

# Weekly electricity security of supply snapshot

8 December 2025



# Information to help you understand this snapshot

The Electricity Authority Te Mana Hiko is focused on making sure Aotearoa New Zealand has a **reliable and continuous power supply**, ensuring that everyone has electricity when it's needed.

To explain how well the electricity system is functioning to ensure the lights (and kettles, stoves etc) stay on, we have an explainer we call Keeping the lights on.

Every week, we publish a 'snapshot' of how our system is looking in terms of overall security, together with supporting information on rainfall, hydro storage, geothermal generation and wholesale electricity prices.

The graph on page 5 shows the **Electricity Risk Curves (ERCs) and national hydro storage**. The ERCs are based on how much fuel is available to generate electricity. They are designed to show how low hydro storage would need to be to cause concern about security of supply.

The black line shows where hydro storage normally is during the year, and the blue line shows how much hydro storage there has been since 2023. **You can see that it is currently above the typical level for this time of year and is above the ERCs.**

The three maps of Aotearoa New Zealand on page 6 show **the forecast rainfall over the next 35 days**.

**We are in a better energy position to firm a dry 3-month period than in winter 2024.** The winter 2024/2026 comparison chart compares the amount of thermal generation and demand response in winter 2024, and some demand increases, to thermal fuel and new generation available for winter 2026.

The chart on page 8 shows **the amount of power generation infrastructure 'on outage'**, which means it will not be available to generate electricity.

The chart on page 9 provides **an estimate of spot prices for this month and quarter**, based on recent prices and forward prices.

The final chart, on page 10, shows **wholesale forward prices** - the cost for purchasing electricity for a given time period in advance. They reflect expectations of future electricity demand and generation costs.

# This week's snapshot

National hydro storage remains above nominally full levels, with only a slight dip in storage towards the end of the week.

Wholesale prices were mostly below \$8/MWh in the last week, reflecting lower demand and abundant hydro storage conditions. Last week also saw the return of a large geothermal generator from outage and increased wind generation which also helps keep prices low.

It is important to understand there are different drivers of wholesale and retail price increases. Recent higher wholesale prices during November have been driven by higher demand, geothermal generation outages and lower wind generation.



# Summary of overall electricity system risk for the next three months

## Wholesale prices

Average daily prices are likely to be above \$12-\$24/MWh for the rest of the month and quarter

## Security of supply (energy)

Overall risk to national energy supply is significantly lower than winter 2024

## Security of supply (capacity)

Transpower's NZ Generation Balance shows sufficient capacity for the next 6 months

