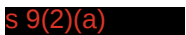


FN-25-19 Fortnightly report

26 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. Upcoming publications

Decision paper: Instantaneous reserve cost allocation for groups of generating units	
Strategic outcome	Secure and resilient
Purpose	The Authority is introducing Code changes to ensure that groups of generating units over 60MW behind a single connection point contribute fairly to the risks their assets pose to the power system. Consumers will benefit through a more secure and resilient electricity supply, and lower costs over time.
Action and timing	Intended publication: mid-October 2025

Taskforce 2ABC Guidance Documents	
Strategic outcome	Affordable
Purpose	The Authority is publishing guidance for distributors and retailers for the implementation of Energy Competition Taskforce Initiatives: • Requiring distributors to pay a rebate when consumers supply electricity at peak time, from 1 April 2026 • Requiring large retailers offer consumers time-of-use pricing (includes better export rates), from 30 June 2026. Consumers will be better rewarded for exporting at peak times and can access cheaper electricity during off-peak times.
Action and timing	Proposed publication date: Late September

2. Consultation: Current and future

Establishing an Emergency Reserve Scheme: Code amendment consultation	
Strategic outcome	Secure and resilient
Purpose	The Authority will consult on Code changes to establish an Emergency Reserve Scheme to help unlock industrial demand flexibility. The scheme will pay willing and able organisations (eg, large industrials) to reduce their power consumption on request when market solutions fail to balance supply and demand. Consumers will benefit from a more secure and resilient electricity supply.
Action and timing	Consultation: Four weeks, 16 October to 6 November 2025

Maximising benefits from local electricity generation – export limits

Strategic outcome	Affordable
Purpose	The Authority will consult on setting a default 10kW export limit, to enable consumers to sell more of the solar they generate and increase solar generation, resulting in lower electricity prices. We will contact your office about media messaging.
Action and timing	Consultation: 6 weeks, likely from 7 October to 18 November

Consultation papers – Consumer Mobility: Improving billing and product data

Strategic outcome	Affordable
Purpose	Billing improvements We will consult on Code changes to standardise electricity bill and plan information to make bills clear, consistent, and more accessible for consumers. We will also consult on a better plan requirement among other billing improvements. Product Data Standards We will consult on changes to improve the sharing of electricity product and retail plan data. Consumers will benefit from bills that are clearer and easier to compare. They'll also benefit from being able to make better plan comparison and switch decisions.
Action and timing	Intended publication date: October 8, 2025. Consultation open for 4 weeks for Billing and for 6 weeks for Product Data Standards.

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. Investment pipeline monthly update

Generation investment pipeline as at 26 September 2025:

46.8GW total capacity	311 projects	107 developers	83.4% intermittent
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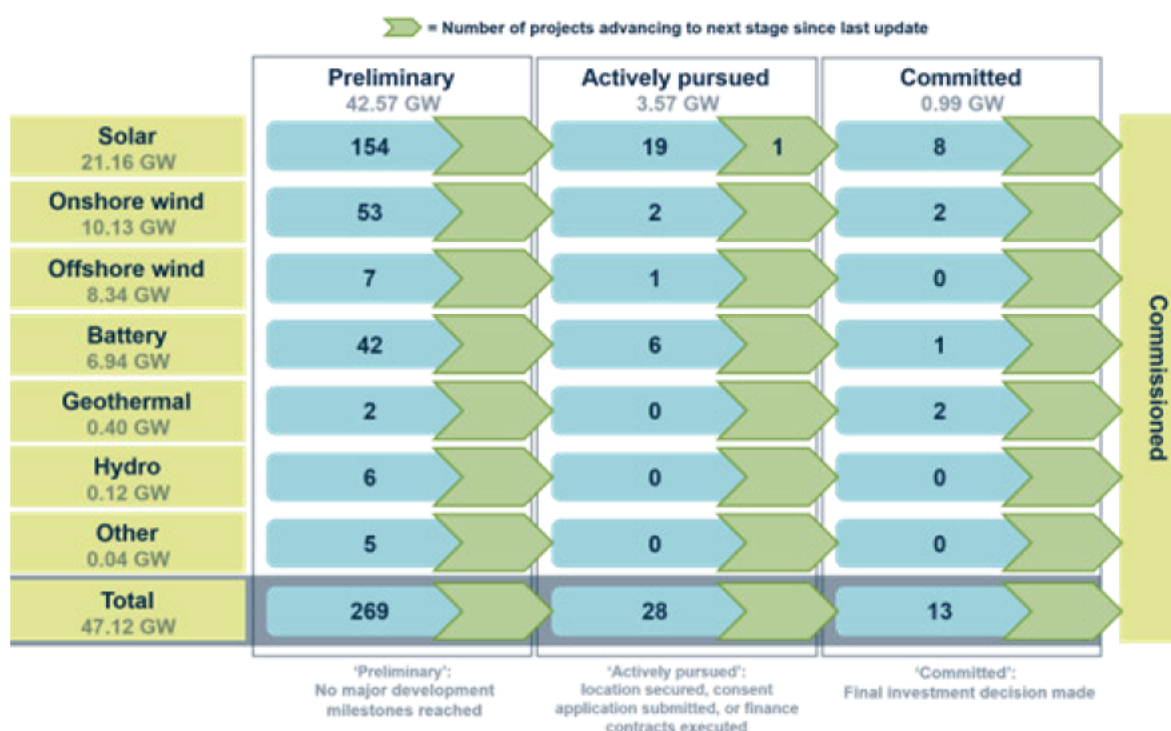
Key out-takes since last update on 29 August

