# Weekly electricity security of supply snapshot

**26 January 2026**

ELECTRICITY AUTHORITY
TE MANA HIKO

# 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 light blue line shows where hydro storage normally is during the year, and the dark blue line shows how much hydro storage there has been since 2024. **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 has decreased but remains close to nominally full levels.

Renewables contributed to around 97% of weekly electricity generation.

Wholesale spot prices were mostly within $0.01-$1.34/MWh.

It is important to understand there are different drivers of wholesale price increases. The current spot prices are reflective of high hydro conditions coupled with sufficient renewable fuel to meet national demand.

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

## Wholesale prices

**Average daily prices are likely to be around $9-$24/MWh for the rest of the month and ~$65-$93 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**

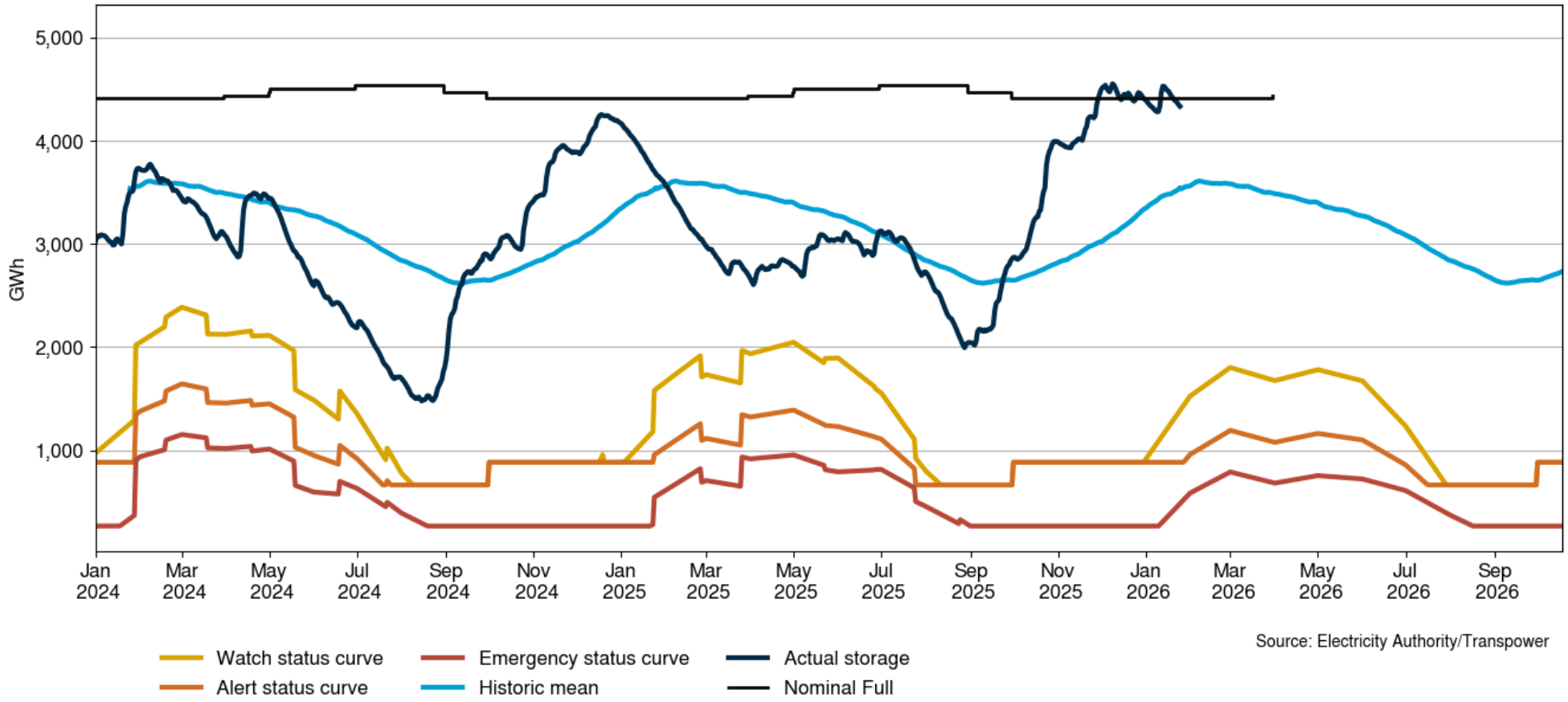
**Security of supply outlook for the next three months:**

Hydro storage remains high, with fuel supply and generation capacity sufficient to meet national demand.

