

30 August 2021

Neal Barclay
Chief Executive
Meridian Energy Ltd

By email: S9(2)(a)

Dear Neal

Review of competition in the wholesale market

I refer to your letter dated 23 August 2021.

The Electricity Authority (**Authority**) sought specific information from Meridian, pursuant to section 46 of the Electricity Industry Act 2010 (the **Act**) on 16 June 2021, 25 June 2021 and 5 August 2021. The information was sought as part of the review into competition in the wholesale market covering the period from the 2018 Pohokura outage to early 2021 (the **Review**).

The Review is being undertaken under the Authority's monitoring function in section 16(1)(g) of the Act, which is:

to undertake industry and market monitoring, and carry out and make publicly available reviews, studies, and inquiries into any matter relating to the electricity industry.

The Authority is still in the process of reviewing the information provided by Meridian and other industry participants. It is intended that a draft paper will be considered by the Authority Board in September.

The Authority is well aware of the potential benefits of engaging with industry participants on the matters to be covered by the Review. The Authority is currently considering how best to seek industry input regarding the Review and will advise industry participants, including Meridian, once it has made a decision in that regard. We further anticipate that, to the extent that there are facts relevant to the Authority's work which need to be checked with industry participants before they are published, this will include the Authority approaching the relevant participants to verify any facts that pertain to them. If this applies to Meridian, we will be in touch with you about that separately. The period of time available for fact checking (should it be required) will be as determined by the Authority at the time.

For good order we do record that in your letter, you appeared to be seeking advance access to the Authority's draft paper, or at least a substantial part of it, and a period of two weeks, prior to its release to consider and comment on it. To the extent that you were suggesting that Meridian (or a small group of participants) should have some preferential access to a draft report of this nature, that suggestion is rejected. Providing one (or a few) parties with early access to comment on our work prior to sector wide engagement goes against principles of transparency, fairness,

and equal opportunity to engage with us. As such, your request for a two week advance review period is declined.

The Authority intends to outline the proposed process for seeking input on the Review via Market Update on the 21 September 2021, in advance of the release of the Review soon after.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Stevenson-Wallace'.

James Stevenson-Wallace
Chief Executive

PROACTIVELY RELEASED BY
ELECTRICITY AUTHORITY