



Energy Portfolio Weekly Report

Week commencing:	07/04/2025	Priority:	Medium
Security classification:	In Confidence	Tracking number:	BRIEFING-REQ-0012160

Recipient	Action sought
HON SIMON WATTS 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

4 April 2025

Minister's comments:

Energy Portfolio

Officials' Meeting Agenda

8:00am – 9:00am Tuesday 8 April 2025 (EW4.5)

Item	Subject	People	Oral Item / Paper #	Action Required
1.	Appointments	Michael Bird Paul Metcalf	BRIEFING-REQ-0011623	Discussion
2.	Cabinet Paper	Justine Cannon Sharon Corbett	Oral	Discussion
3.	Weekly Report & Work Programme	Minister	Oral	Discussion
4.	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
Michael Bird	General Manager, Entity Performance & Investment
Sharon Corbett	Policy Director, Energy Markets
Paul Metcalf	Manager, Appointments & Governance

Key Updates

Title	Comment
Implementing Electrify NZ Daniel Brown <small>Privacy of natural persons</small>	<p>Cabinet has confirmed proposals for replacement RMA legislation and next steps for RMA national direction – including the National Policy Statements for Renewable Electricity Generation and Electricity Networks. Further Cabinet decisions on the final detail of national direction are scheduled by May 2025, prior to release of a discussion document.</p> <p>The Resource Management (Consenting and Other System Changes) Amendment Bill is currently before Select Committee. The Minister for Resource Management Reform has sought your feedback on potential changes to the Bill to address issues raised in submissions. MBIE supports these changes, and we provided your office with comments on 24 March 2025.</p> <p>The Minister for Infrastructure has sought your comments on two potential new Fast-track energy projects. We provided you with updated advice on these projects (incorporating comments from MFE) on 27 March 2025.</p>
New permitting regime for offshore renewable energy Melanee Beatson <small>Privacy of natural persons</small>	<p>We intend to submit the departmental report to the Transport and Infrastructure Committee on 4 April 2025. We will present the report to the Committee on 10 April 2025.</p> <p>We presented online at the Offshore Renewable Energy Forum on the process and timeline for the regime, following your Ministerial address (via video).</p> <p>We have sent you a briefing seeking your agreement to undertaking targeted consultation on the feasibility permit regulations. We will follow this up this coming week with a briefing on the scope of the first feasibility permit application round. As part of this, we intend to seek your agreement on the steps we propose before you make an advance announcement of the first-round mid-year, including consultation with your colleagues, and the announcement of the round once the Bill has passed.</p>
Review of electricity market performance Sharon Corbett <small>Privacy of natural persons</small>	<p>Confidential advice to Government</p> <p>[Redacted content]</p>
Hazards from Trees Regulations: Phase 2 reforms Tamara Linnhoff <small>Privacy of natural persons</small>	<p>The Cabinet paper seeking approval for amendments to the Tree Regulations and to commence drafting was lodged on 3 April, for consideration at ECO on 9 April.</p> <p>Your office has also confirmed you will announce Cabinet’s agreement to the Phase 2 reforms during your speech on 27 April at the joint ENA/ERANZ stakeholder event.</p>

Mid-point Review of the Low Fixed Charge Regulations and the extension of the Power Credits Scheme Tamara Linnhoff <small>Privacy of natural persons</small>	<p>On 2 April your office sent letters to the ENA and ERANZ approving their proposal to extend the Power Credits Scheme and requested conditions.</p> <p>As signalled in the recent LFC briefing (BRIEFING-REQ-0012063) a draft Press Release, draft media lines and Q+A will be provided to your office. We will hold a media background briefing with interested journalists in the morning of 9 April then publish the report in the afternoon.</p> <p>We expect to send the comms pack to your office on 4 April, which will include the Ministerial PR, a list of journalists being invited to the media briefing, and MBIE comms.</p>
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Key actions tracker

Action and outcome	Updates (if any)	Status and upcoming milestones
Electricity Market Review Independent review to advise on the impact of market structure, design, and rules on the electricity systems’ performance	Confidential advice to Government	
Energy Competition Taskforce Joint EA and Commerce Commission investigation of options to improve competition and enable consumers to manage usage and costs	<i>1A Sleeving (firm generation) for PPAs:</i> EA is reviewing submissions.	On track Consultation on level playing field measures closes in April.
	<i>1B Standardised flexibility contracts:</i> Initial offer round held. EA is monitoring liquidity (or lack of).	
	<i>1C+D sharing flexibility and level playing field measures:</i> Consultation commenced 27 February. EA is engaging with stakeholders following in-person ‘roadshow’ engagements during week of 24 March in Christchurch, Wellington and Auckland.	
	<i>2A+B+C Better compensating household power injection and time of use plans:</i> Consultation closed 26 March and is now reviewing submissions. Code change decisions expected in June 2025.	
	<i>2D Better compensating industrial demand response:</i> EA/Commission team is working up options for Taskforce then EA Board consideration, ahead of potential consultation.	
Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) Creating an enabling regulatory regime for CCS which could improve the economics of gas production	Confidential advice to Government	
Confidential advice to Government		
Contingent hydro storage (Transpower/industry) A review of the process for which access to contingent hydro storage is triggered (the amount of contingency available is set by consents)	Transpower launched consultation on their risk assessment framework on 10 March. Consultation is underway and ends 31 March. If Transpower consider a Code change is warranted, they will consult on a draft amendment proposal, then submit a proposal to the Authority. Transpower would aim to do this by end 2025. The EA Board would then consider (and possibly decide) to amend the Code.	On track Consultation ends 31 March.

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	Confidential advice to Government	
Confidential advice to Government		
Consumer demand response and Solar Confidential advice to Government	Confidential advice to Government Solar installation advice: We will develop a process map to identify costs and barriers across the rooftop solar and battery supply chain and the responsible parts of government or industry for addressing barriers at each stage of the process. Officials have now met with a range of stakeholders, and we are expecting to brief you on costs, barriers and potential steps that could be made to increase solar uptake in the coming week.	On track
Electricity (Hazards from Trees) Regulations	As above, ECO will consider the amendments to the Tree Regulations on 9 April.	On track ECO Cabinet Committee 9 April
Confidential advice to Government		
Offshore Renewable Energy	We have prepared the departmental report for the Bill. We are working with the Parliamentary Counsel Office on the feasibility permit regulations. We have sent you a briefing targeted consultation of an exposure draft of the regulations. We are also preparing advice on the scope of the first round.	On track Departmental report due to select committee by 4 April 2025
Permitted Voltage Range Changing regulations to expand the permitted fluctuation range on low voltage electricity networks to permit more solar injection and EV charging	Confidential advice to Government	
Electricity and Gas Safety Standards Updating more than 400 references to international standards in the regulations. This includes new standards for	You will be getting a briefing on the energy safety aspects of your portfolio from MBIE's Health and Safety policy team. Confidential advice to Government	Confidential advice to Government

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solar and EV chargers, reducing costs.	<p>Confidential advice to Government</p> <p></p> <p></p>	<p>Confidential advice to Government</p> <p></p>
Hydrogen regulations Delivering Hydrogen Action Plan commitment to amend safety regulations to enable hydrogen.	Energy safety regulations We have identified a package of proposals for changes to the gas and electricity safety regulations and are drafting consultation materials. We expect to provide these to you by late April. These changes largely focus on future-proofing regulations for emerging hydrogen uses. Confidential advice to Government <p></p> <p></p> <p></p>	On track <p>Confidential advice to Government</p> <p></p> <p></p>
Hydrogen exports	<p>Commercial Information</p> <p></p> <p></p>	On track
Woody Bioenergy Investigating barriers to the development of the domestic supply chain and export opportunities for woody bioenergy.	We have been continuing stakeholder engagement and will report back in early April. MBIE officials have also been working closely with EECA and MPI on our upcoming advice to you.	On track
Led by other Ministerial portfolios		
Resource Management Improvements	We recently advised on views shared by the four gentailers (BRIEFING-REQ-0010959 AM) that the introduction of an effects-management hierarchy into RMA national direction is critical to support necessary investments in generation until the new resource management legislation is in place. Cabinet's agreed changes to RMA national direction do not include these provisions - this work has been deferred to the RMA replacement legislation. You are likely to hear concerns on this point once decisions are public.	On track
Public EV Charging Funding Model Governments funding model for public EV charging (to concessional loans)	The Minister for Transport is undertaking further consultation on this paper before it is submitted for Cabinet consideration. Confidential advice to Government <p></p> <p></p>	On track

Gas exploration updates	<p>As reported on 31 March (with no change):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The new well at Pohokura (OMV) is delivering below expectations (10 TJ/day against expectations of 25-30 TJ/day – adding around 3.5% to gas production of 260TJ/day). <p>Commercial Information</p>	Ongoing
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Stakeholder Updates

Title	Comment
<p>Actions to ensure networks' plans include non-network options</p> <p><i>Transmission:</i> Tamara Linnhoff <small>Privacy of natural persons</small></p> <p><i>Distribution:</i> Peter Bartlett <small>Privacy of natural persons</small></p>	<p>On 1 April you requested further information on Transpower's investments in infrastructure, and how it can be encouraged or compelled to better consider more innovative and technology focussed non-network solutions as alternative to traditional transmission pylons and wires. Advice is being developed on this question, in collaboration with the Commission (the Commission administers the investment test that approves (or rejects) Transpower's planned major capital expenditure projects (MCPs) under Part 4 of the Commerce Act).</p> <p>You also requested further information on action to encourage better use of innovative smart technologies at the distribution level – similarly, to encourage or compel more innovative and technology focussed non-network solutions as alternative to traditional distribution poles and wires. Advice is being developed on this question (in collaboration with the EA and Commerce Commission).</p>
<p>Recent and pending Fast-track applications</p> <p>Daniel Brown <small>Privacy of natural persons</small></p>	<p>Contact Energy has submitted its consent application for the 330MW Southland wind farm to the new fast track legislation. Confidential advice to Government</p> <p>Confidential advice to Government</p> <p>No projects have yet been through the new Fast-track legislation, so we do not yet have any precedents for how long decisions are likely to take. The legislation does not specify an overall time limit for processing an application from referral request through to panel decision. We will keep you updated on the decision timeframes for these applications as they progress.</p>
<p>Meeting with Maru Energy Trust</p> <p>Scott Russell <small>Privacy of natural persons</small></p>	<p>On Tuesday 1 April, MBIE officials attended a meeting between Maru Energy trust and Barbara Kuriger MP.</p> <p>Maru Energy Trust is a not-for-profit charitable Trust established by The Lines Company in 2018, to support and deliver the Warmer Kiwi Homes programme in The Lines Company's network area (including King Country, Taupo, Ruapehu, and Waitomo). They also provide wider support for households in energy hardship in their area.</p> <p>Maru Energy Trust wanted to convey that they are making good progress on delivering Warmer Kiwi Homes retrofits and aim to scale up from 200 - 300 installs each year, to 500 – 600 installs per year for the 2025 – 2027 period.</p> <p>They provided feedback on some of the operational settings for the Warmer Kiwi Homes programme being too prescriptive and preventing what they saw as pragmatic outcomes. This included asks such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Being more flexible with the limits on when wood burners could be removed and replaced with heat pumps - Allowing local GPs to refer households to the programme - EECA to be more flexible in their procurement approach for preferred installer providers.

	<p>We have passed these concerns on to EECA and asked them to engage with Maru Energy Trust as they are largely operational matters.</p> <p>They also pointed out that the programme has only two years of funding left but they estimate there are still 1000's of households that would be eligible to receive support for retrofits.</p> <p>Barbara Kuriger MP indicated she would reach out to your office about the operational situation, and the future of the programme.</p>
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Current appointments

Confidential advice to Government

Other Updates

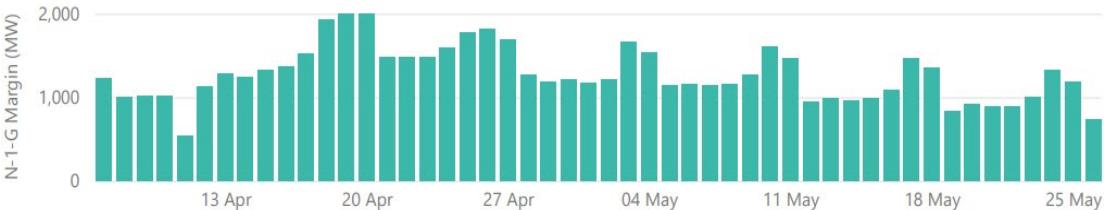
Title	Comment
<p>All-of-Government Reticulated Gas - Request for Proposal Update</p> <p>Rebecca Heerdegen</p> <p>Privacy of natural persons</p>	<p>MBIE has added a clarification to the <i>Request for Proposal for AoG Reticulated Gas & Associated Services</i>. This clarification highlights the Governments objectives for the energy market, and intentions to collaborate and partner with the market on projects that could meet both government agency energy needs and support new generation / fuel supplies.</p> <p>Energy Markets officials will respond to the Clarus enquiry about possible long-term contracts for biogas and make them aware of this Request for Proposal.</p> <p>Confidential advice to Government</p> <p>In late April, once the Request for Proposal closes, officials will have more clarity on the security of gas supply for government agencies for the short to medium term. An update will be provided on the immediate situation and advice on the work programme to develop a Government PPA vehicle.</p>

ELECTRICITY CAPACITY (for the week to Sunday 30 March 2025)

Residual generation margins remained healthy last week with over 1,000 MW available during all peaks. This is because thermal unit commitment is high for this time of year in response to low hydro storage. The lowest residual was 1,264 MW on Tuesday morning.

