



Energy Portfolio Weekly Report

Week commencing:	4/11/2024	Priority:	Medium
Security classification:	In Confidence	Tracking number:	BRIEFING-REQ-0005770

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

1 November 2024

Minister's comments:

**Energy Portfolio
Officials' Meeting Agenda
3:30pm – 4:30pm Tuesday 5 November 2024**

Item	Subject	People	Oral Item / Paper #	Action Required
1.	Policy decisions on exemptions regime - Energy Efficiency and Conservation Amendment Bill	Scott Russell	Paper 2425-1088	Discussion

Confidential advice to Government

3.	Weekly Report & Work Programme	Minister	Oral	Discussion
4.	Any other business	All	Oral	Discussion

Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment officials attending:

Name	Position
Justine Cannon	General Manager, Energy Markets
Sharon Corbett	Policy Director, Energy Markets
Jamie Kerr	Policy Director, Communications Infrastructure and Trade
Scott Russell	Manager, Energy Use Policy

Key Updates

Title	Comment
<p>Implementing Electrify NZ</p> <p>Daniel Brown <small>Privacy of natural persons</small></p>	<p>You met with the Minister for Resource Management Reform on 15 October 2024 and agreed the policy for amendments to the National Policy Statements for Renewable Electricity Generation and Electricity Transmission, subject to further advice on some technical drafting matters. We will continue targeted engagement to fine-tune the policy and drafting prior to public consultation in February 2024.</p> <p>RM Reform Bill #2 is currently being drafted by Parliamentary Counsel – this includes Electrify NZ commitments around consent decision making timeframes, duration and lapse periods. This Bill is scheduled for introduction in late 2024.</p> <p>Following Cabinet’s agreement to policy and technical amendments to the Fast-track Bill, the Parliamentary Counsel Office has circulated a draft Amendment Paper for agency comment. A Cabinet LEG Committee paper, to accompany the Amendment Paper, is circulating for ministerial comment, and will be lodged on 7 November 2024. The Ministry for the Environment is leading preparations to support Ministers to introduce the Amendment Paper to the House, and to take the Bill through the final stages.</p>
<p>New permitting regime for offshore renewable energy</p> <p>Melanee Beatson <small>Privacy of natural persons</small></p>	<p>We are beginning targeted consultation on Cost Recovery regulations for the feasibility permit stage on 1 November 2024, for one month. We are working through the other regulations that will be required and will provide a further update in November 2024.</p>
<p>Hydrogen Action Plan</p> <p>Melanee Beatson <small>Privacy of natural persons</small></p>	<p>Confidential advice to Government</p> <p>[Redacted]</p>
<p>ERP2 update</p> <p>Scott Russell <small>Privacy of natural persons</small></p>	<p>Confidential advice to Government</p> <p>[Redacted]</p>

	<p>Confidential advice to Government</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ [Redacted] ■ [Redacted] ■ [Redacted] <p>[Redacted]</p>
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Quarterly Reporting Update

#	Action Item	Due Month	Delivery Update	Critical Contextual Information (if applicable)	Delivery Status
6	Introduce legislation to make it easier to build offshore wind farms.	Dec	Ministerial consultation on a draft Cabinet paper seeking introduction of the Offshore Renewable Energy Bill is due to be completed by the end of October. MBIE intends to provide the Minister with an updated draft Bill on 7 November, before lodgement on 14 November and consideration by LEG on 21 November.		<i>Probable</i>

Stakeholder Updates

Title	Comment
<p>Channel Infrastructure</p> <p>Dominic Kebbell <small>Privacy of natural persons</small></p>	<p>Channel Infrastructure released an Energy Precinct Concept, a long-term vision for its Marsden Point site on 24 October 2024. The plan (see annex one) outlines how the site could accommodate a range of energy projects that would boost our energy resilience and support decarbonisation efforts.</p> <p>Channel envisages development of the Energy Precinct will</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> bring investment and boost regional growth create and retain highly skilled and well-paid jobs in the region, and support New Zealand’s energy security and decarbonisation efforts. <p>In addition to the current facility, the plan includes three development areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional storage opportunities including increased jet fuel and diesel storage, storage for low-carbon fuels and other products. Long-term outlook shows petrol and diesel falling at different speeds into the 2030s, and jet fuel growth forecast to 2060. In the long term, Channel expects a substantial portion of this growth will be sustainable aviation fuels. Future fuels manufacturing opportunities to produce biofuels and sustainable aviation fuels. Current potential projects include Fortescue’s e-SAF plant and Seadra Consortium’s biorefinery. Energy security precinct opportunities including LNG import facility, diesel generation plant or a flow battery (long-term grid scale electricity storage using liquid electrolyte). <p>Channel intends to be the landlord and facilitator of existing and potential projects. It will provide the infrastructure and ancillary services and plans to be “project agnostic”. It does not intend to invest or develop industries or technologies.</p> <p>Channel is suggesting that diesel-fired generation could be adopted as a faster and lower capital cost alternative to LNG imports for firming inter-seasonal capacity, while the electricity system builds further capacity to enable transition to 100 per cent renewables.</p> <p>Officials will meet with Channel to discuss this announcement on Friday, 1 November 2024 (this meeting will take place after this report is finalised). We will provide any insights gained from this meeting to you.</p>
<p>Genesis sells Hau Nui windfarm</p> <p>Tamara Linnhoff <small>Privacy of natural persons</small></p>	<p>Genesis Energy has sold its 8.65 MW Hau Nui windfarm to NZ Windfarms. Hau Nui, in the Wairarapa, was the country’s first windfarm. It was built in two stages, and stage one is nearing end of life. NZ Windfarms will continue Hau Nui’s operation, with the opportunity to develop it further. Genesis says it will focus its attention on wind developments that are of greater scale.</p>
<p>Transpower releases Whakamana i te Mauri Hiko monitoring report</p> <p>Tamara Linnhoff <small>Privacy of natural persons</small></p>	<p>Transpower’s report monitoring sector developments against its Te Mauri Hiko projections confirms electrification growth. The pipeline of potential grid-connected generation projects has grown to 32 gigawatts – about three times the current installed capacity.</p> <p>Transpower note the ‘ad-hoc’ approach to securing fuel for security of supply this recent winter, point to the long-term commitments made by generators (and itself) and cite a need for policy and strategic certainty to make such substantive investments.</p> <p>The report and press statements publicly call for a "bi-partisan energy strategy for a more cohesive and enduring strategy" in addition to the recent GPS to help bring this new planned generation to fruition.</p>

	Transpower highlight the need for more investment in essential firming capacity and that, as demand continues to grow, more investment in flexible demand is also needed to address peak capacity risk.
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Current appointments

Confidential advice to Government



Other Updates

Title	Comment
<p>Consultation to expand the permitted voltage range</p> <p>Tamara Linnhoff <small>Privacy of natural persons</small></p>	<p>We plan to launch the consultation on expanding the permitted voltage range on Friday 1 November. Stakeholders have until the end of November to respond. We expect to provide you with further advice on the recommended option in January.</p>
<p>Hazards from Trees</p> <p>Tamara Linnhoff <small>Privacy of natural persons</small></p>	<p>Confidential advice to Government</p> <p>[Redacted]</p>
<p>Mid-point review of the LFC phase-out</p> <p>Tamara Linnhoff <small>Privacy of natural persons</small></p>	<p>Confidential advice to Government</p> <p>[Redacted]</p>
<p>Follow up to Electricity Authority Strategic Baseline Review</p> <p>Jacqui Bassett <small>Privacy of natural persons</small></p>	<p>In our recent briefing (2425-0781 refers) we informed you that we planned to commission Sapere Research Group (Sapere) to conduct an independent follow-up review. The purpose of the follow-up review is to provide an update on the Electricity Authority's (the Authority's) progress towards addressing the findings from the Strategic Baseline Review completed in 2023.</p> <p>We have agreed the Terms of Reference with the Authority and Sapere, and work on the follow-up review has now commenced. The follow-up review will run over the period November 2024 to February 2025.</p> <p>We will provide you with progress updates during the follow-up review, and our advice following the completion of the review.</p>
<p>Gas security of supply</p> <p>Dominic Kebbell <small>Privacy of natural persons</small></p>	<p>Gas retailers pausing new residential connections</p> <p>We have spoken to the four gas retailers (Mercury, Genesis, Nova and Contact). Genesis, Nova and Contact all confirmed they have paused offering new residential connections and the pause would only be reviewed if there was a material improvement to the gas supply. It seems likely that the high cost of a new gas connection is also playing a part in the decision as future gas price uncertainty makes recovering the cost of the connection through gas margin less likely. Mercury is still offering new connections if it is part of a bundle. It appears likely bundling will offset the uncertainty in the future gas price. We have spoken to the Commerce Commission about Mercury requiring new gas users to also use their other products. Confidential advice to Government</p> <p>[Redacted]</p> <p>We confirmed the information from Master Plumbers that there had been limited communication from retailers to the market on the change in services. Master Plumbers raised the issue of the lack of lead time for the change – they felt their members could have responded to the change if they'd had reasonable notice.</p> <p>We discussed this information with the Chief Executive of Master Plumbers, and they will be putting out information in their trade newsletter pointing people who want a new connection to Mercury. The alternative will be to switch to LPG or to electrify. Master</p>

Plumbers provided an indicative cost of around \$4,000 to switch to LPG and between \$25,000 to \$30,000 to switch to electric but this was dependant on the appliances chosen.

Drilling at Tariki gas field

Late last week NZ Energy Corp, the operator of the Tariki gas field, made several announcements that suggest its drilling at the Tariki-5 well have not been as successful as hoped.

NZ Energy Corp announced that Tariki-5 has been drilled to a total depth of 2,637m but had not encountered the Tariki sandstone reservoir as had been expected. Final results are likely to be available in early November. Genesis Energy entered into a contract with NZ Energy Corp for \$2 million for 2 PJ of Tariki-5 gas and to secure a 12-month right to negotiate towards developing Tariki into a gas storage facility. We will keep you updated on any further information through the weekly report.

Electricity security of supply

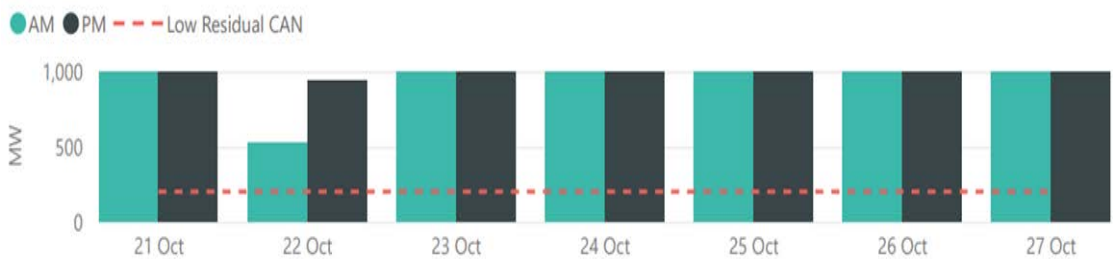
Tamara Linnhoff
Privacy of natural persons

ELECTRICITY CAPACITY (for the week to Sunday 27 October)

Residual generation margins were above 500 MW during all peaks last week. The lowest residual margin was 525 MW on Wednesday morning, with low wind generation. Planned generator outages and lower thermal unit commitment have resulted in lower capacity margins during the shoulder season.

Residuals for week to 27 October 2024 were above the preferred 200MW threshold.

Lowest Residual Points - MW



Source: System Operator, Market Operations - Weekly Market Movements

Forecast N-1-G margins are currently healthy.

The N-1-G margin is sufficient to meet peak demand in the look-ahead through to mid December 2024:

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 20 October)

National hydro storage increased from 108% to 120% of the historic mean last week with significant inflows. North Island hydro storage increased from 111% to 119% of the historic mean for this time of year and South Island storage increased from 108% to 121%.

ENERGY (HYDRO) STORAGE LEVEL BY MAJOR LAKE

Wednesday 30 October 2024

UPSTREAM

Water

		Last	Δ	Previous	Change	1 Day	1 Week
Hydro system storage	% LT avg	119.8%	▲	117.6%	+2.2%	+2.2%	+11.7%
Pukaki - Meridian	% full	59.2%	▲	51.5%	+7.7%	+7.7%	+7.7%
Manapouri - Meridian	% full	111.7%	▼	119.4%	-7.7%	-7.7%	+23.9%
Tekapo - Genesis	% full	72.0%	▲	69.8%	+2.2%	+2.2%	+19.1%
Hawea - Contact	% full	74.9%	▲	74.3%	+0.6%	+0.6%	+11.4%
Taupo - Mercury	% full	80.0%	▲	79.3%	+0.7%	+0.7%	+6.4%

Source: Enerlytica

ELECTRICITY ('ENERGY') SUPPLY RISK (at 27 October)

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

New Zealand Energy Risk



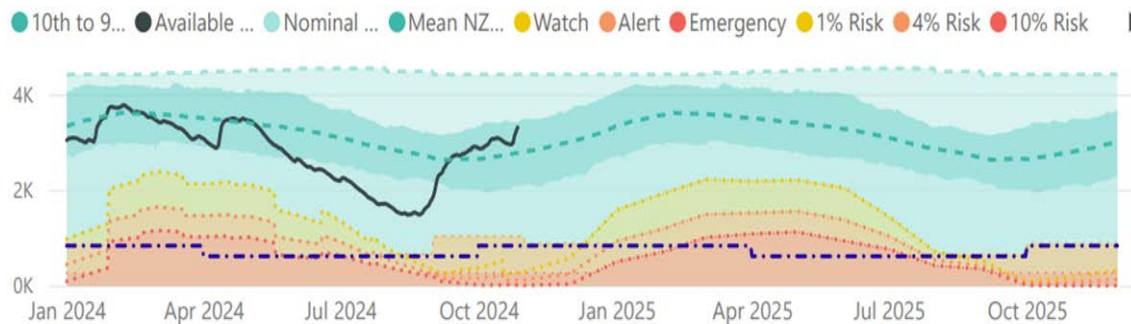
South Island Energy Risk



Normal Watch Alert Emergency

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

New Zealand Electricity Risk Status Curves (Available GWh)

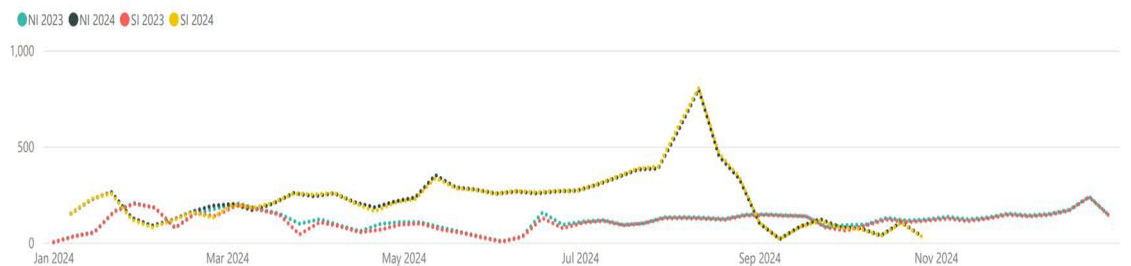


Source: System Operator, Market Operations - Weekly Market Movements

WHOLESALE ELECTRICITY PRICES

Weekly Spot Price (week ended 20 October)

Weekly Spot Price - \$/MWh



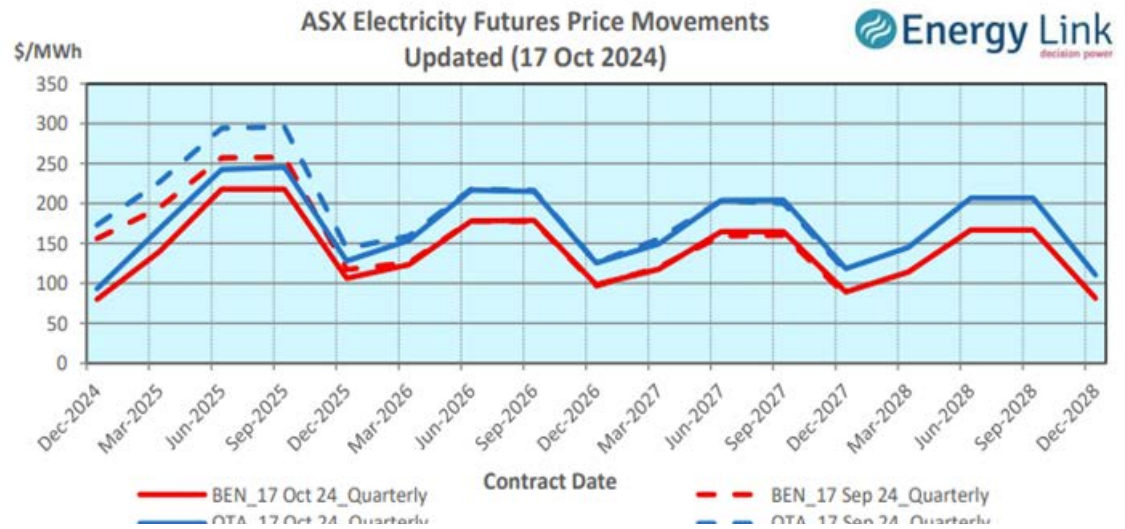
Source: System Operator, Market Operations - Weekly Market Movements

Month-to date, 7-day average and Daily average spot prices (at Wednesday 30 October)

Node:	Month-to-date	7-day Avg	Daily Avg
Benmore	\$52.90	\$8.02	\$18.41
Haywards	\$55.47	\$8.82	\$22.51
Otahuhu	\$60.56	\$10.15	\$26.53

Source: Energy Link [EnergyTrendz Daily](#)

ASX Electricity Futures Prices (at 20 October)



Source: Energy Link, Energy Trendz Weekly

New Zealand positions on COP29 energy declarations

Peter Bartlett
Privacy of natural persons

COP29 is scheduled to take place in Baku, Azerbaijan from Monday 11 November to Friday 22 November 2024. The New Zealand delegation to COP29 will be led by Minister Watts in his capacity as Minister of Climate Change. "Energy day" will be the 15 November.

