

## **FN-26-02 Fortnightly report 20 February 2026**

This report summarises items that may be of interest to the Minister for Energy and Associate Minister for Energy but do not require a formal briefing. Further information can be provided on request. Substantive items and decision papers will be provided by briefing.

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**Mobile:** s 9(2)(a) 

## 1. Upcoming publications

Update on launching Billy, our new comparison and switching site	
<b>Strategic outcome</b>	Affordable
<b>Purpose</b>	<p>The Authority has decided to delay the launch of our new comparison and switching site, Billy. This allows us to address an issue with incomplete retailer product data that emerged during testing, and retest this with retailers.</p> <p>In doing so, we can maintain retailer confidence in the validity of Billy and ensure their continued participation and support. It aligns well with the significant consumer interest that coincides with retailer price rises following the April 1 lines increases, whilst ensuring that the site goes live with new pricing data (where available) reducing potential consumer confusion.</p> <p>We will work with your office to confirm a date that would enable you to attend a launch event.</p>
<b>Action and timing</b>	Campaign launch: Week of 23 March 2026

Decision on frequency- and voltage-related Code amendments	
<b>Strategic outcome</b>	Secure and resilient
<b>Purpose</b>	<p>The Authority will publish decisions on Code amendments to improve frequency and voltage stability as more intermittent resources (eg, solar and wind) connect.</p> <p>The amendments will lower:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the risk of high-impact blackouts and potential impacts on consumers' electrical equipment; and</li> <li>• power system management costs, reducing consumers' electricity costs.</li> </ul>
<b>Action and timing</b>	Publication: 10 March 2026

Progressing Code amendments to reduce barriers for new connections	
<b>Strategic outcome</b>	Affordable
<b>Purpose</b>	The Authority is delivering a programme of work to improve the efficiency and consistency of connection pricing methodologies, reduce barriers for new connections, and support efficient

	<p>investments so consumers benefit sooner and at the lowest cost. As part of this the Authority is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• publishing a decision on minor Code changes that clarify the connection pricing measures announced in July 2025</li> <li>• consulting on an additional Code change to improve alignment with the return on capital used by the Commerce Commission.</li> </ul> <p>This change will reduce the potential for inefficient investment decisions which will help to keep total system costs as low as possible and thus promoting affordability for consumers.</p>
<b>Action and timing</b>	<p>Publication: 2 March 2026</p> <p>Consultation: 3 weeks, 2-20 March</p> <p>Cross submissions: 2 weeks, 25 March - 8 April</p>

### Decision on improving consumer billing and standardising product data

<b>Strategic outcome</b>	Affordable
<b>Purpose</b>	<p>The Authority will announce new requirements for retailers to improve electricity billing and standardising product data.</p> <p>Retailers will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• required to make bills clearer and more consistent</li> <li>• required to provide an annual customer better plan check</li> <li>• prohibited from back billing for charges older than six months.</li> </ul> <p>The product data changes will mean comparison sites like Billy can provide more accurate and relevant results.</p> <p>Consumers will benefit from these changes from 30 October 2026 as retailers make the necessary systems changes to implement these new requirements accurately.</p> <p>Alongside the release we will consult on the form of one of the new product standards.</p> <p>We have rescheduled the announcement from 25 February to 3 March to reflect the change to the Billy launch and to provide additional time for the Authority to prepare for the release.</p>
<b>Action and timing</b>	Publication: 3 March 2025

## Rulings Panel decision to fine South Pacific Energy Limited \$88,000

<b>Strategic outcome</b>	Secure and resilient
<b>Purpose</b>	<p>The Rulings Panel released its decision on 16 February finding that South Pacific Energy Limited (SPEL) breached the Code a number of times relating to payment and prudential security obligations during 2024 and 2025. It has ordered SPEL pay a pecuniary penalty of \$88,000 plus Authority costs of \$4,775.</p> <p>The Authority will leverage the findings of this case to promote industry compliance and reinforce it will take enforcement action when appropriate. s 9(2)(g)(i)</p>
<b>Action and timing</b>	The decision will be published on Tuesday 24 February 2026.