The N-1-G margin is sufficient to meet peak demand in the look-ahead through to late May 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 30 March)

National hydro storage decreased from 81% to 77% of the historic mean last week. South Island hydro storage decreased from 80% to 77%, while North Island storage dropped from 89% to 81% of the historic mean for this time of year. National storage now sits below the 7th percentile, while South Island storage sits below the 6th percentile.

ELECTRICITY ('ENERGY') SUPPLY RISK (at 30 March)

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

New Zealand Energy Risk



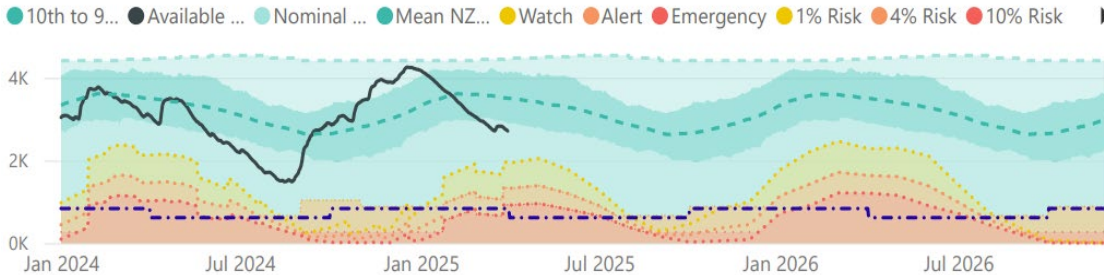
South Island Energy Risk



Normal Watch Alert Emergency

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

New Zealand Electricity Risk Status Curves (Available GWh)



The System Operator last updated the ERCs on 28 March 2025. Commentary on that update is in the Weekly Report of 31 March 2025. The next ERC update is expected at the end of April.

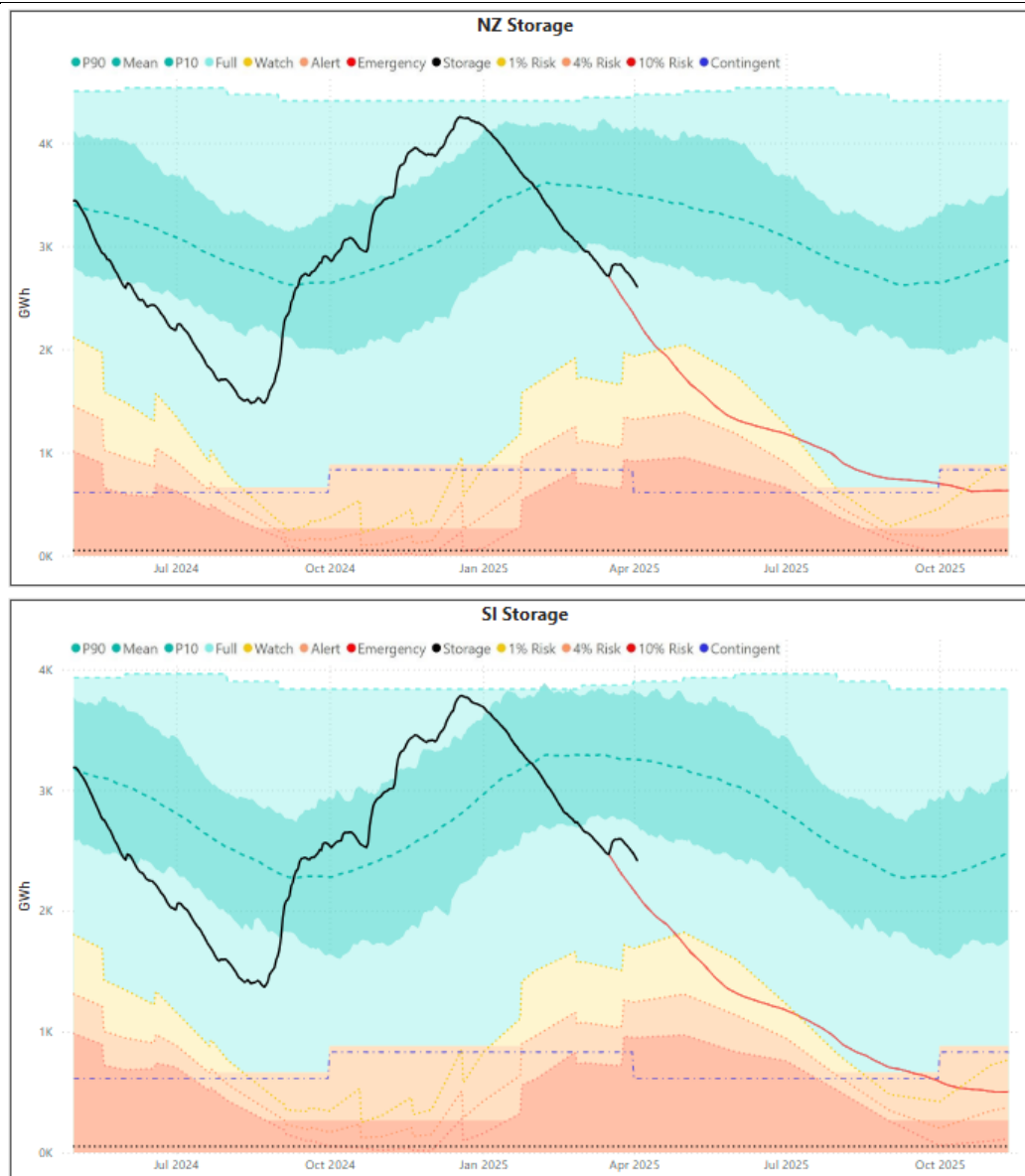
The System Operator has published its '**Quarterly security of supply outlook**':

- **Peak capacity risk** - peak loads will increase closer to winter. Peak capacity risks, especially in cold snaps and combined with generation unavailability (due to planned maintenance outages) will persist until there is sufficient investment in flexible resources such as batteries, demand response and peaking generation. Examples of tight peak capacity include the low residual situations in May and September 2024, and more recently on 24 February 2025.
- **Demand response and new generation** - in the next six months Tiwai load is expected to remain ~50 MW lower (as per agreement with Meridian) and Oji has signalled a further reduction in its load. Meridian's 100 MW Ruakākā battery (BESS) and ~64 MW of solar generation are expected to be commissioned before and during winter.
- **Weather outlook** - NIWA's forecast (at 30 March) is for some rainfall over the next 35 days in South Island regions with major hydro catchments. The forecast for the next three months (April-June) is for average rainfall in the west coast of the South Island and North Island. There is potential for low inflow periods to be correlated with low wind generation (as was the case through winter 2024 and the first two months of 2025). Meridian has reported there is little contribution now expected from Waitaki snow storage ahead of spring 2025.

Source: System Operator, Market Operations - Weekly Market Movements

You have asked us to report on the number of days until the NZ system hits energy risk curves – if it does not rain. In response, Transpower have provided the following charts. These charts show the actual storage position (black line) **to 3 April** compared to the worst-case simulated storage trajectory (SST, red line). The SST is created using the lowest inflow each week over the past 93 years of historic records. This is highly unlikely to eventuate, Transpower models this red line 'to prepare for the worst.'

You have asked whether the (red) worst-case simulated storage trajectory line can be updated as regularly as the (black) actual storage line. Transpower advise that it is not feasible for Transpower to update the red line at the same/similar frequency as the actual storage line. SSTs are created monthly, unless we move to a watch state. At that point Transpower will update them daily as per current process.



The SSTs are extended until they cross the Electricity Risk Curves and provide an estimated time until further action would be taken to address security of supply. The actions differ at Watch, Alert or Emergency status (BRIEFING-REQ-0008374).

The table below shows the number of days until each curve would be crossed, based on worst case inflows. These are not a forecast of future inflows but should be used as a guide to the maximum time available before it needs to rain.

Hydro storage would cross the watch curve on **17 April** for New Zealand as a whole and **27 April** for the South Island. Storage would cross the South Island alert curve on **14 September** and the national alert curve on **1 October**. **Storage is not projected to cross the Emergency Curve even if worst-case inflows occur.**

Worst case inflows - Time to cross successive curves

Region	Date Watch	Time to Watch	Date Alert	Time to Alert	Date Emergency	Time to Emergency
NZ	17/04/2025	15	1/10/2025	182	N/A	N/A
SI	27/04/2025	25	14/09/2025	165	N/A	N/A

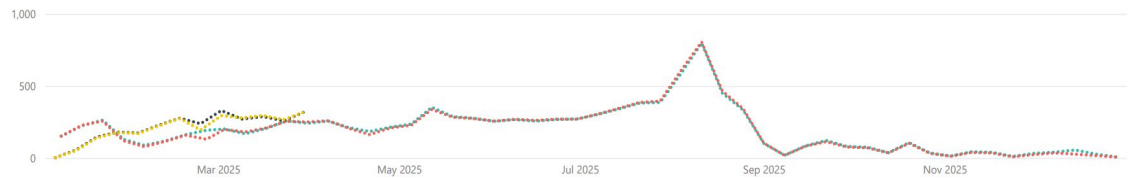
The ERCs and worst-case inflows line created 31 March. Actual storage is as at 3 April.

WHOLESALE ELECTRICITY PRICES

Weekly Spot Price (week ended 30 March)

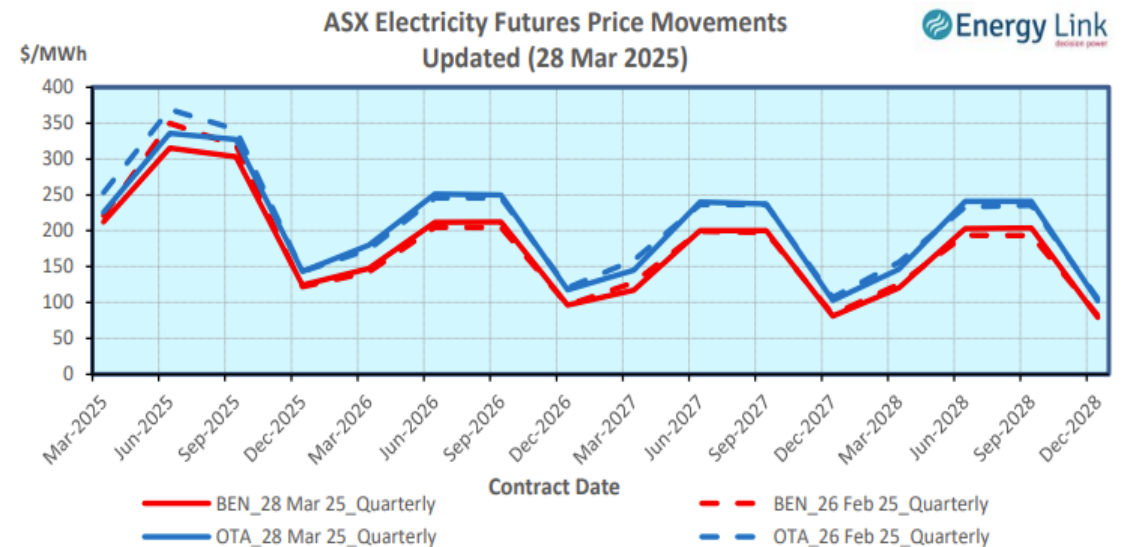
Weekly Spot Price - \$/MWh

● NI 2024 ● NI 2025 ● SI 2024 ● SI 2025



Source: System Operator, Market Operations - Weekly Market Movements

ASX Electricity Futures Prices (last available update 28 March 2025)



Source: Energy Link, Energy Trendz Weekly

Monthly oil and gas production data

Amapola Generosa

Privacy of natural persons

We will be publishing the February 2025 update of our monthly oil and gas production data on Thursday 10 April 2025. This shows that net production of natural gas in February 2025 was 8.21 PJ, down 5% on January 2025 levels (8.64 PJ) and down 21% on February 2024 net production. Contributing to this was a continuation of the lower deliveries seen from the Pohokura and Maui fields since August 2024.

We publish this data regularly, on the second Thursday of each month. Data for a given month is available 6 weeks after month-end. This data gives a more comprehensive view of gas production than other public sources (such as what is published on the Gas Industry Company's website) as we collect data from all gas field operators in New Zealand and capture information on gas that is delivered through private pipelines.

Industrial Allocation

Scott Russell

Privacy of natural persons

Energy officials are supporting MFE to prepare a discussion document on potential changes to industrial allocation through amendment to the Climate Change Response Act 2002.

For further information on this work, please contact MFE.

Fee review for the Tree Arbitrator

Tamara Linnhoff

Privacy of natural persons

Under the Trees Regulations, MBIE appoints a Tree Arbitrator. Fees paid to the Tree Arbitrator were last reviewed in 2009. Following a request from Privacy of natural persons (the current Tree Arbitrator) MBIE has reviewed the Tree Arbitrator's daily rate. We are aiming to provide you with a briefing reflecting the outcome of this review toward the end of April.

