 Day	1 Week
Daily						
Hydro system storage	53.8%	▼	54.0%	-0.2%	-0.2%	-3.8%
Pukaki - Meridian	18.9%	▼	19.4%	-0.5%	-0.5%	-4.1%
Manapouri - Meridian	19.4%	▼	21.7%	-2.3%	-2.3%	+8.8%
Tekapo - Genesis	33.5%	-	33.5%	0.0%	0.0%	-0.9%
Hawea - Contact	14.0%	▼	14.5%	-0.5%	-0.5%	-1.6%
Taupo - Mercury	14.3%	▼	15.7%	-1.4%	-1.4%	-2.1%

Source: Enerlytica

ELECTRICITY (‘ENERGY’) SUPPLY RISK (at 11 August)

The level of ‘energy risk’ is measured by hydro storage levels relative to the electricity risk status curves.

New Zealand Energy Risk



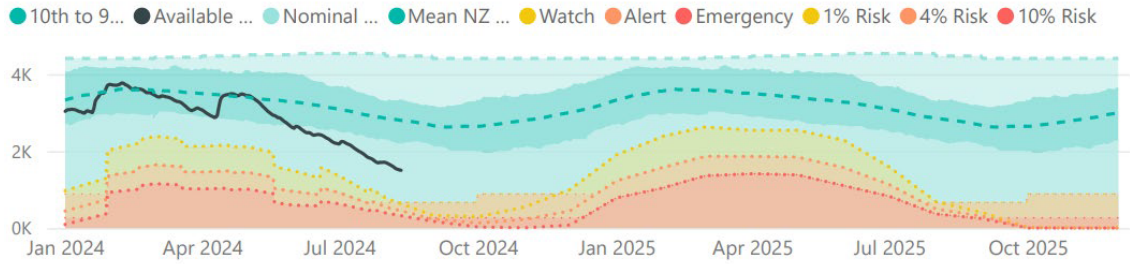
South Island Energy Risk



Normal Watch Alert Emergency

New Zealand controlled energy storage is below average for this time of year:

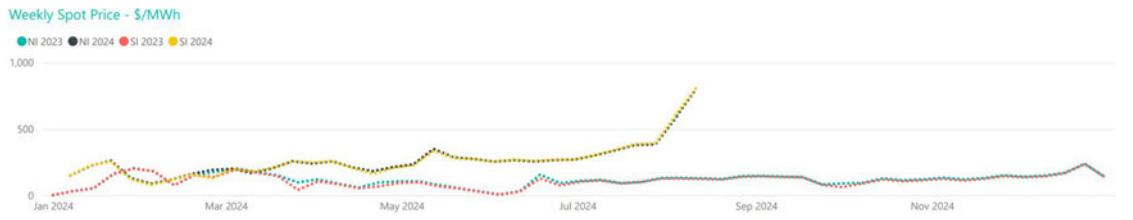
New Zealand Electricity Risk Status Curves (Available GWh)



Source: System Operator, Market Operations - Weekly Market Movements

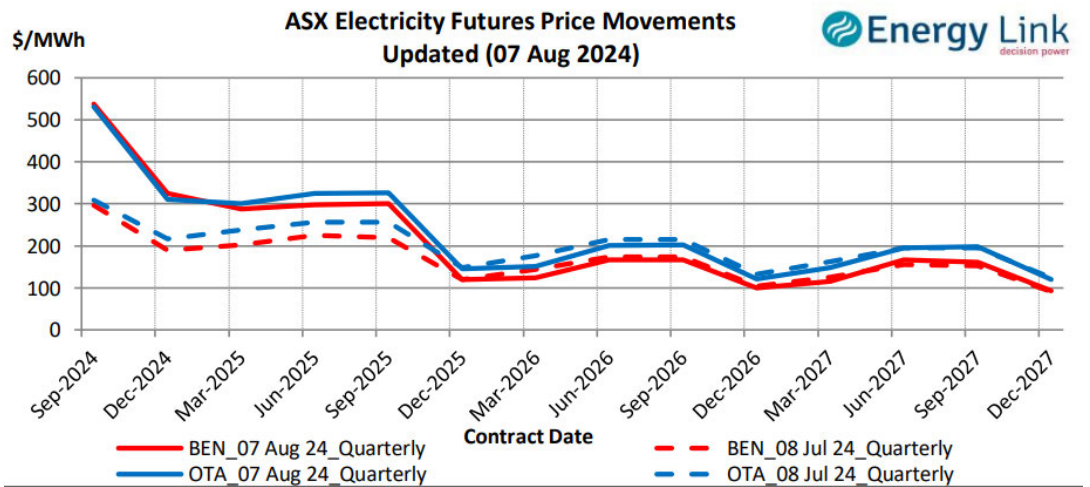
WHOLESALE ELECTRICITY PRICES

Weekly Spot Price (week ended 11 August)



Source: System Operator, Market Operations - Weekly Market Movements

ASX Electricity Futures Prices (as at 7 August 2024)

