

Weekly electricity security of supply snapshot

2 February 2026



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, 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.

High hydro storage and summer demand has seen renewables produce most of New Zealand's electricity (~97% in the last week).

It is important to understand there are different drivers of wholesale prices. The current spot prices are reflective of high hydro storage and other renewable generation that is sufficient to meet demand with minimal thermal generation.



Summary of overall electricity system risk for the next three months

Wholesale prices

Average daily prices are likely to be around \$34-\$67/MWh for this month, and ~\$67-\$90/MWh for the 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

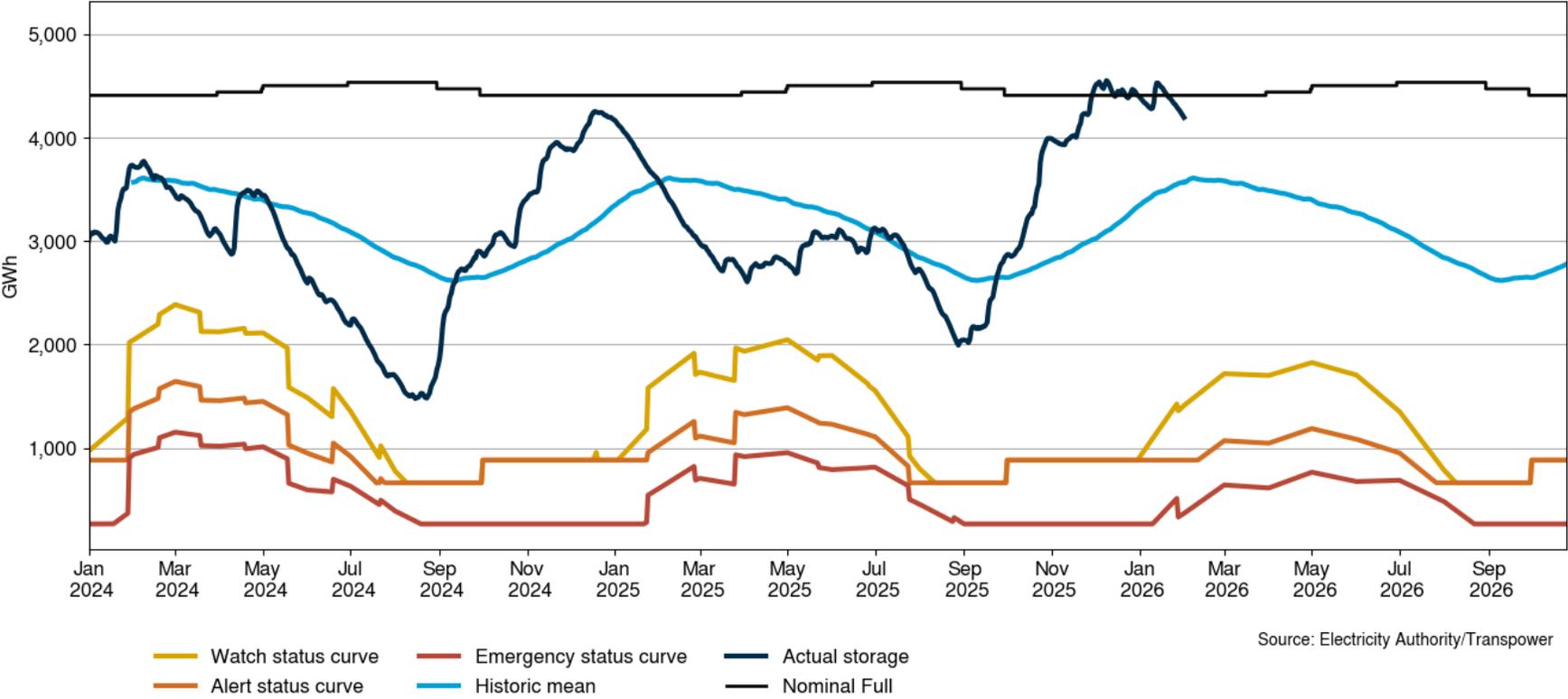
Security of supply outlook for the next three months:

