

Terms of Reference for the Energy Competition Task Force

June 2026

Purpose of this document

The Electricity Authority (Authority) and the Commerce Commission (Commission) have established a joint committee referred to as the Energy Competition Task Force (Task Force) to determine any actions within the existing regulatory mandates needed in the short and medium term to improve the performance of the electricity markets.

The Task Force brings together competition, market and network regulators with their combined expertise and sector understanding. Together they are well placed to urgently consider the complex factors underlying wholesale prices and put in place short and long-term measures to address the current issues across the energy system. MBIE will also attend.

This document describes the scope and intent of the Task Force.

Background

The Electricity Authority (the Authority) and Commerce Commission, with the Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment (MBIE) as an observer, established the Task Force in August 2024 to investigate ways to improve the performance of the electricity market.

To date the Task Force's work programme has focused on two overarching outcomes: enabling new generators and independent retailers to enter, and better compete in, the market: and providing more options for consumers. Over this period a significant number of initiatives have been undertaken to achieve those outcomes.¹

The Task Force knows there is more work to do that would benefit from the joint expertise and powers of the Commerce Commission and the Authority and intends to continue its work over the year ahead.

This work is complementary to the work undertaken separately by the Authority and the Commerce Commission as they deliver on their broader strategies and work plans.

Intent of the Task Force

The group will share expertise and drive inter-agency collaboration to improve the performance of the electricity industry and ensure secure and affordable energy within the context of a financially sustainable market. The Task Force will agree priorities across material competition or regulation issues in the electricity system that can benefit most from shared expertise and complementary regulatory frameworks administered by the agencies and oversee programmes within agreed collaboration priorities to ensure optimal timing, sequencing and coordination,

The Commission and Authority already have a memorandum of understanding setting out their respective roles, areas of common interest and information protocols. To effect any

¹ The work programme and packages of measures can be viewed [here](#).

necessary changes, we intend use of our existing powers where possible, and to make recommendations to the government for any further measures required.

Function and powers of the Task Force

The Task Force will:

- undertake all matters relevant to the Task Force's intent as described above consistent with the functions, powers and duties of the Authority or Commission; and
- support public understanding and engagement through clear communication on agreed priorities. As independent regulators, the members will continue to operate in accordance with their existing powers and mandate. The Task Force may issue joint statements or recommendations.

Members of the Task Force

The Task Force includes the Chair of the Commission and the Chair of the Authority and will be attended by the Deputy Secretary of MBIE.