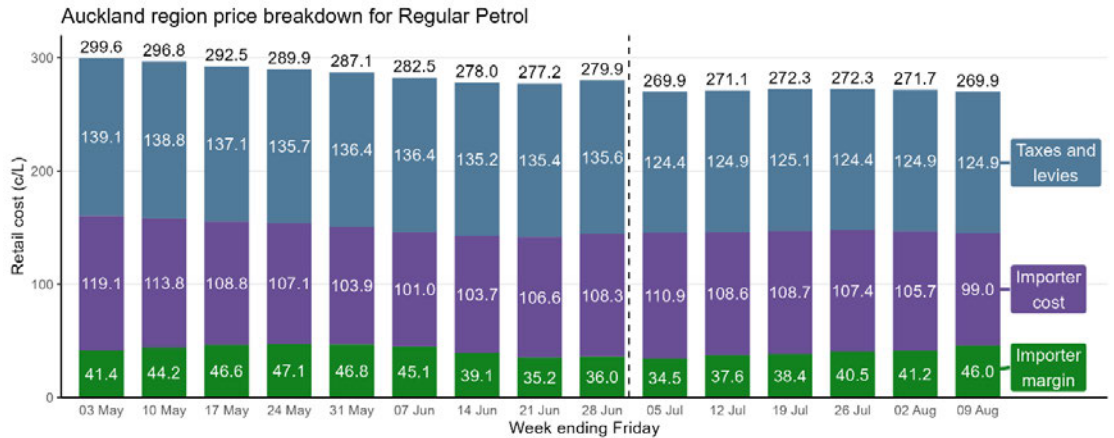


Source: Energy Link, Energy Trendz Weekly

Monitoring the removal of the Auckland Regional Fuel Tax

Maria Botes
Privacy of natural persons

In the week ending 9 August, retail prices decreased 1.8 c/L for regular petrol, while importer margins increased 4.9 c/L to 46.0 c/L. While the average margin is relatively higher than what has been seen since the beginning of July, it is still comparable to margins observed in May and June. We have also observed this increase in national average data produced by MBIE as part of its weekly fuel monitoring.



The graph above shows the median discounted retail price for regular petrol in the Auckland region each week from May 2024. This price is broken down into importer cost (how much it costs to buy the fuel and ship it to New Zealand), taxes and levies (including the ARFT, ETS, and GST), and importer margin (the gross margin applied to these costs by fuel importers). The importer margin covers distribution and retail costs as well as profit margins.

Further NZGIF investment in solarZero's

Scott Russell
Privacy of natural persons

Media have reported this week that solarZero has now secured a total of \$365m of debt finance through the government's New Zealand Green Investment Finance Limited (NZGIF). The debt facility expansion comes from participation by European investment firm, Societe Generale.

This will finance solarZero's business expansion of owning more Distributed Energy Resources (DER) on rooftops of homes. We understand solarZero will use that funding to extend their offering to approximately 20,000 households.

The business model involves offering households long term contracts (25 years) to buy power generated from solar and battery systems installed on their property, but owned by solarZero. The solar systems cost nothing to the household upfront, but the contract gives households a fixed monthly fee for their solar consumption, and access to a retail plan for any additional consumption required.

Upcoming Ministerial Items

1. Upcoming Energy meetings

Meeting date	Meeting	Details
Tuesday 20 August 2024 7:00pm – 8:00pm	Infrastructure and Investment Minister's Group	Briefing Due: N/A
Wednesday 21 August 2024 10:30am – 10:50am	Meeting with Transpower CEO and management	Briefing Due: N/A
Wednesday 21 August 2024 11:30am – 12:00pm	Meeting with HE Mr William Tan Wei Yuan, High Commissioner of Singapore	Briefing Due: 19 August 2024
Thursday 22 August 2024 7:30am – 8:00am	Meeting with Associate Minister of Energy, Hon Shane Jones	Briefing Due: N/A
Thursday 22 August 2024 10:00am – 10:30am	Meeting with Woodside Energy	Briefing Due: 20 August 2024
Thursday 22 August 2024 4:30pm – 5:00pm	Meeting with Mark Irving, Business Development Manager, HVMS	Briefing Due: Transport lead
Thursday 22 August 2024 5:30pm – 6:00pm	Meeting with Brendan Winitana Chair, Sustainable Energy Association of NZ	Briefing Due: 20 August 2024

2. Upcoming Briefings, Aides Memoires and Cabinet Papers

Project:	Energy content for ERP2	
s 9(2)(f)(iv)		
Project:	Electricity Hazards from Trees regulations	
21 August 2024	Briefing ^{Confidential a}	Confidential advice to Government
22 September 2024	Briefing, ^{Confidential ad}	Phase 2: Final policy advice. Confidential advice to Government
Project:	Fuel Security Study & Fuel security plan	
30 September 2024	Briefing	Confidential advice to Government

