

FN-25-12 Fortnightly report 19 June 2025

This report summarises items that may be of interest to the Minister for Energy but do not necessarily require a formal briefing. Further information on any topic can be provided on request. Substantive items and decision papers will be provided to the Minister in the form of briefings.

Electricity Authority contact: Sarah Gillies, Chief Executive

Mobile: s9(2)(a) 

1. Current and upcoming publications and advice

Decision: Central intermittent generation forecaster announcement	
Strategic outcomes	Secure and resilience: <i>Enabling investment and innovation</i> Efficient: <i>Building trust and confidence</i>
Purpose	The Authority will publicly announce a contract with Det Norske Veritas (DNV) for central intermittent generation forecasting. This service will improve the accuracy of forecasting of intermittent generation (such as wind and solar) which is vital for improving security of supply and was a Market Development Advisory Group recommendation.
Action and timing	Intended publication: 1 July 2025
Promoting reliable electricity supply – Code amendment proposal on common quality-related information	
Strategic outcomes	Secure and resilient: <i>Effective risk management</i>
Purpose	The Authority will be consulting on Code changes to reduce the risk of unforeseen power system behaviours and electricity outages associated with the inefficient operation of the power system. This addresses an information issue identified in the Authority's review of the common quality requirements in Part 8 of the Code and is part of ensuring regulation is fit-for-purpose and manages risk to security of supply. Specifically, the proposed amendment will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • update the Code so that the system operator receives necessary common quality-related information from asset owners. • incorporate in the Code a new system operation document containing technical specifications for the common quality-related information requirements.
Action and timing	Intended publication date: 1 July 2025
Comparison and switching website contract	
Strategic outcomes	Affordable: <i>Consumer mobility</i>
Purpose	Activities under the Authority's consumer mobility workstream will make it easier for people to understand their electricity use and costs. This workstream includes a new comparison and switching service to support consumers to compare power plans

and providers and choose the services that best meet their needs.

The Authority is required by statute to promote the benefits of comparing and switching retailers to consumers. Following the Electricity Pricing Review, the Authority was required by Government to deliver this via ConsumerNZ's Powerswitch website.

Last year, the Authority Board sought industry and public feedback on [Supporting consumers to compare and switch electricity plans](#). Following this, the Authority initiated a competitive procurement process for the publicly funded comparison and switching service. This is the first procurement process for this service.

The procurement process sought a world-class and industry leading web-based comparison and switching service that continuously innovates to improve service reliability and keep pace with industry and technological change.

This also supports performance expectations in our Statement of Performance Expectations and the Minister's April Letter of Expectations.

Specific requirements included:

- consumer and consumption profiling
- access and useability
- security
- technological innovation
- customer support and continuous improvement.

The Authority Board also set a requirement for all intellectual property in the service to reside with the Authority. This requirement future-proofs the services and ensures IP (such as the user database) is held in public ownership for the benefit of all New Zealanders.

The procurement process attracted international and local responses with a range of new thinking, approaches and technical capability. The incumbent provider, ConsumerNZ (Powerswitch) chose to submit a proposal that did not conform with our minimum requirements.

The Authority Board has selected a preferred provider and expects to announce this by 1 July 2025.

The new provider will deliver the new service by the end of this year and the Authority will be working with retailers to ensure new tariffs, products and services are seamlessly integrated.

	The Authority is also looking at amendments to the Electricity Industry Participation Code 2010 (Code) to address issues around accessing detailed and accurate consumption data.
Action and timing	Contract signing and announcement of new provider by 1 July 2025.

2. Consultation underway

Working together to ensure our electricity system meets the future needs of all New Zealanders – Decentralisation green paper	
Strategic outcomes	Secure and resilient, Affordable, Efficient
Purpose	The green paper is focused on decentralisation and the future of our energy system. We are seeking feedback from industry and the public to support the Authority's longer term regulatory roadmap and the changes needed to benefit consumers longer term.
Action and timing	Consultation has been extended to: 25 June 2025
Energy Competition Task Force Initiative 2D “Rewarding industrial demand flexibility – Issues and options paper”	
Strategic outcomes	Secure and resilient: <i>Effective risk management</i>
Purpose	<p>The Authority Board is seeking to establish foundational settings to enable more industrial demand flexibility over time, particularly as large new loads are connected over the next decade. The Authority is consulting on a proposed vision and five-year roadmap of 11 actions aimed at increasing industrial consumers' participation in the electricity market.</p> <p>The proposes two 'immediate actions' for implementation before winter 2026:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishing an Emergency Reserve Scheme. This is a peak capacity management tool, where industrial demand flexibility could be activated before the system operator instructs involuntary load shedding. Participants in the scheme would be compensated for their activity. Development of a standardised product for demand flexibility to facilitate bilateral arrangements between retailers and demand flexibility providers, including

