23 October 2026

s 9(2)(a)

Your request

Thank you for your request, received on 19 September 2026 and subsequently refined on 22 September 2026, to the Electricity Authority Te Mana Hiko (Authority) under the Official Information Act 1982 (Act) for the following information:

> *Date range remains 1 January 2025 to 19 September 2026.*
> *Please provide:*
>
> > *1. Formal advice or analysis of the effect of large data-centre or AI-training loads (200 MW and above) on security of supply, wholesale prices, or existing users.*
> >
> > *2. Formal advice on whether such load can or should be interruptible, including any comparison with industrial demand response such as Tiwai Point.*
> >
> > *3. Correspondence with Transpower or MBIE on data-centre or AI-training connection demand of 200 MW and above, limited to security of supply, interruptibility, or connection-demand volumes. Please include correspondence with Transpower in both its System Operator role and its Grid Owner role, if held.*

Our response

The Authority responds to your request in turn.

Question 1

The Authority has identified 6 documents within scope of your request.

Four of these are attached, and detailed in Appendix 1, with some information 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. One of these documents (EA02) is a draft, however, in the interest of Authority's commitment to openness and transparency, it is included for your reference.

Of the remaining documents, the Authority holds two documents that fall within scope but plans to publicly release these in the near future, as they form part of materials considered by the Common Quality Technical Group. The minutes and materials for the technical group can be found here: Common Quality Technical Group | Electricity Authority.

Also within scope of the request are the Authority's fortnightly reports to the Minister. Within each second fortnightly report we include an "Investment pipeline monthly update" which includes information on load projects in the pipeline.

The Authority publishes its fortnightly reports to the Minister on its website, these can be located here: Fortnightly reports | Electricity Authority.

As such, this part of your request is refused under section 18(d) of the Act, as recent reports for August and September will be made publicly available in the near future.

Question 2 & 3

No additional information was identified within scope of these parts of your request. As such, these parts of your request are refused under section 18(g)(i) of the Act.

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		*Document*	*response to MBIE re data centres*	*EA03*	*Released, with some information withheld under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act*
4	*8 September 2026*	*Email chain*	*RE_ Expectations for data centres UNCLASSIFIED*	*EA04*	*Released, with some information withheld under section 9(2)(a) and 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act. Attachment withheld under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act*