Project:	Developing transmission infrastructure for Offshore Renewable Energy	
23 August 2024	Briefing	To provide further advice on the in-principle decisions made by Cabinet and seek direction on the level of intervention required to manage the development of transmission infrastructure for offshore renewables.
Project:	Minimum stockholding obligations	
<small>Confidential advice to Government</small> [Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
Project:	Fast track legislation	
Late August	Briefing <small>Confidential advice to Government</small> [Redacted]	[Redacted]
August	Briefing	Advice on projects to list in the Fast-Track Bill.
Early September	Confidential advice to Government	
Project:	Electrify NZ: RMA legislative reform	
w/c 19 August 2024	Briefing to infrastructure Ministers	Electrify NZ-related policy for consenting energy projects in RM Bill #2 (MfE coordinating this paper with MBIE's input).
Project:	Offshore renewable energy regime – legislation	
By w/c 9 September 2024	Briefing	Offshore Renewable Energy - Decommissioning
By w/c 9 September 2024	Briefing	Offshore Renewable Energy - Transmission
Project:	Offshore renewable energy – regulations	
By 30 September 2024	Briefing	Policy decisions on permitting regulations

Project:	Hydrogen Action Plan	
By w/c 19 August	Briefing	Establishing a Hydrogen Industry Leadership Group
By 30 September 2024	Briefing and draft action plan	Hydrogen Action Plan: Draft for feedback
Project:	Consumer data right for electricity	
Mid – Late August	Cabinet paper and draft discussion paper	Joint Cabinet paper (with Minister of Commerce and Consumer Affairs) seeking agreement to consult on a potential electricity designation. Confidential advice to Government
Project:	Enabling smart charging standards (EEC Act amendments) and review of EECA	
Confidential advice to Government		
Project:	Updates to Standards	
Early September 2024	Briefing	Confidential advice to Government
Project:	Crown Entity Performance and Investment	
s 9(2)(f)(iv)		
Project:	Energy Sprint	
August/ September	Briefings	Briefings as required and/or accelerated timeframes for above workstreams

3. Written Parliamentary Questions

None this week

4. Ministerial Correspondence received

Due date	Tracking number	Correspondent	Summary of Correspondence
19 August 2024	SB24-653	Privacy of natural persons	Hydrogen Power
19 August 2024	SB24-657		Electricity lower user rate
22 August 2024	SB24-674		Suggestion to make regulatory changes to relax regulations for biofuel hemp
27 August 2024	SB24-679		Energy crisis – increase in prices
28 August 2024	SB24-685		Provision of solar power systems attract the full rate of GST
28 August 2024	SB24-686		Mercury Energy customer service issues
28 August 2024	SB24-687		Review of the Electricity (Hazards from Trees) Regulations 2003
3 September 2024	SB24-708		Electric Kiwi
4 September 2024	SB24-714		Power generation
2 September 2024	SB24-762		Current power prices
9 September 2024	SB24-718		Low power usage
9 September 2024	SB24-722		Electricity prices
9 September 2024	SB24-729		Electricity prices
9 September 2024	SB24-730		Future energy security
9 September 2024	SB24-736		Natural gas
9 September 2024	SB24-739		Trees and power line corridors
9 September 2024	SB24-743		Electricity prices

9 September 2024	SB24-742	Privacy of natural persons	Electricity supply and solar
9 September 2024	SB24-746		Generation of electricity – use of solar power
9 September 2024	SB24-763		Urgent concerns regarding retail power pricing impact on small businesses
9 September 2024	SB24-715		Contact Energy broadband charges

5. Ministerial Official Information Act Requests

Due date to the office	Tracking number	Requester	Summary of request	Status	Sign Out Manager
20 August 2024	OIA24-318	Privacy of natural persons	Briefing forwarded to the Minister of Climate Change	Approval	Dominic Kebbell
27 August 2024	OIA24-307		List of briefings 3 May 2024 – 30 May 2024	Scoping	Dominic Kebbell
28 August 2024	OIA24-322		Request for copies of official advice	Scoping	Scott Russell

6. Departmental Official Information Act Requests

None this week.

7. Output plan

Confidential advice to Government

Confidential advice to Government



Energy Portfolio Weekly Report

Week commencing: 26/08/2024

Priority: Medium

Security classification: In Confidence

Tracking number: 2425-0500

Recipient

Action sought

**HON SIMEON BROWN
MINISTER FOR ENERGY**

Note the contents of this report

Justine Cannon
General Manager
Energy Markets Branch

Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment

Privacy of natural persons

23 August 2024

Minister's comments:

**Energy Portfolio
Officials' Meeting Agenda
2:00 pm – 3:00 pm Monday 26 August 2024**

Item	Subject	People	Oral Item / Paper #	Action Required
1.	Energy Safety Standards	Hayden Fenwick, Peter Bartlett, Michael Ross	Paper 2425-0512	Discussion
2.	Weekly Report & Work Programme	Minister	Paper 2425-0500	Discussion
3.	Any other business	All	Oral	Discussion
4.	Preparation for Post-Cabinet announcements	Paul Stocks, Justine Cannon	Oral	Discussion

Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment officials attending:

Name	Position
Carolyn Tremain	Chief Executive and Secretary (Tentative)
Paul Stocks	Deputy Secretary, Building, Resources and Markets
Justine Cannon	General Manager, Energy Markets
Peter Bartlett	Director, Sector Engagement
Hayden Fenwick	Manager, Health and Safety Policy
Michael Ross	Senior Policy Advisor, Health and Safety Policy