New Zealand's Greenhouse Gas Inventory Amapola Generosa Privacy of natural persons	<p>On Tuesday 15 April 2025 the Ministry for the Environment will release <i>New Zealand's Greenhouse Gas Inventory 1990-2023</i>. New Zealand's Greenhouse Gas Inventory is an annual report of all human-induced emissions and removals of greenhouse gases for New Zealand.</p> <p>As lead agency for the energy sector, MBIE is responsible for estimating and reporting annual emissions for the energy sector (including transport emissions). This means that as well as receiving an embargoed briefing on the release in your role as responsible Minister (Minister for Climate Change), you will also receive this information in your role as Minister for Energy.</p> <p>While specific numbers from the latest Inventory are unable to be shared prior to release, any movements in emissions from the energy sector have already been signalled through MBIE's quarterly emissions estimates that are published as part of the Energy Quarterly release. This shows that emissions have been generally tracking downwards since 2019 due to lower industrial energy use and higher levels of hydro generation in 2022 and 2023.</p>
Drafting the amendments to the Gas Governance Rules Dominic Kebbell Privacy of natural persons	<p>On 29 January 2025, you agreed to the recommendation from the Gas Industry Company on amendments to the Gas Governance Rules [BRIEFING-REQ-0006720 refers]. The changes relate to the industry rules for enabling customers to switch efficiently between competing retailers and the allocation and reconciliation of downstream gas quantities.</p> <p>There has been a delay in timing, and GIC is now aiming to finalise the draft amendments by the end of June 2025. The delay does not give rise to any concerns from us.</p>

Energy Fast-track Projects listed in the Fast-track legislation

Listed Project	Confidential advice to Government	Notes
Lodestone Energy Limited - Haldon Solar Project		Schedule 2 Listed Project
Genesis Energy Limited: Tekapo Power Scheme – Applications for Replacement Resource Consents		Schedule 2 Listed Project
Energy farms. Wellsford solar farm		Schedule 2 Listed Project
Black Points Solar Limited; Black Point Solar Farm		Schedule 2 Listed Project
Westpower, Waitaha Hydro		Schedule 2 Listed Project
Manawa Energy; Wheao Hydro Power Scheme Reconsent		Schedule 2 Listed Project
Manawa Energy; Kaimai Hydro Power Scheme Reconsent		Schedule 2 Listed Project
Tararua Wind Power Limited - a fully owned subsidiary of Mercury NZ Limited; Mahinerangi Wind Farm		Schedule 2 Listed Project
Tararua Wind Power Limited (a wholly owned subsidiary of Mercury NZ Limited); Waikokowai Wind Farm		Schedule 2 Listed Project

Tararua Wind Power Limited (a wholly owned subsidiary of Mercury NZ Limited); Tararua Wind Farm Repowering	Confidential advice to Government	Schedule 2 Listed Project
Eastland Generation - Waihi Hydro Re-consenting		Schedule 2 Listed Project
Mercury NZ Limited; Puketoi Wind Farm		Schedule 2 Listed Project
A and K Simpson. Balmoral Solar Farm.		Schedule 2 Listed Project
Manawa Energy; Huriwaka Wind Farm		Schedule 2 Listed Project
SolarGen Joint Venture; Foxton Solar Farm		Schedule 2 Listed Project
Tauhara North No.2 Trust; Rotokawa Solar Farm		Schedule 2 Listed Project
Far North Solar Farm Ltd; The Point Solar Farm		Schedule 2 Listed Project
Harmony Energy Ltd; Hinuera Solar Farm		Schedule 2 Listed Project
Harmony Energy Ltd; Bunnythorpe Solar Farm		Schedule 2 Listed Project
Kaimai Wind Farm Ltd; Kaimai Wind Farm		Schedule 2 Listed Project
Lochindorb Wind Limited Partnership; Kaihiku Wind Farm		Schedule 2 Listed Project

Upcoming Ministerial Items

1. Upcoming Energy meetings

Meeting date	Meeting	Details
Monday, 7 April 2025 5:00pm-5:45pm	BusinessNZ Energy Council	Event Briefing Due: 2 nd April Officials required: Rebecca Heerdegen
Wednesday, 9 April 2025 11:30am-12:00pm	ChargeNet and Minister Bishop	Event Briefing Due: 1 st April Officials required: Scott Russell
Wednesday, 9 April 2025 3:45pm-4:15pm	Kevin Hart and Dr Peter McCafferty, NZ Wind Energy Association	Event Briefing Due: 3 rd April Officials required: Tamara Linnhoff
Thursday, 10 April 2025 8:30am-9:00am	Energy Competition Taskforce Ministerial Meeting	Event Briefing Due: N/A Officials required: Paul Stocks, Justien Cannon, Sharon Corbett
Thursday, 10 April 2025 10:30am-12:00pm	Attending opening for Waingawa Solar Farm (Wairarapa)	Draft Speech Due: 1 st April Event Briefing due: 7 th April Officials required: NA
Thursday, 10 April 2025 12:15pm-12:45pm	Mercury Energy and Minister Bishop	Event Briefing Due: 7 th April Officials required: Dan Brown

2. Upcoming Briefings, Aides Memoires and Cabinet Papers

Information to be publically released shortly

Information to be publically released shortly



None this week.

4. Ministerial Correspondence received

Due date	Tracking number	Correspondent	Summary of Correspondence
10 April 2025	SW25-96	Privacy of natural persons	Electric vehicle fleet - Ambulance service
15 April 2025	SW25-110		Electricity Market opening to smaller/micro suppliers
18 April 2025	SW25-44		Hydro power on the Upper Clutha River

5. Output plan

Confidential advice to Government

Confidential advice to Government



Energy Portfolio Weekly Report

Week commencing:	14/04/2025	Priority:	Medium
Security classification:	In Confidence	Tracking number:	BRIEFING-REQ-00012465

Recipient	Action sought
HON SIMON WATTS 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

11 April 2025

Minister's comments:

Key Updates

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Implementing Electrify NZ Daniel Brown <small>Privacy of natural persons</small>	<p>Cabinet has confirmed proposals for replacement RMA legislation and next steps for RMA national direction – including the National Policy Statements for Renewable Electricity Generation and Electricity Networks. Further Cabinet decisions on the final detail of national direction are scheduled by May 2025, prior to release of a discussion document.</p> <p>The Resource Management (Consenting and Other System Changes) Amendment Bill is currently before Select Committee. The Minister for Resource Management Reform has sought your feedback on potential changes to the Bill to address issues raised in submissions. MBIE supports these changes, and we provided your office with comments on 24 March 2025.</p> <p>The Minister for Infrastructure has sought your comments on two potential new Fast-track energy projects. We provided you with updated advice on these projects (incorporating comments from MFE) on 27 March 2025.</p>
New permitting regime for offshore renewable energy Melanee Beatson <small>Privacy of natural persons</small>	<p>We presented the Departmental Report on the Offshore Renewable Energy Bill to the Transport and Infrastructure Committee on 10 April 2025. The Parliamentary Counsel Office will now prepare a revision-tracked (RT) version of the Bill for the Committee's consideration on 8 May 2025.</p>
Mid-point Review of the Low Fixed Charge Regulations and extension of the Power Credits Scheme Tamara Linnhoff <small>Privacy of natural persons</small>	<p>On 9 April 2025 you announced, via a Press Release, the extension of the Power Credits Scheme for five years, from 2027 to 2032. On the same day, MBIE held a media briefing to inform interested journalists about the Review, then published the Mid-point Review of the Low Fixed Charge Regulations and the supporting Sense Partners analytical report.</p>
Review of electricity market performance Sharon Corbett <small>Privacy of natural persons</small>	<p>Confidential advice to Government</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>

Key actions tracker

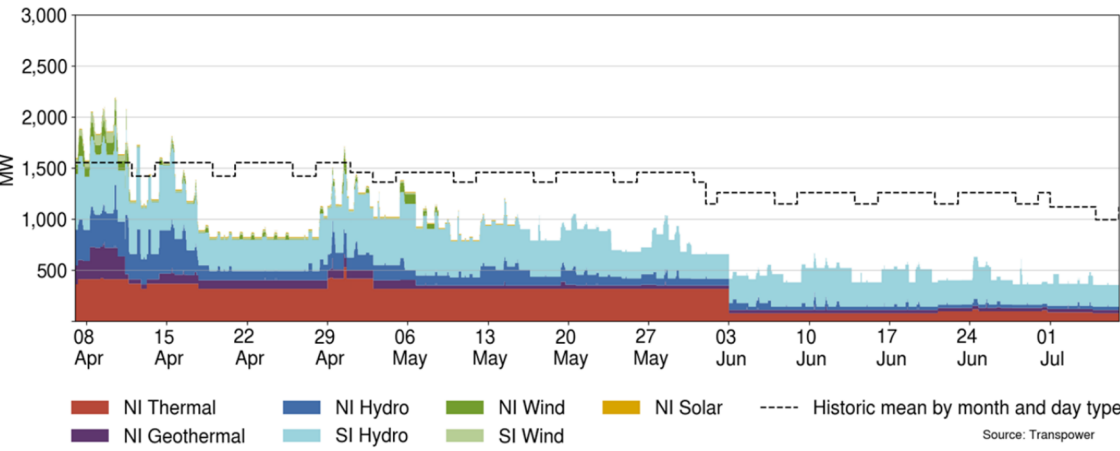
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Energy Competition Taskforce Joint EA and Commerce Commission investigation of options to improve competition and enable consumers to manage usage and costs	<i>1A Sleeving (firm generation) for PPAs:</i> EA is reviewing submissions.	On track Consultation on level playing field measures underway.
	<i>1B Standardised flexibility contracts:</i> Initial offer rounds held. EA is monitoring liquidity (or lack of).	
	<i>1C+D sharing flexibility and level playing field measures:</i> Consultation commenced 27 February and closes 23 April.	
	<i>2A+B+C Better compensating household power injection and time of use plans:</i> Consultation closed 26 March and the EA is now reviewing submissions. Code change decisions expected in June 2025.	
	<i>2D Better compensating industrial demand response:</i> EA/Commission team is working up options for Taskforce then EA Board consideration, ahead of potential consultation.	
Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) Creating an enabling regulatory regime for CCS which could improve the economics of gas production	Confidential advice to Government	On track Confidential advice to Government
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Contingent hydro storage (Transpower/industry) A review of the process for which access to contingent hydro storage is triggered (the amount of contingency available is set by consents)	Transpower's consultation on their risk assessment framework ended 31 March. If Transpower consider a Code change is warranted they will next consult on a proposed draft amendment, then submit a proposal to the EA. Transpower told you in your meeting with them on 9 April that they will circulate a decision paper next week and publish that the week after (week beginning 21 April). The EA Board would then consider (and possibly decide) to amend the Code. Commercial Information	On track Transpower considering submissions on March consultation.
Confidential advice to Government		
Consumer demand response and Solar Develop package to improve consumer energy outcomes, improve access to finance and	Consumer demand response and consumer energy campaign: You have received a briefing on this from EECA, and they are awaiting your approval on their proposed campaign approach.	On track

Action and outcome	Updates (if any)	Status and upcoming milestones
Confidential advice to Government		
Electricity (Hazards from Trees) Regulations	The EXP Committee approved your proposals and added a noting rec clarifying the amendments will not preclude the planting and maintenance of shelterbelts. Cabinet will consider this matter on 14 April. If agreed, drafting instructions will be issued to PCO.	On track Cabinet 14 April
Confidential advice to Government		
Offshore Renewable Energy	<p>Following our presentation of the Departmental Report to the Select Committee on 10 April 2025, we are working with PCO on the RT version of the Bill (to be presented to the select committee on 8 May 2025).</p> <p>We are planning targeted consultation on the exposure draft of the regulations, and subject to your agreement the terms of the first feasibility permit application round (late April – mid-May 2025).</p> <p>We are preparing advice on assessment considerations for competing applications in the first round.</p>	On track RT version of the Bill to be presented to the select committee on 8 May 2025.
Permitted Voltage Range Changing regulations to expand the permitted fluctuation range on low voltage electricity networks to permit more solar injection and EV charging	Confidential advice to Government	
Electricity and Gas Safety Standards Updating more than 400 references to international standards in the regulations. This includes new standards for solar and EV chargers, reducing costs.	<p>You will be getting a briefing on the energy safety aspects of your portfolio from MBIE's Health and Safety policy team.</p> <p>Confidential advice to Government</p>	Confidential advice to Government

Action and outcome	Updates (if any)	Status and upcoming milestones
Hydrogen regulations Delivering Hydrogen Action Plan commitment to amend safety regulations to enable hydrogen.	Confidential advice to Government	
Hydrogen exports	International relations	On track
Woody Bioenergy Investigating barriers to the development of the domestic supply chain and export opportunities for woody bioenergy.	We have been continuing to undertake targeted stakeholder engagement and will be providing you with a briefing outlining outcomes and emerging themes on 17 April. This week's stakeholder meetings included the BusinessNZ Energy Council, Pioneer Energy (a wood chip supplier and bioenergy heat provider of the Dunedin and Washdyke Energy Centres) and Foresta. Commercial Information	On track
Led by other Ministerial portfolios		
Public EV Charging Funding Model Governments funding model for public EV charging (to concessional loans)	Confidential advice to Government	On track
Led by the Electricity Authority		
Electricity pipeline updates	On 28 March the EA provided information to you on their generation pipeline dataset and signalled that this will be provided monthly.	Ongoing
Led by Transpower		
Transpower's Connections Queue for Generation – improvements to increase project throughput Run rate to start investigations (queue) up by 50% in 2025, on 2024. 17 investigation projects started this year and 7 projects moved to delivery in 2025.	Improving throughput: Work commenced to implement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stage-gating within investigation phase. Right-sizing investigations to meet customer needs and risk appetite. Initial work started on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prioritisation options within the queue (based on security of supply). 	On track

