

14 November 2025

s 9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe s 9(2)(a)

Your request

Thank you for your request, received on 16 October 2025, under the Official Information Act 1982 (Act) for the following information:

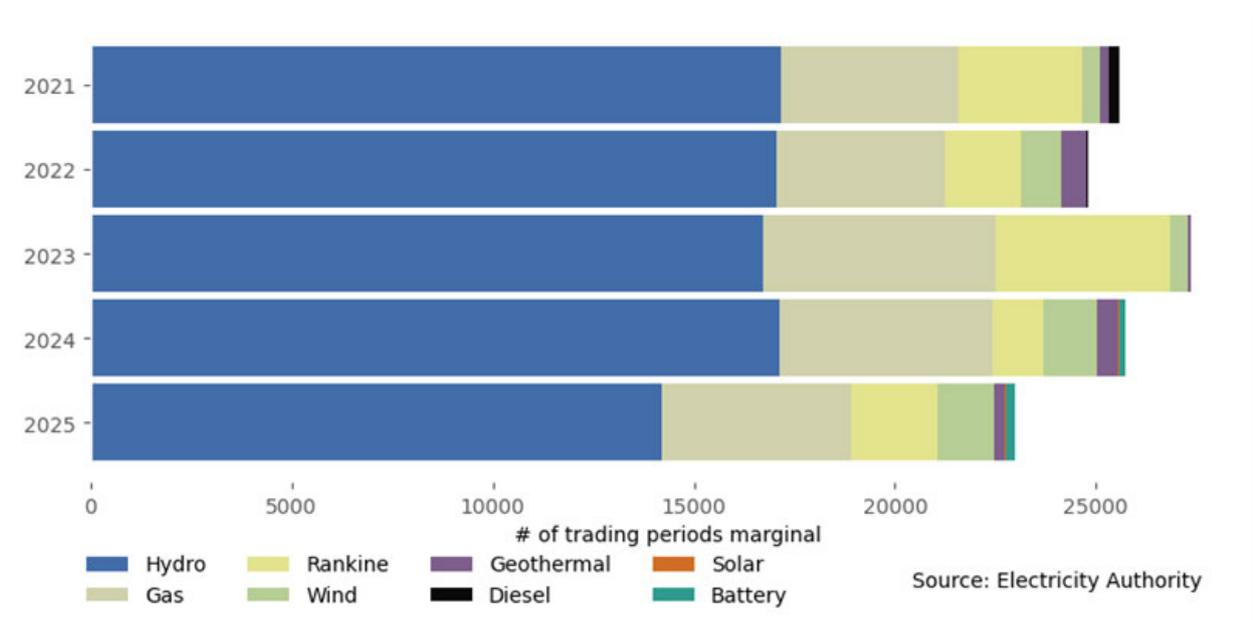
- Does Transpower hold information on what percentage of the time that fossil gas or coal sets the wholesale electricity price in NZ?
- What is that wholesale price, and what is the wholesale price when fossil fuels are not in the mix?
- Can you please provide this information, if available, broken down by month and year over the last decade?

Our response

We note the Manager, Market Intelligence has spoken to you to clarify your request. As he discussed with you, we are providing a chart that shows the technology type for the marginal generator in the spot market together with some explanatory notes, including why this information slightly differs from what you requested. We understand that you confirmed this information is sufficient for the purposes of your request.

If you would like the table further split by month, the Manager, Market Intelligence, has advised he is happy for you to contact him and he will provide the data to you.

Chart: Technology type for marginal generator in the spot market



Explanatory notes

The chart shows Rankines (Huntly dual fuel units) separately as they can run on gas or coal. They set the price a lot in 2023 as the large gas generator at Huntly was on outage for most of the year. The bars are different lengths because often more than one generator is marginal

This differs slightly from your question regarding the proportion of time fossil gas and coal is setting the price in the New Zealand wholesale electricity market. Where hydro has storage, operators are trying to balance the benefits of generating now against the costs of having less water to generate with in the future. The future cost is always influenced by fossil fuel prices, so the value of water in the spot market is impacted by fossil fuel. This means that when hydro is setting the price, it can be very low due to abundant water in the reservoirs, or very high due to scarce water.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

As this information may be of interest to other members of the public, the Electricity Authority Te Mana Hiko may proactively release a copy of this response on our website. All personal data, including your name and contact details, will be removed before publication.

If you'd like to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact us by emailing oja@ea.govt.nz.

Nāku noa, nā,



Airihi Mahuika
GM Legal, Monitoring and Compliance