Stakeholder Updates

Title	Comment
<p>Further demand response from NZAS</p> <p>Tamara Linnhoff <small>Privacy of natural persons</small></p>	<p>Meridian Energy and New Zealand Aluminium Smelters Limited (NZAS) have agreed that NZAS will provide Meridian with a further 20MW per hour of demand response.</p> <p>This is in addition to the demand response option (185 MW per hour) exercised by Meridian (and Contact Energy) on 21 July 2024, the maximum demand response allowed under the new 20-year agreement.</p> <p>In total, NZAS will provide up to 205MW of demand response from 20 August 2024 to 24 September 2024 (with the full 205MW of demand response being provided from 23 August 2024 to 10 September 2024).</p>
<p>Transpower confirms it will bring forward access to contingent hydro storage</p> <p>Tamara Linnhoff <small>Privacy of natural persons</small></p>	<p>Controlled hydro storage is currently at 55 per cent of average for this time of year, which is among the lowest levels in around 90 years of historic records.</p> <p>On Thursday 22 August 2024 Transpower publicly announced it will bring forward the ability of generators to access contingent hydro storage to alleviate risks to electricity supply. The decision follows consultation with industry and other stakeholders. Once Transpower moves the risk curve to 'alert' status, generators will be able to use contingent storage levels at lakes Tekapo, Pūkaki, Hāwea, Te Anau and Manapouri without breaching their resource consent conditions.</p> <p>Confidential advice to Government</p>
<p>The Authority winds back urgent market-making interventions</p> <p>Tamara Linnhoff <small>Privacy of natural persons</small></p>	<p>On Monday last week, the Electricity Authority substantially narrowed the market for forward risk management hedges, after seeing speculator activity benefitting from higher prices in the stressed futures market.</p> <p>Following less trading volatility in recent days, on Wednesday 21 August 2024, the Authority eased this market-making intervention. From Monday next week, market-making requirements will revert to wider obligations.</p> <p>Stakeholders have raised concerns about the Authority's process (following an explanation that a communications error meant gentailers were informed, but not other market participants) and also about the impact of this move – which seriously reduced liquidity in the market for risk management at a time of inflated spot prices. You received letters from three independent retailers and also from the Major Energy Users Group (MEUG).</p>
<p>Gentailer FY24 Reporting</p> <p>Tamara Linnhoff <small>Privacy of natural persons</small></p>	<p>Three of the gentailers (Contact, Mercury and Genesis) have released their annual earnings reports. Meridian will report on Wednesday, 28 August 2024. Headline figures from the three earnings reports are provided below. Once all gentailers have released their earnings, we will provide you with a more comprehensive review of the key movements and insights into their earnings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact reported a net profit after tax of \$230m, up 9% from FY23, on a total revenue of \$2,863m. It invested \$470m over FY24 into new renewable projects. Contact also reported a return on invested capital of 3.7% (which can be compared to WACC for regulated businesses).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mercury reported a net profit after tax of \$290m, up 160% from FY23, on a total revenue of \$3,424m. The increase in net profit has been mainly attributed to unrealised gains/losses on unhedged financial instruments. Mercury reported \$154m in investment into new generation over FY24. • Genesis reported a net profit after tax of \$131m, down 33% from FY23, on a total revenue of \$3,063m. It noted that financial metrics appeared down, but that this was compared to FY23, which was a particularly strong year for Genesis. However, the earnings also reflect the increased requirement for expensive thermal generation and a downgrade of Kupe reserves. <p>These earnings reports are for the period to 30 June 2024 so <u>do not</u> include revenues (and costs) during the recent period of hydro shortage, extra thermal generation, and significantly higher spot prices.</p>
<p>Media reports MEUG call for businesses and households to voluntarily reduce demand</p> <p>Tamara Linnhoff <small>Privacy of natural persons</small></p>	<p>Media have reported the Major Electricity Users' Group (MEUG) comment that business and households could be asked to cut back their electricity use. MEUG's more fundamental concern is the risk to industrial viability and New Zealand's productivity and competitiveness of generally high, and high spikes, in electricity prices.</p> <p>Two submitters to Transpower's recent consultation on contingent storage urged Transpower to start asking New Zealanders to conserve electricity now, citing high wholesale prices as evidence the power system is already in an emergency situation.</p> <p>Both the Electricity Authority and Transpower have made statements to the media that New Zealanders are not being asked to take any special measures at this time. You have received copies of their relevant communications.</p> <p>Only Transpower may call an Official Conservation Campaign (OCC) and it must do so only when the risk of electricity supply shortage exceeds 10% and is forecast to continue to do so for at least one week. Retailers must compensate qualifying consumers for reducing electricity use by a set amount, currently \$12 per week. Transpower has communicated that New Zealand is not forecast to reach the hydro level that would trigger an OCC in the next few months, and it is monitoring the situation and will give regular updates.</p>
<p>Mercury increasing residential gas prices</p> <p>Dominic Kebbell <small>Privacy of natural persons</small></p>	<p>Mercury is putting up residential gas prices this month by an average of 15 per cent for approximately 65,000 of their 85,000 customers. Gas prices for Mercury's remaining customers will also increase once their fixed term contracts end. <small>Confidential advice to Government</small></p> <p><small>[Redacted]</small></p>