Action and outcome	Updates (if any)	Status and upcoming milestones
	Improving transparency: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated connection project status for April published on website in a new format to increase transparency. https://www.transpower.co.nz/connections/connection-data. 	
Industry developments		
Potential commercial deals to enhance Winter Security of Supply <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Methanex gas deal Potential industry actions to improve security of supply including Huntly (Heads of Agreement) firming contracts Demand response deals 	<p>Commercial Information</p> <p>[Redacted]</p> <p>[Redacted]</p> <p>[Redacted]</p> <p>[Redacted]</p> <p>[Redacted]</p> <p>[Redacted]</p> <p>[Redacted]</p> <p>Commercial Information</p> <p>[Redacted]</p> <p>[Redacted]</p> <p>[Redacted]</p> <p>Demand response deals:</p> <p>As reported on 3 March (with no change): The NZAS demand response tranches of 25MW; 50MW and 100MW are available to Meridian to call on this year. NZAS has also agreed to cap its production this winter at 50MW below maximum.</p> <p>We are not aware of any wider demand response deals under negotiation.</p>	Ongoing
Gas exploration updates	<p>Confidential advice to Government</p> <p>[Redacted]</p> <p>Reported on 31 March:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The new well at Pohokura (OMV) is delivering below expectations (10 TJ/day against expectations of 25-30 TJ/day – adding around 3.5% to gas production of 260TJ/day). <p>Commercial Information</p> <p>[Redacted]</p> <p>[Redacted]</p> <p>[Redacted]</p> <p>[Redacted]</p> <p>[Redacted]</p>	Ongoing

Stakeholder Updates

Title	Comment
<p>Transpower's annual outage forum</p> <p>EA publish planned outage information</p> <p>Tamara Linnhoff Privacy of natural persons</p>	<p>You recently asked about planned outages and possibility of bringing these forward ahead of winter.</p> <p>Transpower routinely aims to ensure outages (plant shut down for planned maintenance) occur ahead of winter, as far as feasible. On 20 March Transpower held its annual outage forum where New Zealand's electricity industry plans critical outages necessary each year to keep the power system operating smoothly.</p> <p>There are 2,612 outages for 2025/26 in the draft annual outage plan. This includes upgrades that will increase the capacity of several transmission lines across the grid, which will in turn improve system efficiency, bring down costs and enable future connections and investment in renewable generation. A final outage plan will be published in the next few weeks.</p> <p>The EA also recently published a first edition of a new weekly security of supply snapshot. This includes the following chart which shows the amount of power generation infrastructure on outage over the next three months is expected to be below average on most day.</p>  <p>Source: Transpower</p>
<p>Rewiring Aotearoa Letter on opportunities in the energy portfolio</p> <p>Scott Russell Privacy of natural persons</p>	<p>On 14 March 2025 Rewiring Aotearoa sent you a letter outlining key opportunities from Rewiring Aotearoa's perspective to lower energy costs, bolster security of supply and reduce emissions. You have asked for advice on what is already underway in response to Rewiring's suggestions.</p> <p>Confidential advice to Government</p> <p>[Redacted]</p> <p>[Redacted]</p> <p>Energy Efficiency and Conservation Act 2000</p> <p>Rewiring support the Modernisation of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Act. However, they note in their letter that EV chargers in New Zealand should all be required to be smart charges to reduce peak load, and help manage network constraints.</p> <p>MBIE is progressing work on a Bill to implement changes to the Act that will enable requirements for demand flexibility technologies such as smart EV chargers</p> <p>[Redacted]</p> <p>[Redacted]</p>

Energy Competition Taskforce

Rewiring support the direction of the Energy Competition Taskforce and note they have submitted to consultations on the Taskforce initiatives. Submissions are currently open on the level playing field measures and cross-submissions are open on new ways to empower electricity consumers.

Confidential advice to Government




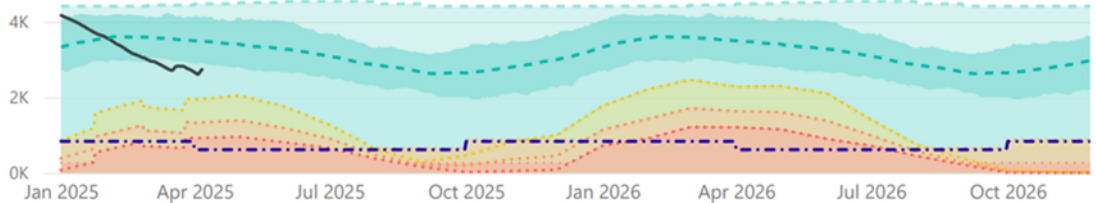
Commercial Information

Commercial Information

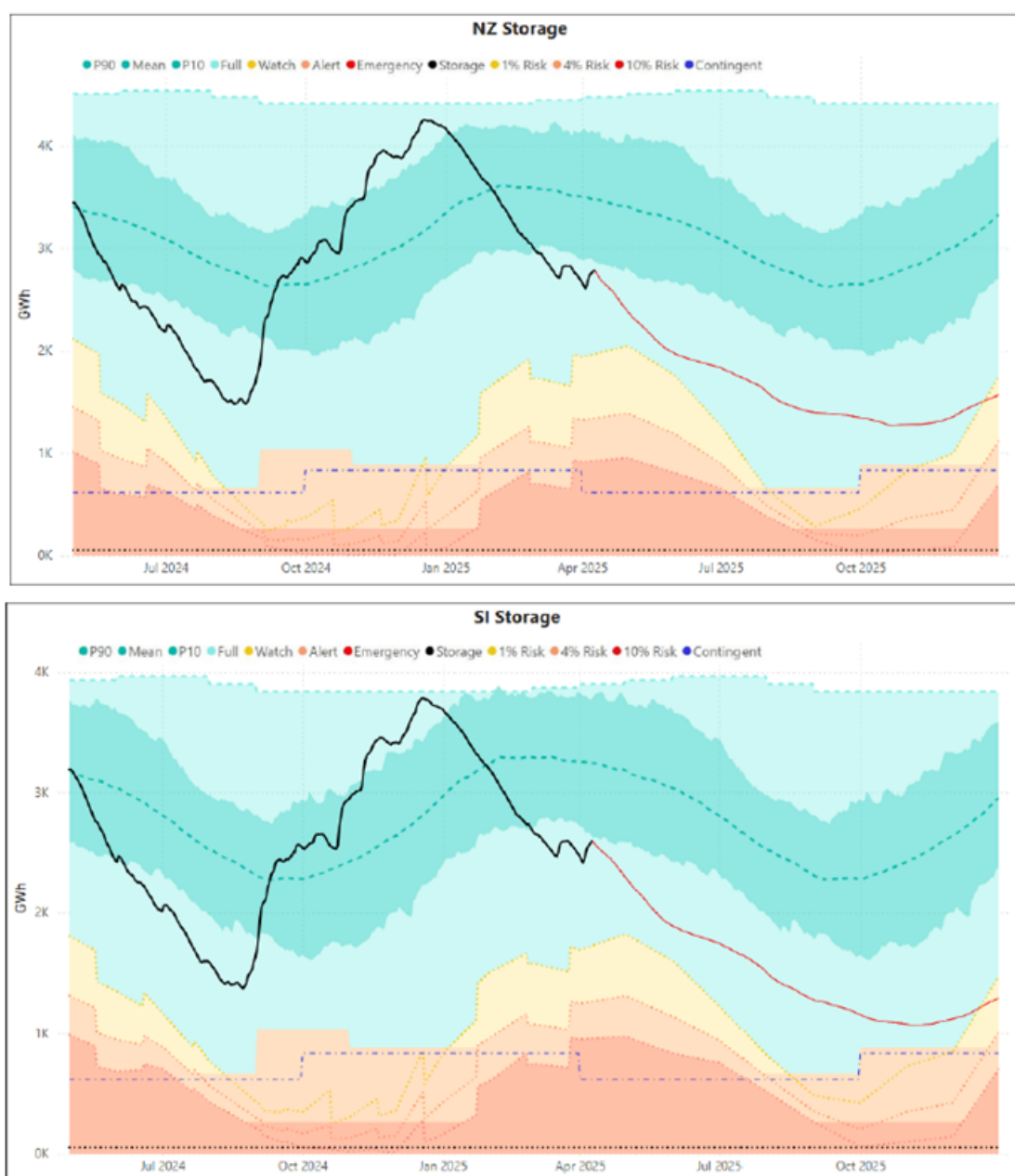
<p>Alpine Energy to refund consumers it overcharged</p> <p>Tamara Linnhoff <small>Privacy of natural persons</small></p>	<p>On 9 April 2025 the Commerce Commission issued a formal warning to Alpine Energy (Timaru-based distribution network company) and ordered it to refund customers through an enforceable undertaking. Alpine itself had noticed an accounting error and reported this to the Commission.</p> <p>This week, the Commission made a formal finding that Alpine had overcharged consumers \$16.9 million over 9 years. The undertakings contain commitments from Alpine to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• return the full amount of the overcharge to consumers (\$16.9m) and to forego future revenue (\$10.8m in the 2026 pricing year and ~\$11m in the 2027 pricing year)• establish a programme to make refunds to former consumers (e.g people who have moved out of the area)• spend \$1.5m on community initiatives related to access to electricity, including energy hardship. <p>Refunds, via a one-off credit to consumers' power bills, will take place in May or June this year.</p> <p>Background</p> <p>Alpine Energy, which services more than 33,800 customers had provided incorrect information (disclosure statements) to the Commission relating to its depreciation calculations. This information was used by the Commission to set allowable revenues and Alpine's maximum allowable revenue was overstated, leading to customers being overcharged for the distribution component of their electricity bills between 2015 and 2024.</p>
<p>Recent and pending Fast-track applications</p> <p>Daniel Brown <small>Privacy of natural persons</small></p>	<p>Contact Energy has submitted its consent application for the 330MW Southland wind farm to the new Fast-track legislation. Confidential advice to Government</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>

Current appointments

Confidential advice to Government

Title	Comment
<div>Electricity security of supply</div> <div>Tamara Linnhoff</div> <div>Privacy of natural persons</div>	<div><div>ELECTRICITY CAPACITY (for the week to Sunday 6 April 2025)</div><div>Residual generation margins were healthy last week, with over 1,000 MW residual during all peaks. This is because thermal unit commitment is high for this time of year in response to low hydro storage. The lowest residual was 1,139 MW on Tuesday evening.</div><div>The N-1-G margin is sufficient to meet peak demand in the look-ahead through to end of May 2025:</div><div><div>NZGB Look-Ahead (excluding next 7 days)</div><div></div><div>Source: System Operator, Market Operations - Weekly Market Movements</div></div><div><div>ENERGY (HYDRO) STORAGE RELATIVE TO MEAN (for the week to 6 April)</div><div>National hydro storage has increased from 77% to 79% of average for this time of year. South Island storage increased from 77% to 79% of its historical mean, while North Island storage remained at 81%. National storage now sits below the 9th percentile, while South Island storage sits below the 7th percentile.</div><div><div>ELECTRICITY ('ENERGY') SUPPLY RISK (at 6 April)</div><div>The level of 'energy risk' is measured by hydro storage levels relative to the electricity risk status curves.</div><div><div><div>New Zealand Energy Risk</div><div></div></div><div><div>South Island Energy Risk</div><div></div></div><div><div>Normal</div><div>Watch</div><div>Alert</div><div>Emergency</div></div></div><div>New Zealand controlled energy storage is below average for this time of year:</div><div><div>New Zealand Electricity Risk Status Curves (Available GWh)</div><div><div><div>10th to 9...</div><div>Available ...</div><div>Nominal ...</div><div>Mean NZ...</div><div>Watch</div><div>Alert</div><div>Emergency</div><div>1% Risk</div><div>4% Risk</div><div>10% Risk</div></div><div></div></div></div><div>The System Operator last updated the ERCs on 28 March 2025. Commentary on that update is in the Weekly Report of 31 March 2025. The next ERC update is expected at the end of April.</div><div>Source: System Operator, Market Operations - Weekly Market Movements</div></div></div></div>

You have asked us to report on the number of days until the NZ system hits energy risk curves – if it does not rain. In response, Transpower have provided the following charts. These charts show the actual storage position (black line) to 9 April compared to the worst-case simulated storage trajectory (SST, red line). The SST is created using the lowest inflow each week over the past 93 years of historic records. This is **highly unlikely** to eventuate: Transpower models this red line ‘to prepare for the worst.’ As at 9 April the red line had been calibrated to match the current starting position given recent rain.



The SSTs are extended until they cross the Electricity Risk Curves and provide an estimated time until further action would be taken to address security of supply. The actions differ at Watch, Alert or Emergency status (BRIEFING-REQ-0008374).

The table below shows the number of days until each curve would be crossed, based on worst case inflows. These should be read as a guide to the maximum period before it needs to rain. Given current conditions, hydro storage would cross the watch curve on **22 December** for New Zealand as a whole and **19 December** April for the South Island. **Storage is not projected to cross the Alert or Emergency Curves in 2025 even if worst-case inflows occur.**

Worst case inflows - Time to cross successive curves

Region	Date Watch	Time to Watch	Date Alert	Time to Alert	Date Emergency	Time to Emergency
NZ	22/12/2025	257	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
SI	19/12/2025	254	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

The ERCs and worst-case inflows line created 31 March. Actual storage is as at **9 April**.