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

Electricity market information in this snapshot:

- New Zealand Electricity Risk Status Curves (Available GWh)
- 35-day rainfall forecast
- Winter 2024/2026 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)

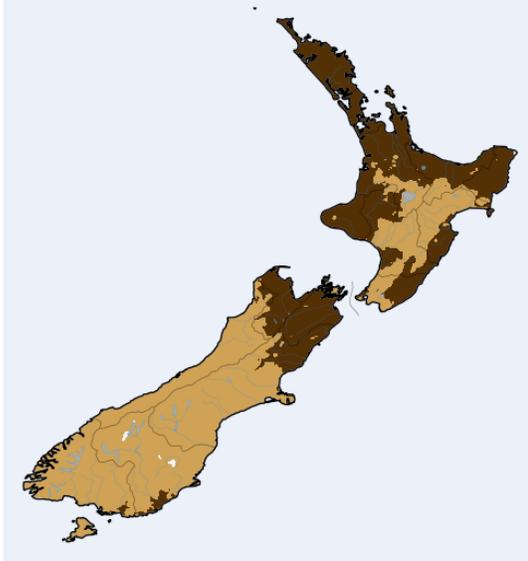


This chart shows that national hydro storage remains above the risk curves, despite reducing in the last week. Storage is currently 95% nominally full and 118% of the historic mean.

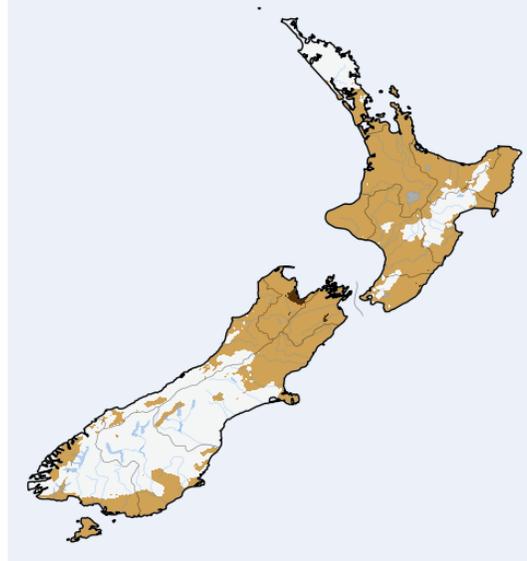
Source: Transpower as the system operator

35-day rainfall forecast

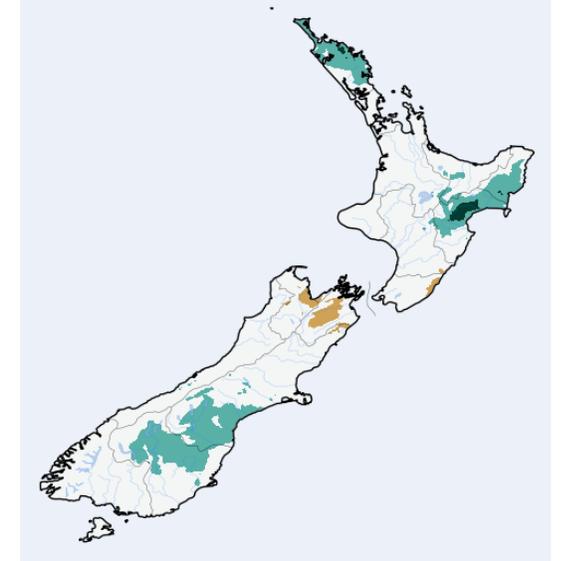
Drier scenario (25th percentile)