Confidential advice to Government

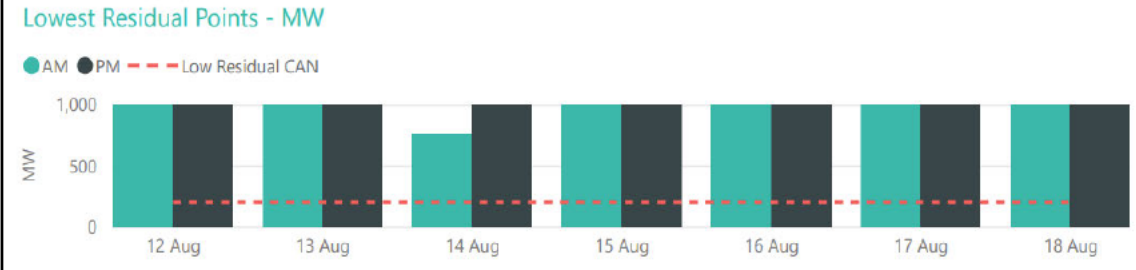


Title **Comment**

Electricity security of supply
 Tamara Linnhoff
 Privacy of natural persons

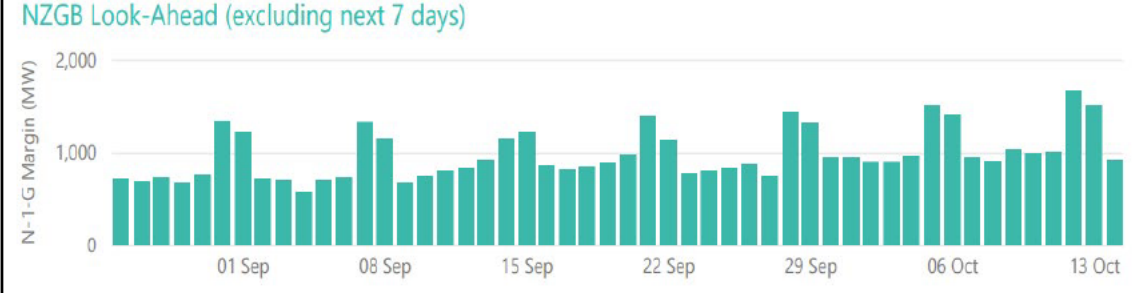
ELECTRICITY CAPACITY (for the week to Sunday 18 August)
 Generation capacity margins remained healthy last week reflecting high thermal commitment in line with low hydrology and sustained high wholesale electricity prices. Residual generation was over 750 MW during the peaks last week.

Residuals for week to 18 August 2024 were above the preferred 200MW threshold:



Source: System Operator, Market Operations - Weekly Market Movements

The N-1-G margin is sufficient to meet peak demand in the look-ahead for August-October:



Source: System Operator, Market Operations - Weekly Market Movements

ENERGY (HYDRO) STORAGE RELATIVE TO MEAN (for the week to 18 August)

National hydro storage increased slightly to 55% of the historic mean but continues to be among the lowest recorded levels for this time of year. North Island hydro storage decreased from 28% to 27% of the historic mean for this time of year and South Island storage increased from 58% to 59%.

Transpower decided this week, following a short consultation, to modify its 'electricity risk curves' to remove uncertainty about hydro generators' access to contingent hydro storage. This decision resolves the risk emerging in August that one hydro reservoir might reach its normal operating minimum level and be unable to use contingent storage before the necessary alert being triggered based on national storage levels.

ENERGY (HYDRO) STORAGE LEVEL BY MAJOR LAKE

Thursday 22 August 2024

		Last	Δ	Previous	Change	1 Day	1 Week
UPSTREAM							
Water							
		Daily					
Hydro system storage	% LT avg	55.2%	▼	55.6%	-0.4%	-0.4%	+0.8%
Pukaki - Meridian	% full	17.8%	▼	18.1%	-0.3%	-0.3%	-0.6%
Manapouri - Meridian	% full	21.1%	▼	25.6%	-4.5%	-4.5%	+4.4%
Tekapo - Genesis	% full	32.8%	▼	32.9%	-0.1%	-0.1%	-0.6%
Hawea - Contact	% full	11.0%	▼	11.3%	-0.3%	-0.3%	-2.8%
Taupo - Mercury	% full	18.6%	-	18.6%	0.0%	0.0%	+5.0%