	industrials and aggregators of residential and smaller commercial consumers.
Action and timing	Consultation closes: 26 June 2025
Our future is digital – discussion paper	
Strategic outcomes	Secure and resilient, Efficient
Purpose	<p>As part of our work to enable a data-driven, technology-enabled electricity system, the Authority has a digitalisation discussion paper out for consultation.</p> <p>Once we've received feedback on this consultation, we will undertake further engagement with interested parties to dive deeper into the challenges and opportunities.</p>
Action and timing	Consultation closes: 10 July 2025
Promoting reliable electricity supply: A voltage-related Code amendment proposal	
Strategic outcomes	Secure and resilient
Purpose	<p>The Authority is consulting on a Code amendment proposal to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> place voltage support obligations on embedded generating stations that can export 10MW or more of electricity and which are connected at the same voltage as the connection between the distribution network and New Zealand's transmission network, and lower, to 10MW, the threshold for a generating station to not disconnect from a network during an electrical fault on the transmission network. <p>This consultation is part of our work programme to ensure New Zealand's power system remains secure and resilient as increased electrification of New Zealand's economy occurs over the coming years.</p>
Action and timing	Consultation closes: 15 July 2025
Evolving multiple retailing and switching	
Strategic outcomes	Secure and resilient: <i>Effective risk management</i>
Purpose	The Authority is seeking feedback on further two related proposals to support consumer mobility:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allowing customers to choose two different retailers; a retailer for consumption (load) and one for their generation • Improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the consumer, distributor and metering equipment provider processes when a consumer switches power. <p>These proposed changes will provide real benefits for consumers by allowing innovative retailers to compete for, and reward consumers for, their distributed generation. This should encourage investment in distributed generation, leading to an increase in regional resilience and overall system security.</p>
Action and timing	Consultation closes: 29 July 2025

3. Upcoming Electricity Industry Participation Code 2010 amendments

3.1. The following table has Electricity Industry Participation Code amendments that need to be presented to the House by the Minister's office within **20 working days** following the date on which it is made.

Tracking number	Name	Date made	Date of Gazette notification	Date in force	Due date for presentation to the House
	N/A				

4. Key external engagements

- 24 June: Scenario Planning Meeting/MBIE/Gas Industry Co/CE/GM Wholesale and Supply/Chief Advisor – Security of Supply
- 24 June: ChargeNet/ChargeNet CEO/CE
- 25 June: NZ Infrastructure Commission Symposium/CE
- 26 June: Australian Energy Market Competition Acting CEO/CE
- 26 June: Energy Competition Taskforce Ministerial Meeting/MBIE/Commerce Commission/CE/Chair
- 27 June: Electricity Networks Aotearoa CE/CE
- 30 June: Wellington Electricity CEO/CE/GM Legal, Compliance and Monitoring/Chief Advisor – Security of Supply
- 1 July: Mercury CE/Chair
- 4 July: Energy Competition Task Force/Commerce Commission/MBIE/CE/Chair

5. Energy Competition Task Force work programme update

Initiative	Current stage	Next published milestone	Next update to you
PPAs (1A)	Update paper published 28 May – now part of level playing field work	N/A	N/A
Standardised flex product(1B)	First phase completed – standardised super-peak hedge product launched January 2025	s9(2)(f)(iv)	Late June/early July – early view on preferred options for regulation
Virtual disaggregation (1C)	Outline published for feedback – now part of level playing field work	N/A	N/A
Level playing field measures (1D)	Outline of measures and proposal for non-discrimination obligations published (submissions closed 7 May) Currently undertaking further targeted analysis and Board-level engagement in response to submitter feedback	s9(2)(f)(iv)	Late July – updating you on further analysis and considerations for Board's in-principle decision in early August
Initiatives promoting consumer choice (2A-C)	Feedback received on Code change proposals on 26 March Considering changes to 2BC (time-of-use retail pricing) to target regulation closer to retailers who fail to offer TOU pricing, while reducing compliance costs to good performers	s9(2)(f)(iv)	Early July – Code change decision papers for publication
Short-term flexibility revenue (2D)	Issues and options paper published 28 May	Publish Emergency Reserve Scheme (ERS) options paper in mid-July: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rewards additional industrial demand response; aim to have this in place for Winter 2026 	Early July – ERS consultation paper for publication