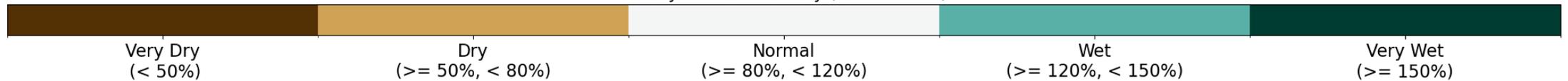
Middle scenario (50th percentile)



Wetter scenario (75th percentile)



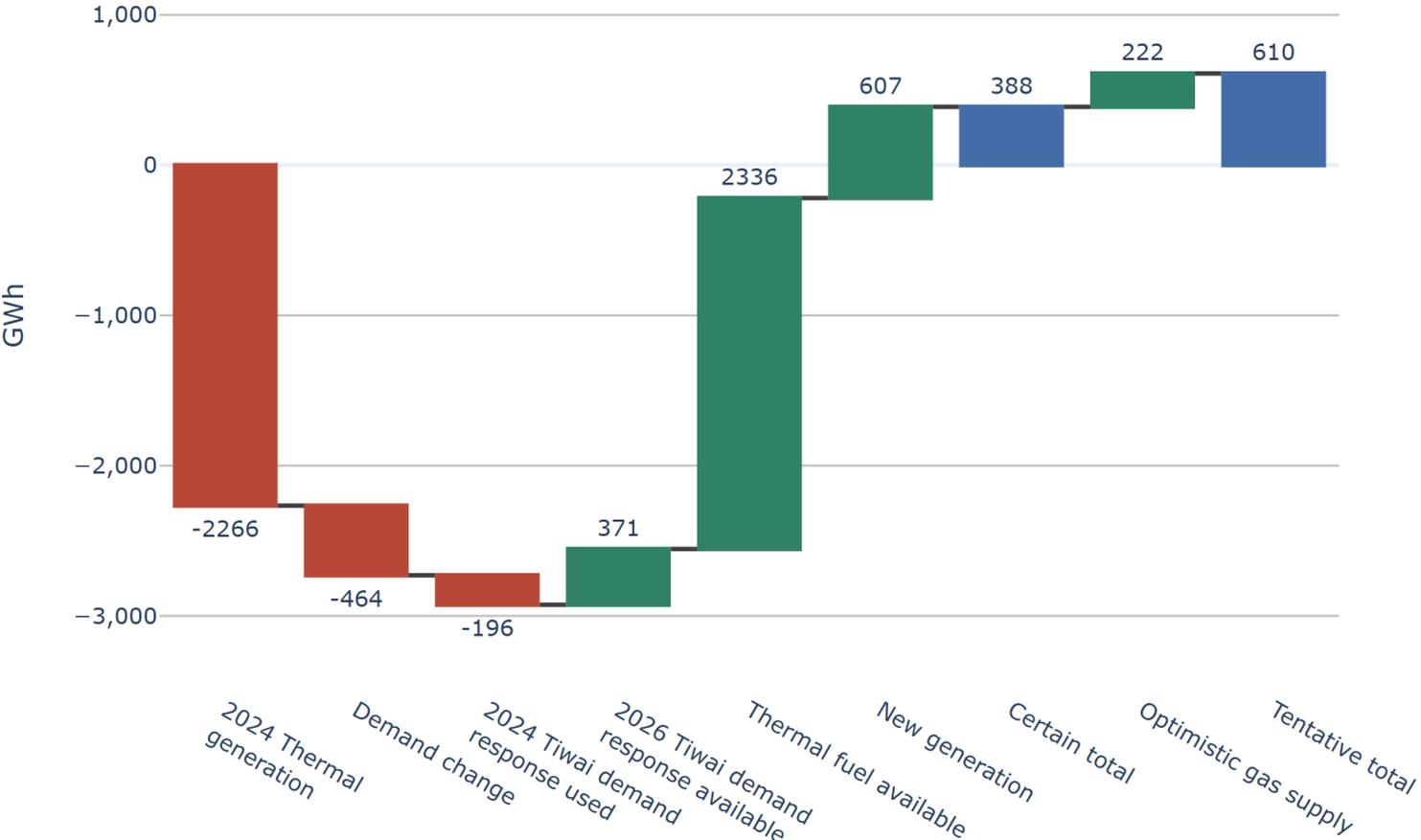
35 day rainfall anomaly (% of normal)



These maps show that this week's forecast is that rainfall over the next 35 days is likely to be normal and lower than usual for this time of year.