## Security of supply outlook for the next three months:

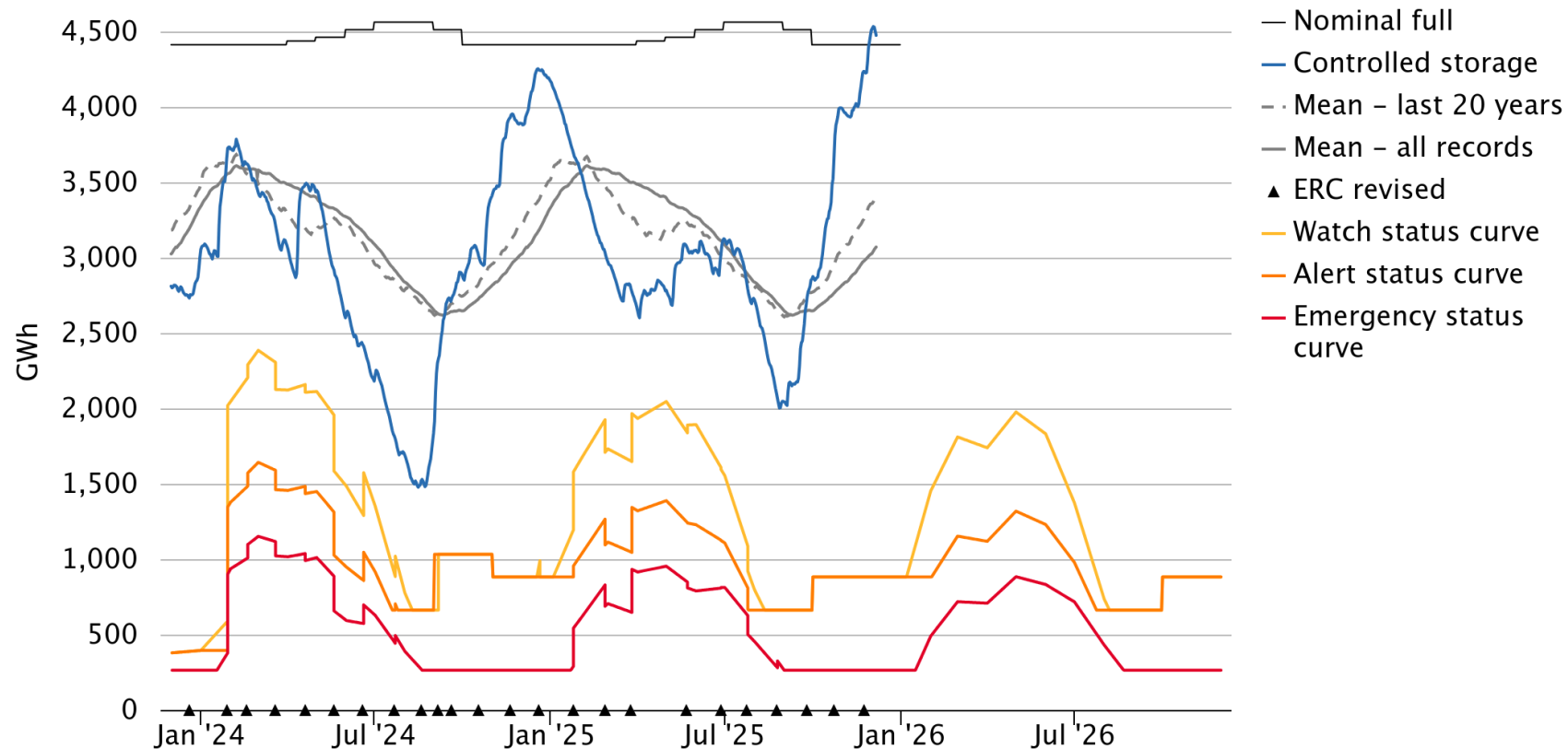
Hydro storage is above nominally full levels, which should keep wholesale spot prices low. Moderate La Niña conditions are currently present in the Pacific, this could bring drier conditions to the hydro catchments as we move through summer. Fuel supply and generation capacity will be sufficient to meet national demand across summer.

## Electricity market information in this snapshot:

- New Zealand Electricity Risk Status Curves (Available GWh)
- 35-day rainfall forecast
- Winter 2024/2025 comparison
- Planned maintenance shut-downs of power generation infrastructure
- Forecast wholesale electricity spot prices
- Forward curve – average future wholesale electricity price.



# New Zealand Electricity Risk Status Curves (Available GWh)



[emi.ea.govt.nz/r/pua0k](https://emi.ea.govt.nz/r/pua0k)

This chart shows that national hydro storage remains above nominally full but started to show a small decrease towards the end of the week.

**Source:** Transpower as the system operator

# 35-day rainfall forecast

NIWA35

Rainfall anomaly for 35 days

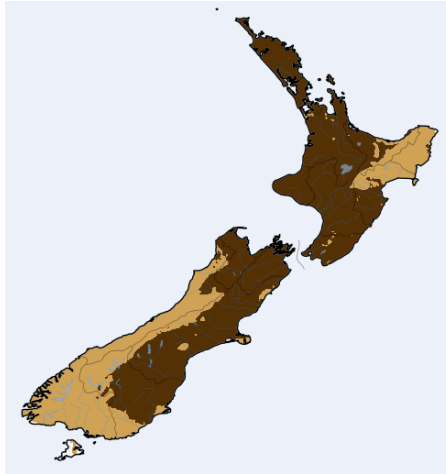
Model initiation: 00 UTC Fri 05/12/2025

Valid: 01 PM Fri 05/12/25 - 01 PM Thu 08/01/26 NZDT

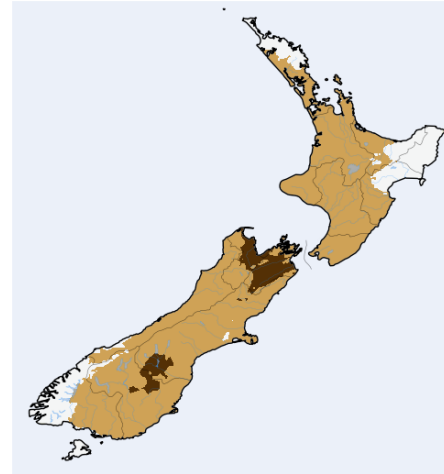


*"Normal" is the percentage relative to a climatology and the forecast. The climatology is a 35 day rolling sum of a 35 day rolling average from 1991-2020 from the VCSN.*