In its role as President and host of COP29, Azerbaijan has proposed a series of non-binding pledges and declarations which aim to foster a sense of shared responsibility and urgency on various climate change and energy-related issues, in line with the COP29 Presidency's vision to "enhance ambition and enable action."

You and the Minister for Climate Change will receive a joint briefing from MFAT and MBIE on Friday 8 November 2024 seeking confirmation of New Zealand's positions on these declarations and pledges. There are three that fall within the Energy portfolio and will require your decision:

- COP29 Hydrogen Declaration
- COP29 Green Energy Pledge: Green Energy Zones and Corridors
- COP29 Global Energy Storage and Grids Pledge

We will assess these pledges against domestic policy priorities in coordination with MFAT and incorporate this assessment in the joint briefing. In determining whether or not to recommend you endorse them, we will also consider which of New Zealand's traditional like-minded partners are supportive.

Weekly fuel price monitoring

Amapola Generosa

Privacy of natural persons

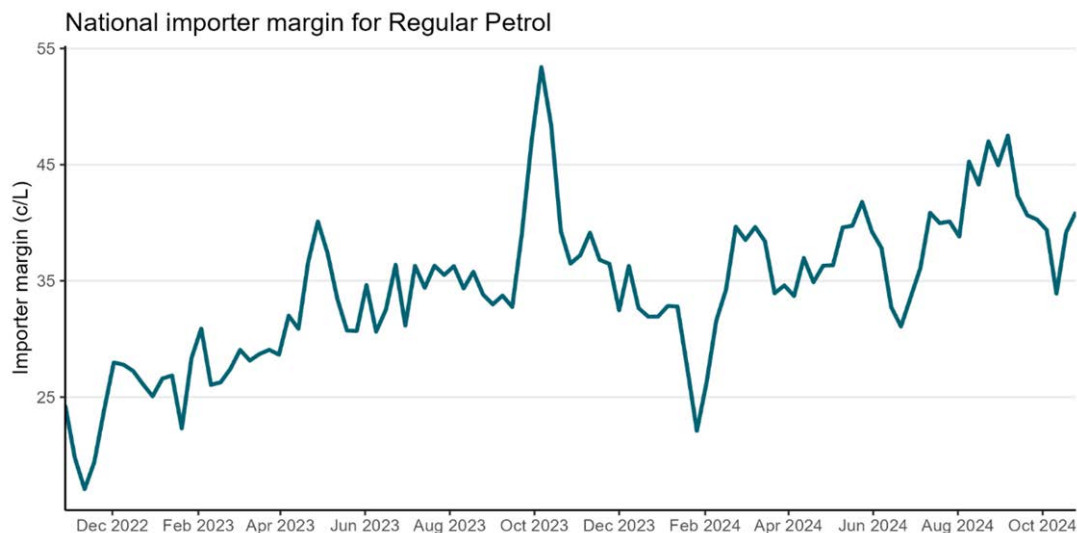
International oil prices

Crude oil prices stabilised somewhat in the week ending 25 October. As a result, importer costs stayed relatively level week-on-week.

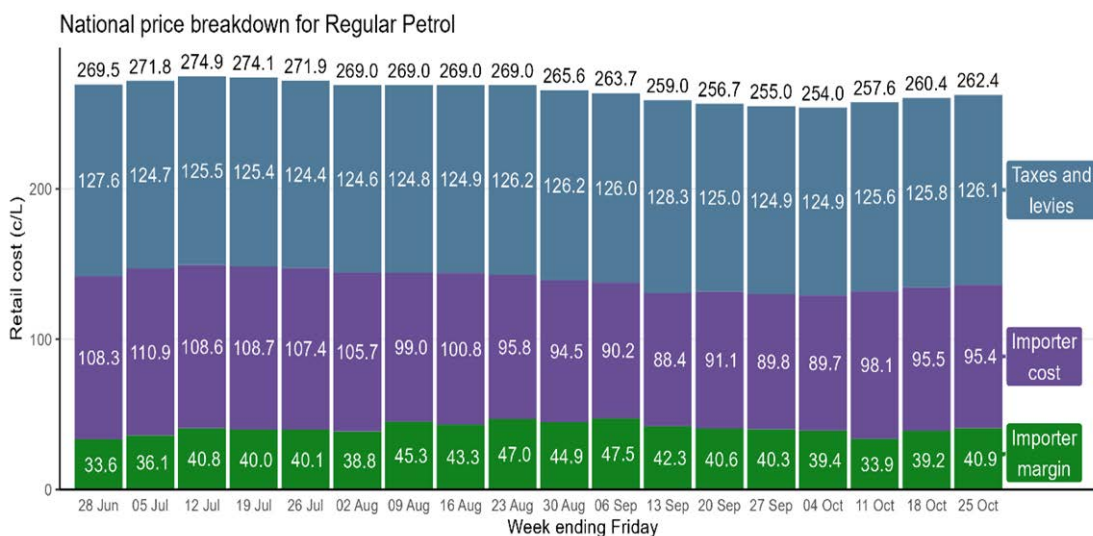
National average fuel margins

In the week ending 25 October, retail prices increased 2.0 c/L for regular petrol, while importer margins increased 1.7 c/L to 40.9 c/L.

National level importer margins for regular petrol over the past two years are shown below.



The price breakdown for the past four months is shown below.

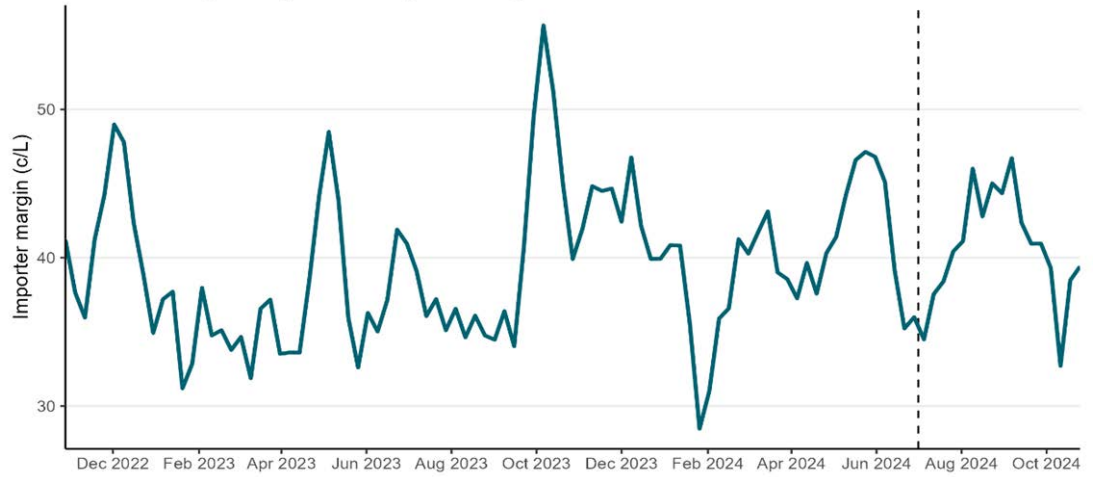


Auckland fuel margins

Movements in retail prices and importer margins in Auckland mirrored those seen at the national level. In the week ending 25 October, retail prices increased 1.1 c/L for regular petrol, while importer margins increased 0.9 c/L to 39.4 c/L.

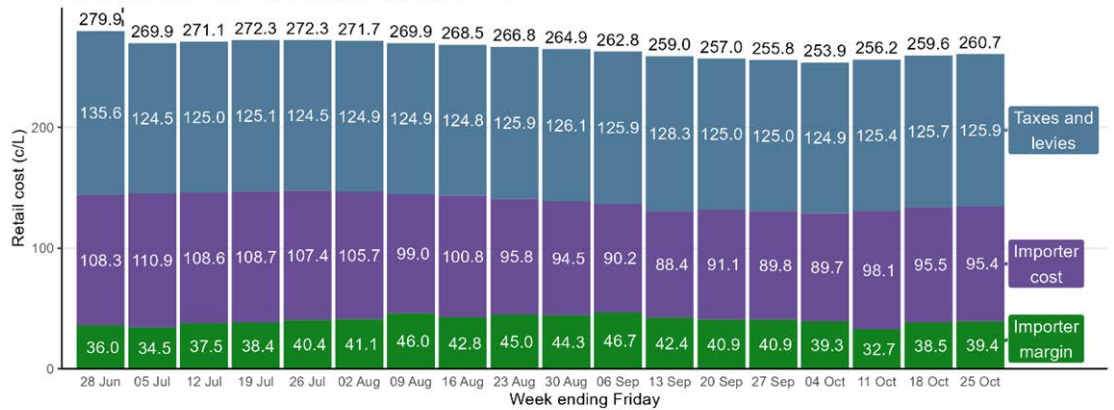
Importer margins for regular petrol in the Auckland region over the past two years are shown below. The dashed line shows the removal of the Auckland Regional Fuel Tax.

Auckland region importer margin for Regular Petrol



The price breakdown for the past four months is shown below.

Auckland region price breakdown for Regular Petrol



Auckland jet fuel resilience

Dominic Kebbell
Privacy of natural persons

You have asked for monthly updates on our work relating to Auckland Airport jet fuel resilience.

Following the fuel companies’ July update, we advised Minister Jones on minimum jet fuel stockholding regulations at the airport. Despite the 2019 Government Inquiry into the Auckland Fuel Supply Disruption recommending fuel companies “make investment decisions without delay”, there have been ongoing delays in committing to investments.

We have prepared a draft Cabinet paper for Minister Jones to take to ECO on 20 November 2024. The paper seeks agreements to introduce a location-specific minimum stockholding obligation requiring fuel companies to store a specified number of days’ jet fuel at or near Auckland Airport. The draft Cabinet paper proposes that the regulations:

- require fuel companies to hold 10 days’ cover of jet fuel stock at Wiri or the Joint User Hydrant Installation (**JUHI**) at the airport (a JUHI is essentially a fuel terminal at an airport)
- commence on 1 January 2027 (in line with the typical time required to build fuel tanks).

Our advice was informed by targeted consultation with key fuel industry and aviation stakeholders - Air New Zealand, Auckland Airport, Board of Airline Representatives New Zealand (**BARNZ**), bp, Channel Infrastructure, International Air Transport Association (**IATA**), Mobil, Z Energy and Energy Resources Aotearoa (**ERA**).

Upcoming Ministerial Items

1. Upcoming Energy meetings

Meeting date	Meeting	Details
Monday, 4 November 2024 3:15 pm – 3:35 pm	Electricity Authority and Commerce Commission (with Hon Shane Jones)	Briefing Due: N/A Officials required: Justine Cannon
Wednesday, 6 November 2024 11:30 am – 12:00 pm	EECA Day	Speech Due: 23 October 2024 Briefing Due: 4 November 2024 Officials required: N/A
Wednesday, 6 November 2024 5:30 pm – 6:00 pm	Pre-Record: Energy Trust NZ Summer Conference hosted by WEL Energy Trust	Speech & Briefing Due: 23 October 2024 Officials required: N/A
Thursday, 7 November 2024 10:00 am – 10:45 am	Energy Stakeholders regarding Winter 25	Talking Points Due: 5 November 2024 Officials required: Justine Cannon
Thursday, 7 November 2024 4:00 pm – 4:20 pm	Independent Generators Association Inc	Briefing Due: 31 October 2024 Officials required: Justine Cannon
Friday, 8 November 2024 7:30 am – 9:00 am	Employers and Manufacturers Association Forum	Speech Due: 25 October 2024 Briefing Due: 6 November 2024 Officials required: N/A
Friday, 8 November 2024 9:30 am – 10:00 am	Dahee Sohn, Executive Director, Korea New Zealand Business Council	Briefing Due: 6 November 2024 Officials required: N/A

2. Upcoming Briefings, Aides Memoires and Cabinet Papers

Project:	Energy content for ERP2	
Confidential advice to Government		
Project:	CCUS	
Confidential advice to Government		
Project:	Fuel Security Study & Fuel security plan	
w/c 9 December 2024	Briefing	Delivery of draft complete report

Project:	Minimum stockholding obligations	
Confidential advice to Government		
w/c 16 December 2024	Briefing	Briefing: update on diesel stockholding consultation
Project:	Electrify NZ: RMA legislative reform	
Confidential advice to Government		
Project:	Electrify NZ: National direction package	
w/c 18 November 2024	Joint briefing to Ministers Brown and Bishop	Progress report on development of Electrify NZ RMA policy proposals
Confidential advice to Government		
Confidential advice to Government		
Project:	Offshore renewable energy – regulations	
December 2024	Briefing	Offshore Renewable Energy – Feasibility permit regulations policy decisions
Project:	Consumer data right for electricity	
Mid November 2024	Briefing	<i>(TBC – pending earlier decisions on timing and delivery)</i> Briefing outlining key feedback from consultation and next steps
Project:	Review of phase-out of LFC regulations	
28 November 2024	Briefing	Final report to Minister on Review findings
Project:	Hydrogen Action Plan	
Confidential advice to Government		

Projects:	Further briefings (not shown on the Ministerial Priorities Output Plan A3)	
Confidential advice to Government [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Confidential advice to Government [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

3. Written Parliamentary Questions

None this week.

