

Monday, 13 December 2021

Consultation - Future security and resilience

The Bioenergy Association has reviewed the documents around the Electricity Authorities' work on electricity sector future electricity security and resilience.

It is difficult to provide advice as the work seems to have a very closed view on what will drive and provide future energy security and resilience. Because the demand for electricity will be affected by the demand and supply of other energy forms, future security and resilience will depend on a total energy system demand for energy.

New Zealand no longer has electricity isolated from the demand and supply options for all energy. For example heat can come from either biomass or electricity fuels, or transport fuels can be supplied from biomass, electricity or renewable gases. Investment and thus energy demand decisions are now being made with regard to the best fuel for the appropriate application. The fuel supply risk appears similar but different across all fuels. Resilience is therefore dependent on the future availability and cost of what fuel fits appropriate markets.

As Sapere Research Group have identified in their report the system analyses undertaken by others each suffer from having been done only from a specific perspective so are only useful in those regards.

The question of security and resilience also can not be addressed in the vacuum of not having an energy policy as the price signals to the market are going to depend on the availability and price of each fuel type. We expect that MBIE will soon be giving some direction on that based on the current work for the Emissions Reduction Plan.

As a guide to your work the Bioenergy Association is working on an assumption that at least 150PJ of energy will come from biomass or organic waste and we are working to ensure that amount of energy will be available and in which regions.

We would be pleased to assist you if you decide to take a total system approach.

Brian Cox
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