

FN-25-23 Fortnightly report 21 November 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 to implement Emergency Reserve Scheme	
Strategic outcome	Secure and resilient
Purpose	<p>The Authority will publish a decision paper setting out the Emergency Reserve Scheme. The Emergency Reserve Scheme is a paid demand response mechanism that will reduce the likelihood of the System Operator disconnecting consumers to balance electricity supply and demand. Consumers will have a more secure and resilient electricity supply.</p> <p>§ 9(2)(f)(iv)</p>
Action and timing	§ 9(2)(f)(iv)

2. Consultation: Current and future

Current consultation	Consultation period	Outcome
Mandating half-hourly data use for smart meter reconciliation: Code amendment consultation	10 October - 21 November	Affordable
Level Playing Field non-discrimination obligations: Code amendment consultation	14 October - 2 December	Affordable
Improving prudential security arrangements: issues and options paper	17 October - 28 November	Affordable
Distributor rebates for peak grid injection (TF 2A): Code amendment consultation	3 - 21 November	Affordable
Consultation on collecting energy margin information: Code amendment consultation	6 November - 8 December	Affordable
Consultation on market arrangements for batteries: issues and options paper	11 November - 23 December	Secure and resilient
Strengthening price discovery in the forward electricity markets: Code amendment consultation	14 November - 23 December	Affordable
Consultation on addressing high up-front charges to connect to networks	17 November - 19 December	Affordable

26/27 levy-funded appropriations consultation	18 November - 16 December	Other
Consultation on collecting hedge market information	21 November - 19 December	Affordable

3. Media releases and publications

3.1. Recent proactive announcements that attracted healthy coverage include:

- (a) Better Bills consultation
- (b) Network connection charges consultation
- (c) Task Force level playing field measures
- (d) Power Innovation Pathway report

3.2. Upcoming communications and media priorities include:

- (a) Quarterly report to Minister
- (b) Disconnections reporting
- (c) Northland transmission tower collapse, implementing recommendations
- (d) Level playing field guidance
- (e) Launching new consumer switching site

4. Upcoming Electricity Industry Participation Code 2010 amendments

4.1. The following table has an Electricity Industry Participation Code amendment that needs to be presented to the House by the Minister's office. We have been talking to your office about this.

Tracking number	Name	Date made	Date of Gazette notification	Date in force	Due date for presentation to the House
EIPCA-25-0021	Provision of Information to System Operator	23 October 2025	30 October 2025	1 December 2025	On or before 21 November 2025

5. Update: Authority Board-commissioned organisational design review

- 5.1. Following the Government's commitment to strengthen the Authority's enforcement and analytical capability in response to the Frontier report, the Authority Board has commissioned an organisational design review to consider how best to deliver these strengthened functions within the Authority's current funding envelope.
- 5.2. A Request for Proposals was issued 3 November, with a deadline 24 November. The review is due to run from mid-December to mid-February, and will provide options for improvements to the Authority's organisational design, governance and operating model.
- 5.3. This timeline is dependent on Cabinet decisions on the scope of the Authority's new powers, which we understand are due to be considered in early December.
- 5.4. We will continue to keep you updated on the review's progress.

6. Update: Review of contingent storage arrangements

- 6.1. The System Operator's consultation on its proposal to provide earlier access to contingent hydro storage has closed.
- 6.2. The Authority is responsible for approving the System Operator's final proposal.
- 6.3. We expect to receive the final proposal in mid-December and to release our decision in early February.

Most submitters support the proposal, our initial view is it's a pragmatic solution, however, Meridian considers the proposal does not go far enough

- 6.4. Most submitters supported the System Operator's proposals.
- 6.5. Meridian considers that the proposal does not go far enough and access to contingent storage should be triggered earlier than proposed and is suggesting a 'first principles' review of contingent storage access to achieve a fuel agnostic electricity system.
- 6.6. Meridian's position is unsurprising as it reflects its interest in reducing its reliance on purchasing security of supply cover like demand response and the recent Huntly Firming Option with Genesis.
- 6.7. Meridian has applied under the Fast Track legislation for a temporary resource consent to access contingent storage in Lake Pukaki without needing to comply with the security of supply rules defined by the System Operator.
- 6.8. Clearer rules and earlier access to contingent storage would provide the market with confidence that contingent storage will be available to be used when needed. The trade-off is ensuring that contingent storage is not used too early so that consumers are not required to conserve power or there is insufficient storage available for a subsequent dry year.
- 6.9. Our initial view is the proposal is a pragmatic solution that balances the need for providing earlier access to contingent storage with the need to provide incentives on participants to manage security of supply risks.
- 6.10. We will continue to keep you updated on progress, including any updates on Meridian's Fast Track application.