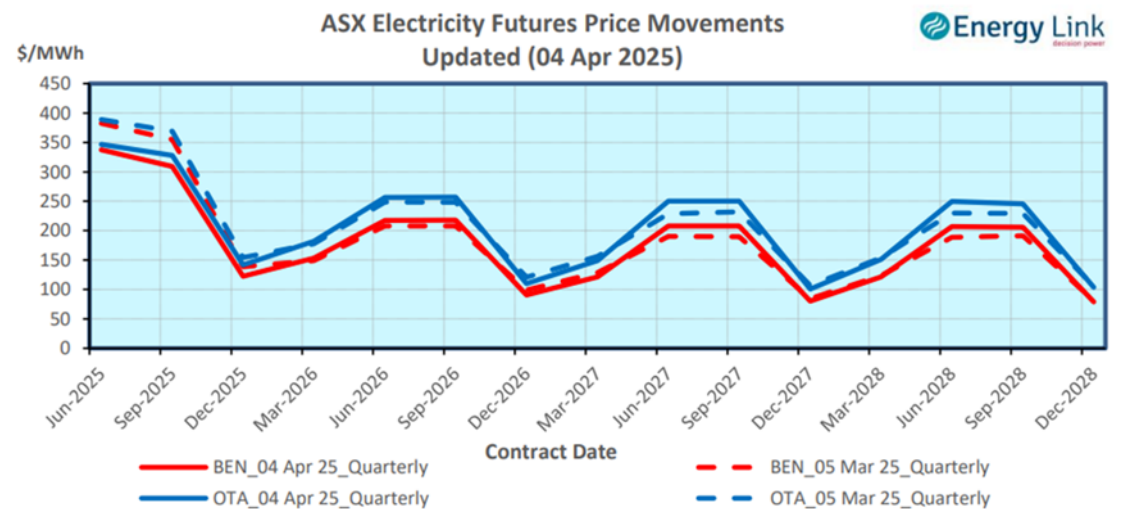
WHOLESALE ELECTRICITY PRICES

Weekly Spot Price (week ended 6 April 2025)



Source: System Operator, Market Operations - Weekly Market Movements

ASX Electricity Futures Prices (latest available update 4 April 2025)



Source: Energy Link, Energy Trendz Weekly

Upcoming Ministerial Items

1. Upcoming Energy meetings

None this week.

2. Upcoming Briefings, Aides Memoires and Cabinet Papers

Information to be publically released shortly

Information to be publically released shortly

3. Written Parliamentary Questions

None this week

4. Ministerial Correspondence received

Due date	Tracking number	Correspondent	Summary of Correspondence
15 April 2025	SW25-110	Privacy of natural persons	Electricity Market opening to smaller/micro suppliers
18 April 2025	SW25-44		Hydro power on the Upper Clutha River

5. Output plan

Confidential advice to Government

Confidential advice to Government



Energy Portfolio Weekly Report

Week commencing:	22/04/2025	Priority:	Medium
Security classification:	In Confidence	Tracking number:	BRIEFING-REQ-0012760

Recipient	Action sought
HON SIMON WATTS MINISTER FOR ENERGY	Note the contents of this report

Rebecca Heerdegen
Policy Director
Energy Markets Branch
Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment

Privacy of natural persons

17 April 2025

Minister's comments:

Energy Portfolio Officials' Meeting Agenda

4:00 pm – 5:00 pm Tuesday 22 April 2025

Item	Subject	People	Oral Item / Paper #	Action Required
1.	Solar work programme	Peter Bartlett	BRIEFING-REQ-0012235	Discussion
2.	Contingent hydro storage	Sharon Corbett Ed Smith Gareth Wilson	Oral	Discussion
3.	Confidential advice to Government			
4.	Weekly Report & Work Programme	Minister	Oral	Discussion
5.	Any other business	All	Oral	Discussion

Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment officials attending:

Name	Position
Paul Stocks	Deputy Secretary, Building, Resources and Markets
Justine Cannon	General Manager, Energy Markets
Sharon Corbett	Policy Director, Energy Markets
Peter Bartlett	Director, Sector Engagement
Ed Smith	Acting Manager, Electricity Generation, Infrastructure and Markets Policy
Amelie Goldberg	Acting Manager, Energy Use Policy
Gareth Wilson	Strategic Advisor, Electricity Generation, Infrastructure and Markets Policy

Key Updates

Title	Comment
Implementing Electrify NZ Daniel Brown <small>Privacy of natural persons</small>	<p>You are scheduled to meet the Minister Responsible for RM Reform on 22 April to discuss how the RM reform programme can support the Government's energy objectives. We provided talking points to your Office on 16 April to support this discussion.</p> <p>Cabinet has confirmed proposals for the replacement RMA legislation and next steps for RMA national direction – including the National Policy Statements for Renewable Electricity Generation and Electricity Networks. Further Cabinet decisions on the final detail of national direction are scheduled by May 2025, prior to release of a discussion document.</p> <p>The Resource Management (Consenting and Other System Changes) Amendment Bill is currently before Select Committee. We expect the revision-tracked version of the Bill, which incorporates changes from the Departmental Report, to be provided to the Committee in the coming weeks.</p>
New permitting regime for offshore renewable energy Melanee Beatson <small>Privacy of natural persons</small>	<p>Confidential advice to Government</p> <p>Following our briefing (0011548] on the terms of the first round for feasibility permits, we will provide a letter to support your early engagement with your colleagues.</p> <p>Confidential advice to Government</p>
Review of electricity market performance Victoria Coad <small>Privacy of natural persons</small>	<p>Confidential advice to Government</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>
Energy Hardship Reporting Scott Russell <small>Privacy of natural persons</small>	<p>Confidential advice to Government</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ [REDACTED] ■ [REDACTED] ■ [REDACTED] <p>[REDACTED]</p>

Key actions tracker

Action and outcome	Updates (if any)	Status and upcoming milestones
Electricity Market Review Independent review to advise on the impact of market structure, design, and rules on the electricity systems' performance	Confidential advice to Government	
Energy Competition Taskforce Joint EA and Commerce Commission investigation of options to improve competition and enable consumers to manage usage and costs	<i>1A Sleeving (firm generation) for PPAs:</i> EA is reviewing submissions.	On track Consultation on level playing field measures underway.
	<i>1B Standardised flexibility contracts:</i> Initial offer rounds held. EA is monitoring liquidity (or lack of).	
	<i>1C+D sharing flexibility and level playing field measures:</i> Consultation commenced 27 February the deadline for submissions has been extended by 2 weeks to 7 May.	
	<i>2A+B+C Better compensating household power injection and time of use plans:</i> Consultation closed 26 March and the EA is now reviewing submissions. Code change decisions expected in June 2025.	
	<i>2D Better compensating industrial demand response:</i> EA/Commission team is working up options for Taskforce then EA Board consideration, ahead of potential consultation.	
Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) Creating an enabling regulatory regime for CCS which could improve the economics of gas production	Confidential advice to Government	
Confidential advice to Government		
Contingent hydro storage (Transpower/industry) A review of the process for which access to contingent hydro storage is triggered (the amount of contingency available is set by consents)	Commercial Information Transpower's consultation on their risk assessment framework ended 31 March. If Transpower consider a Code change is warranted they will next consult on a proposed draft amendment, then submit a proposal to the EA. Transpower told you in your meeting with them on 9 April that they will circulate a decision paper next week and publish that the week after (week beginning 21 April). The EA Board would then consider (and possibly decide) to amend the Code. On 7 April you wrote to the Guardians and Meridian asking them to further consider the extending the minimum level of Lake Te Anau. No response has yet been received.	On track Transpower considering submissions on March consultation. Meridian/Guardians considering Minister's 7 April letter

Action and outcome	Updates (if any)	Status and upcoming milestones
Confidential advice to Government		
Consumer demand response and Solar Confidential advice to Government	Confidential advice to Government	On track
Electricity (Hazards from Trees) Regulations	<p>Cabinet confirmed the paper on Monday 14 April. We are preparing drafting instructions for PCO now.</p> <p>We have provided your office with a speech for the ERANZ/ENA networking event on 29 April that includes an announcement of Hazards from Trees amendments. We have provided draft PR, Q&A and a factsheet for media to your office. A PR is planned for 29 April.</p>	<p>On track</p> <p>Preparing drafting instructions</p> <p>You will announce, and a PR will be published, 29 April</p>
Confidential advice to Government		
Offshore Renewable Energy	<p>Following our presentation of the Departmental Report to the Select Committee on 10 April 2025, we are working with PCO on the RT version of the Bill (to be presented to the select committee on 8 May 2025).</p> <p>We are planning targeted consultation on the exposure draft of the feasibility permit regulations and the terms of the first feasibility permit application round (late April – mid-May 2025).</p> <p>We are preparing advice on how to assess competing applications in the first round.</p>	<p>On track</p> <p>RT version of the Bill to be presented to the select committee on 8 May 2025.</p>
Permitted Voltage Range Changing regulations to expand the permitted fluctuation range on low voltage electricity networks to permit more solar injection and EV charging	Confidential advice to Government	<p>On track</p> <p>Confidential advice to Government</p>

Action and outcome	Updates (if any)	Status and upcoming milestones
Electricity and Gas Safety Standards Updating more than 400 references to international standards in the regulations. This includes new standards for solar and EV chargers, reducing costs.	Confidential advice to Government	
Hydrogen regulations Delivering Hydrogen Action Plan commitment to amend safety regulations to enable hydrogen.	Confidential advice to Government	
Hydrogen exports	We are awaiting further advice from Obayashi on whether New Zealand's certification approach is fit for purpose for exports.	On track
Woody Bioenergy Investigating barriers to the development of the domestic supply chain and export opportunities for woody bioenergy.	We provided you a briefing on 17 April outlining outcomes and emerging themes of targeted stakeholder engagement. We are continuing policy work to refine problem definitions and analyse policy options, and will brief you in May on a proposed woody bioenergy work programme.	On track
Led by other Ministerial portfolios		
Public EV Charging Funding Model Governments funding model for public EV charging (to concessional loans)	Cabinet has now agreed to the revised funding model. <small>Confidential advice to Government</small> [REDACTED] [REDACTED] MOT is preparing for announcements on the revised funding model.	On track
Led by the Electricity Authority		
Electricity pipeline updates	On 28 March the EA provided information to you on their generation pipeline dataset and signalled that this will be provided monthly.	Ongoing
Led by Transpower		
Transpower's Connections Queue for Generation – improvements to increase project throughput Run rate to start investigations (queue) up by 50% in 2025, on 2024. 17 investigation projects started this year and 7 projects moved to delivery in 2025.	Improving throughput: Work continuing to implement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stage-gating within investigation phase – some customers starting consenting/property elements earlier pre-investigation (while they wait in queue) Right-sizing investigations to meet customer needs and risk appetite Initial work started on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standard equipment lists for standardised designs for greenfield substations Prioritisation options within the queue (based on security of supply) – progressing 	On track

Action and outcome	Updates (if any)	Status and upcoming milestones
	Improving transparency: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated connection project status for April published on website in a new format to increase transparency https://www.transpower.co.nz/connections/connection-data. Formalising guidelines for “on hold” projects – will publish when complete. 	
Industry developments		
Potential commercial deals to enhance winter security of supply <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Methanex gas deal Potential industry actions to improve security of supply including Huntly (Heads of Agreement) firming contracts Demand response deals 	<p>Commercial Information</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>Commercial Information</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>Demand response deals:</p> <p>As reported on 3 March (with no change): The NZAS demand response tranches of 25MW; 50MW and 100MW are available to Meridian to call on this year. NZAS has also agreed to cap its production this winter at 50MW below maximum.</p> <p>We are not aware of any wider demand response deals under negotiation.</p>	Ongoing
Gas exploration updates	<p>No new information was provided this week. As reported on 14 April:</p> <p>Commercial Information</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>Reported on 31 March:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The new well at Pohokura (OMV) is delivering below expectations (10 TJ/day against expectations of 25-30 TJ/day – adding around 3.5% to gas production of 260TJ/day). <p>Commercial Information</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>	Ongoing

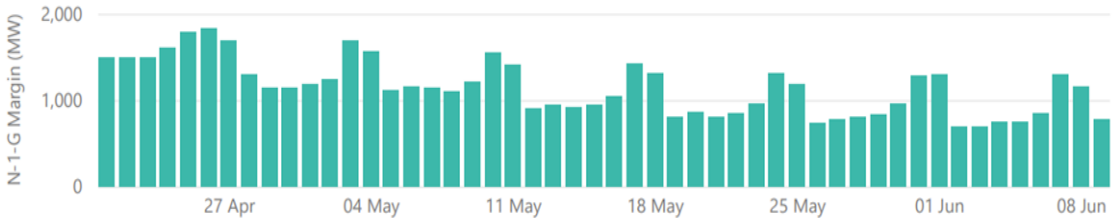
Action and outcome	Updates (if any)	Status and upcoming milestones
	Commercial Information	

Stakeholder Updates

Title	Comment
Commercial Information	

Current appointments

Confidential advice to Government

Title	Comment
<p>Gas security of supply</p> <p>Dominic Kebbell <small>Privacy of natural persons</small></p>	<p>Changes at Nova Energy</p> <p>Nova Energy has announced that Babu Bahirathan, who has been its chief executive since 2011, is to step down this year. This announcement follows the Todd Corporation's recent decision to recognise its energy operation following a strategic review last year. The company is transferring the operations of its power plants, the two gas-fired peakers at Junction Road and McKee and the Kapuni solar plant, from the customer facing Nova Energy to Todd Energy. Todd Energy has stated that the restructure will increase efficiency by grouping its electricity generation assets with its upstream gas and oil production assets.</p> <p>From an electricity market perspective, Nova Energy is vertically separating its assets. Nova energy will continue as a standalone retailer.</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 13 April 2025)</p> <p>Residual generation margins were healthy last week despite higher demand peaks compared to recent weeks. This is because thermal unit commitment is high for this time of year in response to low hydro storage. The lowest residual was 615 MW on Wednesday morning coinciding with peak demand and multiple geothermal plants on planned outage.</p> <p>The N-1-G margin is sufficient to meet peak demand in the look-ahead to the early June 2025:</p> <p>NZGB Look-Ahead (excluding next 7 days)</p>  <p><i>Source: System Operator, Market Operations - Weekly Market Movements</i></p> <p>At the time of writing: some outages are occurring in northern regions as a result of Cyclone Tam; and following a cut to fibre telecommunications cables supplying Otago and Southland, affecting their own communications systems, Transpower issued a Customer Advice Notice. This advised industry how it will manage the power system until the fibre cables are repaired. Transpower does not expect any impact on consumers.</p> <p>ENERGY (HYDRO) STORAGE RELATIVE TO MEAN (for the week to 13 April)</p> <p>National hydro storage increased from 79% to 80% of the historic mean last week. South Island hydro storage also increased from 79% to 80%, while North Island storage dropped from 82% to 71% of the historic mean for this time of year. National storage still sits just below the 10th percentile.</p>