Source: Enerlytica

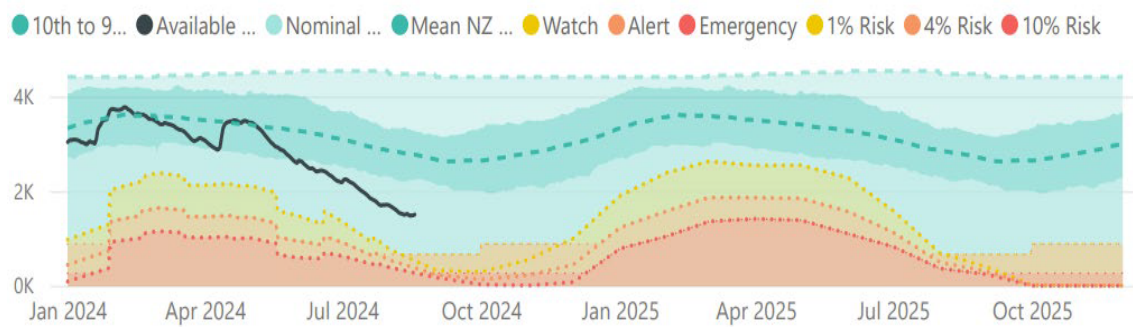
ELECTRICITY ('ENERGY') SUPPLY RISK (at 18 August)

The level of 'energy risk' is measured by hydro storage levels relative to the electricity risk status curves.



New Zealand controlled energy storage is below average for this time of year:

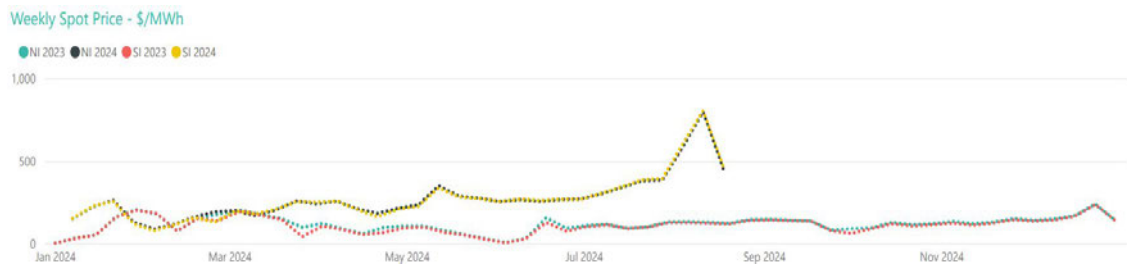
New Zealand Electricity Risk Status Curves (Available GWh)



Source: System Operator, Market Operations - Weekly Market Movements

WHOLESALE ELECTRICITY PRICES

Weekly Spot Price (week ended 18 August)



Source: System Operator, Market Operations - Weekly Market Movements

At the time of writing ASX Electricity Futures Prices had not been updated on EnergyLink – an update will be included in next week’s Weekly Report.

Update on funds: SEEC Programme and Community Renewable Energy Fund

Scott Russell
Privacy of natural persons

Support for Energy Education in Communities (SEEC) Programme

Projects funded under the SEEC Programme 2023/24 funding round are now well underway. Since June the programme has so far delivered:

- 1,494 personalised home energy assessments
- 118 energy education events, workshops and hui to communities
- 8,240 devices and low-cost equipment (such as LED lightbulbs, curtains, heaters and draught stoppers) to households

The timing of these interventions over the winter months is having a positive impact on participating households who experience energy hardship, according to case studies and testimonials collected from provider monthly reporting. Outcomes include improved physical

health and mental wellbeing of occupants, more efficient usage of electricity, and positive behavioural changes as a result of energy education.

MBIE has commissioned MartinJenkins to conduct an independent evaluation of the SEEC programme. This evaluation, set to deliver a final report in late 2024, will include a cost-benefit-analysis, case studies of households who have received SEEC services, and recommendations. MBIE will use the evaluation to determine how best to deliver the programme in 2024/25 and outyears.

Community Renewable Energy Fund

Officials have executed 48 out of 70 funding agreements with community resilience sites in areas affected by 2023 severe weather. The remaining 22 sites will have funding agreements executed in the coming months.

As at 23 August, two sites are fully operational and generating electricity, and one is nearing completion. In the next month we expect rapid progress with the 45 sites awaiting solar installations as the weather improves.

At your Officials meeting on 19 August you indicated your preferred option for the future of the fund is further focus on community resilience sites. We will provide you further advice on how the next tranche of community resilience sites is best delivered.

Confidential advice to Government

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Emissions Reduction Plan 2 (ERP2) Proactive Release