Source: NIWA

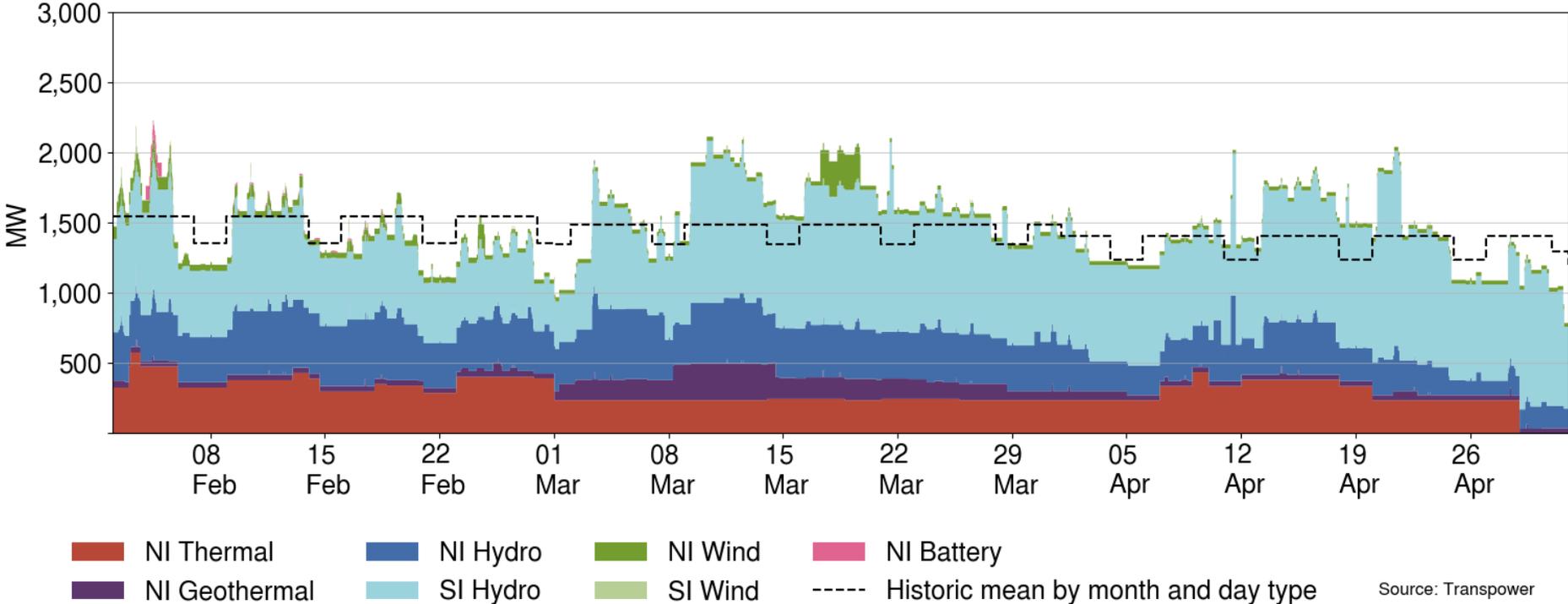
Winter 2024/2026 comparison



Source: Electricity Authority

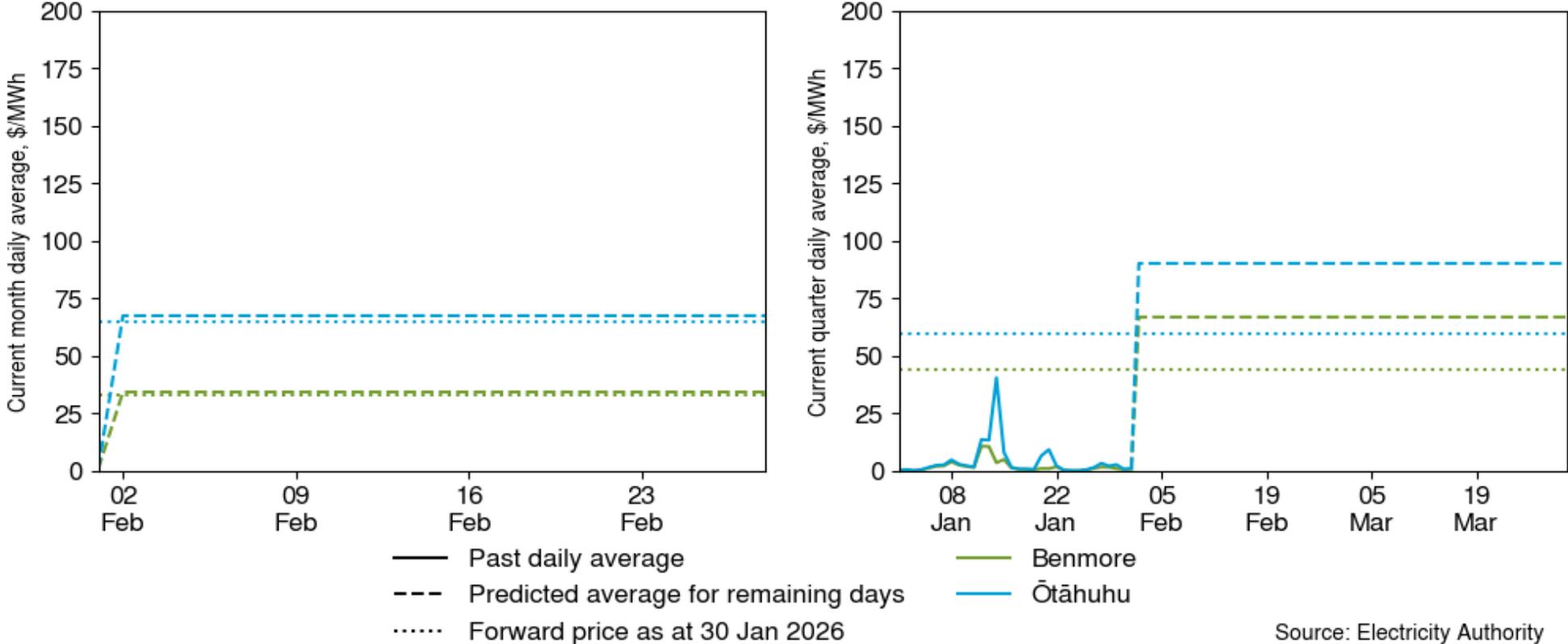
We are in a better energy position to firm a dry 3-month period than in winter 2024 (total net improvement: 388GWh). This chart compares the amount of thermal generation and demand response in winter 2024, and some demand increases, to thermal fuel and new generation available for winter 2026.