ELECTRICITY ('ENERGY') SUPPLY RISK (at 13 April)

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

New Zealand Energy Risk



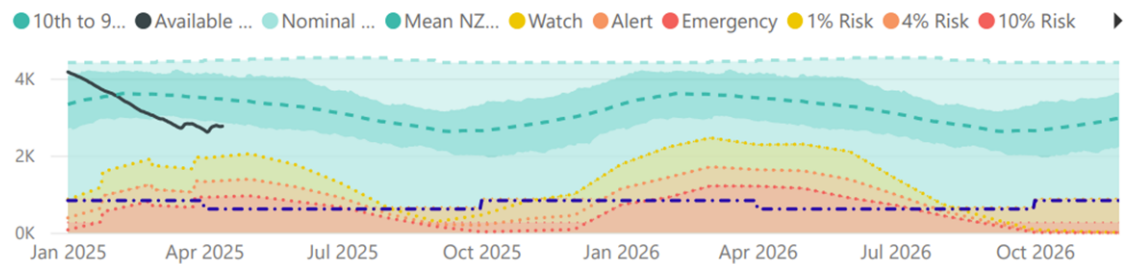
South Island Energy Risk



Normal Watch Alert Emergency

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

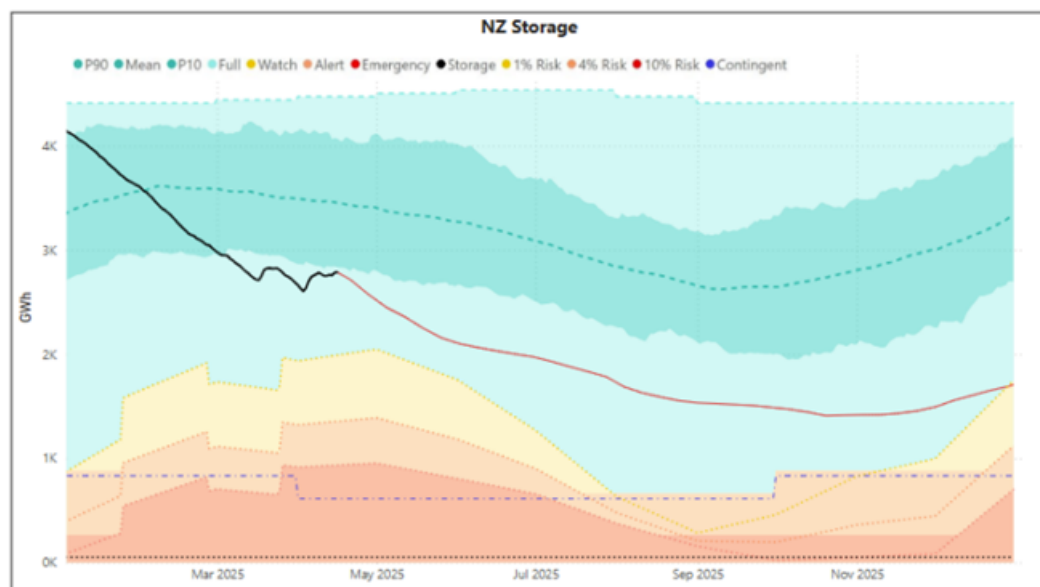
New Zealand Electricity Risk Status Curves (Available GWh)

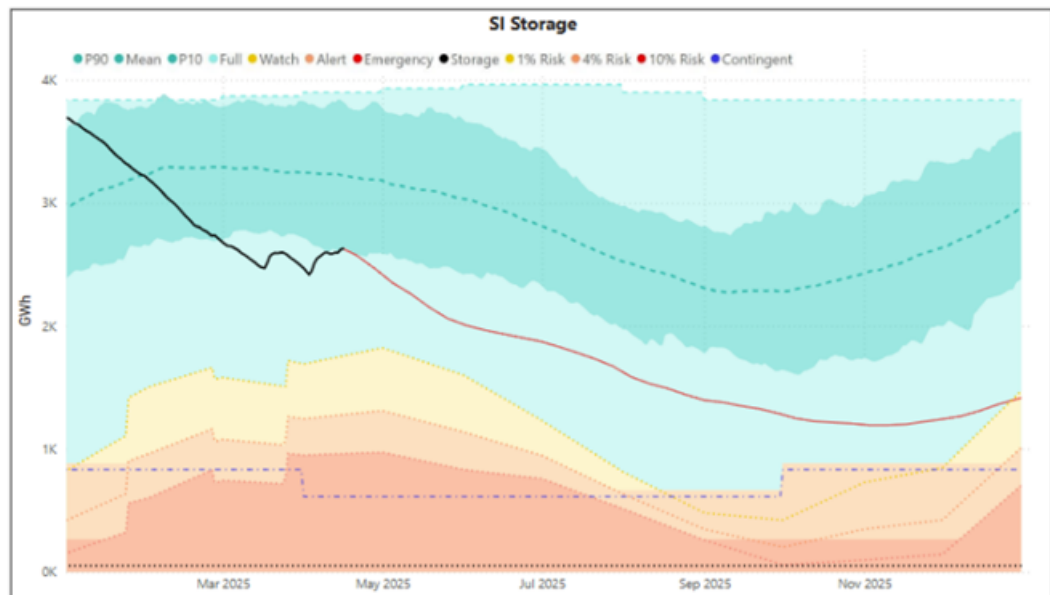


The System Operator last updated the ERCs on 28 March 2025. Commentary on that update is in the Weekly Report of 31 March 2025. The next ERC update is expected at the end of April.

Source: System Operator, Market Operations - Weekly Market Movements

You have asked us to report on the number of days until the NZ system hits energy risk curves – if it does not rain. In response, Transpower have provided the following charts. These charts show the actual storage position (black line) **to 16 April** compared to the worst-case simulated storage trajectory (SST, red line). The SST is created using the lowest inflow each week over the past 93 years of historic records. This is highly unlikely to eventuate, Transpower models this red line 'to prepare for the worst.'





The SSTs are extended until they cross the Electricity Risk Curves and provide an estimated time until further action would be taken to address security of supply. The actions differ at Watch, Alert or Emergency status (BRIEFING-REQ-0008374).

The table below shows the number of days until each curve would be crossed, based on worst case inflows. These are not a forecast of future inflows but should be used as a guide to the maximum time available before it needs to rain.

Hydro storage would cross the watch curve on **29 December** for New Zealand as a whole and **28 December** for the South Island. **Storage is not projected to cross the Alert or Emergency Curves in 2025 even if worst-case inflows occur.**

Worst case inflows - Time to cross successive curves

Region	Date Watch	Time to Watch	Date Alert	Time to Alert	Date Emergency	Time to Emergency
NZ	29/12/2025	257	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
SI	28/12/2025	256	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

The ERCs and worst-case inflows line was created 31 March. Actual storage is as at 16 April.

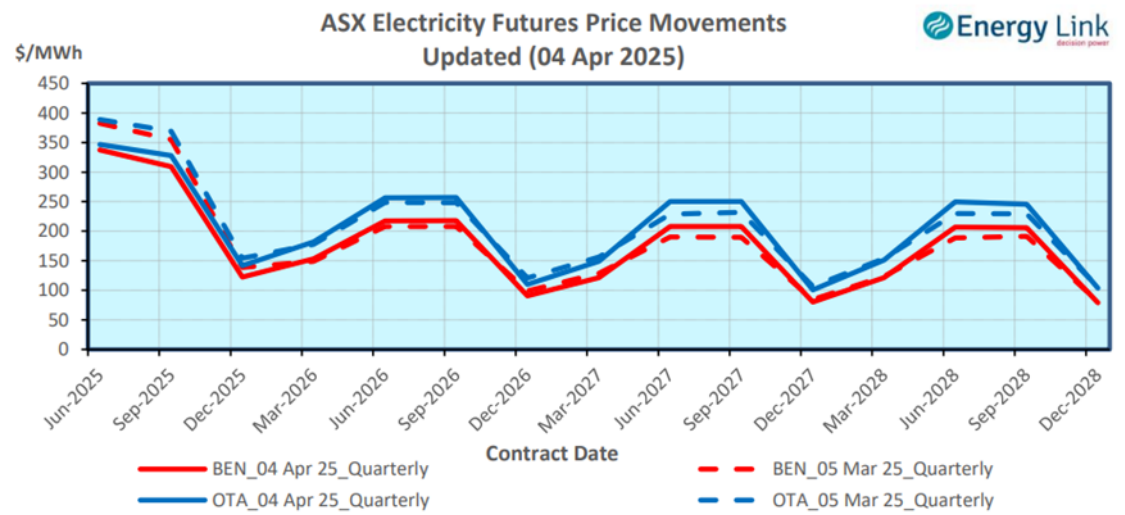
WHOLESALE ELECTRICITY PRICES

Weekly Spot Price (week ended 13 April 2025)



Source: System Operator, Market Operations - Weekly Market Movements

ASX Electricity Futures Prices (latest available update 4 April 2025)



Source: Energy Link, Energy Trendz Weekly

Confidential advice to Government

Energy Fast-track Projects listed in the Fast-track legislation

Listed Project	Confidential advice to Government	Notes
Lodestone Energy Limited - Haldon Solar Project		Schedule 2 Listed Project
Genesis Energy Limited: Tekapo Power Scheme – Applications for Replacement Resource Consents		Schedule 2 Listed Project
Energy farms. Wellsford solar farm		Schedule 2 Listed Project
Black Points Solar Limited; Black Point Solar Farm		Schedule 2 Listed Project
Westpower, Waitaha Hydro		Schedule 2 Listed Project
Manawa Energy; Wheao Hydro Power Scheme Reconsent		Schedule 2 Listed Project
Manawa Energy; Kaimai Hydro Power Scheme Reconsent		Schedule 2 Listed Project
Tararua Wind Power Limited - a fully owned subsidiary of Mercury NZ Limited; Mahinerangi Wind Farm		Schedule 2 Listed Project
Tararua Wind Power Limited (a wholly owned subsidiary of Mercury NZ Limited); Waikokowai Wind Farm		Schedule 2 Listed Project
Tararua Wind Power Limited (a wholly owned subsidiary of Mercury NZ Limited); Tararua Wind Farm Repowering		Schedule 2 Listed Project
Eastland Generation - Waihi Hydro Re-consenting		Schedule 2 Listed Project
Mercury NZ Limited; Puketoi Wind Farm		Schedule 2 Listed Project
A and K Simpson. Balmoral Solar Farm.		Schedule 2 Listed Project
Manawa Energy; Huriwaka Wind Farm		Schedule 2 Listed Project
SolarGen Joint Venture; Foxton Solar Farm		Schedule 2 Listed Project
Tauhara North No.2 Trust; Rotokawa Solar Farm		Schedule 2 Listed Project

Confidential advice to Government

Far North Solar Farm Ltd; The Point Solar Farm	Schedule 2 Listed Project
Harmony Energy Ltd; Hinuera Solar Farm	Schedule 2 Listed Project
Harmony Energy Ltd; Bunnythorpe Solar Farm	Schedule 2 Listed Project
Kaimai Wind Farm Ltd; Kaimai Wind Farm	Schedule 2 Listed Project
Lochindorb Wind Limited Partnership; Kaihiku Wind Farm	Schedule 2 Listed Project

Upcoming Ministerial Items

1. Upcoming Energy meetings

Meeting date	Meeting	Details
Tuesday 22 April 2025 9:00 am – 9:30 am	Minister Bishop – RMA Matters	Briefing Due: 16 April 2025 Officials required: Dan Brown
Wednesday 23 April 2025 1:30 – 2:15 pm	Vising Manawa Energy's New office, Tauranga	Briefing Due: 22 April 2025 Officials required: not required
Thursday 24 April 2025 10:30 am – 10:50 am	ComCom Fortnightly meeting	Briefing Due: Not required Officials required: Sharon Corbett
Thursday 24 April 2025 11:00 am – 11:20 am	Transpower Fortnightly meeting	Briefing Due: Not required Officials required: Justine Cannon

2. Upcoming Briefings, Aides Memoires and Cabinet Papers

Information to be publically released shortly

Information to be publically released shortly

3. Written Parliamentary Questions

Due to Minister	Number	Member	Question
23 April 2025	17995	Benjamin Doyle	On what date, if any, did the Minister and the Chief Executives of the agencies they are responsible for, if any, ensure that all staff involved in the development of government regulatory proposals are familiar with the contents of Cabinet Office Circular CO (24) 7 - Impact Analysis Requirements, if at all?
23 April 2025	18050	Francisco Hernandez	What consultations are the Minister's departments, agencies, crown entities and any other bodies that the Minister is responsible for, if any, planning to open on the week beginning 21 April with employees around any changes to employment roles, employment numbers and any other employment conditions, and when are the consultations scheduled to close?
23 April 2025	18052	Francisco Hernandez	What consultations are the Minister's departments, agencies, crown entities and any other bodies that the Minister is responsible for, if any, planning to open on the week beginning 14 April with employees around any changes to employment roles, employment numbers and any other employment conditions, and how many roles were affected?
23 April 2025	18057	Francisco Hernandez	What consultations did the Minister's departments, agencies, crown entities and any other bodies that the Minister is responsible for, if any, open on the week beginning 7 April with employees around any changes to employment roles, employment numbers and any other employment conditions, and when are the consultations due to close?
23 April 2025	18060	Francisco Hernandez	What consultations are the Minister's departments, agencies, crown entities and any other bodies that the Minister is responsible for, if any, planning to open on the week beginning 21 April with employees around

Due to Minister	Number	Member	Question
			any changes to employment roles, employment numbers and any other employment conditions, and how many roles were affected?
23 April 2025	18061	Francisco Hernandez	What consultations are the Minister's departments, agencies, crown entities and any other bodies that the Minister is responsible for, if any, planning to open on the week beginning 14 April with employees around any changes to employment roles, employment numbers and any other employment conditions, and when are the consultations expected to close?
23 April 2025	18197	Debbie Ngarewa-Parker	Further to 16066 (2025) On what date will the Government release their Energy Strategy?
23 April 2025	18362	Francisco Hernandez	What consultations did the Minister's departments, agencies, crown entities and any other bodies that the Minister is responsible for, if any, open on the week beginning 7 April with employees around any changes to employment roles, employment numbers and any other employment conditions, and how many roles were affected?