4. Ministerial Correspondence received

Due date	Tracking number	Correspondent	Summary of Correspondence
6 November 2024	SB24-1192	Privacy of natural persons [REDACTED]	Legislation Allowing Multiple Accounts per ICP for Solar Energy Systems
11 November 2024	SB24-1209	[REDACTED]	Discussion points - Jackson Electrical Industries Visit Simeon Brown and Greg Fleming
11 November 2024	SB24-1211	[REDACTED]	Electricity Price Increases
12 November 2024	SB24-1219	[REDACTED]	Renewable energy, non-renewable energy and EVs
12 November 2024	SB24-1222	[REDACTED]	Contact energy phasing out low user rates
12 November 2024	SB24-1227	[REDACTED]	Vector and LV cables
19 November 2024	SB24-1235	[REDACTED]	Legislation to ensure lines companies elections are truly democratic
19 November 2024	SB24-1237	[REDACTED]	Contact information for developing wind farms
20 November 2024	SB24-1233	[REDACTED]	Genesis Energy gas bottle prices
20 November 2024	SB24-1249	[REDACTED]	Reconsideration of New Zealand's nuclear-free stance
25 November 2024	SB24-1258	[REDACTED]	Nuclear power to provide the power for their AI and data centers
29 November 2024	SB24-1200	[REDACTED]	Visit to Glenbrook steelworks

5. Ministerial Official Information Act Requests

Due date to the office	Tracking number	Requester	Summary of request	Status	Sign Out Manager
6 November 2024	OIA24-410	Privacy of natural persons	Correspondence in the last year relating to fuel used on marine vessels	Scoping	Dominic Kebbell
6 November 2024	OIA24-412		Correspondence Budget 2024	Initiation	Hannah Keat
8 November 2024	OIA24-415		Copies of documents	Initiation	Dominic Kebbell
12 November 2024	OIA24-248		Copies of documents	Initiation	Dominic Kebbell

6. Departmental Official Information Act Requests

Due date to the office	Tracking number	Requester	Summary of request	Status	Sign Out Manager
13 November 2024	REQ-0005191	Privacy of natural persons	Copies of documents	Initiation	Dominic Kebbell

7. Output plan

Confidential advice to Government

Confidential advice to Government

Confidential advice to Government

Confidential advice to Government



Energy Portfolio Weekly Report

Week commencing:	11/11/2024	Priority:	Medium
Security classification:	In Confidence	Tracking number:	BRIEFING-REQ-0005966

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

8 November 2024

Minister's comments:

**Energy Portfolio
Officials' Meeting Agenda
2:45 pm – 3:45 pm Tuesday 12 November 2024**

Item	Subject	People	Oral Item / Paper #	Action Required
Confidential advice to Government	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Confidential advice to Government	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
3.	CCUS	Sharon Corbett	BRIEFING-REQ-0006159	Discussion
4.	Decommissioning under the CMA	Bruce Parkes Susan Hall	BRIEFING-REQ-0003090 Briefing #: 2425-0771	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
Justine Cannon	General Manager, Energy Markets
Bruce Parkes	General Manager, Resource Markets
Susan Hall	Policy Director, Resource Markets
Sharon Corbett	Policy Director, Energy Markets
Rebecca Heerdegen	Policy Director, Energy Markets
Jamie Kerr	Chief Advisor, Climate
Scott Russell	Manager, Energy Use Policy

Key Updates

Title	Comment
<p>Implementing Electrify NZ</p> <p>Daniel Brown <small>Privacy of natural persons</small></p>	<p>You met with the Minister for Resource Management Reform on 15 October 2024 and agreed the policy for amendments to the National Policy Statements for Renewable Electricity Generation and Electricity Transmission, subject to further advice on some technical drafting matters. We will continue targeted engagement to fine-tune the policy and drafting prior to public consultation in February 2024. We are providing an Electrify NZ programme update briefing in the week commencing 18 November.</p> <p>To allow more time to refine the Fast-track Bill, the Minister for Resource Management Reform and the Minister for Regional Development have agreed to adjust the timing for Cabinet consideration of the Amendment Paper, and the dates for final Parliamentary stages. The key dates are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 November - Second reading • 5 December – LEG Committee • 9 December – Cabinet • 10 – 12 December – Committee of the Whole House • 17 December – Third reading
<p>New permitting regime for offshore renewable energy</p> <p>Melanee Beatson <small>Privacy of natural persons</small></p>	<p>We sent you an updated draft Bill and LEG paper on 7 November 2024. We are on for track for lodging on 14 November, and consideration at LEG on 21 November 2024.</p>
<p>Hazards from Trees</p> <p>Tamara Linnhoff <small>Privacy of natural persons</small></p>	<p>Confidential advice to Government</p> <p>[Redacted content]</p>

Stakeholder Updates

Title	Comment
<p>NZAS ownership change completed</p> <p>Tamara Linnhoff <small>Privacy of natural persons</small></p>	<p>Rio Tinto became the sole owner of New Zealand Aluminium Smelter (NZAS) on 1 November 2024 after acquiring Sumitomo Chemical Company's (SCC's) 20.64% interest.</p> <p>Rio Tinto commented that: "This step, along with recently signed electricity arrangements to secure the future of the Tiwai Point smelter, reinforces our long-term commitment to New Zealand."</p>
<p>ERANZ investment report</p> <p>Tamara Linnhoff <small>Privacy of natural persons</small></p>	<p>A Concept Consulting report commissioned by the Electricity Retailers' Association of New Zealand (ERANZ) (members are mostly the vertically integrated gentailers) indicated that billions have been invested in renewable generation over the past 20 years.</p> <p>The report states that gentailers are rapidly developing new energy sources and replacing thermal generation with renewables, despite the future of Tiwai, changes in ETS policy, fluctuations in gas supply, and concerns about transmission capacity creating uncertainty for investors. It indicated that around 5,000 GWh/year of new renewable generation will be built in the coming years, roughly enough to power 625,000 additional homes.</p>
<p>OECD macro-economic report</p> <p>Tamara Linnhoff <small>Privacy of natural persons</small></p> <p>Sharon Corbett <small>Privacy of natural persons</small></p>	<p>The OECD publishes an annual assessment of the global economic situation which includes a short chapter summarising developments and providing projections for each OECD member country. The 2025 report is due to be tabled at the OECD Economic Policy Committee on 21 and 22 November 2024.</p> <p>The New Zealand chapter comments on the New Zealand electricity sector:</p> <p><i>"The government should foster productivity growth by increasing competition, including through lowering barriers to entry for digital banking platforms, and separating the generation and retail operations of large electricity companies. It should also implement a bi-partisan energy strategy to reduce policy uncertainty, which is holding back greater energy investment in electricity generation and gas."</i></p> <p>The OECD recommendation to split generators and retailers may attract media attention when this report is published by the OECD, expected to be in early December 2024. Should you wish, we can provide media lines before this is published.</p>
<p>Meeting with Business Onehunga</p> <p>Tamara Linnhoff <small>Privacy of natural persons</small></p>	<p>We met with Business Onehunga on Tuesday 5 November 2024 to discuss the repeated outages that they have experienced this year. We will reach out to Vector to discuss these outages further and depending on the outcome of that conversation, discuss Vector's regulatory requirements with the Commerce Commission.</p> <p>More general advice on outages was sent to your Office on Friday 8 November.</p>
<p>Clarus – biogas project at Reporoa</p> <p>Dominic Kebbell <small>Privacy of natural persons</small></p>	<p>On Wednesday 6 November 2024, Clarus announced that the First Renewables biogas upgrade facility, located at the Ecogas Reporoa Organics Processing Facility in Reporoa, is now in production. This is the first commercial injection of biomethane into the New Zealand pipeline and shows its use is technically viable now. There are a several other projects across the country that are investigating the feasibility of biomethane injection in other parts of the pipeline. Biomethane is chemically equivalent to natural gas (methane).</p>

**GIC Quarterly
report**

Dominic Kebbell

Privacy of natural persons

GIC have provided you with a copy of their new quarterly report (September 2024). We understand they intend to release the report on their website on Monday 11 November 2024. Given the increase in interest in gas supplies and the attention previous GIC quarterly reports have received it is likely there will be some media attention, although this could be limited to energy specific media.

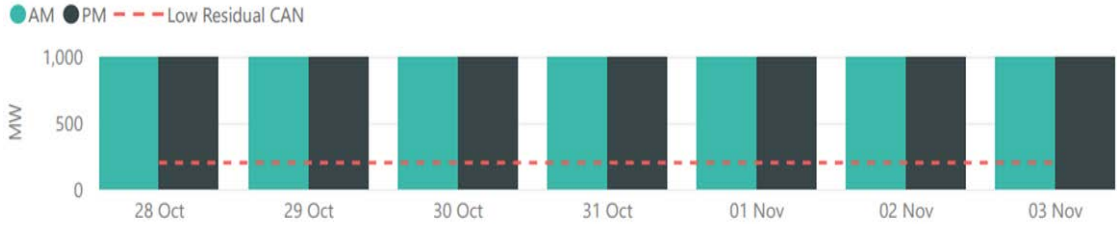
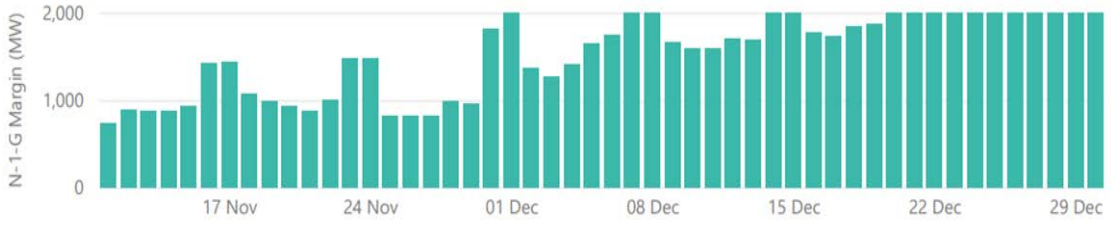
Key messages

- Expect gas markets to remain stressed into 2025.
- Production continues to be below forecasts.
- Q3 production is down 25% compared to the same period last year.
- Commercial and industrial gas prices have increased over the past year.
- Typical demand is expected to exceed supply across the next three years.
- Short term improvements should not lessen efforts to secure long-term supply.
- Number of industrial & commercial customers having difficulty in getting gas contracts is reducing.
- Highlights the value of a deal for Methanex to release gas for winter 2025 and 2026.
- Crown Minerals Act changes will not result in discovery and development of new gas fields in the short term but may encourage companies to increase investment in existing fields, thereby extending their lifespan.
- Continue to work with the sector on LNG feasibility – study expected at the end of November 2024.
- Current assessment is meeting May 2026 timeline will be possible but challenging.
- GIC's 2024 Supply and Demand study will be released this month – scenarios will cover introducing LNG, Methanex's exit and increased use of renewable energy.

Current appointments

Confidential advice to Government

Other Updates

Title	Comment
<p>Mid-point review of the LFC phase-out</p> <p>Tamara Linnhoff <small>Privacy of natural persons</small></p>	<p>Confidential advice to Government</p>
<p>Gas security of supply</p> <p>Dominic Kebbell <small>Privacy of natural persons</small></p>	<p>Industry analysts report Methanex has ramped up production at one of its Motunui plants to capacity. Given previous statements that they will only be restarting one plant this is likely the extent of the resumption of production. Maui and Pohokura dispatch has increased to meet increased demand at Motunui. Despite this increase it appears that Pohokura and Maui are producing at a slightly lower rate that they did prior to Methanex pausing operation. This is likely a sign they are adjusting supply to meet a reduced demand.</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 3 November)</p> <p>Residual generation margins were healthy with more than 1000 MW during all peaks last week. Healthy residual was due to consistently high wind generation over most peaks and further declining demand. Residuals for week to 27 October 2024 were above the preferred 200MW threshold.</p> <p>Lowest Residual Points - MW</p>  <p>Source: System Operator, Market Operations - Weekly Market Movements</p> <p>Forecast N-1-G margins are currently healthy.</p> <p>The N-1-G margin is sufficient to meet peak demand in the look-ahead through to the end of December 2024:</p> <p>NZGB Look-Ahead (excluding next 7 days)</p>  <p>Source: System Operator, Market Operations - Weekly Market Movements</p> <p>ENERGY (HYDRO) STORAGE RELATIVE TO MEAN (for the week to 3 November)</p> <p>National hydro storage increased from 120% to 122% of the historic mean last week. North Island hydro storage increased from 119% to 124% of the historic mean for this time of year and South Island storage increased slightly from 121% to 122%.</p>

ENERGY (HYDRO) STORAGE LEVEL BY MAJOR LAKE

Thursday 7 November 2024

UPSTREAM

Water

		Last	Δ	Previous	Change	1 Day	1 Week
Hydro system storage	% LT avg	122.2%	▼	122.5%	-0.2%	-0.2%	+1.6%
Pukaki - Meridian	% full	65.4%	▲	64.8%	+0.6%	+0.6%	+5.5%
Manapouri - Meridian	% full	100.0%	▼	103.9%	-3.9%	-3.9%	-8.3%
Tekapo - Genesis	% full	-51.8%	▼	73.2%	-125.0%	-125.0%	-124.7%
Hawea - Contact	% full	80.6%	▲	80.0%	+0.6%	+0.6%	+4.8%
Taupo - Mercury	% full	80.7%	▼	81.4%	-0.7%	-0.7%	0.0%

Source: Enerlytica

Month-to date, 7-day average and Daily average spot prices (at Tuesday 5 November)

Node:	Month-to-date	7-day Avg	Daily Avg
Benmore	\$27.31	\$23.46	\$63.25
Haywards	\$28.63	\$25.07	\$65.28
Otahuhu	\$33.65	\$29.56	\$78.17

Source: Energy Link EnergyTrendz Daily

ELECTRICITY ('ENERGY') SUPPLY RISK (at 3 November)

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

New Zealand Energy Risk

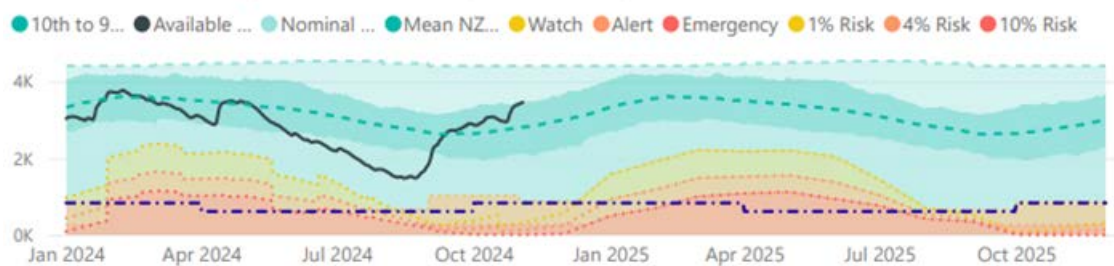


South Island Energy Risk



Normal Watch Alert Emergency

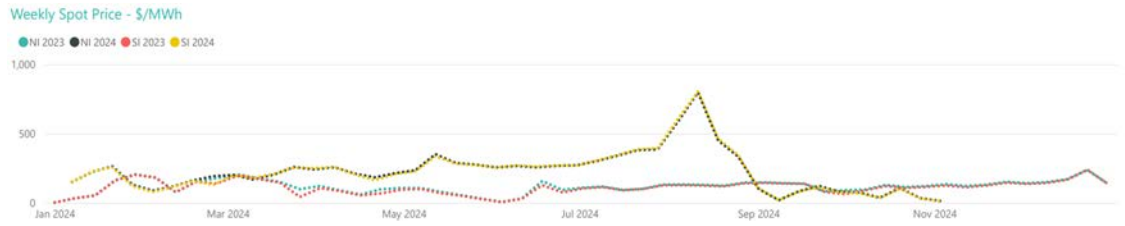
New Zealand Electricity Risk Status Curves (Available GWh)



As discussed, further detail/context on the risk curves will be provided when Transpower next updates the Electricity Risk Curves (ERC) later in November.