## 2. Consultation: Current and future

### Level playing field measures: non-discrimination obligations and price consistency

<b>Strategic outcome</b>	Affordable
<b>Purpose</b>	<p>The Authority will release a targeted consultation on two elements of its proposed non-discrimination obligations for gentailers. These are: a Code amendment in relation to “uncommitted capacity” and draft guidance for retail price consistency assessments.</p> <p>The amendments will help build the confidence of independent retailers and generators in the wholesale market, supporting innovation and lower prices.</p>
<b>Action and timing</b>	Consultation: 3 weeks, 26 February - 18 March

### Consultation on a new Electricity Information Exchange Protocol – EIEP14A

<b>Strategic outcome</b>	Affordable
<b>Purpose</b>	As part of its decisions to standardise electricity product data, the Authority will consult on a new Electricity Information Exchange Protocol to regulate the exchange of electricity product data. <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> A protocol is a template that retailers must use when responding to requests for information on the electricity plans and tariffs they offer to consumers.

	<p>This new standard (EIEP14A) will create a consistent and reliable mechanism for industry participants to share information about electricity products or plans, and ultimately how that information is passed on to consumers.</p> <p>These proposals have been developed with industry over a series of workshops and will be released alongside the improving consumer billing and standardising product data decisions.</p>
<b>Action and timing</b>	Consultation: 3 weeks, 3 March - 24 March

<b>Current consultation</b>	<b>Consultation period</b>
Code amendment omnibus #6	12 January - 23 February
Reducing barriers for new connections (cross submissions)	10 - 23 February

### 3. Response to questions on Taskforce 2A definition of small businesses

- 3.1. You requested further information on:
- How the decision on the definition of small businesses would affect the eligibility of schools and other organisations for peak-period export rebates
  - How the decision has been received, and
  - The next phase of this work.
- 3.2. Commercial consumers (such schools, marae and farms) are eligible if they meet the definition of “small business”. Those with larger systems can still qualify by changing inverter settings to limit export to below the 45kW threshold. Based on data from a sample of electricity distributors, we estimate that around 60 percent of schools and around 80 percent of farms may be eligible for peak-period export rebates without making changes to their settings.
- 3.3. Following the media release on 23 December and subsequent release of our final decision, overall media interest has been relatively quiet. Apart from an article in Energy News that described the decision, there has been no other media response. We proactively engaged with Rewiring Aotearoa and with Electricity Networks Aotearoa (ENA) at the time to advise them of our decision and continue to work with ENA to assist with implementation.
- 3.4. The Authority is undertaking further work on pricing for larger generation through a review of Distributed Generation Pricing Principles (DGPP). While larger systems can provide benefits, introducing blanket incentives would come with risks including network congestion and voltage issues, higher network costs and higher prices for other consumers. These issues will be considered in the DGPP workstream, with consultation expected in early April and a decision expected later in 2026.

## 4. Update: Board-commissioned organisational design review

- 4.1. The Authority Board commissioned a review in response to the Government's commitment to strengthen the Authority's enforcement and monitoring powers, to advise on how the organisation can best incorporate additional powers while delivering its statutory objectives and regulatory responsibilities in the smartest and most cost-effective way.
- 4.2. Following a competitive tender process, in December 2025 the Board appointed independent advisory and investment firm KordaMentha to lead the review.
- 4.3. The KordaMentha team have been engaging with the Board, senior leadership team, Authority staff and MBIE officials, and have submitted an initial report on the current state of the Authority to the Board which will inform their final report on future state options and recommendations.
- 4.4. The current state report sets out that the Authority is a capable organisation, with strong leadership and foundations, and a highly skilled and committed workforce. It recognises that the Authority is delivering a significant programme of complex, high-impact regulatory work for the benefit of consumers. However, the report acknowledges that the scale, pace and complexity of the Authority's work requires changes to our operating environment to enable the organisation to continue to sustainably deliver.
- 4.5. The KordaMentha review team is expected to deliver its final report to the Board by the end of this month. The Board will then consider the advice and make decisions about the Authority's future organisational design and operating model. We will update you again following receipt of the final report.