**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)



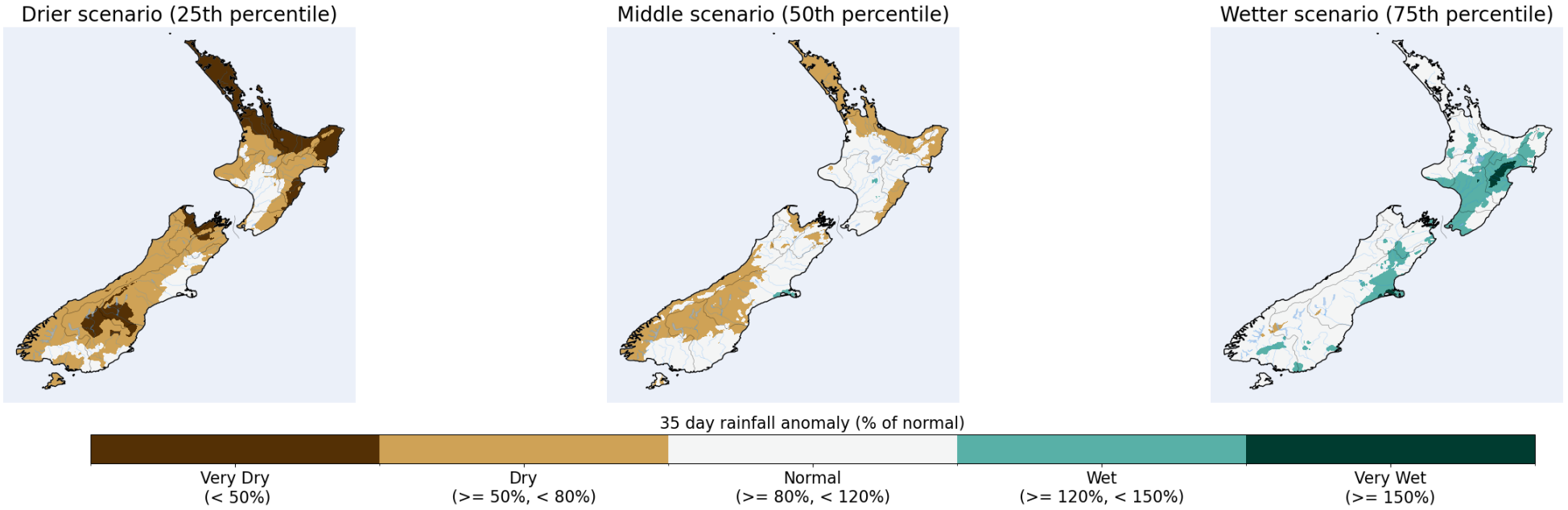

This chart shows that national hydro storage remains above the risk curves, with current storage around 122% of historic mean and 98.3% of nominal full levels.

**Source:** Transpower as the system operator

# 35-day rainfall forecast

**NIWA35**
**Rainfall anomaly for 35 days**
**Model initiation: 00 UTC Fri 23/01/2026**
**Valid: 01 PM Fri 23/01/26 - 01 PM Thu 26/02/26 NZDT**

