

FN-26-01 Fortnightly report 23 January 2026

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. Launching s 9(2)(b)(ii), our new comparison and switching site

Upcoming communications on consumer affordability	
Strategic outcome	Affordable
Purpose	<p>The Authority is preparing a major communications milestone focused on improving consumer affordability later this quarter.</p> <p>We will launch s 9(2)(b)(ii) our new comparison and switching site designed to make it easier for people to find better deals on their power.</p> <p>s 9(2)(b)(ii)</p> <p>s 9(2)(b)(ii)</p> <p>s 9(2)(b)(ii) This is aligned with EECA’s ongoing energy efficiency campaigns throughout the year to maximise reach and reinforce messages. We will also announce decisions on our electricity billing reforms, which will help people better understand their power use and costs.</p> <p>Together, these initiatives provide a strong platform for the Authority to strengthen our position as a champion for consumers and highlight government support for affordability and transparency in the market. We welcome the Minister’s interest in the launch event, and we will be liaising with your office to plan your involvement in the launch, and confirm launch dates.</p>
Action and timing	Campaign launch: late February

2. Upcoming publications

Finalised guidance on distributor involvement in the Flexibility Services Market	
Strategic outcome	Affordable
Purpose	<p>The Authority is publishing its Guidance on Distributor Involvement in the Flexibility Services Market. The Guidance clarifies the Authority’s expectations for distributors and provides a reputational incentive for compliance to ensure a level playing field.</p> <p>The guidance will support flexibility market development that will help reduce electricity costs and provide consumers with more choices for electricity use and supply.</p>
Action and timing	Publication: February

The Authority will appoint two new members to the Security and Reliability Council

Strategic outcome	Secure and resilient
Purpose	<p>The Authority will appoint Tim Boyce and Mary Ollivier and re-appoint Allan Miller to the Security and Reliability Council from 1 April 2026 for 3 years. The Authority calls for nominations annually, balancing continuity with refreshing SRC personnel.</p> <p>The Council provides independent advice on security of supply, and the electricity system and the system operator's performance.</p>
Action and timing	Announcement: by the end of February

Announcing the second tranche of Power Innovation Pathway projects

Strategic outcome	Affordable, Secure and resilient
Purpose	<p>The Authority will announce enhanced support for three projects focused on enabling <i>rural demand flexibility</i>, <i>data-driven support for energy hardship</i>, and <i>intelligent community energy hubs</i> including schools and commercial businesses.</p> <p>The Power Innovation Pathway is the Authority's "open front door" for innovators to access regulatory advice and support that aim to get their product/service to market faster to benefit consumers.</p>

Action and timing	Intended publication: 9 February; innovator engagement event: May/June
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3. Current consultation

Supplementary consultation on enabling multiple trading relationships and improving switching	
Strategic outcome	Affordable
Purpose	<p>The Authority will consult on a revised proposal for enabling multiple trading relationships. It will include an independent assessment of the revised proposal's costs and benefits. This supplementary consultation will be open for three weeks.</p> <p>Under the revised proposal, multiple trading relationships should be simpler and more cost-effective to implement. It would also mean changes could be in place sooner, leading to earlier consumer benefits.</p>
Action and timing	Publication: Tuesday, 27 January

Current consultation	Consultation period
Consultation on addressing high up-front charges to connect to networks	17 November - 4 February
Open letter on Energy Competition Task Force Work Plan	15 December – 23 January
11 July 2025 under-frequency event	23 December - 30 January
Code amendment omnibus #6	12 January – 23 January

4. Upcoming Electricity Industry Participation Code 2010 amendments

- 4.1. The following table has Electricity Industry Participation Code amendments that need to be presented to the House by the Minister's office within 20 working days following the date the amendment is made.

Tracking number	Name	Date made	Date of Gazette notification	Date in force	Due date for presentation to the House
EIPCA-26-0001	Emergency Reserve	12 January 2026	13 January 2026	1 March 2026	On or before 11 February 2026

5. Investment pipeline monthly update

Generation investment pipeline as at 23 January 2026:

45.4GW total capacity	285 projects	109 developers	83.2% intermittent renewable
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Key out-takes since last update on 19 December

- ▲ 868MW (+165MW since last update) of new generation commissioned since November 2023.
- ▼ 1,250MW is currently under construction (a decrease of 165MW due to project completion).
- ▲ 38.6GW of projects progressed beyond the first stage of Transpower's grid connection process (+0.6GW since last update). Of those, 17.4GW are planned for completion before 2030, and of these, 13GW are owned independently.

Key project development updates since 19 December 2025

- 5.1. Yinson holdings acquired the 95MW **Mt Cass wind farm** from Mainpower. Construction is expected to start early 2026 and completion is expected in 2028.
- 5.2. Several projects have been completed recently, mostly by independent generators:
 - (a) 49MW **TOPP2 geothermal** (Eastland Generation)
 - (b) 22MW **Taiohi solar** (Newpower Energy)
 - (c) 24MW **Pāmu Rā ki Whitianga solar** (Lodestone Energy)
 - (d) 24MW **Twin rivers solar** (Rānui Generation)
 - (e) 46MW **Ngā Tamariki Geothermal** (Mercury Energy)

Project advancement since 19 December 2026

➤ = Number of projects advancing to next stage since last update