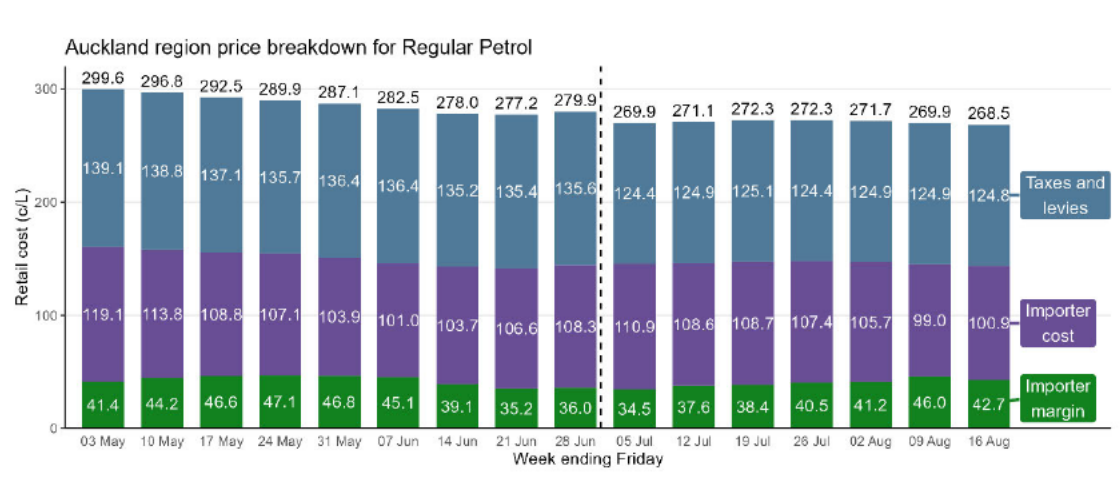
Scott Russell
Privacy of natural persons

Proactive release of documents relating to the development of the ERP2 energy chapter was scheduled for 22 August 2024 to coincide with your planned announcements on Electrify NZ. As the announcement date for Electrify NZ has moved we are now planning to release on 27 August 2024 following your announcements on 26 August 2024.

Monitoring the Removal of the Auckland Regional Fuel Tax

Maria Botes
Privacy of natural persons

In the week ending 16 August, retail prices decreased 1.4 c/L for regular petrol, while importer margins decreased 3.3 c/L to 42.7 c/L returning to levels seen two weeks ago.



The graph above shows the median discounted retail price for regular petrol in the Auckland region each week from May 2024. This price is broken down into importer cost (how much it costs to buy the fuel and ship it to New Zealand), taxes and levies (including the ARFT, ETS, and GST), and importer margin (the gross margin applied to these costs by fuel importers). The importer margin covers distribution and retail costs as well as profit margins.

Further information on updates to Energy Safety Standards

Peter Bartlett

Privacy of natural persons

You asked for further information in relation to briefing 2425-0512 - Background and Next Steps for Updating Energy Safety Standard Citations in Regulation.

Will there be a mechanism for standards to be automatically updated in future?

There will not be a mechanism to automatically update standards citations as new versions are published. There are several reasons for this:

- In some instances, international standards need some modification when cited in New Zealand regulations – this can be to ensure consistency with other citations, to better reflect application in the New Zealand context, or to correct known errors with a standard. As such, any updates need to be appropriately analysed by MBIE and WorkSafe, including some consultation with affected industry.
- Depending on the nature of the changes to a standard, a transition period, or period of dual citation of new and old versions, may be necessary – again requiring appropriate analysis and consultation before updating.
- In some cases, introduction of a new/different standard may be more effective than updating to the newest version of a currently cited standard – for example to align with standards uptake of our regular trading partners.

However, while there will not be a mechanism for automatic updates, the Electricity and Gas Safety Instruments proposed in the Regulatory Systems (Immigration and Workforce) Amendment Bill will provide WorkSafe with the ability to update standards cited in regulation through Ministerial, rather than Cabinet approval. We anticipate this will substantially streamline the process of updating citations.

Will this fix solar issues raised?

Tu Mai Ra is providing us a list of 11 standards relating to solar installations that they would like to see updated. We have confirmed that at least three of these will be addressed by the changes that have been identified by Worksafe and are working further with Tu Mai Ra on the others. We expect the majority will be resolved by the proposed updates.

As stakeholders regularly raise the broader issue of standards updates with us, please also indicate whether you are comfortable with officials communicating (if asked) that the Government will be addressing these shortly, subject to any Cabinet decisions.

Upcoming Ministerial Items

1. Upcoming Energy meetings

Meeting date	Meeting	Details
Tuesday 27 August 2024 8:00 am – 9:00 am	Opening of Contact Energy Kowhai Solar Farm	Briefing Due: 23 August 2024
Wednesday 28 August 2024 8:30 am – 9:00 am	Hon Shane Jones, NZ Steel, Fonterra, Ballance, Oji Fibre and the Major Gas Users Group	Briefing Due: 26 August 2024
Wednesday 28 August 2024 9:30 am – 9:45 am	Ross CEO Wood Processors and Manufacturers Assn	Briefing due: 26 August 2024
Wednesday 28 August 2024 10:30 am – 10:50 am	EECA CEO and management	Briefing due: N/A
Wednesday 28 August 2024 10:50 am – 11:10 am	Electricity Authority CEO and management	Briefing due: N/A
Wednesday 28 August 2024 11:10 am – 11:30 am	Chair Rt Hon Jim Bolger and CEO Andy Knight, Gas Industry Company (GIC)	Briefing Due: Rescheduled from 13 August
Wednesday 28 August 2024 12:00 pm – 12:30 pm	Gavin Kerr, Igneo Infrastructure Partners	Briefing Due: 26 August 2024
Wednesday 28 August 2024 6:00 pm – 10:30 pm	Guest and speak at the 2024 NZ Energy Excellence Awards	Speech due: 21 August 2024 Briefing due: 26 August 2024
Wednesday 28 August 2024 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm	RMA Ministerial Group (MBIE Advisor to attend)	Briefing Due: N/A
Thursday 29 August 2024 9:00 am – 11:30 am	Building Nations 2024 Infrastructure NZ	Briefing Due: N/A
Thursday 29 August 2024 1:30 pm – 2:00 pm	Elena Trout, EECA Chair	Briefing Due: N/A