- ▶ 703MW of new generation commissioned since November 2023 - no change.
- ▲ 1,410MW is currently under construction or scheduled to begin construction this year - a 73MW increase based on new information about existing projects.
- ▲ 39.4GW of projects progressed beyond the first stage of Transpower's grid connection process (+0.07GW since last update). Of those, 18.8GW (+0.07GW) are planned for completion before 2030, and of these, 13.9GW (+0.07GW) are owned independently.

Key project development updates since 29 August

- 3.1. A final investment decision was made to proceed with the first 200MW stage of **Te Rahui solar farm**, a Meridian and Nova joint venture.
- 3.2. Lodestone Energy have filed a fast-track consent application for their 180MW **Haldon Solar Farm**.

Project advancement since 29 August



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 early October.
- (b) The System Operator is legally required to obtain the Authority's consent before consulting. We have received a draft of the proposed changes.
- (c) The consultation on the proposed changes for accessing contingent storage is part of the System Operator's Security of Supply Forecasting and Information Policy (SOSFIP) review

The System Operator is proposing to increase the default buffer

- 4.2. The default buffer is currently set at 50GWh for all months of the year. This means that controlled hydro storage must be within this buffer before access to contingent hydro storage is triggered.
- 4.3. The System Operator is proposing a higher default buffer, of at least 140GWh, plus a much higher buffer during winter of up to 350GWh. The proposed amount is higher than the current buffer, although not the full amount requested by Meridian.
- 4.4. This looks to be a pragmatic solution that balances the need for providing earlier access to contingent storage with wider system security needs and the need to provide incentives on participants to manage security of supply risks. Consumers will benefit from a more secure and resilient electricity supply.

