

## **Notice of the Authority's decision under regulation 29 of the Electricity Industry (Enforcement) Regulations 2010**

Under regulation 29(1) of the Electricity Industry (Enforcement) Regulations 2010 (Regulations) the Electricity Authority (Authority) must publicise every decision made under regulation 23(3) of the Regulations, together with the reasons for the Authority's decision.

### **Background**

On 8 August 2024, the Authority alleged that Transpower breached clause 12.113 of the Electricity Industry Participation Code 2010 (Code) when it failed to adhere to good electricity industry practice in connection with the maintenance of an interconnection asset which failed on 20 June 2024.

Clause 12.113 provides that Transpower must design, construct, maintain and operate all interconnection assets in accordance with good electricity industry practice.

### **Fact finding and investigation process**

On 20 June, a transmission tower carrying two 220kv circuits in the Northland region fell, resulting in a power outage. This represented a loss of approximately 158MW of supply, and affected about 88,000 customers.

Supply was partially restored after approximately 104 minutes, and fully restored after three days.

The cause of the tower failure was found to be the removal of the nuts, at the same time, securing the tower to its baseplate on the two outside legs of the tower that were intended to resist tension forces.

The alleged breach was discovered as the result of the tower failure which brought to light a possible persistent lack of diligence, prudence and foresight by Transpower in supervising its service providers, which was a potential breach of good electricity industry practice.

On 12 September 2024, the Authority appointed an investigator to investigate the alleged breach. No other parties joined the investigation so no settlement could be reached.

On 27 May 2025, the Authority's Board received a report from the investigator recommending it lay a formal complaint with the Rulings Panel, under regulation 23(3)(b) of the Regulations.

### **The Authority's decision**

On 27 May 2025, the Authority decided to lay a formal complaint with the Rulings Panel against Transpower under regulation 23(3)(b) of the Regulations concerning an alleged breach of clause 12.113 of the Code.

## Reasons for the Authority's decision

The reasons for the Authority's decision to lay a formal complaint with the Rulings Panel are:

- The alleged breach was significant in its duration, severity and impact
- The alleged breach involved a critical asset and undermined security of supply
- The Rulings Panel's assessment will help provide clarity on what good electricity industry practice requires of asset owners
- The Authority aims to prevent similar incidents happening in the future.