7. Investment pipeline monthly update

Generation investment pipeline as at 21 November 2025:			
44.3 GW total capacity	288 projects	108 developers	82.4% intermittent renewable

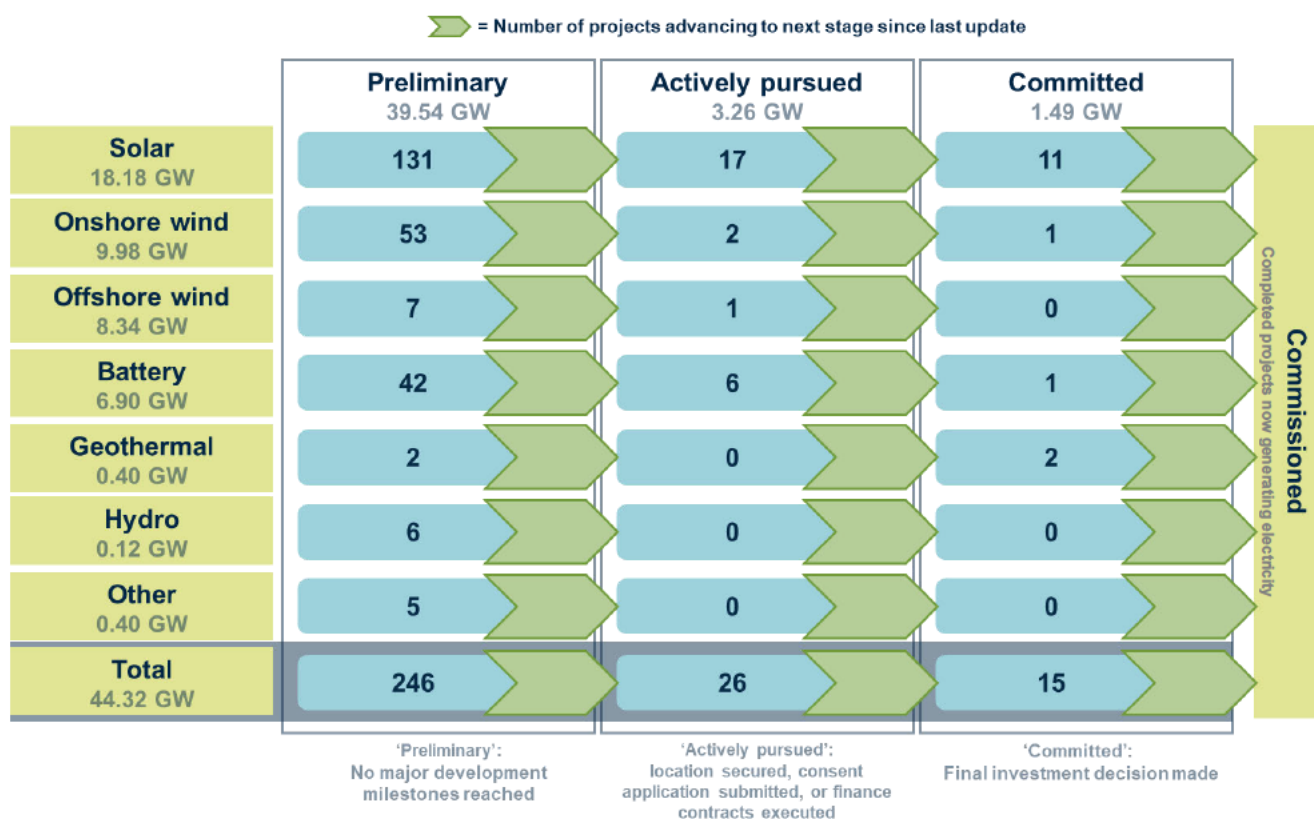
Key out-takes since last update on 24 October

- ▶ 703MW of new generation commissioned since November 2023 - no change.
- ▶ 663MW is currently under construction, with an additional 200MW likely to begin construction by the end of 2025¹.
- ▶ 37.8GW of projects are past the first stage of Transpower's grid connection process (no change since last update). Of those, 17.2GW (no change) are planned for completion before 2030, and of these, 13.1GW (no change) are owned independently.

Key project development updates since 24 October

- 7.1. Consent granted for the 179MW **Glorit solar farm**, a Contact Energy/Lightsource BP project. It is not clear when construction will begin (we will provide this when available).
- 7.2. Construction has begun on the 130MW **Ruakākā solar farm**, a Meridian Energy project, with full generation expected in early 2027.

Project advancement since 24 October



¹ Based on public information and information provided to Transpower by developers as required under the information gathering notice.