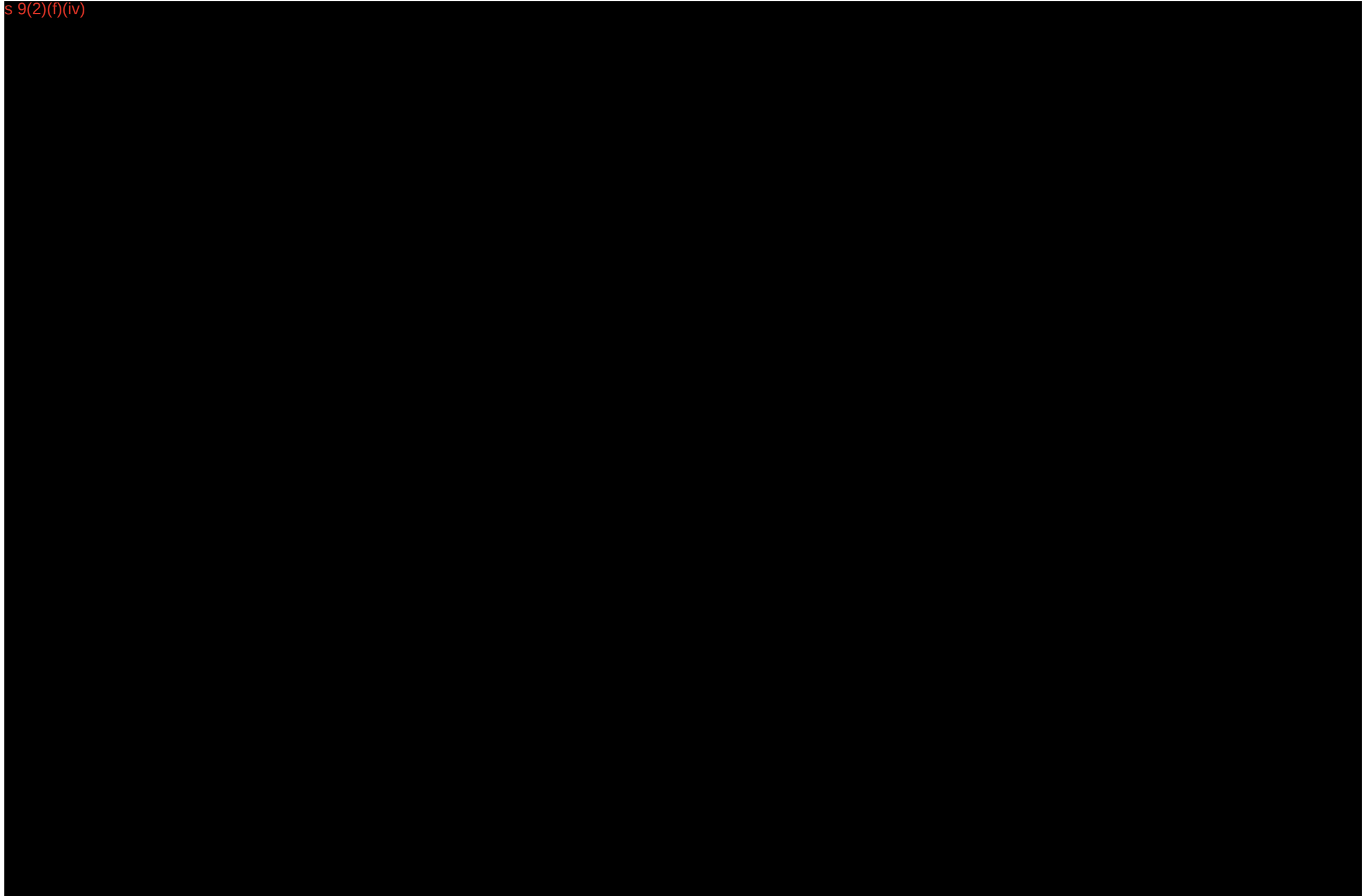
5. Update: Level Playing Field Measures

5.1. Key points:

- (a) On 14 October we plan to consult on Code amendments to mandate principles-based non-discrimination obligations for the gentailers (we will provide you a briefing before the consultation begins).
- (b) The main change from the February options paper is to introduce a Retail Price Consistency Assessment (RPCA), which will improve the effectiveness of the changes leading to more competition and lower prices for consumers.

The level playing field measures will support competition in the electricity sector

- 5.2. The level playing field measure will require the gentailers to offer hedges to third-party purchasers on the same terms as their own retail arms, with regular information disclosure and reporting to the Authority on their performance against the rules.
- 5.3. The main change from the February options paper is to focus more directly on the relationship between a gentailer's retail and wholesale prices. This will be done through the RPCA, which will help identify any anti-competitive pricing of risk management contracts, thereby enhancing the impact of the proposed changes.
- 5.4. Subject to Board decisions and consultation, the Non-Discrimination Obligations would take effect from 1 July 2026 and include new disclosure and self-reporting requirements. The design of the RPCA will be subject to a technical consultation process to occur in Q4 2025 and Q1 2026.



s 9(2)(f)(iv)