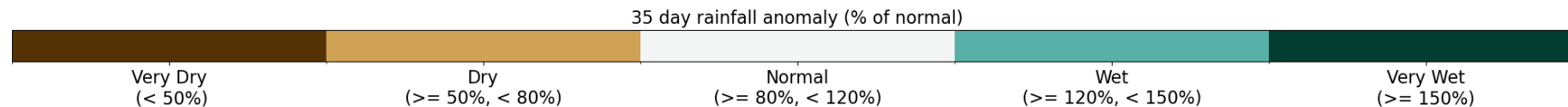
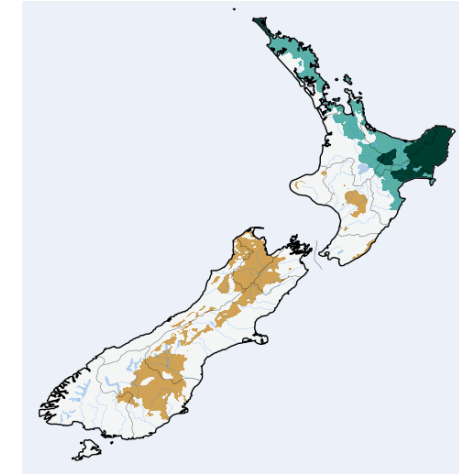
Drier scenario (25th percentile)



Middle scenario (50th percentile)



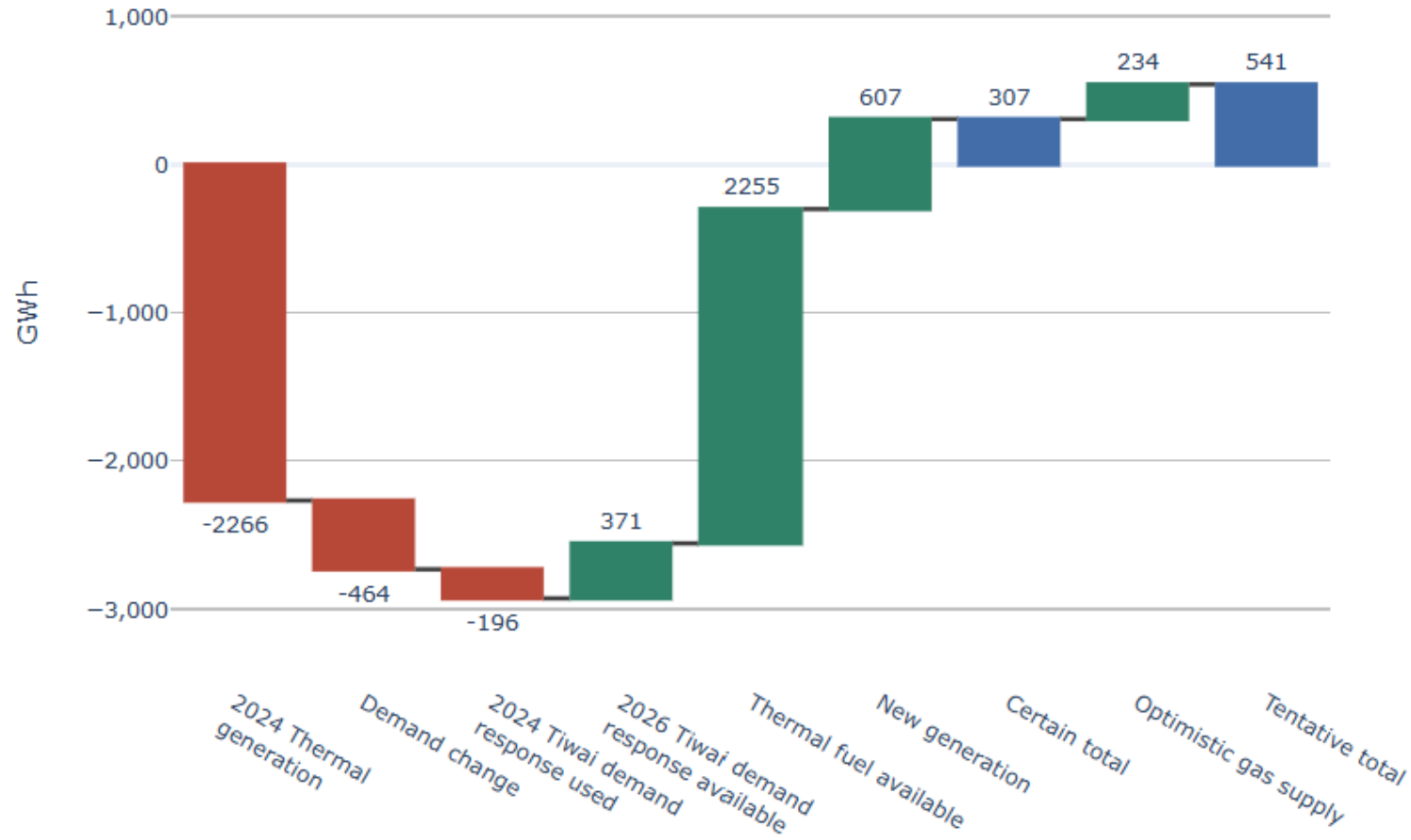
Wetter scenario (75th percentile)