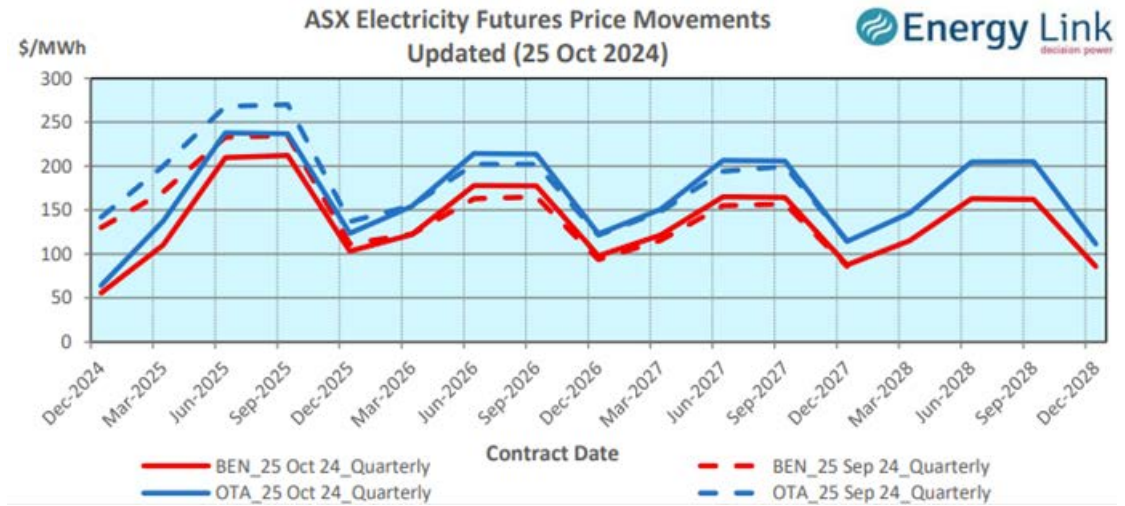
WHOLESALE ELECTRICITY PRICES

Weekly Spot Price (week ended 3 November)



Source: System Operator, Market Operations - Weekly Market Movements

ASX Electricity Futures Prices (as at 25 October)



Source: Energy Link, Energy Trendz Weekly

Weekly fuel price monitoring

Maria Botes
Privacy of natural persons

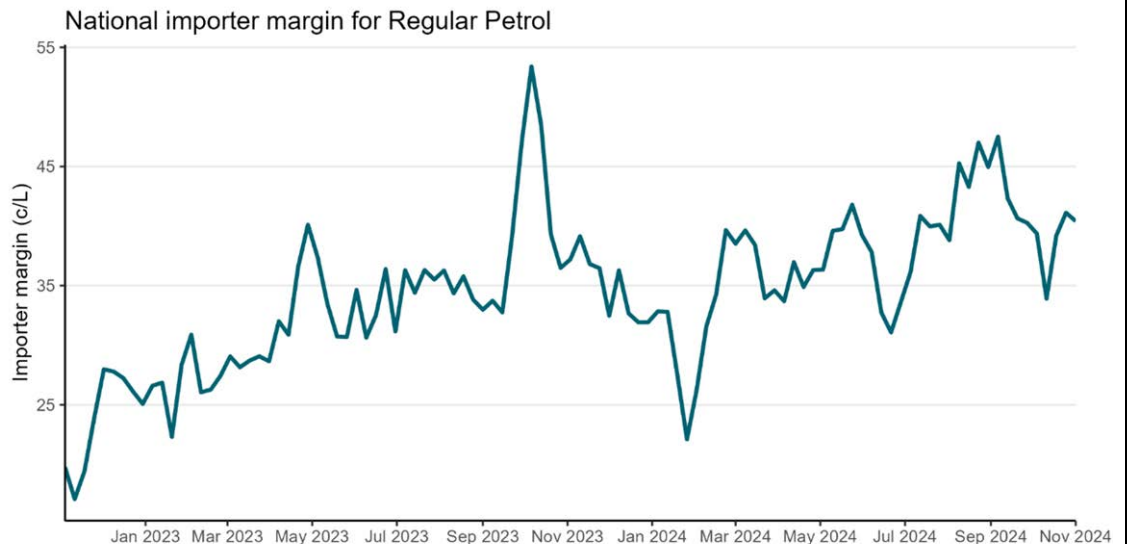
International oil prices

Crude oil prices fell slightly in the week ending 1 November, offset slightly by a weakening New Zealand dollar.

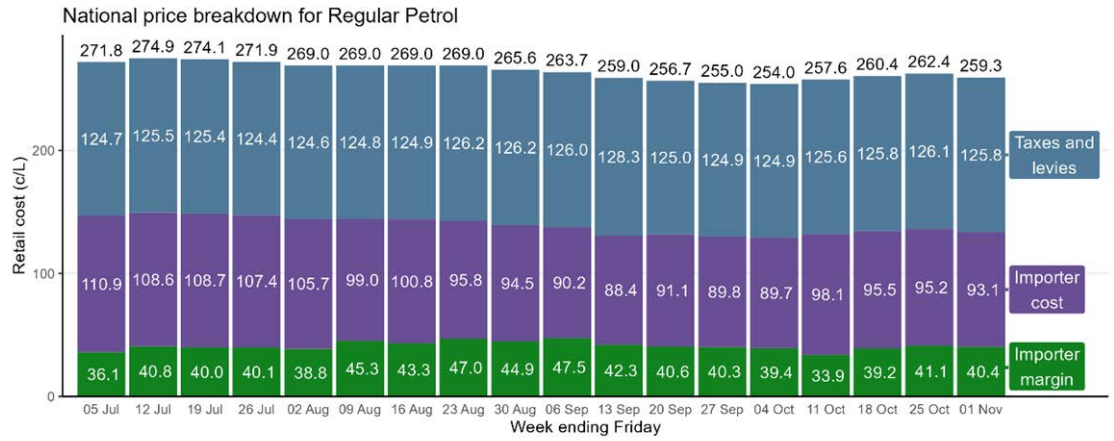
National average fuel margins

In the week ending 1 November, retail prices decreased 3.2 c/L for regular petrol, while importer margins decreased 0.7 c/L to 40.4 c/L.

National level importer margins for regular petrol over the past two years are shown below.



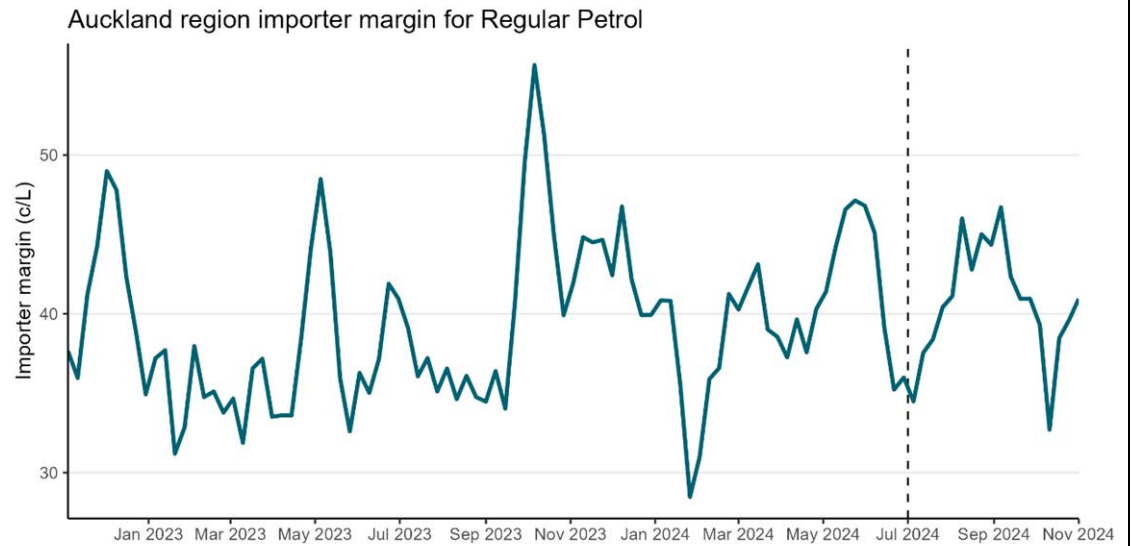
The price breakdown for the past four months is shown below.



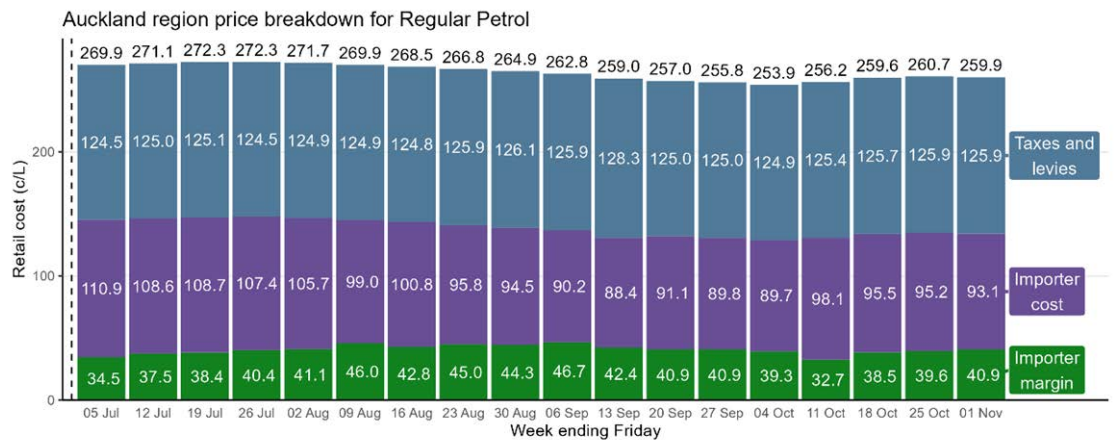
Auckland fuel margins

In the week ending 1 November, retail prices decreased 0.8 c/L for regular petrol, while importer margins increased 1.3 c/L to 40.9 c/L.

Importer margins for regular petrol in the Auckland region over the past two years are shown below. The dashed line shows the removal of the Auckland Regional Fuel Tax.



The price breakdown for the past four months is shown below.



<p>New Zealand Attendance at E3 Programme Energy and Climate Change Ministerial Council (ECMC) meeting</p> <p>Scott Russell <small>Privacy of natural persons</small></p>	<p>In September, we briefed you on New Zealand's participation in the trans-Tasman Equipment Energy Efficiency (E3) Programme [2425-0874 refers]. The Energy and Climate Change Ministerial (ECMC) is the ministerial governance body that oversees the E3 Programme and will convene for its next meeting in Canberra on 6 December 2024.</p> <p>The ECMC is typically attended in person by Australian State Ministers for Energy and Climate Change, while New Zealand Ministers have usually either voted in absentia, attended virtually, or delegated attendance to a senior official from MBIE. The agenda for the December ECMC has yet to be finalised, but we anticipate ECMC Ministers will consider a policy paper on regulating heat pump water heaters, a decision Regulatory Impact Statement (DRIS) on chillers and a draft Australian determination on LEDs. It is unlikely that there will be any major issues for New Zealand as a result of these papers.</p> <p>Given the highly technical nature of the agenda items, MBIE recommends that you do not attend. We also do not consider it necessary for you to delegate attendance to a proxy, as MBIE will attend the preceding senior officials meetings where the same agenda items will be considered. Instead, we recommend that any New Zealand ministerial votes for ECMC are cast via email with the ECMC Secretariat. MBIE will seek your agreement to the proposed votes once the ECMC agenda and meeting papers have been finalised (likely in late November).</p> <p>We will continue to provide advice on your attendance at ECMC meetings going forward.</p>
<p>Electricity Authority 2025/26 levy consultation</p> <p>Jacqui Bassett <small>Privacy of natural persons</small></p>	<p>The Electricity Authority (the Authority) has signalled that it plans to commence its 2025/26 levy consultation in mid-November 2024 (exact timing still to be confirmed at time of writing) for a preferred increase to its main operating appropriation of 6.9 per cent (\$7.8 million).</p> <p>The proposed increase is primarily to fund an uplift for the system operator, Transpower, of \$5.7 million. It also includes an uplift for the Authority's and other service provider costs of \$1.3 million and \$0.8 million respectively. The Authority expects to include two other options in its levy consultation paper being no funding increase and an increase for the system operator only.</p> <p>The Authority has informed us that it will provide you with a briefing prior to consulting publicly on its proposed 2025/26 levy. This briefing is provided to you on a no surprises basis. You are not required to make any decisions on it.</p> <p>We expect the Authority will provide you with a further briefing in February 2025 that will include a summary of the submissions received during the levy consultation and seek a decision from you on any funding increase for the 2025/26 financial year at that point. This typically then feeds into the Crown's Budget process. We would also expect to provide you with advice in February 2025 on the Authority's funding request.</p>
<p>Release of monthly gas production figures for September 2024</p> <p>Amapola Generosa <small>Privacy of natural persons</small></p>	<p>We will be publishing the September 2024 update of our monthly oil and gas production data on the MBIE website on Thursday 14 November. This shows that net production of natural gas in September 2024 was 9.33 PJ, down 10% on August 2024 levels (10.34 PJ) and down 25% on September 2023 net production. This is the lowest monthly net production of natural gas observed since February 1985. It is possible this is a reaction to decreased demand, particularly as Methanex temporarily ceased production during September.</p> <p>We publish this data regularly, on the second Thursday of each month. Data for a given month is available 6 weeks after month-end.</p>

Work to investigate financial product innovation in the energy sector

Scott Russell

Privacy of natural persons

On 6 November 2024, MBIE officials met with the Centre for Sustainable Finance (CSF) to discuss planned work to support financial product innovation in the energy sector, with funding from the Ministry for the Environment.

The CSF is a private sector led initiative. It is a charitable trust established in 2021 on the recommendation of the Sustainable Finance Forum led by the Aotearoa Circle to coordinate actions to accelerate sustainable finance. The Ministry for the Environment funds the CSF to support delivery of the Minister of Climate Change’s sustainable finance work programme, including development of a sustainable finance strategy and taxonomy to facilitate private investment flows.

CSF plans to undertake research to:

- understand barriers to access to capital in key sectors (beginning with energy),
- identify financial product innovations that financial institutions could adopt to resolve these barriers, and
- find willing partners to trial and demonstrate their use.

The CSF intends to publish a report around mid-2025 with insights for the financial sector, which may also include recommendations for regulation and policy. MBIE will stay informed about this project and provide light-touch feedback at key milestones to improve its policy relevance.

Upcoming Ministerial Items

1. Upcoming Energy meetings

Meeting date	Meeting	Details
Wednesday 13 November 2024 10:30 am – 10:50 am	CEO EECA and Management	Briefing Due: N/A Officials: Rebecca Heerdegen
Wednesday 13 November 2024 10:50 am – 11:10 am	Electricity Authority CEO and Management	Briefing Due: N/A Officials: Justine Cannon
Wednesday 13 November 2024 11:10 am – 11:30 am	Transpower CEO and Management	Briefing Due: N/A Officials: Justine Cannon
Wednesday 13 November 2024 3:30 pm – 3:50 pm	Katherine Rich CEO and Tina Schirr Executive Director Energy Council, Business NZ	Briefing Due: 11 November 2024 Officials required: Justine Cannon
Thursday 14 November 2024 3:45 pm – 4:00 pm	Khan Sayer, New Zealand Grains	Briefing Due: 12 November 2024 Officials: Dominic Kebbell
Thursday 14 November 2024 4:00 pm – 4:30 pm	Octopus, Flick Electric and Electric Kiwi	Briefing Due: 12 November 2024 Officials required: Justine Cannon

2. Upcoming Briefings, Aides Memoires and Cabinet Papers

Project:	Energy content for ERP2	
The ERP is now due to be published in December 2024.		
Project:	CCUS	
Confidential advice to Government		
Project:	Fuel Security Study & Fuel security plan	
w/c 9 December 2024	Briefing	Delivery of draft complete report
Project:	Minimum stockholding obligations	
w/c 16 December 2024	Briefing	Briefing: update on diesel stockholding consultation

Project:	Electrify NZ: National direction package	
w/c 18 November 2024	Joint briefing to Ministers Brown and Bishop	Progress report on development of Electrify NZ RMA policy proposals
Confidential advice to Government		
Project:	Offshore renewable energy – regulations	
December 2024	Briefing	Offshore Renewable Energy – Feasibility permit regulations policy decisions
Project:	Consumer data right for electricity	
Mid November 2024	Briefing	<i>(TBC – pending earlier decisions on timing and delivery)</i> Briefing outlining key feedback from consultation and next steps
Project:	Review of phase-out of LFC regulations	
28 November 2024	Briefing	Final report to Minister on Review findings
Project:	Hazards from Trees Regulations	
Confidential advice to Government		
Confidential advice to Government		
Projects:	Further briefings (not shown on the Ministerial Priorities Output Plan A3)	
Confidential advice to Government		
Confidential advice to Government		

3. Written Parliamentary Questions

None this week.