4. Ministerial Correspondence received

Due date	Tracking number	Correspondent	Summary of Correspondence
30 April 2025	SW25-93	Privacy of natural persons	NoviOcean Medi Wave 800H (NO-MW800H)—innovative hybrid energy solution
30 April 2025	SW25-109		Upgrade insulation in home my property was not eligible
30 April 2025	SW25-123		Electricity prices
30 April 2025	SW25-128		Warmer Kiwi Homes programme
30 April 2025	SW25-129		Electricity prices
1 May 2025	SW25-130		Electricity Act
1 May 2025	SW25-133		Solar Energy
1 May 2025	SW25-134		Proposal for the supply of 500 MW of back-up electricity

5. Output plan

Confidential advice to Government

Confidential advice to Government



Energy Portfolio Weekly Report

Week commencing: 28/04/2025

Priority: Medium

Security classification: In Confidence

Tracking number: BRIEFING-REQ-0013108

Recipient

Action sought

**HON SIMON WATTS
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

24 April 2025

Minister's comments:

**Energy Portfolio
Officials' Meeting Agenda
9:00 am – 10:00 am Monday 28 April 2025**

Item	Subject	People	Oral Item / Paper #	Action Required
1.	Confidential advice to Government			
2.	Market response to Transpower announcement	Garth Wilson	Oral	Discussion
3.	Flexibility and distributed energy resources	Peter Bartlett	BRIEFING-REQ-0012269	Discussion
4.	EECA Work programme	Peter Bartlett Amelie Goldberg	Oral	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 (Tentative)
Paul Stocks	Deputy Secretary, Building, Resources and Markets
Justine Cannon	General Manager, Energy Markets
Bruce Parkes	General Manager, Resources Markets
Sharon Corbett	Policy Director, Energy Markets
Peter Bartlett	Director, Sector Engagement
Gareth Wilson	Strategic Advisor, Energy Markets
Amelie Goldberg	Acting Manager, Energy Use Policy

Key Updates

Title	Comment
Implementing Electrify NZ Daniel Brown <small>Privacy of natural persons</small>	<p>Cabinet has confirmed proposals for the replacement RMA legislation and next steps for RMA national direction – including the National Policy Statements for Renewable Electricity Generation and Electricity Networks. Further Cabinet decisions on the final detail of national direction are scheduled by early May 2025, prior to release of a discussion document.</p> <p>The Resource Management (Consenting and Other System Changes) Amendment Bill is currently before Select Committee. We expect the revision-tracked version of the Bill, which incorporates changes from the Departmental Report, to be provided to the Committee in the near future.</p> <p>An update on renewable energy projects applying for Fast-track consents is provided in the Stakeholder Updates section below. After our discussion with you on 22 April 2025, we propose to provide updates highlighting key projects actively applying for Fast-track, or currently being considered in the Fast-track statutory process, rather than the longlist of projects listed in the Fast-track legislation.</p>
Operating Guidelines for Lakes Manapōuri and Te Anau Ed Smith <small>Privacy of natural persons</small>	<p>You requested that Meridian and the Guardians revisit discussions about extending the extreme minimum level permitted at Lake Te Anau. Meridian recently wrote to you confirming that the Guardians have advised them they will not agree to support an extension but will propose a change to help reduce Meridian’s compliance concerns when the Lake is in its Low Operating Range. We understand the Guardians will write to you soon setting out their position.</p> <p>Officials have begun preparing a gazette notice, based on your decisions, that will make the changes agreed between both parties. Confidential advice to Government</p>
Energy Efficiency and Conservation (Energy Flexibility and Regulatory Improvements) Amendment Bill – update on timing Amelie Goldberg <small>Privacy of natural persons</small>	<p>We are working to provide you with a draft bill and accompanying LEG paper seeking approval to introduce the Energy Efficiency and Conservation (Energy Flexibility and Regulatory Improvements) Amendment Bill. This Bill provides the enabling legislation for EV smart charging regulations and creates a more streamlined regulatory processes.</p> <p>Confidential advice to Government</p>
Contingent hydro storage Ed Smith <small>Privacy of natural persons</small>	<p>Transpower has published its response to consultation on issues with the Security of Supply Forecasting and Information Policy (SOSFIP). Transpower expects to complete a full review of the SOSFIP by the end of 2025, with approval by the Electricity Authority and incorporation into the Code in early 2026.</p> <p>Transpower has published more information about the decision criteria and process it will use in 2025. This provides more clarity about when and how Transpower will consider any change to the buffer, which is a key parameter in the SOSFIP that determines access to contingent storage.</p>

We have not yet gauged the market's response to Transpower's latest information. While it provides greater clarity, it may not reduce uncertainty as much as some would like.

Confidential advice to Government



Key actions tracker

Action and outcome	Updates (if any)	Status and upcoming milestones
Electricity Market Review Independent review to advise on the impact of market structure, design, and rules on the electricity systems' performance	Confidential advice to Government	
Energy Competition Taskforce Joint EA and Commerce Commission investigation of options to improve competition and enable consumers to manage usage and costs	<i>1A Sleeving (firm generation) for PPAs:</i> EA is reviewing submissions.	On track Consultation on level playing field measures underway.
	<i>1B Standardised flexibility contracts:</i> Initial offer rounds held. EA is monitoring liquidity (or lack of).	
	<i>1C+D sharing flexibility and level playing field measures:</i> Consultation commenced 27 February the deadline for submissions has been extended by 2 weeks to 7 May.	
	<i>2A+B+C Better compensating household power injection and time of use plans:</i> Consultation closed 26 March and the EA is now reviewing submissions. Code change decisions expected in June 2025.	
	<i>2D Better compensating industrial demand response:</i> EA/Commission team is working up options for Taskforce then EA Board consideration, ahead of potential consultation.	
Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) Creating an enabling regulatory regime for CCS which could improve the economics of gas production	Confidential advice to Government	
Confidential advice to Government		
Contingent hydro storage Statutory power to prescribe decision criteria for Transpower	Transpower has published its response to consultation on issues with the Security of Supply Forecasting and Information Policy (SOSFIP) and has published more information about the decision criteria and process it will use in 2025. Transpower expects to complete a full review of the SOSFIP by the end of 2025, with approval by the Electricity Authority and incorporation into the Code in early 2026. Confidential advice to Government	On track Draft Bill and LEG paper will be ready for Ministerial consultation from 1 May
Consumer demand response and Solar Develop package to improve consumer energy outcomes, improve access to finance and reduce install costs for rooftop solar and battery	Confidential advice to Government	
	On track	

Action and outcome	Updates (if any)	Status and upcoming milestones
Permitted Voltage Range Changing regulations to expand the permitted fluctuation range on low voltage electricity networks to permit more solar injection and EV charging	Confidential advice to Government	
Electricity (Hazards from Trees) Regulations	<p>The ENA have published a media release on 22 April highlighting the damage caused by trees falling on powerlines during Cyclone Tam and seeking changes to the Hazards from Trees regulations. You will shortly announce changes to the Hazards from Trees regulations, including a PR planned for 29 April.</p> <p>We have provided your office with a speech for the ERANZ/ENA networking event on 29 April that includes an announcement of Hazards from Trees amendments. We have been working with your office to address queries that you had on the speech.</p>	On track Preparing drafting instructions You will announce, and a PR will be published, 29 April
Confidential advice to Government		
Offshore Renewable Energy	<p>We continue to work with PCO on the RT version of the Bill, which is due to be presented to select committee on 8 May 2025.</p> <p>We are scheduled to meet with iwi/hapū and community representatives in Taranaki on 7 May 2025 as part of targeted consultation on the feasibility permit regulations and the terms of the first round. Workshops with developers will follow shortly after.</p> <p>The following advice will be provided to you soon:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a draft letter to support early engagement with your colleagues on the terms of the first round information about rights to the seabed during the feasibility period assessing competing applications in the first round. 	On track RT version of the Bill to be presented on 8 May 2025.
Confidential advice to Government		
Electricity and Gas Safety Standards Updating more than 400 references to international standards in the regulations. This includes new standards for solar and EV chargers, reducing costs.	<p>You will receive a briefing on the energy safety aspects of your portfolio from MBIE's Health and Safety policy team.</p> <p>Confidential advice to Government</p>	Confidential advice to Government

Action and outcome	Updates (if any)	Status and upcoming milestones
Hydrogen regulations Delivering Hydrogen Action Plan commitment to amend safety regulations to enable hydrogen.	Confidential advice to Government 	On track Draft consultation Confidential advice to Government
Hydrogen exports	We are awaiting further advice from Obayashi on whether New Zealand's certification approach is fit for purpose for exports.	On track
Woody Bioenergy Investigating barriers to the development of the domestic supply chain and export opportunities for woody bioenergy.	We provided you a briefing on 17 April outlining outcomes and emerging themes of targeted stakeholder engagement. We are continuing policy work to refine problem definitions and analyse policy options and will brief you in May on a proposed woody bioenergy work programme.	On track
Led by other Ministerial portfolios		
Public EV Charging Funding Model Governments funding model for public EV charging (to concessional loans)	Cabinet has now agreed to the revised funding model. Confidential advice to Government You are expected to announced changes on 27 April.	On track
Led by the Electricity Authority		
Electricity pipeline updates	On 28 March the EA provided information to you on their generation pipeline dataset and signalled that this will be provided monthly.	Ongoing
Led by Transpower		
Transpower's Connections Queue for Generation – improvements to increase project throughput Run rate to start investigations (queue) up by 50% in 2025, on 2024. 17 investigation projects started this year and 7 projects moved to delivery in 2025.	Improving throughput: Work continuing to implement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stage-gating within investigation phase – some customers starting consenting/property elements earlier pre-investigation (while they wait in queue) Right-sizing investigations to meet customer needs and risk appetite Initial work started on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standard equipment lists for standardised designs for greenfield substations – progressing Customer led investigation and delivery – scoping options Prioritisation options within the queue (based on security of supply) – progressing Improving transparency: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated connection project status for April published on website in a new format to increase transparency https://www.transpower.co.nz/connections/connection-data. Formalising guidelines for “on hold” projects – will publish when complete. 	Ongoing
Industry developments		
Potential commercial deals to enhance winter security of supply <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Methanex gas deal Potential industry actions to improve security of supply including Huntly 	Commercial Information 	Ongoing



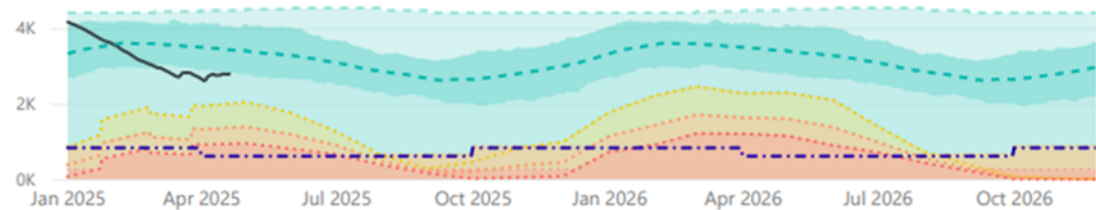
Action and outcome	Updates (if any)	Status and upcoming milestones
<p>(Heads of Agreement) firming contracts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demand response deals 	<p>Commercial Information</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>Commercial Information</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p><i>Demand response deals:</i></p> <p>As reported on 3 March (with no change): The NZAS demand response tranches of 25MW; 50MW and 100MW are available to Meridian to call on this year. NZAS has also agreed to cap its production this winter at 50MW below maximum.</p> <p>We are not aware of any wider demand response deals under negotiation.</p>	
Gas exploration updates	<p>No new information was provided this week. As reported on 14 April:</p> <p>Commercial Information</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>Reported on 31 March:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The new well at Pohokura (OMV) is delivering below expectations (10 TJ/day against expectations of 25-30 TJ/day – adding around 3.5% to gas production of 260TJ/day). <p>Commercial Information</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>	Ongoing