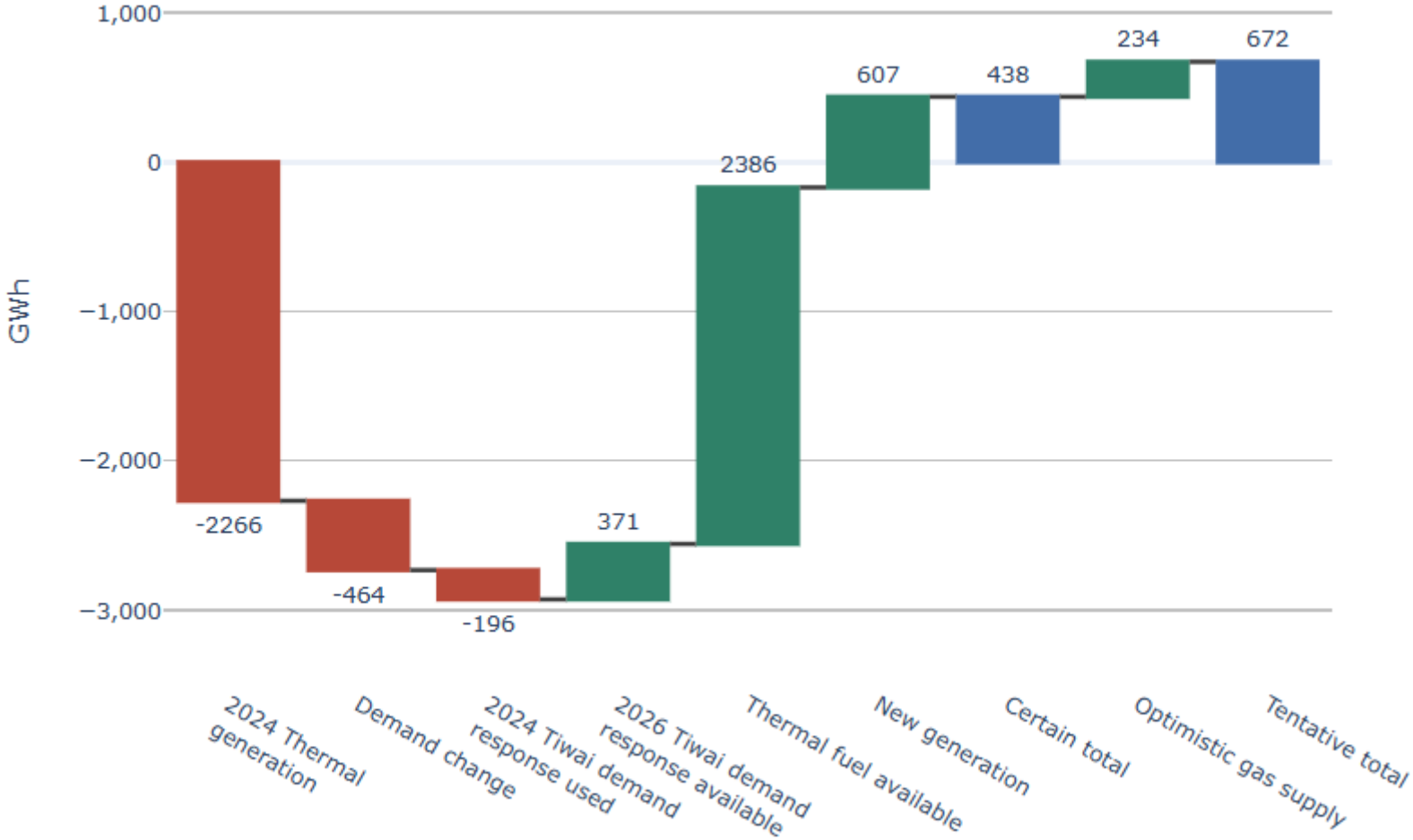
*"Normal" is the perentage relative to a climatology and the forecast. The climatology is a 35 day rolling sum of a 35 day rolling average from 1991-2020 from the VCSN.*




These maps show that this week's forecast is that rainfall over the next 35 days is likely to be dry compared to historic average across most of the South Island hydro catchment region