These maps show that this week's forecast is indicating the likelihood of dry conditions across most of the country.

Source: NIWA

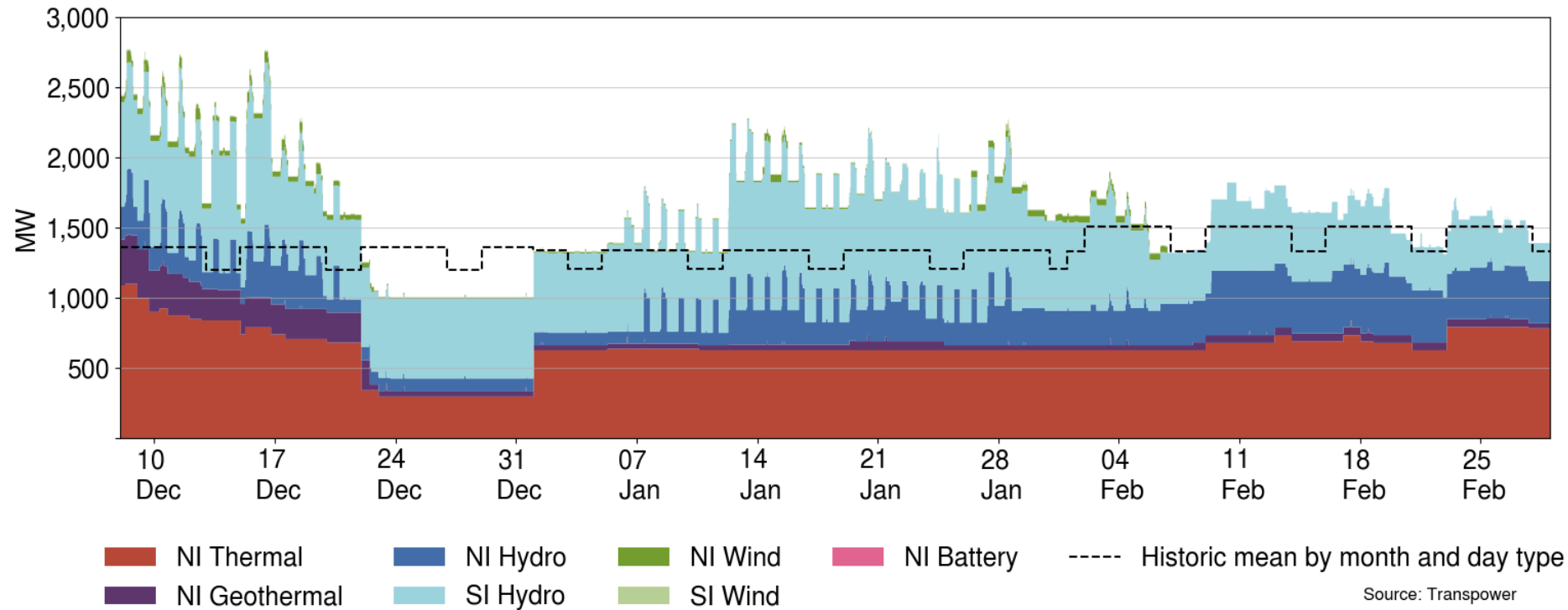
# Winter 2024/2026 comparison



Source: Electricity Authority

We are in a better energy position to firm a dry 3-month period than in winter 2024 (total net improvement: 307GWh, an increase from last month due to increases to Ahuroa storage and increases in gas contracts). This chart compares the amount of thermal generation and demand response in winter 2024, and some demand increases, to thermal fuel and new generation available for winter 2026.