4. Ministerial Correspondence received

Due date	Tracking number	Correspondent	Summary of Correspondence
11 November 2024	SB24-1209	Privacy of natural persons	Discussion points - Jackson Electrical Industries Visit Simeon Brown and Greg Fleming
11 November 2024	SB24-1211		Electricity Price Increases
12 November 2024	SB24-1219		Renewable energy, non-renewable energy and EVs

12 November 2024	SB24-1222	Privacy of natural persons	Contact energy phasing out low user rates
12 November 2024	SB24-1227		Vector and LV cables
19 November 2024	SB24-1235		Legislation to ensure lines companies elections are truly democratic
19 November 2024	SB24-1237		Contact information for developing wind farms
20 November 2024	SB24-1233		Genesis Energy gas bottle prices
20 November 2024	SB24-1249		Reconsideration of New Zealand's nuclear-free stance
25 November 2024	SB24-1258		Nuclear power to provide the power for their AI and data centres
29 November 2024	SB24-1200		Visit to Glenbrook steelworks

5. Ministerial Official Information Act Requests

Due date to the office	Tracking number	Requester	Summary of request	Status	Sign Out Manager
12 November 2024	OIA24-248	Privacy of natural persons	Copies of documents	Initiation	Dominic Kebbelle
15 November 2024	OIA24-380		Copies of documents	Initiation	Scott Russell
19 November 2024	OIA24-412		Copies of documents	Scoping	Sharon Corbett
20 November 2024	OIA24-454		Electrifying NZ	Initiation	Dominic Kebbelle
20 November 2024	OIA24-455		Electrifying NZ	Initiation	Daniel Brown

6. Departmental Official Information Act Requests

Due date to the office	Tracking number	Requester	Summary of request	Status	Sign Out Manager
13 November 2024	REQ-0005191	Privacy of natural persons	Copies of documents	Initiation	Dominic Kebbelle
22 November 2024	REQ-0005929		Correspondence with BlueFloat in 2024	Initiation	Melanie Beatson

7. Output plan

Confidential advice to Government

Confidential advice to Government

Confidential advice to Government

Confidential advice to Government



Energy Portfolio Weekly Report

Week commencing:	18/11/2024	Priority:	Medium
Security classification:	In Confidence	Tracking number:	BRIEFING-REQ-0006223

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

15 November 2024

Minister's comments:

**Energy Portfolio
Officials' Meeting Agenda
3:30 pm – 4:30 pm Tuesday 19 November 2024**

Item	Subject	People	Oral Item / Paper #	Action Required
1.	Hazards from Trees – Confidential advice to Government	Osmond Borthwick Tamara Linnhoff	BRIEFING-REQ-0003203	Discussion
2.	Electricity Market	Justine Cannon	Oral	Discussion
3.	Confidential advice to Government			
	Confidential advice to Government			
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 (Tentative)
Justine Cannon	General Manager, Energy Markets
Sharon Corbett	Policy Director, Energy Markets
Rebecca Heerdegen	Policy Director, Energy Markets
Tamara Linnhoff	Manager, Electricity Policy
Osmond Borthwick	Strategic Advisor, Electricity Policy
Gareth Wilson	Strategic Advisor, Electricity Policy
Stephen Tat	Principal Advisor, Electricity Policy

Key Updates

Title	Comment
<p>Implementing Electrify NZ</p> <p>Daniel Brown <small>Privacy of natural persons</small></p>	<p>The second reading of the Fast-Track Approvals Bill occurred on 13 November. The LEG Committee will consider an amendment paper on 5 December 2024. The Bill is on track to become legislation in December 2024, with applications for fast-track approvals to be accepted from February 2025.</p> <p>You met with the Minister for Resource Management Reform on 15 October 2024 and agreed the policy for amendments to the National Policy Statements for Renewable Electricity Generation and Electricity Transmission, subject to further advice on some technical drafting matters. We will continue targeted engagement to fine-tune the policy and drafting prior to public consultation in February 2025. We are providing an Electrify NZ programme update briefing on 21 November 2024.</p>
<p>New permitting regime for offshore renewable energy</p> <p>Melanee Beatson <small>Privacy of natural persons</small></p>	<p>We lodged the LEG paper seeking agreement to introduce the Offshore Renewable Energy Bill on 14 November 2024.</p> <p>We are working on the associated regulations and the notice setting out the terms of the first feasibility permitting round. We plan to seek decisions from you on the content of permitting regulations in mid-December 2024.</p>
<p>Hazards from Trees</p> <p>Tamara Linnhoff <small>Privacy of natural persons</small></p>	<p>Following our meeting with PMO to discuss details of the Phase 2 proposal, on Monday 11 November 2024 we provided you with an amended version of the Cabinet Paper, responding to PMO’s questions and concerns.</p> <p>We are seeking your feedback on the substantive change discussed with PMO, to restrict the scope of the reforms to commercial plantation forestry and so reduce the impact on residential tree owners. Confidential advice to Government</p> <p>[Redacted]</p> <p>[Redacted]</p>
<p>Consumer Data Right update</p> <p>Scott Russell <small>Privacy of natural persons</small></p>	<p>Public consultation closed in mid-October on designating the electricity and banking sectors for a potential consumer data right under the Customer and Product Data Bill. <small>Confidential advice to Government</small></p> <p>[Redacted]</p> <p>[Redacted]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ [Redacted] ■ [Redacted] ■ [Redacted] ■ [Redacted] ■ [Redacted]

Confidential advice to Government



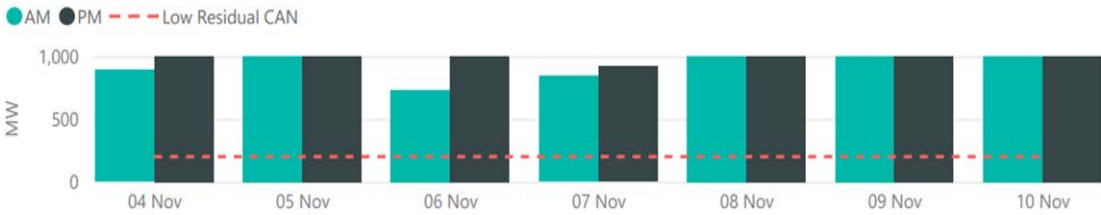
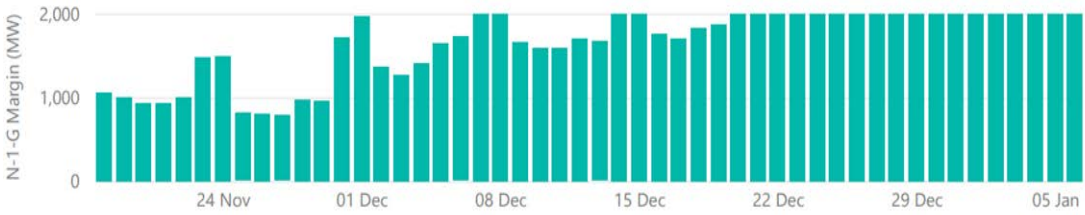
Stakeholder Updates

Title	Comment
<p>Meeting with Ecotricity</p> <p>Tamara Linnhoff <small>Privacy of natural persons</small></p>	<p>Ecotricity sought a meeting with you but you were unable to meet due to diary pressures. At your office's request, we met Mark Yates (CEO) and Al Yates (Director) last week.</p> <p>Ecotricity are owned by Genesis Energy. Ecotricity argue that significant investment in solar generation and batteries (household, commercial and grid-scale) could help meet all of NZ's electricity needs, including extended low hydro periods, and want distributors to be required to offer credits/rebates for any electricity injected by consumers at peak times to incentivise investment. We note this is a measure under consideration by the Energy Competition Task Force. Ecotricity believe importing LNG would be more expensive for consumers than directing investment towards overbuilding solar generation and batteries.</p>
<h1>Confidential advice to Government</h1>	
<p>New generation updates</p> <p>Tamara Linnhoff <small>Privacy of natural persons</small></p>	<p>Contact: TCC availability 2025 Te Mihi Stage 2 geothermal. On Monday Contact Energy publicly announced it will no longer decommission its 330 MW Taranaki Combined Cycle (TCC) gas fired plant at the end of 2024. Instead, it will be available throughout 2025 on a five-day recall notice period. A technical assessment indicated TCC has approximately 3000 operating hours left. Contact does not currently anticipate TCC being required in 2025 and so “does not intend to contract gas for the plant unless market participants express a demand for it, linked to a gas purchase arrangement”. TCC plans to back-up unplanned outages via its Stratford Peakers.</p> <p>Te Mihi Stage 2 geothermal power station development confirmed. On Wednesday Contact announced it is proceeding with a \$712m investment in Te Mihi Stage 2, a new 101MW geothermal plant. The 1950's Wairakei geothermal station has been extended until mid-2027 when Te Mihi Stage 2 is expected to come online. Altogether, the net increase is around 22 MW. Contact will retain 67MW of Wairakei's 157MW capacity until resource consents expire in mid-2031, when Te Mihi Stage 3 is due to come online subject to a final investment decision.</p> <p>Eastland Generation has received fast-track approval for its Taheke geothermal project. The ~35 MW development in Rotorua is in partnership with iwi land incorporation Taheke 8C, and should deliver around 291 GWh per annum, by 2028.</p> <p>Construction has begun at a new 21MW solar farm near Maungaturoto, Northland. This is a joint venture between Tupu Tonu - Ngāpuhi Investment Fund, Purpose Capital and Harbour Infrastructure. Ryman Healthcare has signed a ten-year power purchase agreement (PPA) for exclusive access to the 32GWh supply. The sleeved deal includes Mercury providing firming when solar generation is low, and purchasing any surplus generation.</p>
<p>OpenStar fusion generates plasma</p> <p>Tamara Linnhoff <small>Privacy of natural persons</small></p>	<p>Fusion energy startup OpenStar Technology has generated plasma – super-hot ionised gas – for the first time, during tests at Ngauranga Gorge, Wellington. This is a major prerequisite for attempts to achieve hydrogen-fuelled fusion and is being celebrated as a significant step forward in clean tech innovation for zero-emissions generation in New Zealand.</p>

Confidential advice to Government



Other Updates

Title	Comment																																																																																
<p>Electricity security of supply</p> <p>Tamara Linnhoff <small>Privacy of natural persons</small></p>	<p>ELECTRICITY CAPACITY (for the week to Sunday 10 November 2024)</p> <p>Residual generation margins were healthy last week with most peaks over 1,000 MW. The lowest residual was on Wednesday due to very low wind generation however it remained healthy at above 700MW.</p> <p>Residuals for week to 10 November 2024 were well above the preferred 200MW threshold.</p> <p>Lowest Residual Points - MW</p>  <p><i>Source: System Operator, Market Operations - Weekly Market Movements</i></p> <p>Forecast N-1-G margins are currently healthy for November and December.</p> <p>The N-1-G margin is sufficient to meet peak demand in the look-ahead through to early January 2025:</p> <p>NZGB Look-Ahead (excluding next 7 days)</p>  <p><i>Source: System Operator, Market Operations - Weekly Market Movements</i></p> <p>ENERGY (HYDRO) STORAGE RELATIVE TO MEAN (for the week to 10 November)</p> <p>National hydro storage has increased from 122% to 130% of average for this time of year. South Island storage increased significantly from 122% to 131% of its historical mean, while North Island storage remained at 124%.</p> <p>ENERGY (HYDRO) STORAGE LEVEL BY MAJOR LAKE</p> <p>Wednesday 13 November 2024</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="363 1536 1458 1821"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2"></th> <th>Last</th> <th>Δ</th> <th>Previous</th> <th>Change</th> <th>1 Day</th> <th>1 Week</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td colspan="2">UPSTREAM</td> <td colspan="6"></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Water</td> <td colspan="6"></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"></td> <td colspan="2">Daily</td> <td colspan="4"></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hydro system storage</td> <td>% LT avg</td> <td>129.0%</td> <td>▲</td> <td>125.5%</td> <td>+3.5%</td> <td>+3.5%</td> <td>+6.6%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pukaki - Meridian</td> <td>% full</td> <td>76.3%</td> <td>▲</td> <td>74.9%</td> <td>+1.4%</td> <td>+1.4%</td> <td>+11.5%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Manapouri - Meridian</td> <td>% full</td> <td>85.6%</td> <td>▼</td> <td>88.9%</td> <td>-3.3%</td> <td>-3.3%</td> <td>-18.3%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tekapo - Genesis</td> <td>% full</td> <td>91.1%</td> <td>▲</td> <td>89.8%</td> <td>+1.3%</td> <td>+1.3%</td> <td>+17.9%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hawea - Contact</td> <td>% full</td> <td>93.6%</td> <td>▲</td> <td>92.9%</td> <td>+0.7%</td> <td>+0.7%</td> <td>+13.6%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Taupo - Mercury</td> <td>% full</td> <td>82.1%</td> <td>▼</td> <td>82.9%</td> <td>-0.8%</td> <td>-0.8%</td> <td>+0.7%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><i>Source: Enerlytica</i></p>			Last	Δ	Previous	Change	1 Day	1 Week	UPSTREAM								Water										Daily						Hydro system storage	% LT avg	129.0%	▲	125.5%	+3.5%	+3.5%	+6.6%	Pukaki - Meridian	% full	76.3%	▲	74.9%	+1.4%	+1.4%	+11.5%	Manapouri - Meridian	% full	85.6%	▼	88.9%	-3.3%	-3.3%	-18.3%	Tekapo - Genesis	% full	91.1%	▲	89.8%	+1.3%	+1.3%	+17.9%	Hawea - Contact	% full	93.6%	▲	92.9%	+0.7%	+0.7%	+13.6%	Taupo - Mercury	% full	82.1%	▼	82.9%	-0.8%	-0.8%	+0.7%
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ELECTRICITY ('ENERGY') SUPPLY RISK (at 10 November)

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

New Zealand Energy Risk



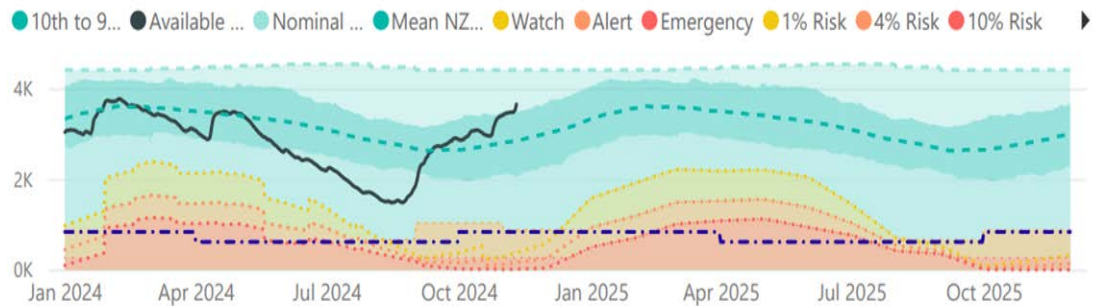
South Island Energy Risk



Normal Watch Alert Emergency

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

New Zealand Electricity Risk Status Curves (Available GWh)



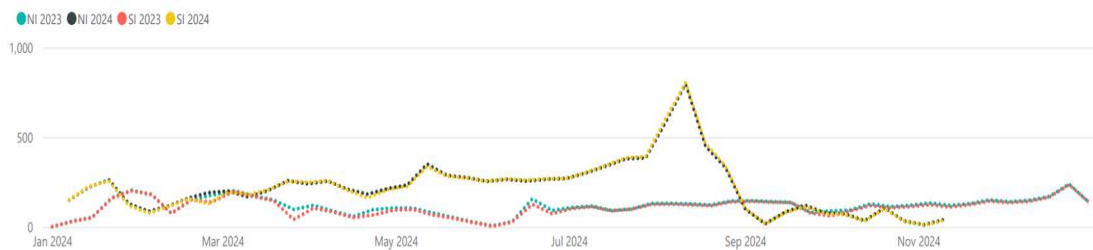
The System Operator last updated the ERC's on 18 October 2024. Commentary on that update is in the Weekly Report of 29 October 2024 [BRIEFING-REQ-0005370 refers]. The next ERC update is expected in approximately one week.

