23 October 2026

s 9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe

Your request

Thank you for your request to the Electricity Authority Te Mana Hiko (Authority), under the Official Information Act 1982 (Act) for the following information:

Please provide:

1. *Any information the Authority holds on the number, MW and region of data-centre (or equivalent large computational load) connection enquiries to Transpower or to distributors, from 1 January 2024 to the date of your reply.*

2. *Any formal document (board paper, issues paper, consultation paper, decision paper, briefing to the Board or to a Minister, or published statistical note) in which the Authority has treated those figures as confidential, and the section relied on.*

3. *Any assessment the Authority holds of whether data-centre load is driving, or will drive, transmission or distribution upgrades whose cost falls on residual consumers. I do not seek individual customer names.*

We initially received your request on 14 September 2026, and refined it with you on 15 September 2026.

Our response

We address your three queries, as refined with you on 15 September 2026, in turn.

Question 1

We have interpreted your request for "connection enquiries to Transpower" as information that Transpower receives under the notice issued to Transpower under clause 2.16 of the Electricity Industry Participation Code 2010 (Code), which is available here: Improving visibility of generation investment (clause 2.16 notice). Transpower information under the clause 2.16 notice to the Authority.

Some of the information within scope of this part of your request is publicly available as set out in the table below. It can be found either on:

- the Transpower website (the shaded sections in the table below) accessed here via this webpage Connections Management Framework stage, or
- elsewhere online, for example here (Datagrid) and here (Fast Track).

Project	Region	Capacity	Proponent	Connections management framework stage	Consent status
Datagrid Datacentre Park	Southland*	280MW*	Datagrid	Investigation	Consented
Dairy Flat Data Centre	Auckland				
Takanini 2x 33kV Feeders	Auckland	30MW	Vector Limited	Delivery	
Henderson 2 x 33 kV Feeders	Auckland	30MW	Vector Limited	Delivery	
	Auckland	150MW		Solution Proposal	
	Auckland	200MW		Application	

The remaining information within scope is withheld under section 18(1)(c)(i) of the Act which provides that a request can be refused if disclosing the information would be contrary to the provisions of a specified enactment. It is information provided by Transpower to the Authority under the clause 2.16 notice on a confidential basis. The Authority is required to keep this information confidential under clause 22.2(4) of the Code as the Authority is satisfied there are reasons for keeping the information confidential and that disclosure is not desirable to give effect to is statutory objectives or functions.

Note that is section 18(1)(c)(i) of the Act did not apply, the Authority considers disclosing the information would likely be contrary to the withholding the obligation of confidence and / or would unreasonably prejudice the commercial position of those who supplied or who are the subject of the information under sections 9(2)(ba) and 9(2)(b)(ii) of the Act (respectively).

The Authority publishes a dashboard of the Generation investment pipeline, which can be accessed here: Generation investment pipeline | Electricity Authority

Question 2

The Authority has identified its fortnightly reports to the Minister as being in scope of this part of your request.

However, the Authority already publishes its fortnightly reports to the Minister on its website: Fortnightly reports | Electricity Authority. The most recent report is for 23 July 2026, and we expect to release more recent reports for August and September in the near future, according to our existing publication process. As such, this part of your request is refused under section 18(d) of the Act, as these fortnightly reports either are already, or will soon, be made publicly available.

When the Authority proactively releases these reports, any sensitive figures will continue to be withheld under sections 9(2)(b)(ii) and 9(2)(ba) of the Act.

Question 3

Appendix 1 contains information in scope of Question 3 of your request. Some information has been withheld under section 9(2)(f)(iv), section 9(2)(g)(i) and section 9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the confidentiality of advice tendered, free and frank opinion, and the privacy of natural persons, respectively.

Information related to your request

I am satisfied, in terms of section 9(1) of the Act, that the need to withhold the information referred to above is not outweighed by other considerations that render it desirable, in the public interest, to make the information available.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

As this information may be of interest to other members of the public, the Authority may proactively release a copy of this response on our website. All personal data, including your name and contact details, will be removed before publication.

If you'd like to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact us by emailing oia@ea.govt.nz.

Nāku noa, nā,



Airihi Mahuika
GM Legal, Monitoring and Compliance

Appendix 1

Item No	Date	Document Type	Title	Reference/ Notes	Release (withholding grounds noted where applicable)
1	*9 September 2026*	*Presentation*	*Hyperscale Data Centres - Board information sharing session*	*EA01*	*Released, with some information withheld under section 9(2)(g)(i) of the Act*
2	-	*Document - Draft*	*DRAFT datacentres thinkpiece*	*EA02*	*Released, with some information withheld under section 9(2)(a) and 9(2)(g)(i) of the Act*
3	*26 August 2026*	*Email chain*	*FW_ Discussion with AEMO on large loads*	*EA03*	*Released, with some information withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act*
4		*Document*	*response to MBIE re data centres*	*EA04*	*Released, with some information withheld under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act*