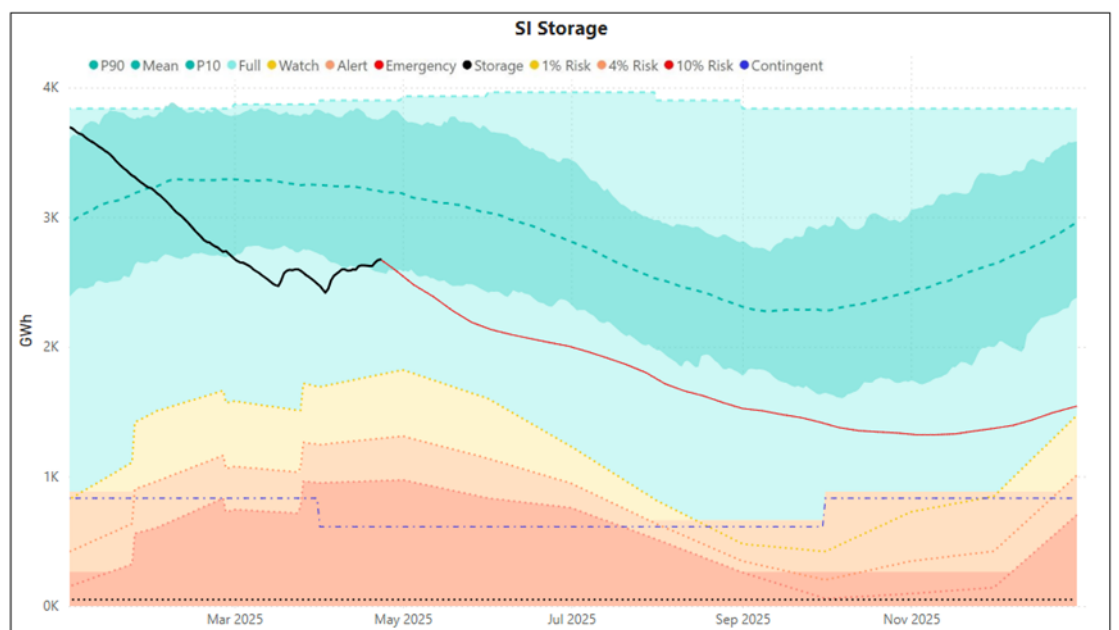
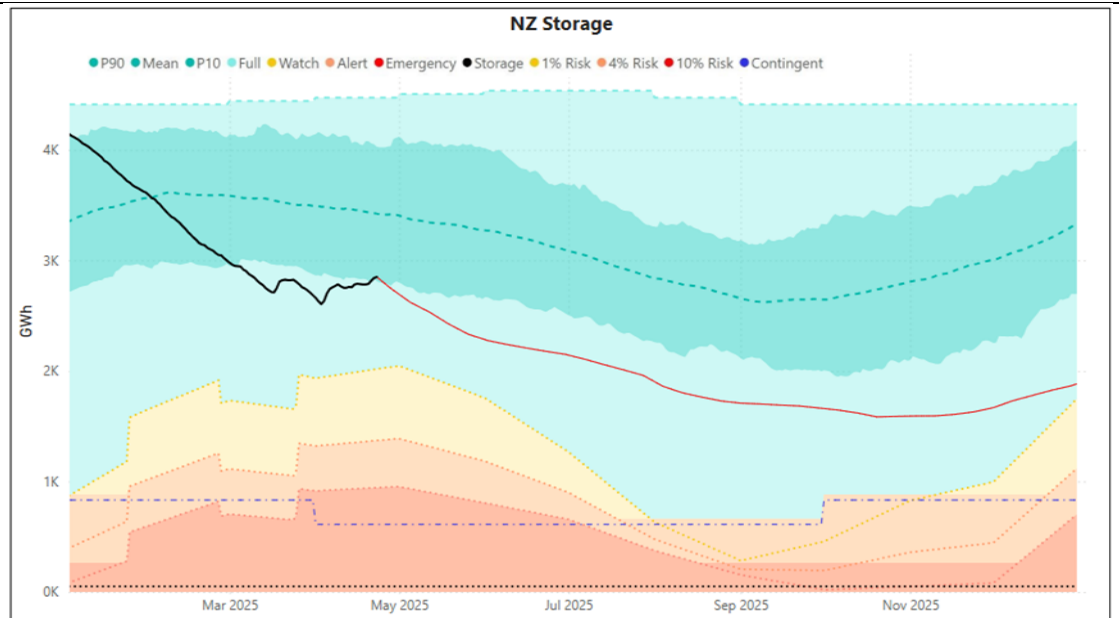
Stakeholder Updates

Title	Comment
<p>Contact Energy - Manawa Energy clearance application</p> <p>Ed Smith Privacy of natural persons</p>	<p>The Commerce Commission is currently scheduled to make a decision on the application by 9 May 2025. This date may change if the Commission is not satisfied that the proposed acquisition will not have, or would not be likely to have, the effect of substantially lessening competition in a market in New Zealand.</p> <p>The Commission previously released a 'Statement of Issues' (Sol) on the proposed acquisition in February 2025. The Sol sets out the potential competition issues the Commission has identified following their initial investigation. It provides an opportunity for the parties, as well as other interested parties, to provide submissions.</p> <p>In summary, the Commission identified 4 major concerns:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. the merged entity may have the ability and incentive to foreclose its competitors – independent retailers and generators – by refusing to supply them with the shaped hedges that they can use to appropriately manage their financial risk and therefore function as effective competitors in the market;2. the Acquisition would eliminate any future competition between Contact and Manawa in the supply of shaped hedges which is likely to be detrimental to customers seeking these types of hedges;3. aggregation of the Parties' businesses could result in a merged entity with a substantially greater ability to impact the average wholesale electricity spot price more than Contact or Manawa would be able to do independently of one another;4. the Commission is not satisfied that the Proposed Acquisition would not give rise to coordinated effects in the market for the wholesale supply of physical electricity. <p>The Commission also stated issues that do not currently raise concerns, which included that the merged entity is unlikely to materially reduce the level of new generation or result in higher levels of spot prices in the medium to long term.</p>
<h1>Confidential advice to Government</h1>	
<p>Energy projects being considered for Fast-track approvals</p> <p>Daniel Brown Privacy of natural persons</p>	<p>A number of renewable energy projects are in the process of applying for Fast-track approvals. Projects listed in the Fast-track legislation will go straight to an assessment panel once their application paperwork is complete. Projects not listed in the legislation need to go through an additional step – the Minister for Infrastructure must first agree to let them access the Fast-track process.</p> <p>Some current proposals of note include:</p> <p>Confidential advice to Government</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>

	<p>Confidential advice to Government</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>
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Confidential advice to Government

Title	Comment
<div>Electricity security of supply</div> <div>Ed Smith</div> <div>Privacy of natural persons</div>	<div><div>ELECTRICITY CAPACITY (Week Ended 20 April 2025)</div><div>National capacity margins were healthy last week, with over 1,000 MW of residual available during all peaks. This is due to high thermal unit commitment for this time of year as hydro storage remains relatively low. The lowest residual was 1,685 MW on the evening of Monday 14 April.</div><div>The N-1-G margin is sufficient to meet peak demand in the look-ahead to mid-June 2025:</div><div><div>NZGB Look-Ahead (excluding next 7 days)</div><div>Source: System Operator, Market Operations - Weekly Market Movements</div></div><div><div>ENERGY (HYDRO) STORAGE RELATIVE TO MEAN (Week Ended 20 April 2025)</div><div>National hydro storage continued to increase slightly this week and now sits at 82% of the historic mean for this time of year. There were unplanned outages on HVDC pole 3 during the week limiting transfer capability.</div><div><div>ELECTRICITY ('ENERGY') SUPPLY RISK (as at 20 April 2025)</div><div>The level of 'energy risk' is measured by hydro storage levels relative to the electricity risk status curves.</div><div><div><div>New Zealand Energy Risk</div><div>South Island Energy Risk</div></div></div><div>New Zealand controlled energy storage is below average for this time of year:</div><div><div>New Zealand Electricity Risk Status Curves (Available GWh)</div></div><div>Source: System Operator, Market Operations - Weekly Market Movements</div><div>The System Operator last updated the ERCs on 28 March 2025. Commentary on that update is in the Weekly Report of 31 March 2025. The next ERC update is expected next week.</div><div>You have asked us to report on the number of days until the NZ system hits energy risk curves – if it does not rain. In response, Transpower have provided the following charts. These charts show the actual storage position (black line) to 16 April compared to the worst-case simulated storage trajectory (SST, red line). The SST is created using the lowest inflow each week over the past 93 years of historic records. This is highly unlikely to eventuate, Transpower models this red line 'to prepare for the worst.'</div></div></div></div>



The SSTs are extended until they cross the Electricity Risk Curves and provide an estimated time until further action would be taken to address security of supply. The actions differ at Watch, Alert or Emergency status (BRIEFING-REQ-0008374).

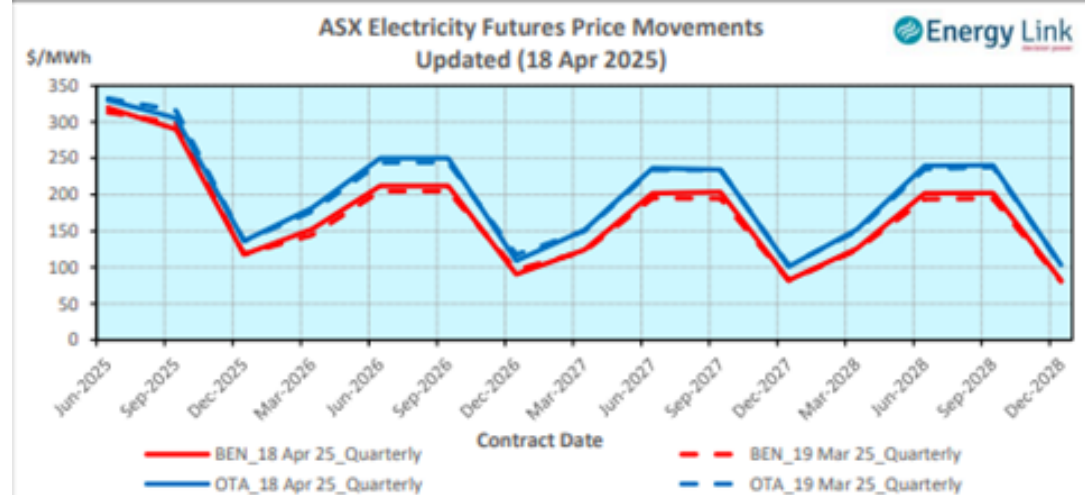
Storage is not projected to cross the Alert or Emergency Curves in 2025 even if worst-case inflows occur.

The ERCs and worst-case inflows line was created 31 March. Actual storage is as at 23 April.

WHOLESALE ELECTRICITY PRICES Weekly Spot Price (week ended 20 April 2025)



Source: System Operator, Market Operations - Weekly Market Movements



Source: Energy Link, Energy Trendz Weekly

Upcoming Ministerial Items

1. Upcoming Energy meetings

Meeting date	Meeting	Details
Tuesday 29 April 2025 9:00 am – 9:30 am	Meeting with Andy Logue (Director), Energy NZ	Briefing Due: 22 April 2025 Officials required: Peter Southey-Jensen
Tuesday 29 April 2025 9:45 am – 10:15 am	Meeting with Ikonika Consulting Limited	Briefing Due: 22 April 2025 Officials required: Peter Southey-Jensen
Tuesday 29 April 2025 10:30 am – 12:00 pm	SuperFund Forum	Briefing Due: N/A Officials required: Peter Southey-Jensen
Tuesday 29 April 2025 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Meridian Board Meeting	Briefing Due: 22 April 2025 Officials required: Peter Southey-Jensen
Tuesday 29 April 2025 5:15 pm – 6:00 pm	ERANZ & ENZ Member and Stakeholder Function	Speech due: 16 April 2025 Briefing Due: 22 April 2025 Officials required: Justine Cannon
Wednesday 30 April 2025 8:50 am – 9:30 am	Electricity Networks Aotearoa Chief Executive and Chair Forum	Speech due: 17 April 2025 Briefing Due: 23 April 2025 Officials required: N/A
Wednesday 30 April 2025 10:00 am – 10:30 am	Meeting with British High Commissioner H.E. Iona Thomas	Briefing Due: 24 April 2025 Officials required: Justine Cannon, Peter Bartlett
Wednesday 30 April 2025 10:30 am – 11:00 am	ArcActive and Origin Energy	Briefing Due: 24 April 2025 Officials required: Tamara Linnhoff
Wednesday 30 April 2025 11:00 am – 12:00 pm	Hydrogen Industry Leadership Group	Briefing Due: 24 April 2025 Officials required: Peter Bartlett
Wednesday 30 April 2025 12:15 pm – 12:45 pm	Meeting with Mobil	Briefing Due: 23 April 2025 Officials required: Dominic Kebbell

2. Upcoming Briefings, Aides Memoires and Cabinet Papers

Information to be publically released shortly



3. Written Parliamentary Questions

None this week.

4. Ministerial Correspondence received

Due date	Tracking number	Correspondent	Summary of Correspondence
30 April 2025	SW25-93	Privacy of natural persons	NoviOcean Medi Wave 800H (NO-MW800H)— nnovative hybrid energy solution
30 April 2025	SW25-109		Upgrade insulation in home my property was not eligible
30 April 2025	SW25-123		Electricity prices
30 April 2025	SW25-128		Warmer Kiwi Homes programme
30 April 2025	SW25-129		Electricity prices
1 May 2025	SW25-130		Electricity Act
1 May 2025	SW25-133		Solar Energy
1 May 2025	SW25-134		Proposal for the supply of 500 MW of back-up electricity
5 May 2025	SW25-137		Green Solar credit
5 May 2025	SW25-138		Gas supply
12 May 2025	SW25-139		Steward Island power

5. Output plan

Confidential advice to Government

Confidential advice to Government