



COVERSHEET

Minister	Hon Simon Watts	Portfolio	Energy
Title of Cabinet paper	Investigating Options to Amend or Remove the Amount of Generation that Electricity Distribution Businesses May Own	Date to be published	8 April 2025

List of documents that have been proactively released		
Date	Title	Author
17 October 2024	Investigating Options to Amend or Remove the Amount of Generation that Electricity Distribution Businesses May Own	Office of the Minister for Energy
23 October 2024	Investigating Options to Amend or Remove the Amount of Generation that Electricity Distribution Businesses May Own ECO-24-MIN-0239 Minute	Cabinet Office
17 October 2024	Regulatory Impact Statement: Removing the thresholds on distribution businesses owning generation.	Office of the Minister for Energy

Information redacted

YES / NO

Any information redacted in this document is redacted in accordance with MBIE's policy on Proactive Release and is labelled with the reason for redaction. This may include information that would be redacted if this information was requested under Official Information Act 1982. Where this is the case, the reasons for withholding information are listed below. Where information has been withheld, no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it.

Some information has been withheld for the reasons of Commercial Information and Privacy of Natural Persons.



Cabinet Economic Policy Committee

Minute of Decision

This document contains information for the New Zealand Cabinet. It must be treated in confidence and handled in accordance with any security classification, or other endorsement. The information can only be released, including under the Official Information Act 1982, by persons with the appropriate authority.

Investigating Options to Amend or Remove the Amount of Generation that Electricity Distribution Businesses May Own

Portfolio **Energy / Resources**

On 23 October 2024, the Cabinet Economic Policy Committee (ECO):

- 1 **noted** that in August 2024, ECO invited the Minister for Energy and Minister for Resources (the Ministers) to report back on a range of options for the Energy and Electricity Security Bill to amend or remove restrictions on the amount of generation that electricity distribution businesses may own [ECO-24-MIN-0172];
- 2 **noted** that removing the restrictions is unlikely to have a significant negative impact on competition, given other safeguards that remain;
- 3 **agreed** to remove the 250-megawatt (MW) threshold and related restrictions in section 73 of the Electricity Industry Act 2010 on electricity distribution business owning generation connected to Transpower's network;
- 4 **agreed** to remove the 50-MW threshold and related restrictions in Part 6A of the Electricity Industry Participation Code on electricity distribution businesses owning generation connected to their own network;
- 5 **invited** the Ministers to issue further drafting instructions to the Parliamentary Council Office to give effect to the above decisions through the Energy and Electricity Security Bill;
- 6 **authorised** the Ministers to approve any matters that arise during drafting and that may be required to align with the above decisions.

Rachel Clarke
Committee Secretary

Present: (see over)

Present:

Hon David Seymour
Hon Nicola Willis (Chair)
Hon Chris Bishop
Hon Brooke van Velden
Hon Simeon Brown
Hon Erica Stanford
Hon Paul Goldsmith
Hon Louise Upston
Hon Judith Collins KC
Hon Mark Mitchell
Hon Tama Potaka
Hon Matt Dooney
Hon Simon Watts
Hon Melissa Lee
Hon Penny Simmonds
Hon Chris Penk
Hon Nicola Grigg
Hon Andrew Bayly
Hon Andrew Hoggard
Hon Mark Patterson
Simon Court MP

Officials present from:

Office of the Prime Minister
Office of Hon Chris Bishop
Officials Committee for ECO