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



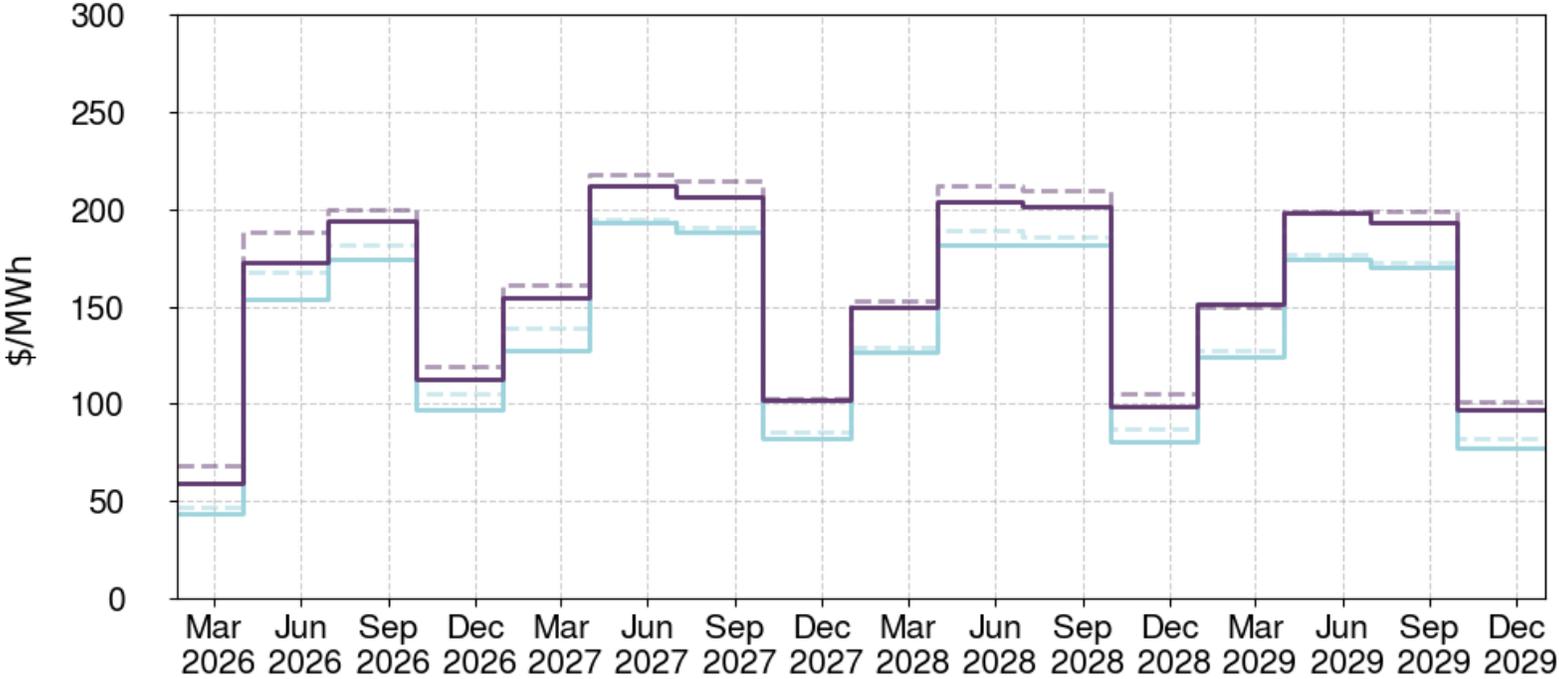
This chart shows that the amount of power generation infrastructure 'on outage' (shut down for planned maintenance) over the next three months is expected to be around average on most days.

Wholesale electricity spot prices



This chart shows that the forecast daily average wholesale spot prices are ~\$34-\$67/MWh for this month, and ~\$67-\$90/MWh for the quarter. These prices reflect underlying supply conditions, with above average hydro storage.

Forward curve – average future wholesale electricity price



Source: ASX

■ Forward price at Ōtāhuhu on 30/01/2026
 ■ Forward price at Ōtāhuhu on 23/01/2026
■ Forward price at Benmore on 30/01/2026
 ■ Forward price at Benmore on 23/01/2026

This chart shows that the future wholesale price for June 2026 is currently \$154/MWh at Benmore and \$172/MWh at Ōtāhuhu. This is a decrease of ~\$15/MWh compared to last week.

Find more information
at yourpower.co.nz