Source: System Operator, Market Operations - Weekly Market Movements

WHOLESALE ELECTRICITY PRICES

Weekly Spot Price (week ended 10 November 2024)

Weekly Spot Price - \$/MWh



Source: System Operator, Market Operations - Weekly Market Movements

Month-to date, 7-day average and Daily average spot prices (at Monday 11 November)

Node:	Month-to-date	7-day Avg	Daily Avg
Benmore	\$30.38	\$37.27	\$24.82
Haywards	\$33.55	\$41.59	\$26.75
Otahuhu	\$39.82	\$49.71	\$36.22

Source: Energy Link EnergyTrendz Daily

	<p>ASX Electricity Futures Prices (as at 8 November 2024)</p> <p>Source: Energy Link, Energy Trendz Weekly</p>
<p>Electricity Authority 2024/25 SPE amendment</p> <p>Jacqui Bassett <small>Privacy of natural persons</small></p>	<p>The Electricity Authority (EA) has provided you with a draft amendment to its 2024/25 Statement of Performance Expectations (SPE). As responsible Minister, you are able to provide the Authority any comments that you may have not later than 15 working days after receiving the draft i.e. by 2 December 2024.</p> <p>The Authority has made this amendment to reflect changes in its operating environment and resulting reprioritisation of its work programme. Given the nature of the amendment, we consider it is unnecessary for you to provide any comments on it.</p> <p>Once the Authority has finalised the SPE amendment and provided you with the required number of copies of the final document, we recommend that you present it to the House of Representatives, in accordance with the Crown Entities Act 2004.</p>
<p>EECA and Electricity Authority first quarter reports</p> <p>Jacqui Bassett <small>Privacy of natural persons</small></p>	<p>The Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (EECA) and the EA have provided you with their first quarterly reports for the 2024/25 financial year. This covers the period 1 July to 30 September 2024.</p> <p>As expected, given it is relatively early into the 2024/25 financial year, we have no particular matters to bring to your attention at this time.</p>
<p>Gas Industry Company reporting</p> <p>Dominic Keibell <small>Privacy of natural persons</small></p>	<p>GIC's September quarterly report</p> <p>GIC have provided you with a copy of their first quarterly report for the 2024/25 financial year. This covers the period 1 July to 30 September 2024. This was released on their website on Monday 11 November. We have not seen any media interest in the report.</p> <p><i>Key messages</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expect gas markets to remain stressed into 2025. • Production continues to be below forecasts. • Q3 production is down 25% compared to the same period last year. • Commercial and industrial gas prices have increased over the past year. • Typical demand is expected to exceed supply across the next three years. • Short term improvements shouldn't lessen efforts to secure long-term supply. • The number of industrial and commercial customers having difficulty in getting gas contracts is reducing. • Highlights the value of a deal for Methanex to release gas for winter 2025 and 2026. • Crown Minerals Act changes will not have short term impact on existing investment plans but may increase longer-term investment in existing fields, thereby extending their lifespan.

- Continuing to work with the sector on LNG feasibility – study expected at the end of November. Current assessment is meeting May 2026 timeline will be possible but challenging.
- 2024 Gas Supply and Demand study will be released in November – scenarios will cover introducing LNG, Methanex’s exit and increased use of renewable energy.

GIC’s 2024 Gas Supply and Demand Study

On Friday 15 November we received a final draft of GIC’s 2024 Gas Supply and Demand Study. We will provide you with a summary of the key points in the next weekly report.

Weekly fuel price monitoring

Maria Botes
 Privacy of natural persons

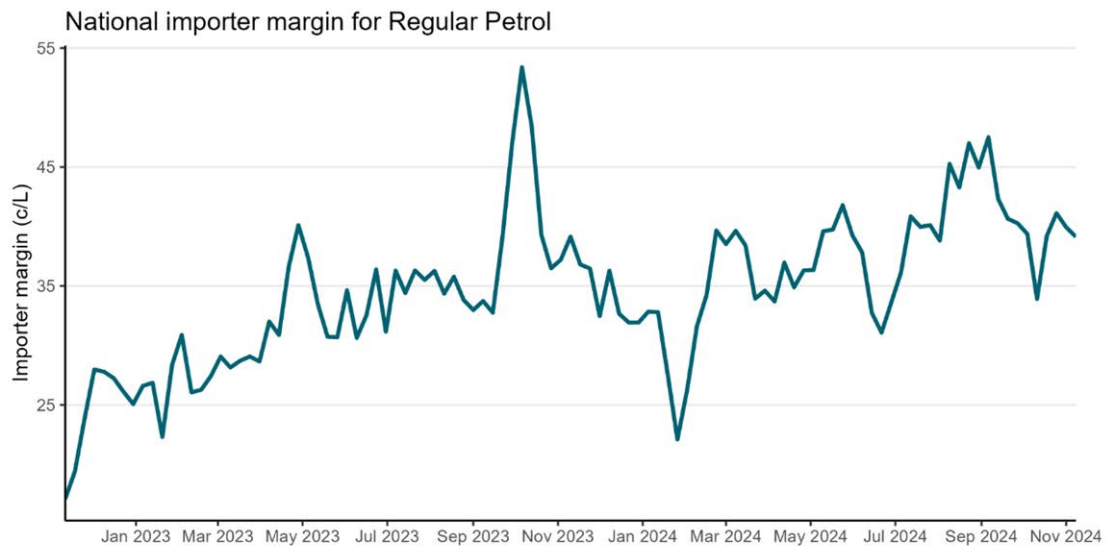
International oil prices

Crude oil prices rose slightly in the week ending 8 November, leading to increased importer costs.

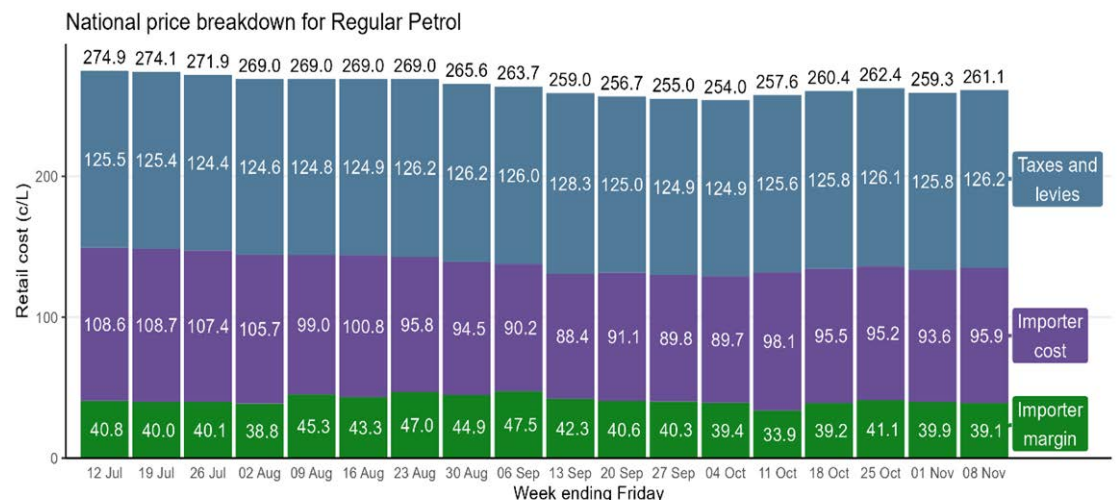
National average fuel margins

In the week ending 8 November, retail prices increased 1.9 c/L for regular petrol, while importer margins decreased 0.8 c/L to 39.9 c/L.

National level importer margins for regular petrol over the past two years are shown below.



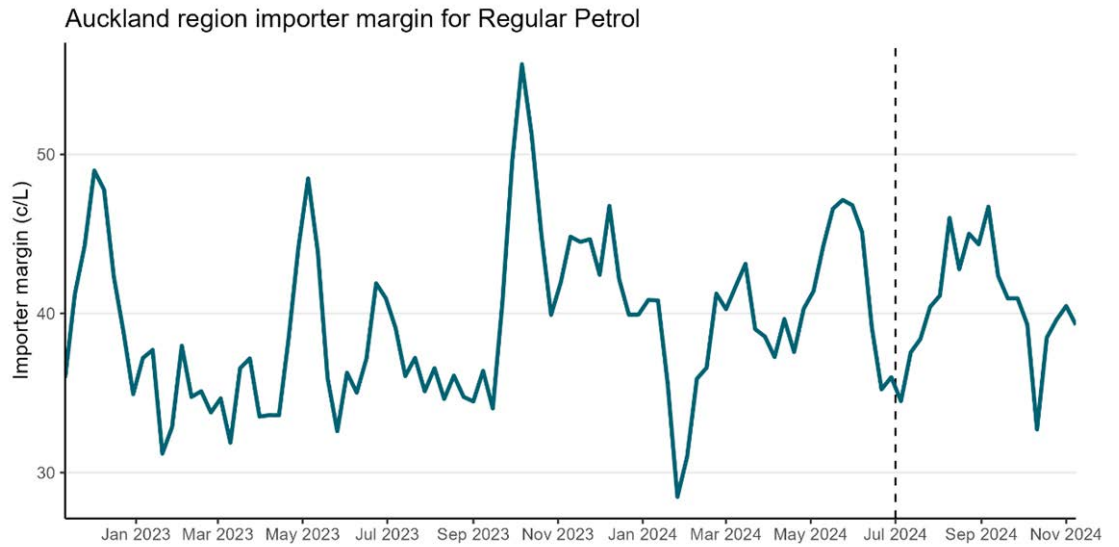
The price breakdown for the past four months is shown below.



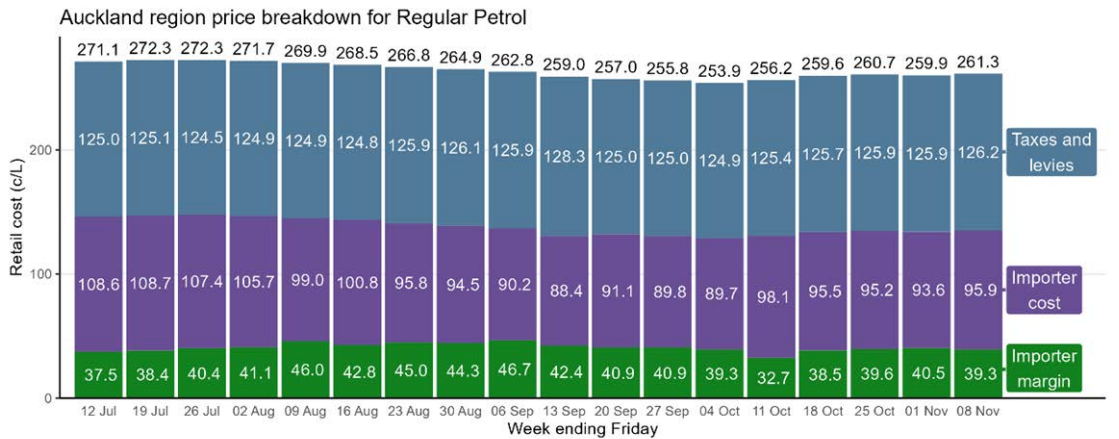
Auckland fuel margins

In the week ending 8 November, retail prices increase 1.4 c/L for regular petrol, while importer margins decreased 1.2 c/L to 39.3 c/L.

Importer margins for regular petrol in the Auckland region over the past two years are shown below. The dashed line shows the removal of the Auckland Regional Fuel Tax.



The price breakdown for the past four months is shown below.



Upcoming Ministerial Items

1. Upcoming Energy meetings

Meeting date	Meeting	Details
Monday 18 November 2024 6:45 pm – 7:30 pm	Electricity Authority Board dinner	Briefing Due: 14 November 2024 Officials required: N/A
Tuesday 19 November 2024 11:30 am – 11:45 am	RE-RECORDED INTERVIEW: Speak at the Murihiku Regeneration Energy, Innovation and Oceans Wananga – 26-27 November 2024	Briefing Due: 11 November 2024 Officials required: N/A
Tuesday 19 November 2024 4:00 pm – 4:15 pm	CEO Plus Power: Brandon Keefe: Battery Energy Storage Development	Briefing Due: 19 November 2024 Officials required: Tamara Linnhoff

2. Upcoming Briefings, Aides Memoires and Cabinet Papers

Project:	Energy content for ERP2	
The ERP is now due to be published in December 2024.		
Project:	CCUS	
Confidential advice to Government		
Project:	Fuel Security Study & Fuel security plan	
w/c 9 December 2024	Briefing	Delivery of draft complete report
Project:	Minimum stockholding obligations	
w/c 16 December 2024	Briefing	Briefing: update on diesel stockholding consultation
Project:	Electrify NZ: National direction package	
w/c 18 November 2024	Joint briefing to Ministers Brown and Bishop	Progress report on development of Electrify NZ RMA policy proposals
Confidential advice to Government		
Project:	Offshore renewable energy – regulations	
December 2024	Briefing	Offshore Renewable Energy – Feasibility permit regulations policy decisions

Project:	Consumer data right for electricity	
Confidential advice to Government		
Project:	Review of phase-out of LFC regulations	
28 November 2024 (TBC)	Briefing	Report for the Minister on the Review's findings
Project:	Hazards from Trees Regulations	
Confidential advice to Government		
Projects:	Further briefings (not shown on the Ministerial Priorities Output Plan A3)	
22 November 2024	Briefing	Information on Marsden Point Energy Precinct

3. Written Parliamentary Questions

None this week.

