

FN-25-18 Fortnightly report

12 September 2025

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

Electricity Authority contact: Sarah Gillies, Chief Executive

Mobile: s 9(2)(a) 

1. Publications

Comparison and switching website launch	
Strategic outcome	Affordable
Purpose	We will launch the new comparison and switching website in February 2026. Benefits of this are: • best time to reach consumers - after summer holidays • ahead of 1 April price changes • in time to support households to make changes before winter. Switching rates have fallen consistently over the past decade, and in the last 12 months, less than 6 per cent of connections changed suppliers. The mobile-first website will make it quick and easy for people to compare providers, identify potential savings and switch with confidence, giving them more choice and improving transparency across the market.
Action and timing	Website launch: February 2026

2. Consultation: Current and future

Improving visibility of distributors' connection pipelines	
Strategic outcome	Affordable
Purpose	The Authority is proposing changes to require distributors to provide information on load and generation projects wishing to connect to their networks. This will improve visibility of new generation, lower risk and costs for developers, and ultimately reduce prices for consumers. The Authority must consult before making a final decision and is progressing this as quickly as required processes allow.
Action and timing	Consultation: 30 September - 29 October 2025

Current consultations	Consultation period
Energy Competition Task Force initiative: Regulating the standardised super-peak hedge contract (1B)	19 August - 30 September 2025
Distribution network information visibility	5 September - 17 October 2025
Code amendment to implement Network Connections decisions	9 September - 7 October 2025

3. Upcoming Code amendments

3.1. There are no Code amendments that require tabling.

4. Update: Review of contingent storage arrangements

4.1. Key points:

- (a) The System Operator plans to consult on proposed changes for accessing contingent storage in late September / early October.
- (b) The Authority needs to approve the content of the consultation. We expect to receive the proposed changes shortly.
- (c) The consultation on the proposed changes for accessing contingent storage is part of the System Operator's Security of Supply and Forecasting Information Policy (SOSFIP) review.

The System Operator committed to review the SOSFIP before the end of 2025

4.2. The SOSFIP provides:

- (a) the framework for the System Operator's security of supply reporting and actions.
- (b) information on arrangements for accessing contingent hydro storage.

4.3. The purpose of the review is to:

- (a) ensure the SOSFIP remains fit-for-purpose, and
- (b) consider amendments to contingent storage proposed by Meridian Energy to permanently change the rules to give earlier and more certain access to contingent storage (this would reduce its need to purchase thermal cover or demand response).