**Source:** NIWA

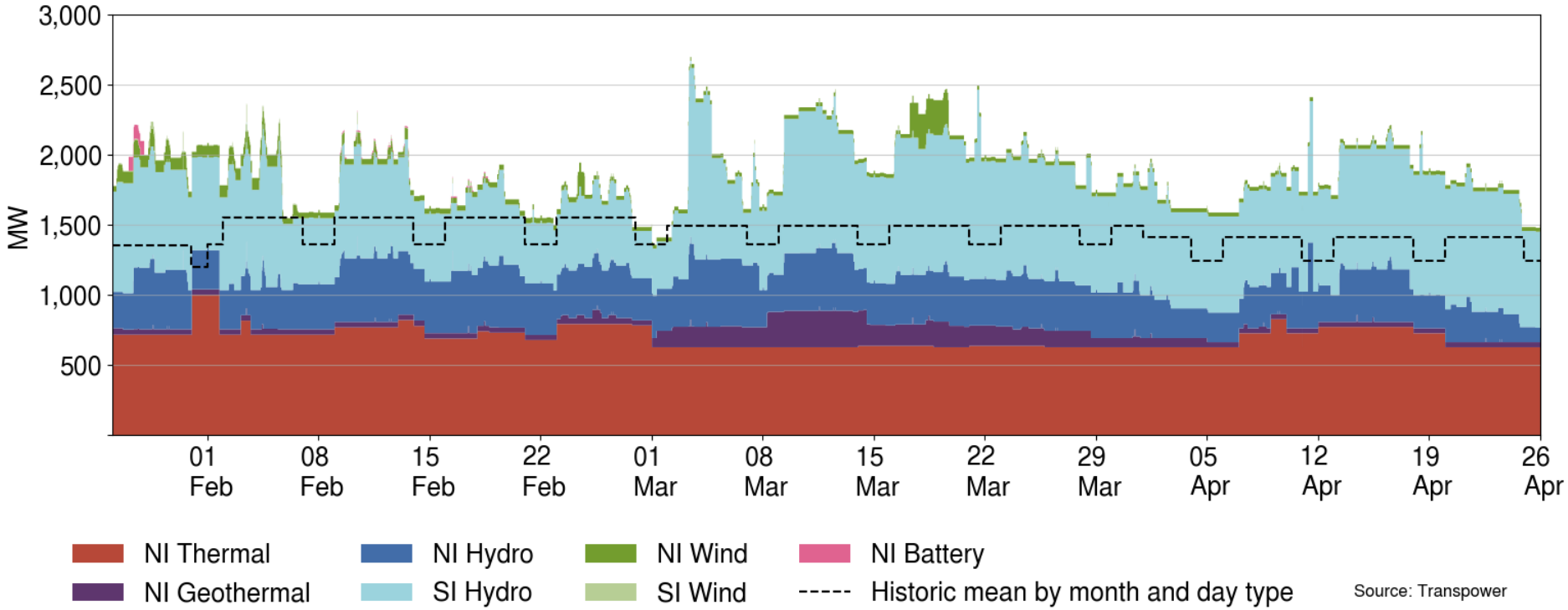
# Winter 2024/2026 comparison




**Source:** Electricity Authority

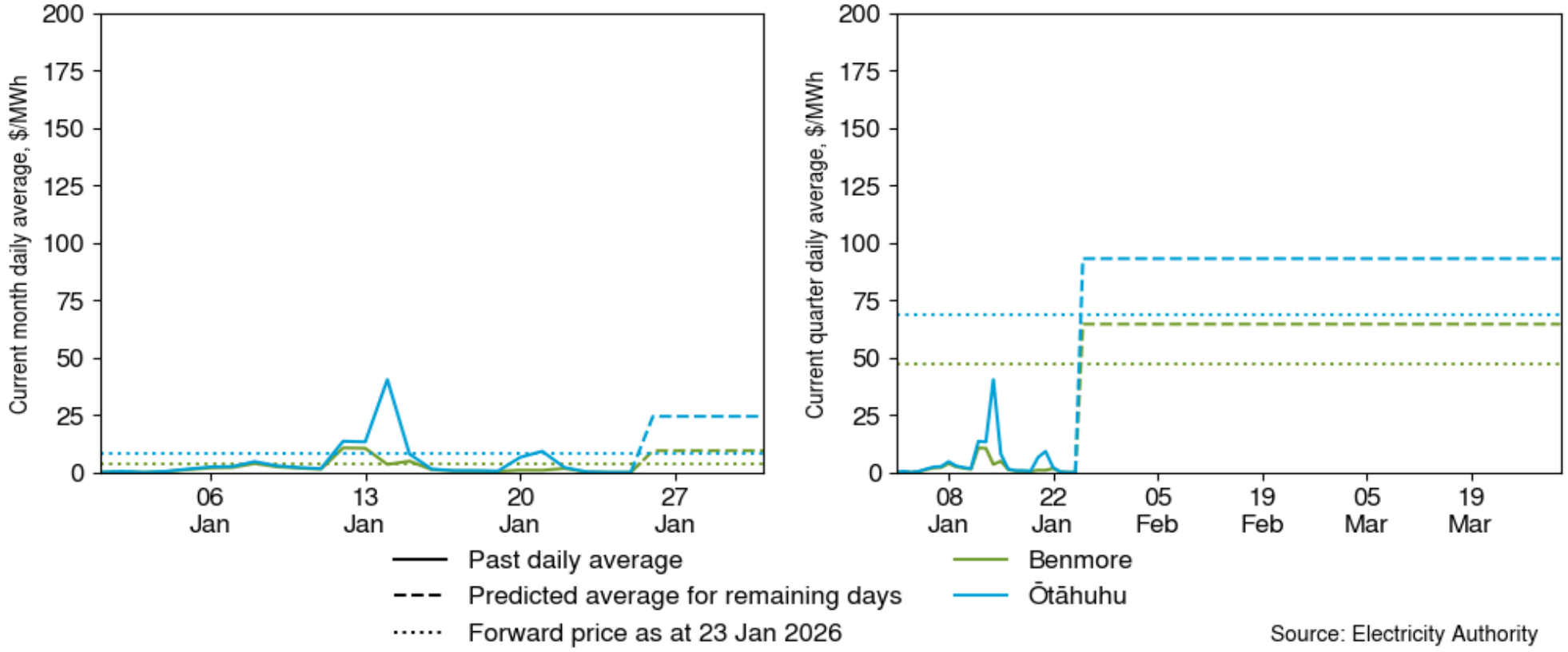
We are in a better energy position to firm a dry 3-month period than in winter 2024 (total net improvement: 438GWh, an increase from last month due to increases in Ahuroa storage). This chart compares the amount of thermal generation and demand response in winter 2024, and some demand increases, to thermal fuel and new generation available for winter 2026.