4. Ministerial Correspondence received

Due date	Tracking number	Correspondent	Summary of Correspondence
19 November 2024	SB24-1235	Privacy of natural persons	Legislation to ensure lines companies elections are truly democratic
19 November 2024	SB24-1237		Contact information for developing wind farms
20 November 2024	SB24-1233		Genesis Energy gas bottle prices
20 November 2024	SB24-1249		Reconsideration of New Zealand's nuclear-free stance
20 November 2024	SB24-1274		Dams
25 November 2024	SB24-1258		Nuclear power to provide the power for their AI and data centres
29 November 2024	SB24-1200		Visit to Glenbrook steelworks
2 December 2024	SB24-1273		Natural gas in NZ

5. Ministerial Official Information Act Requests

Due date to the office	Tracking number	Requester	Summary of request	Status	Sign Out Manager
19 November 2024	OIA24-412	Privacy of natural persons	Copies of documents	Scoping	Sharon Corbett
20 November 2024	OIA24-454		Electrifying NZ	Initiation	Dominic Kebbelle
20 November 2024	OIA24-455		Electrifying NZ	Initiation	Daniel Brown
25 November 2024	OIA24-463		Blue Float Energy	Initiation	Melanee Beatson
27 November 2024	OIA24-464		Solar panels/solar energy	Initiation	Scott Russell
6 December 2024	OIA24-415		Copies of documents	Initiation	TBC

6. Departmental Official Information Act Requests

Due date to the office	Tracking number	Requester	Summary of request	Status	Sign Out Manager
29 November 2024	OIA213	Privacy of natural persons	Copies of documents	Initiation	Melanee Beatson

7. Output plan

Confidential advice to Government

Confidential advice to Government

Confidential advice to Government

Confidential advice to Government



Energy Portfolio Weekly Report

Week commencing: 25/11/2024

Priority: Medium

Security classification: In Confidence

Tracking number: BRIEFING-REQ-0006475

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

22 November 2024

Minister's comments:

**Energy Portfolio
Officials' Meeting Agenda
9.30 am – 10.30 am Tuesday 26 November 2024**

Item	Subject	People	Oral Item / Paper #	Action Required
1.	Confidential advice to Government [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
2.	Confidential advice to Government [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
3.	Review of Phase-out of LFC Regulations	Tamara Linnhoff John McCabe Ed Smith	Oral	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 (Tentative)
Paul Stocks	Deputy Secretary, Building, Resources and Markets
Justine Cannon	General Manager, Energy Markets
Sharon Corbett	Policy Director, Energy Markets
Tamara Linnhoff	Manager, Electricity Generation, Infrastructure and Markets Policy
John McCabe	Team Lead, Electricity Generation, Infrastructure and Markets Policy
Ed Smith	Principal, Electricity Generation, Infrastructure and Markets Policy

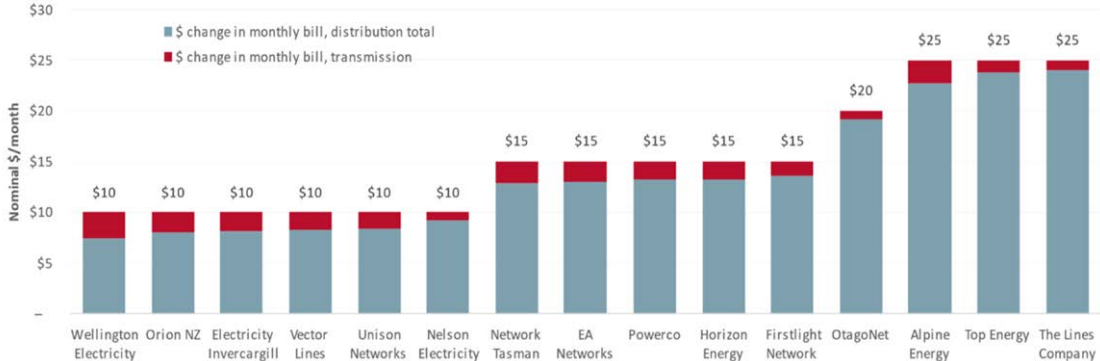
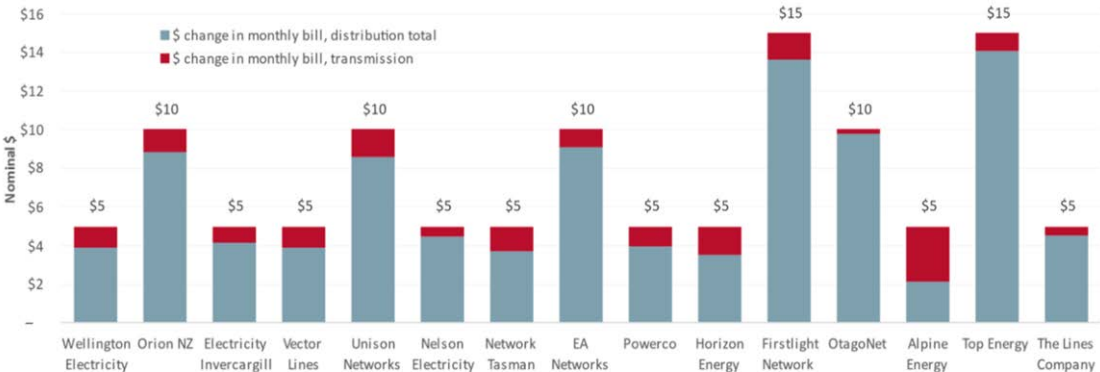
Key Updates

Title	Comment
<p>Implementing Electrify NZ</p> <p>Daniel Brown <small>Privacy of natural persons</small></p>	<p>You met with the Minister for Resource Management Reform on 15 October 2024 and agreed the policy for amendments to the National Policy Statements for Renewable Electricity Generation and Electricity Transmission, subject to further advice on some technical drafting matters. We will continue targeted engagement to fine-tune the policy and drafting prior to public consultation in February 2025.</p> <p>We provided an Electrify NZ programme update briefing on 21 November 2024, which also seeks agreement from you and the Minister for Resource Management Reform to add proposals to enable EV charging infrastructure into the February 2025 package of national direction consultation.</p> <p>Drafting is continuing on the Fast-track Amendment Paper alongside review by a panel of commercial lawyers on the Bill's workability.</p>
<p>Commerce Commission fuel regulatory function funding</p> <p>Dominic Kebbell <small>Privacy of natural persons</small></p>	<p>The Commerce Commission currently receives around \$3 million of Crown funding for its fuel regulatory work. The Commission's work has encouraged greater competition in the fuel industry, which benefits consumers.</p> <p>Confidential advice to Government</p> <p>[Redacted]</p> <p>[Redacted]</p> <p>[Redacted]</p>

Quarterly Reporting Update

Please provide any feedback by COB Monday 25 November 2024.

#	Action Item	Due Month	Delivery Update	Critical Contextual Information (if applicable)	Delivery Status
6	Introduce legislation to make it easier to build offshore wind farms.	Dec	<p>Introduction of the Offshore Renewable Energy Bill was considered by LEG on 21 November [TBC and confirmed by Cabinet on 25 November 2024].</p> <p><small>Confidential advice to Government</small></p> <p>[Redacted]</p>		<i>Probable</i>

Title	Comment
<p>Commerce Commission releases final revenue cap decisions for networks (DDP4 and RCP4)</p> <p>Tamara Linnhoff <small>Privacy of natural persons</small></p>	<p>On 20 November 2024 the Commerce Commission released its final decisions to increase the maximum allowable revenue for local lines companies (DPP4) and Transpower (RCP4). These reflect significant uplift for investments necessary to maintain and upgrade networks over coming years.</p> <p>Estimated impact on bills (combined transmission and distribution)</p> <p>The average household’s monthly electricity bill will rise by approximately \$10 (\$120 annually) for the first year of the five-year regulatory period, starting from 1 April 2025. Without the Commission’s decision to ‘smooth’ revenue recovery over a five-year period, price increases would have been around \$20 per month. The \$10 monthly change is lower than the \$15 that had been estimated in the Commission’s draft determination.</p> <p>After the first year, consumers can expect monthly bills to increase by an average of about \$5, in each of the remaining four years. A breakdown (by regulated lines company) is provided below to show regional variation. There are various reasons for differences, but a significant factor is the number of consumers the costs are spread over.</p> <p>Notably, highest Year 1 increases are expected for customers of Northland’s Top Energy (Northpower is not subject to a revenue cap), and for Alpine Energy (around Timaru) and The Lines Company (Waikato) customers.</p> <p>Estimated bill increases in the first year of new revenue limits (from April 2025 to April 2026)</p>  <p>Estimated bill increases in subsequent years (from 2026 to 2030)</p> 

<p>Independent electricity retailers re-complain to Commerce Commission</p> <p>Tamara Linnhoff <small>Privacy of natural persons</small></p>	<p>Confidential advice to Government</p> <p>[Redacted]</p> <p>[Redacted]</p> <p>[Redacted]</p> <p>[Redacted]</p>
<p>Public Health Communication Centre Energy Poverty Report</p> <p>Scott Russell <small>Privacy of natural persons</small></p>	<p>The Public Health Communication Centre (PHCC) published their Energy Poverty Report on 13 November which has generated some media interest. The PHCC is an independent organisation hosted by the Department of Public Health at the University of Otago. Key findings include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As a proportion of the total household income, the poorest households are spending over 7.5% of their income on electricity. The wealthiest 10% spend only 1.3%. • Around 360,000 NZ households are in Energy Poverty. When housing costs are also taken into account, this jumps to around 595,000 households. <p>We have met with the lead author Dr Kimberley O’Sullivan to understand the findings in more detail and to explore the modelling methodology to compare this work to other publications on energy hardship.</p>

Current appointments

Confidential advice to Government

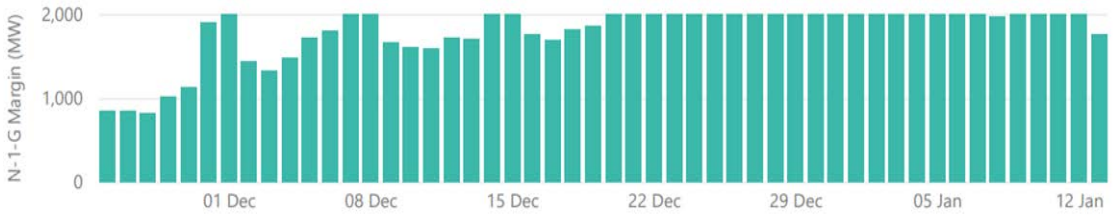


Other Updates

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<p>Mid-point Review of Phase-out of LFC Regulations</p> <p>Tamara Linnhoff <small>Privacy of natural persons</small></p>	<p>Confidential advice to Government</p> <p>[Redacted]</p> <p>[Redacted]</p> <p>[Redacted]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ [Redacted] ■ [Redacted] ■ [Redacted] ■ [Redacted] <p>[Redacted]</p> <p>[Redacted]</p>																								
<p>Gas security of supply</p> <p>Dominic Kebbell <small>Privacy of natural persons</small></p>	<p>New Zealand Energy Corp has stated that gas production from the Tariki-5 well is expected to start in the second half of December 2024. The company is drilling from a sidetrack well, a different point to the primary well, because drilling during October did not achieve the targeted access to gas expected. Genesis Energy has agreed to buy 2PJ of gas from the development if it is successful and there is the possibility of additional spot market sales.</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 17 November 2024)</p> <p>Residual generation margins were healthy last week with most peaks over 500 MW last week. The lowest residual was on 13 November due to very low wind generation and high demand peaks but was 478 MW at the morning peak and 518 MW in the evening.</p> <p>Residuals for week to 10 November 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>11 Nov</td> <td>~950</td> <td>~950</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12 Nov</td> <td>~750</td> <td>~850</td> </tr> <tr> <td>13 Nov</td> <td>~478</td> <td>~518</td> </tr> <tr> <td>14 Nov</td> <td>~750</td> <td>~750</td> </tr> <tr> <td>15 Nov</td> <td>~950</td> <td>~950</td> </tr> <tr> <td>16 Nov</td> <td>~950</td> <td>~950</td> </tr> <tr> <td>17 Nov</td> <td>~950</td> <td>~950</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Source: System Operator, Market Operations - Weekly Market Movements</p> <p>Forecast N-1-G margins are currently healthy for November and December.</p>	Date	AM (MW)	PM (MW)	11 Nov	~950	~950	12 Nov	~750	~850	13 Nov	~478	~518	14 Nov	~750	~750	15 Nov	~950	~950	16 Nov	~950	~950	17 Nov	~950	~950
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The N-1-G margin is sufficient to meet peak demand in the look-ahead through to early January 2025:

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 17 November)

National hydro storage has increased from 130% to 134% of the historic mean last week. North Island hydro storage increased by 5% to 130% of the historic mean for this time of year and South Island storage increased from 131% to 135%.

ENERGY (HYDRO) STORAGE LEVEL BY MAJOR LAKE

Thursday 21 November 2024

UPSTREAM

Water

Hydro system storage	% LT avg	
Pukaki - Meridian	% full	
Manapouri - Meridian	% full	
Tekapo - Genesis	% full	
Hawea - Contact	% full	
Taupo - Mercury	% full	

	Last	Δ	Previous	Change	1 Day	1 Week
	Daily					
Hydro system storage	134.2%	▲	134.1%	+0.1%	+0.1%	+3.2%
Pukaki - Meridian	83.8%	▲	83.2%	+0.6%	+0.6%	+6.6%
Manapouri - Meridian	86.1%	▲	83.9%	+2.2%	+2.2%	+5.0%
Tekapo - Genesis	97.7%	▼	97.9%	-0.2%	-0.2%	+6.3%
Hawea - Contact	96.6%	▼	96.9%	-0.3%	-0.3%	+2.2%
Taupo - Mercury	86.4%	▲	85.7%	+0.7%	+0.7%	+5.0%

Source: Enerlytica

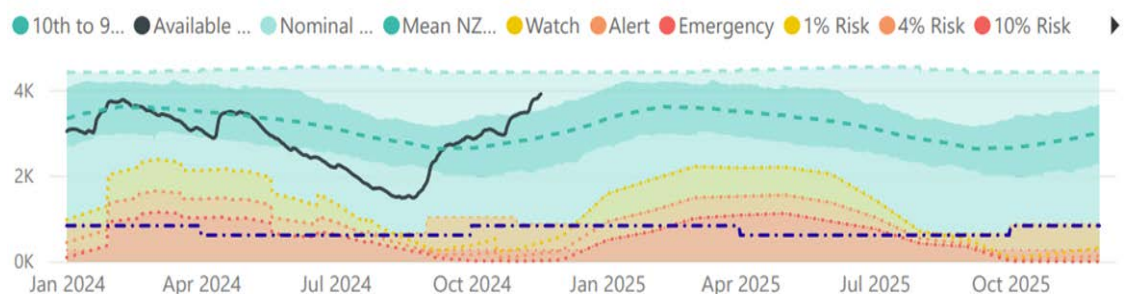
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New Zealand controlled energy storage is above average for this time of year:

New Zealand Electricity Risk Status Curves (Available GWh)

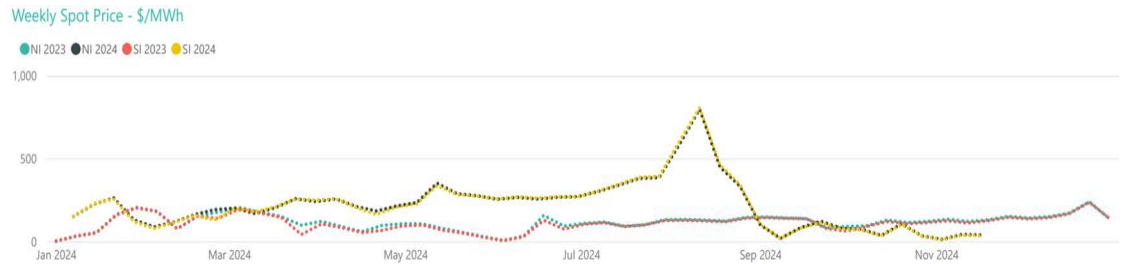


The System Operator last updated the ERCs on 18 October 2024. Commentary on that update is in the weekly report of 29 October 2024 [BRIEFING-REQ-0005370 refers]. The next ERC update is expected in approximately one week.