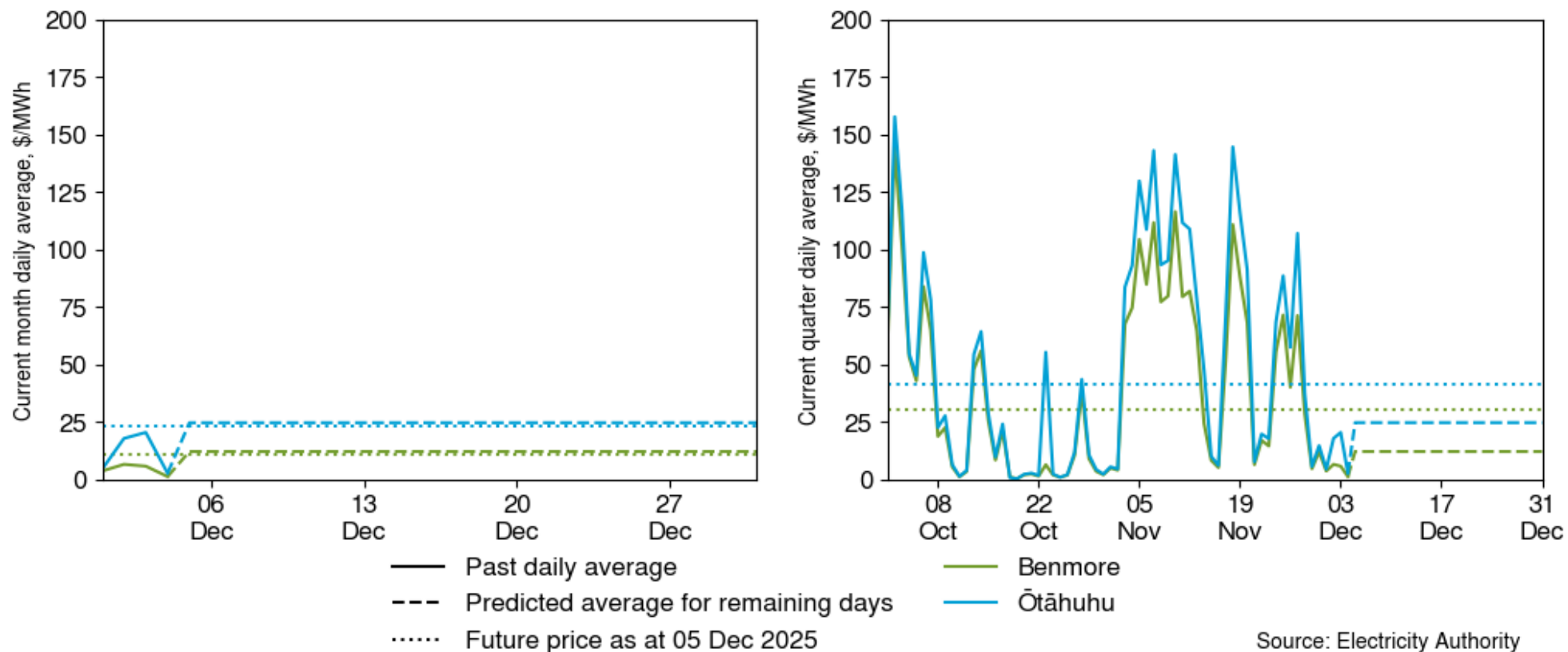
# Planned maintenance shut-downs of power generation infrastructure – by infrastructure type



This chart shows that the amount of power generation infrastructure 'on outage' (shut down for planned maintenance) over the next three months is expected to be above average on most days.