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



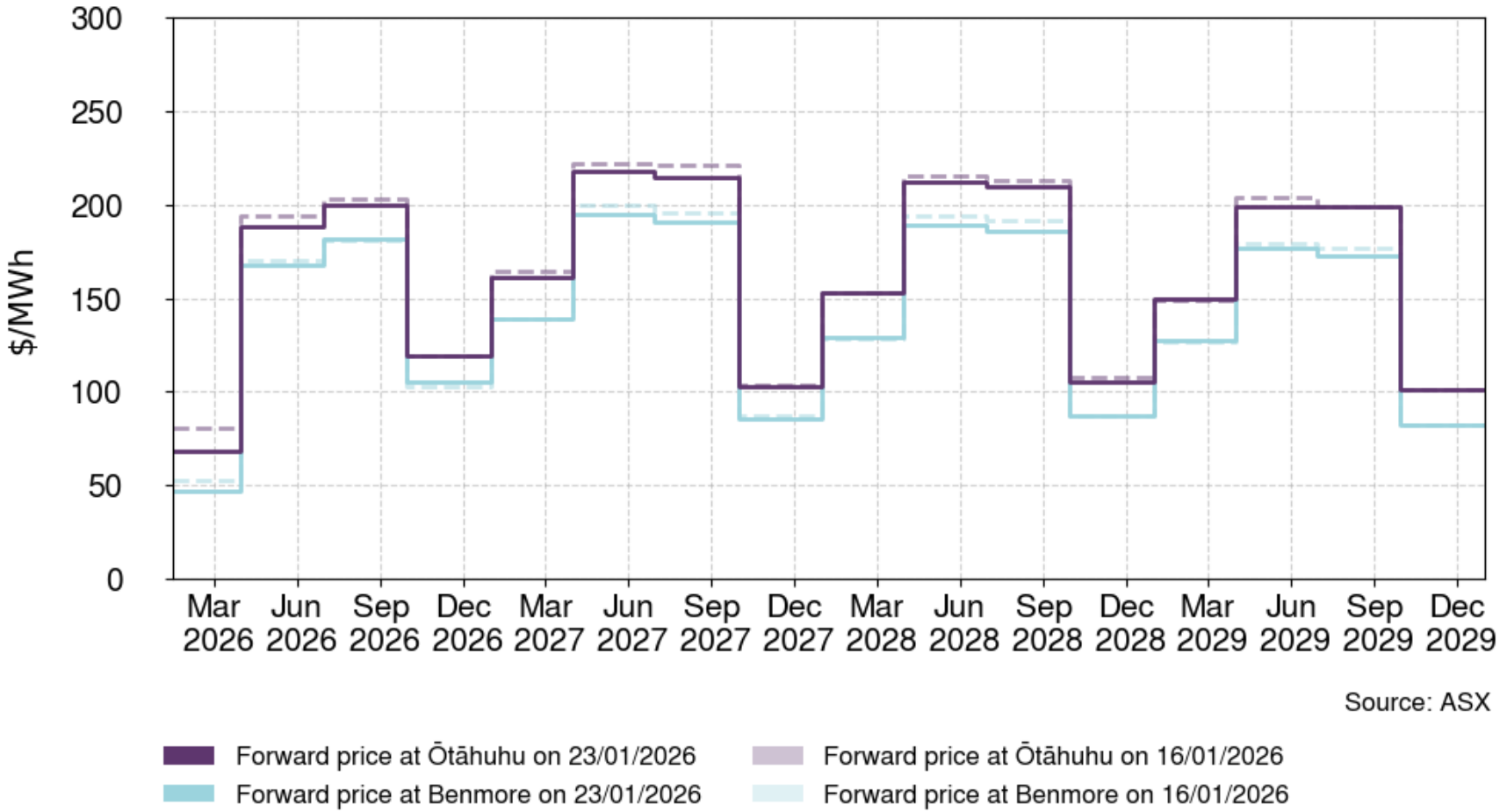

This chart shows that the amount of power generation infrastructure 'on outage' (shut down for planned maintenance) over the next three months is expected to be above average on most days.

# Wholesale electricity spot prices



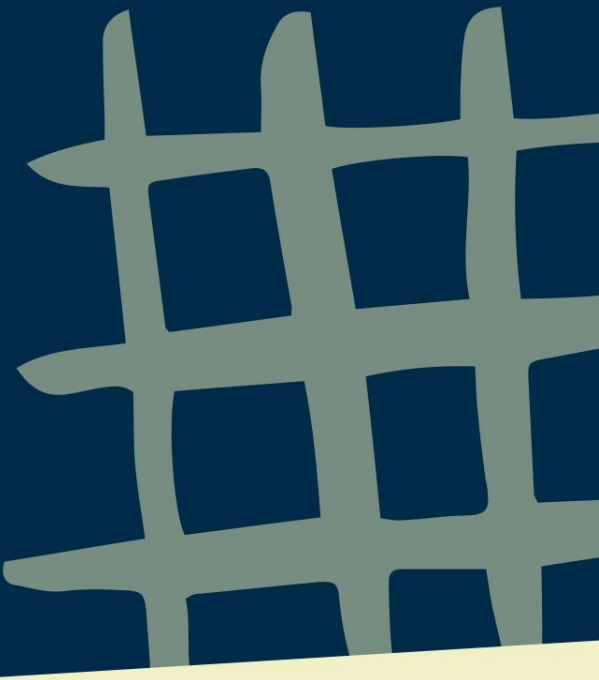

This chart shows that the forecast daily average wholesale spot prices are ~$9-$24/MWh for this month, and ~$65-$93/MWh for the rest of the quarter. The prices reflect underlying supply conditions, with above average hydro storage.

# Forward curve – average future wholesale electricity price




This chart shows that the average future wholesale price for June 2026 is currently $168/MWh at Benmore and ~$189/MWh at Ōtāhuhu. This is an average decrease of ~$4/MWh since last week.

# Find more information at yourpower.co.nz



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