## 5. Investment pipeline monthly update

### Generation investment pipeline as at 19 February 2026:

45.6GW total capacity	284 projects	106 developers	83.4% intermittent renewable
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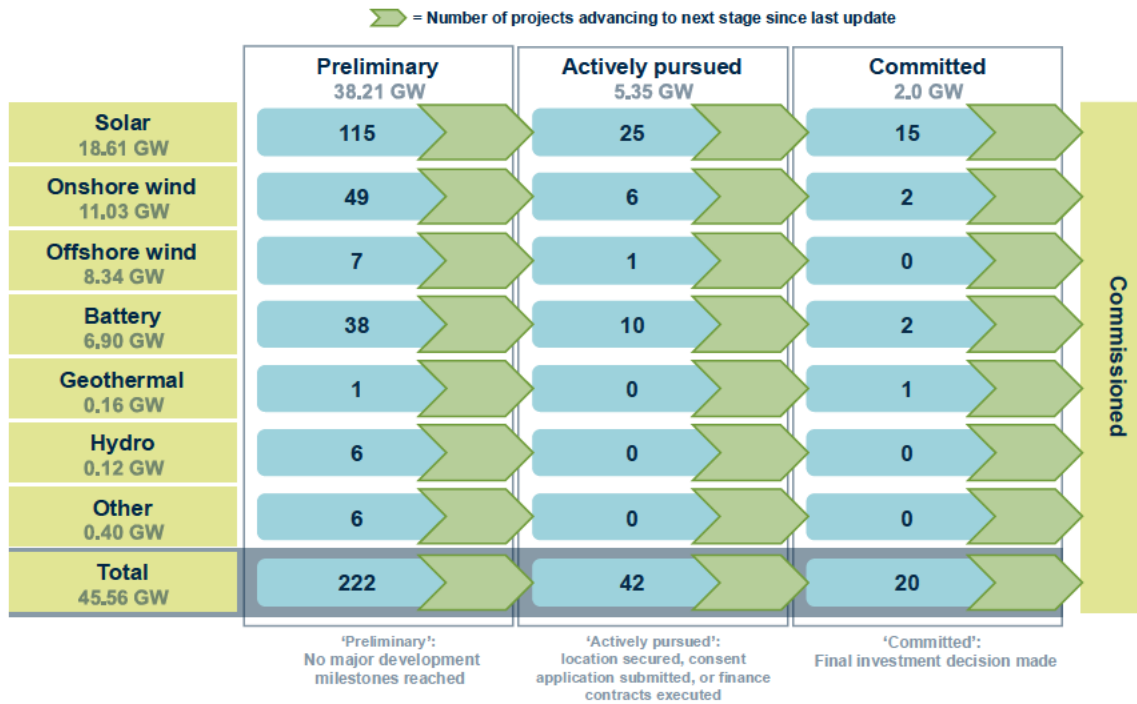
### Key out-takes since last update on 23 January

- ▶ 868MW of new generation commissioned since November 2023 (no change since last update).
- ▲ 1,267MW is currently under construction (+17MW since last update).
- ▶ 38.6GW of projects progressed beyond the first stage of Transpower's grid connection process. Of those, 17.2GW are planned for completion before 2030, and of these, 12.7GW are owned independently.

### Key project development updates

- 5.1. Consent granted in November 2025 for the 32-56MW **Pahiatua wind farm** (Yinson Renewables).
- 5.2. Construction has started on the 17MW **Maungatapere solar farm** (Northpower), expected to be completed in November 2026.

## Project advancement since 23 January 2026



### Generation pipeline supports dry year security

5.3. Committed new generation expected in 2026 and 2027 is equivalent to 2.9% and 5.7% of 2025 electricity demand respectively, which is greater than the MBIE reference case forecast demand growth of 1.7% per year. Building generation faster than demand growth will help support security of supply, including in dry years.

### Generation pipeline estimated annual energy by project status and expected commissioning year