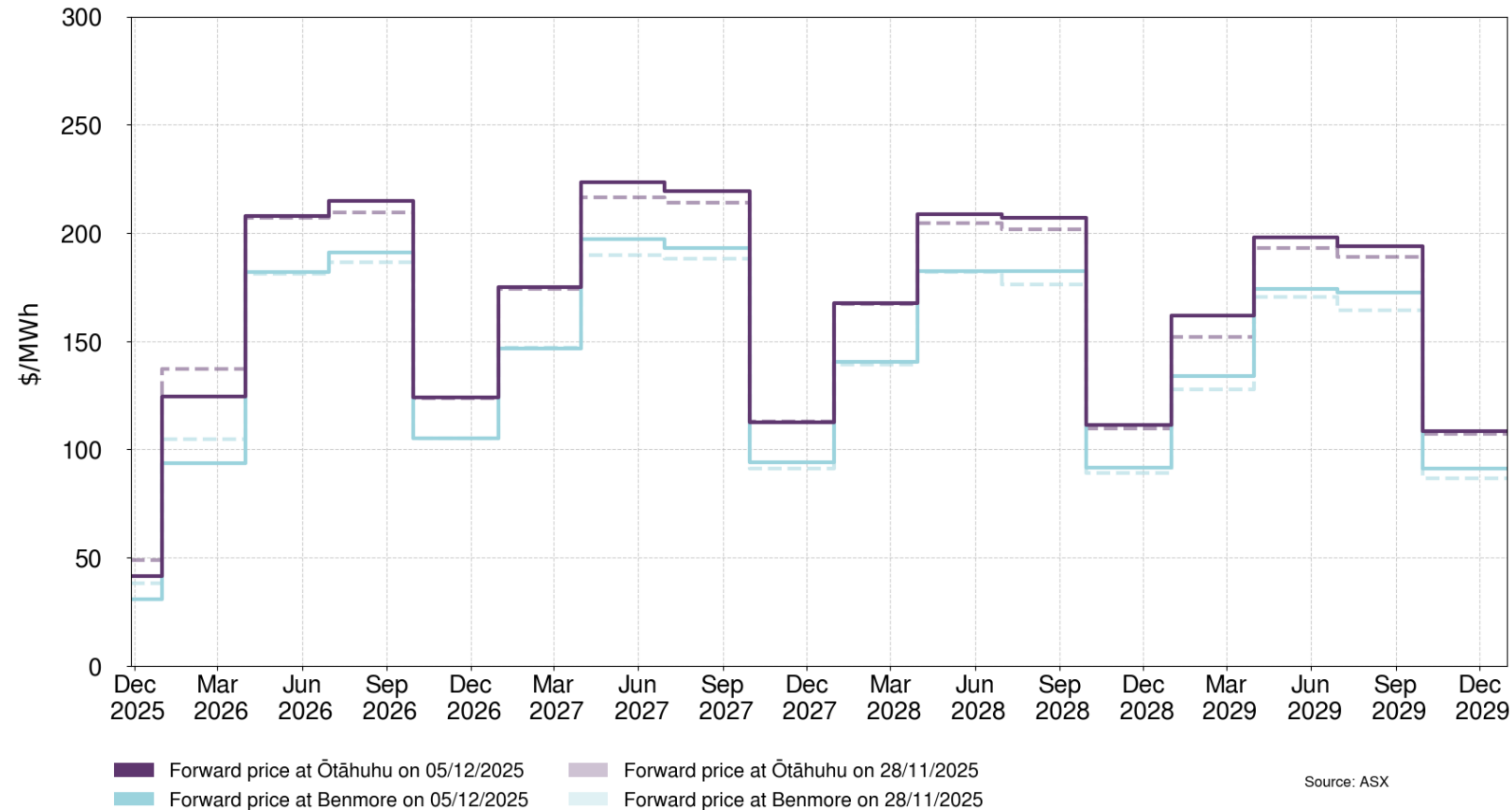


# Wholesale electricity spot prices



This chart shows that the forecast daily average wholesale spot prices are between \$12-\$24/MWh for this month, and for the quarter. This reflects the current high hydro conditions as well as expected lower demand heading into summer and the holiday season.

# Forward curve – average future wholesale electricity price



This chart shows that the average future wholesale price for December 2025 is currently \$31/MWh at Benmore and \$42/MWh at Ōtāhuhu. This is a decrease \$7/MWh since last week.

Find more information  
at [yourpower.co.nz](https://yourpower.co.nz)