2. Upcoming Briefings, Aides Memoires and Cabinet Papers

Project:	Energy content for ERP2	
s 9(2)(f)(iv)	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Project:	CCUS	
Confidential advice to Government [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Project:	Electricity Hazards from Trees regulations	
w/c 19 August 2024	Confidential advice to Government [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
22 September 2024	Briefing, Confidential ad [REDACTED] and RIS	Phase 2: Final policy advice. Confidential advice to Government [REDACTED]
Project:	Fuel Security Study & Fuel security plan	
Confidential advice to Government [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Project:	Minimum stockholding obligations	
Confidential advice to Government [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Project:	Fast track legislation	
Late August	Briefing Confidential advice to Government [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
August	Briefing	Advice on projects to list in the Fast-Track Bill.
Early September	Confidential advice to Government [REDACTED]	
Project:	Offshore renewable energy regime – legislation	
		No briefings in the next month, drafting underway

Project:	Offshore renewable energy – regulations	
By 30 September 2024	Briefing	Policy decisions on permitting regulations
Project:	Hydrogen Action Plan	
s 9(2)(f)(iv)		
Project:	Consumer data right for electricity	
Mid – Late August	Cabinet paper and draft discussion paper	Joint Cabinet paper (with Minister of Commerce and Consumer Affairs) seeking agreement to consult on a potential electricity designation. Due to be confirmed at Cabinet on 26 August.
Project:	Enabling smart charging standards (EEC Act amendments) and review of EECA	
Confidential advice to Government		
Project:	Updates to Standards	
Early September 2024	Briefing	Confidential advice to Government
Project:	Crown Entity Performance and Investment	
Late August	Briefing	Advice on the Electricity Authority's performance to 30 June 2024
Project:	Energy Security of Supply - Recent high spot prices	
w/c 26 August	Briefing	Advice on accessing contingent hydro storage
w/c 26 August	Briefing	Advice on the potential impact of wholesale electricity price spikes on retail prices
s 9(2)(f)(iv)		
w/c 26 August	Briefing	Scope of a review of Electricity Market Performance
Confidential advice to Government		

3. Written Parliamentary Questions

None this week

4. Ministerial Correspondence received

Due date	Tracking number	Correspondent	Summary of Correspondence
27 August 2024	SB24-679	Privacy of natural persons	Energy crisis – increase in prices
28 August 2024	SB24-685		Provision of solar power systems attract the full rate of GST
28 August 2024	SB24-686		Mercury Energy customer service issues
28 August 2024	SB24-687		Review of the Electricity (Hazards from Trees) Regulations 2003
3 September 2024	SB24-708		Electric Kiwi
4 September 2024	SB24-714		Power generation
9 September 2024	SB24-715		Contact Energy Plan – increase in pricing
9 September 2024	SB24-718		Low power usage
9 September 2024	SB24-722		Electricity prices
9 September 2024	SB24-729		Electricity prices
9 September 2024	SB24-730		Future energy security
9 September 2024	SB24-736		Natural gas
9 September 2024	SB24-739		Trees and power line corridors
9 September 2024	SB24-742		Electricity supply and solar
9 September 2024	SB24-743		Electricity prices
9 September 2024	SB24-746		Generation of electricity – use of solar power
9 September 2024	SB24-762		Issues manufacturers are having with the current power pricing
9 September 2024	SB24-763		Urgent concerns regarding retail power pricing impact on small businesses
13 September 2024	SB24-774		Effects of turning off gas and the NZ Coffee Industry
13 September 2024	SB24-779		Energy crisis and urgent need for more gas
13 September 2024	SB24-783		Daily fixed charges for power with power companies increasing rates
13 September 2024	SB24-786		Solar is the present and the future - new building requirements
13 September 2024	SB24-795		MBIE policy implemented in 2022 rewarding high power users

13 September 2024	SB24-799	Privacy of natural persons	Ministerial responsibility for the Electricity Act
13 September 2024	SB24-784		Pertaining to the current electricity pricing that is affecting businesses

5. Ministerial Official Information Act Requests

Due date to the office	Tracking number	Requester	Summary of request	Status	Sign Out Manager
27 August 2024	OIA24-307	Privacy of natural persons	List of briefings 3 May 2024 – 30 May 2024	Scoping	Dominic Kebbell
28 August 2024	OIA24-322		Request for copies of official advice	Scoping	Scott Russell
30 August 2024	OIA24-329		Info relating to the use of te reo Maori in the public service	Scoping	Zoreen Ali
4 September 2024	OIA24-335		Copies of any instruction or request to the Electricity Authority	Scoping	Tamara Linnhoff

6. Departmental Official Information Act Requests

None this week

7. Output plan

Confidential advice to Government

Confidential advice to Government