Source: System Operator, Market Operations - Weekly Market Movements

WHOLESALE ELECTRICITY PRICES

Weekly Spot Price (week ended 17 November 2024)



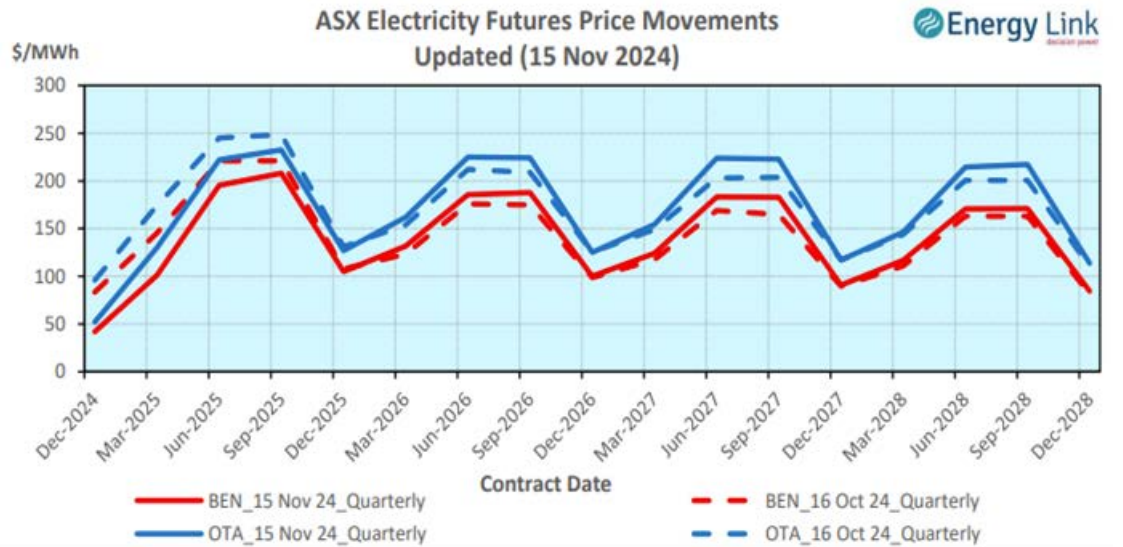
Source: System Operator, Market Operations - Weekly Market Movements

Month-to date, 7-day average and Daily average spot prices (at Monday 18 November)

Node:	Month-to-date	7-day Avg	Daily Avg
Benmore	\$30.81	\$31.49	\$5.74
Haywards	\$34.65	\$36.38	\$11.92
Otahuhu	\$41.72	\$44.70	\$14.54

Source: Energy Link EnergyTrendz Daily

ASX Electricity Futures Prices (as at 17 November 2024)



Source: Energy Link, Energy Trendz Weekly

<p>Trans-Tasman E3 Energy and Climate Ministerial Committee Meeting</p> <p>Scott Russell <small>Privacy of natural persons</small></p>	<p>The next trans-Tasman Equipment Energy Efficiency (E3) Energy and Climate Ministerial Committee Meeting (ECMC) will take place on Friday 6 December. We previously recommended that you do not attend this session of the ECMC given the technical nature of the agenda.</p> <p>New Zealand will cast its votes via email ahead of the meeting. The decisions that New Zealand will need to make relate to Item 12 of the agenda – E3 update and Greenhouse and Energy Minimum Standards (GEMS) RIS and determination – detailed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abstain from voting on a draft Australian GEMS Determination on LEDs because it relates to domestic Australian regulatory processes. • Endorse the decision RIS on chillers, with a caveat that New Zealand support is subject to domestic policy processes which MBIE and EECA will manage separately. <p>These are aligned with the positions MBIE officials took, in consultation with EECA, at the E3 senior officials meeting earlier this month.</p> <p>We recommend that you agree to the New Zealand voting positions outlined above.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Agree / Disagree</i></p> <p>Once we have received the ECMC voting forms, we will send them to your office to be sent directly to the ECMC Secretariat.</p> <p>We will advise you on attendance at the March ECMC in early 2025.</p>
<p>Regulatory Systems Amendment Bill</p> <p>Hayden Fenwick <small>Privacy of natural persons</small></p>	<p>The Regulatory Systems (Immigration and Workforce) Amendment Bill amends the Electricity Act 1992 and the Gas Act 1992 to provide a mechanism for you to approve faster updates to Standards references in energy safety regulations.</p> <p>The Education and Workforce Committee has considered the revision tracked version of the Bill, following MBIE’s submission of the Departmental Report on 6 November. The Committee discussed their commentary on the Bill on 13 November and deliberated on 20 November. They are reporting the Bill back with amendments that reflect MBIE’s recommendations in the Departmental Report (predominantly changes to the immigration advisers licensing amendments that are the Minister of Immigration’s responsibility). There are no changes proposed to the Electricity or Gas Act provisions in the Bill, beyond clarifying the title of a section in the Electricity Act, as recommended in the Departmental Report [BRIEFING-REQ-0004343 refers]. The Bill is on track to be reported back to the House shortly before Christmas.</p>
<p>ERP2 update and proactive release</p> <p>Scott Russell <small>Privacy of natural persons</small></p>	<p>Confidential advice to Government</p> <p>[Redacted content]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ [Redacted content] ■ [Redacted content] <p>[Redacted content]</p>

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Weekly fuel price monitoring

Maria Botes
Privacy of natural persons

International oil prices

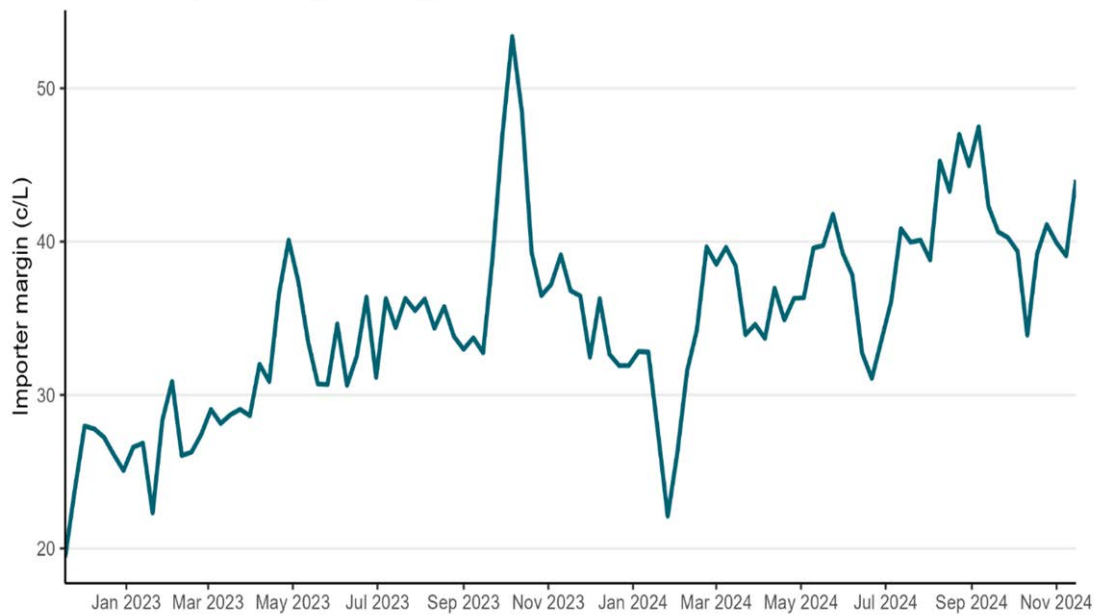
Crude oil prices decreased in the week ending 15 November, as several organisations (including OPEC+) have revised down their expectations of global oil demand growth for the coming year. The drop in crude oil prices has led to a decrease in importer costs.

National average fuel margins

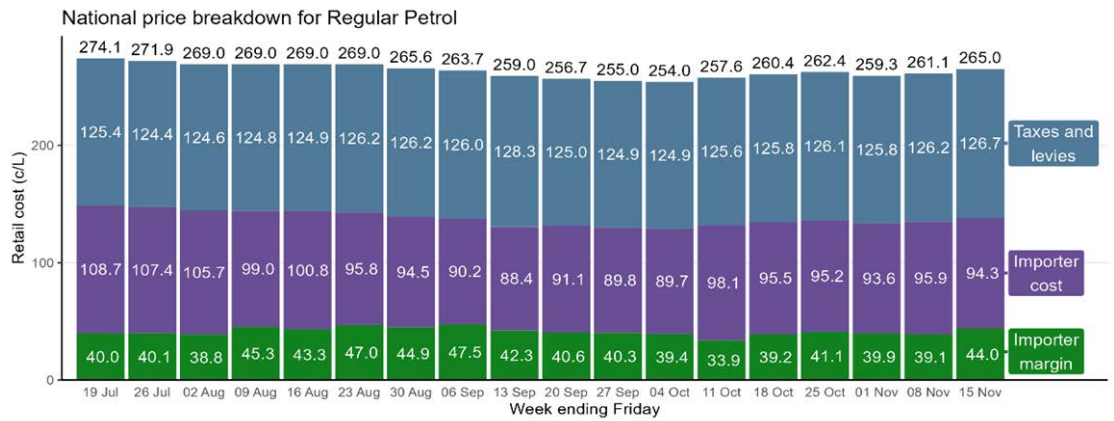
In the week ending 15 November, retail prices increased 3.9 c/L for regular petrol, while importer margins increased 5.0 c/L to 44.0 c/L.

National level importer margins for regular petrol over the past two years are shown below.

National importer margin for Regular Petrol



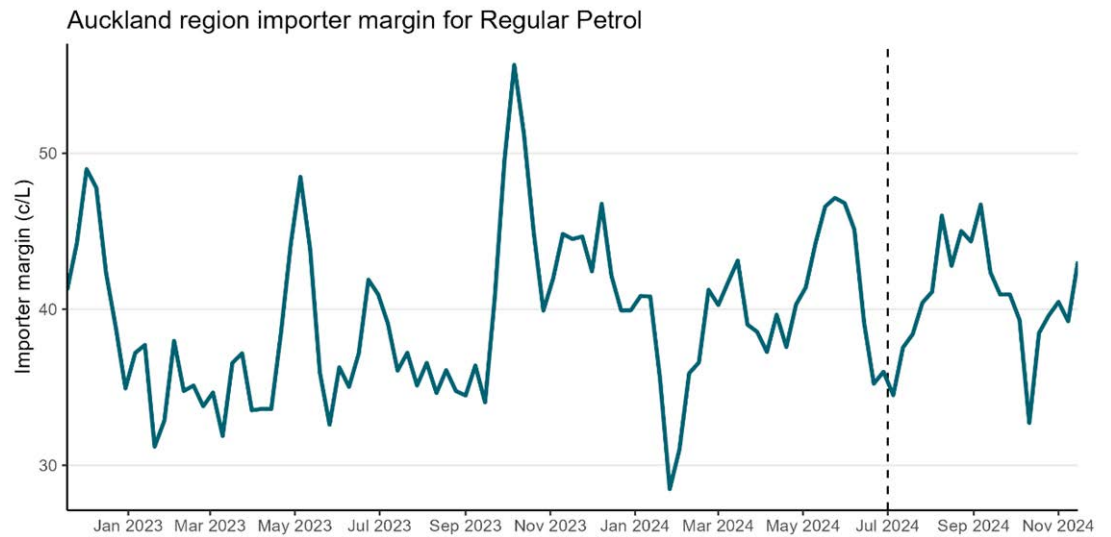
The price breakdown for the past four months is shown below.



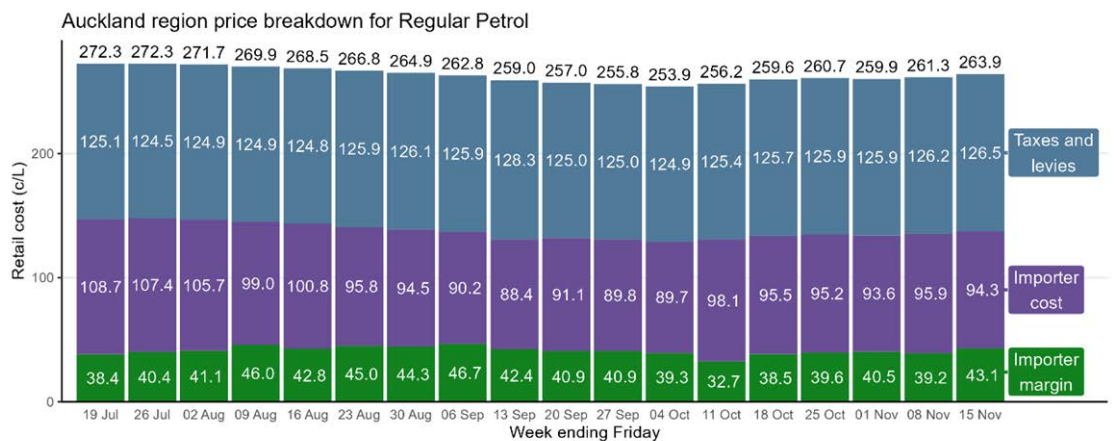
Auckland fuel margins

In the week ending 15 November, retail prices increased 2.6 c/L for regular petrol, while importer margins increased 3.8 c/L to 43.1 c/L.

Importer margins for regular petrol in the Auckland region over the past two years are shown below. The dashed line shows the removal of the Auckland Regional Fuel Tax.



The price breakdown for the past four months is shown below.



<p>Gas Governance Rules amendments</p> <p>Dominic Kebbell <small>Privacy of natural persons</small></p>	<p>Confidential advice to Government</p> <p>[Redacted]</p> <p>[Redacted]</p> <p>[Redacted]</p> <p>[Redacted]</p> <p>[Redacted]</p> <p>[Redacted]</p>
<p>Offshore Renewable Energy – Australian court ruling</p> <p>Melanee Beatson <small>Privacy of natural persons</small></p>	<p>On 8 November 2024, Australia’s Federal Court ruled in favour of Seadragon Offshore Wind Pty Ltd versus the Minister for Climate Change and Energy. Seadragon had applied for a judicial review of the Minister’s decision to refuse a feasibility license under the Offshore Electricity Infrastructure Act 2021.</p> <p>The Minister had refused the application on the grounds that it overlapped with another application, and he was unable to grant anything other than what had been applied for. However, the Court ruled that the legislation allowed the Minister to grant a different area to Seadragon.</p> <p>We are considering the implications of this ruling for the framing of the ORE Bill regarding the award of applications. We are also developing policy proposals for managing overlapping applications (to be reflected in regulations and guidance).</p>

Upcoming Ministerial Items

1. Upcoming Energy meetings

Meeting date	Meeting	Details
Tuesday 26 November 2024 1:50 pm – 2:20 pm	CEO Andy Knight and Chair Rt Hon Jim Bolger, Gas Industry Company (GIC) – 6 monthly meeting	Briefing Due: 22 November 2024 Officials required: Justine Cannon
Wednesday 27 November 2024 10:00 am – 10:30 am	Minister Chris Bishop meeting with Vector Group CEO Simon Mackenzie	Briefing Due: 25 November 2024 Officials required: TBC
Wednesday 27 November 2024 10:30 am – 10:50 am	Glenn Forsyth, NZ Gourmet and CEOs from NZ Capsicum Growers on behalf of the NZ Glasshouse Growers	Briefing Due: 25 November 2024 Officials required: Callum Thorpe
Wednesday 27 November 2024 12:30 pm – 2:00 pm	Boardroom luncheon with private sector CEOs and Chairs	Briefing Due: 25 November 2024 Officials required: N/A
Friday 29 November 2024 9:00 am – 9:30 am	Gary Taylor, CEO Environmental Defence Society	Briefing Due: 27 November 2024 Officials required:
Friday 29 November 2024 10:15 am – 10:30 am	Warren Willmot, BYD NZ Manager	MoT leading Officials required: N/A

2. Upcoming Briefings, Aides Memoires and Cabinet Papers

Project:	Energy content for ERP2	
The ERP is now due to be published in December 2024.		
Project:	CCUS	
Confidential advice to Government	[Redacted]	
Project:	Fuel Security Study & Fuel security plan	
w/c 9 December 2024	Briefing	Delivery of draft report
Project:	Minimum stockholding obligations	
w/c 16 December 2024	Briefing	Briefing: update on diesel stockholding consultation
Project:	Electrify NZ: National direction package	
Confidential advice to Government	[Redacted]	

Project:	Offshore renewable energy – regulations	
December 2024	Briefing	Offshore Renewable Energy – Feasibility permit regulations policy decisions
Project:	Consumer data right for electricity	
Confidential advice to Government		
Project:	Review of phase-out of LFC regulations	
December 2024	Briefing and report	Report for the Minister on the Review’s findings
Project:	Hazards from Trees Regulations	
Confidential advice to Government		
Project:	Hydrogen	
Confidential advice to Government		
Projects:	Further briefings (not shown on the Ministerial Priorities Output Plan A3)	
Confidential advice to Government		
28 November 2024	Briefing	Further policy decisions for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Amendment Bill
Confidential advice to Government		

3. Written Parliamentary Questions

None this week.

4. Ministerial Correspondence received

Due date	Tracking number	Correspondent	Summary of Correspondence
2 December 2024	SB24-1273	Privacy of	Natural gas in NZ

5. Ministerial Official Information Act Requests

Due date to the office	Tracking number	Requester	Summary of request	Status	Sign Out Manager
27 November 2024	OIA24-464	Privacy of natural persons	Solar panels/solar energy	Initiation	Scott Russell

6. Departmental Official Information Act Requests

Due date to the office	Tracking number	Requester	Summary of request	Status	Sign Out Manager
29 November 2024	OIA213	Privacy of natural persons	Copies of documents	Initiation	Melanee Beatson

7. Output plan

Confidential advice to Government

Confidential advice to Government

Confidential advice to Government

Confidential advice to Government