

Update from the Chair

November 2025

Acknowledging Anna Kominik's contribution

Building consumer confidence is needed to ensure stability and predictability in our regulatory settings

We were saddened to hear of Anna Kominik's recent resignation as Chair of the Electricity Authority. I say that in the context that, like many others, MEUG has been quite critical of the Electricity Authority over the last 7 years.

When Anna took over as Chair, confidence in the Authority around the MEUG table was at an all-time low. Engagement was poor, there was little evidence the Authority genuinely listened, and there was a strongly-held perception the Authority was complacent about the state of the market, fueled by the Authority's statement following their wholesale market review that it would not be looking at competition issues or the drivers of high pricing because doing so would raise difficult questions without easy answers.

Anna, supported by Chief Executive Sarah Gillies, set about changing that. Within days of her appointment, Anna fronted a MEUG meeting and re-set both the tone and engagement with MEUG in what was a robust discussion, with many MEUG members expressing their thoughts on the Authority at that time. Under Anna's leadership, MEUG's engagement with the Authority has steadily improved and the Authority has demonstrated its willingness to confront and act on some challenging issues. MEUG would certainly like to see more being done, but we have to acknowledge there will likely always be a healthy tension between what consumers want to see and the regulator.

Under Anna's leadership, the regulatory pace of change has been put on a fast track, and we have started to see a genuine consumer focus, which is a vast improvement over previous years.

Together with the Commerce Commission, the Energy Competition Task Force is doing some good work – and doing it much more quickly than what had until then been the Authority's historic pace. Again, we think more could be done, but the change from how the Authority used to conduct itself and work is undeniably for the better.

Whoever succeeds Anna will have big shoes to fill. The electricity market, and to a lesser extent the Authority itself, has become a political football. Cost-of-living pressures will ensure electricity features in next year's election, and we will likely see a range of political policies presented, ranging from non-intervention to radical reform. We need a Chair who has, or develops, strong relationships to navigate this period and who can help ensure we have stable, predictable regulatory settings that facilitate new development being built, while helping put downward pressure on prices.

The new Chair has to give consumers confidence that the Authority understands their issues and is genuinely acting in their long-term interests. If the Authority fails in this regard, calls for political intervention (whether well-intentioned or opportunistic) will continue and likely become more radical over time.

Key dates



What's on	Who	When	Notes for members
Decision: Strategic Huntly Firing Option	Commerce Commission	6 Nov	The Commission has issued its final determination authorising Genesis, Contact, Meridian and Mercury to enter into and give effect to a series of agreements referred to as the Strategic Energy Reserve Huntly Firing Option.
Submission: Gas market transparency	MBIE	7 Nov	MBIE is seeking views on a proposal to request and (in some cases) publish additional information on the gas market. This includes information across the whole gas market.
Submission: Demand flexibility	EECA	10 Nov	EECA is seeking input from industry and other interested stakeholders on how to unlock the potential of demand flexibility through residential end-use products, such as home appliances.
Cross-submission: SOSFIP amendments	Transpower	11 Nov	Transpower is consulting on its draft amendment proposal for the Security of Supply Forecasting and Information Policy Review (SOSFIP). MEUG's submission is available here .
Event: Geothermal workshop	University of Auckland	11 – 13 Nov	47th New Zealand Geothermal Workshop held in Rotorua.
Submission: Electricity billing in NZ	Electricity Authority	12 Nov	The Authority is consulting on a package of Code changes to improve electricity bills, whether viewed on paper, by email, on a website or an app.
Deadline: RFI for leveraging Government energy demand	Government	12 Nov	The Government has released a Request for Information seeking responses from businesses with potential energy projects that would add to electricity and/or (non-transport) fuel supply.
Webinar: Connection pricing	Electricity Authority	13 Nov	Online Q&A session on the new connection pricing methodology requirements (register here).
Submission: Phase 2 – Te Kanapu	Transpower	14 Nov	Transpower is seeking feedback on five potential scenarios of what Aotearoa's electricity needs might look like in 2050, as part of its T Kanapu – Future Grid initiative.
Submission: Emergency Reserve Scheme	Electricity Authority	14 Nov	The Authority is seeking feedback on the proposed Code amendments necessary to establish an Emergency Reserve Scheme as an ancillary service in the electricity market
Deadline: ROI for LNG	Government	17 Nov	The Government is seeking to identify parties interested in supplying LNG Facility Services (the Project).
Submission: Access to product data	Electricity Authority	18 Nov	The Authority has decided to move forward with a redesigned suite of EIEP14s to standardise the exchange of electricity product data. Details here .
Event: NZ Power Summit	IQPC	18 – 19 Nov	The Premier Event for New Zealand's Energy Ecosystem - Collaborating for a Net-Zero Future, held in Auckland.
Submission: Maximising benefits from local electricity generation	Electricity Authority	19 Nov	The Authority is seeking feedback on proposals to make export limits more efficient, so residential solar, wind, solar farms and other distributed generation can supply more electricity to networks.
Submission: Definition of a small business	Electricity Authority	21 Nov	The Authority is consulting on the definition of a small business , as part of its decisions requiring distributors to pay a rebate when consumers supply electricity at peak times.
Submission: Use of half-hourly data	Electricity Authority	21 Nov	The Authority is consulting on proposed Code amendments to require participants to submit half-hourly data into the wholesale market's reconciliation process, where this data is available
Submission: 2026 SoSA assumptions	Transpower	24 Nov	Transpower, in its role as System Operator, is consulting on the 2026 Security of Supply Assessment Reference Case Assumptions and Sensitivities .
Submission: Level playing field measures	Electricity Authority	25 Nov	The Authority is seeking feedback on proposed Code changes necessary to introduce mandatory non-discrimination obligations.
Submission: Amending second emissions reduction plan	Ministry for the Environment	26 Nov	The Government is consulting on an amendment to the second emissions reduction plan, to reflect its revised approach to reducing agricultural emissions.
Submission: Prudential security	Electricity Authority	28 Nov	The Authority is seeking feedback on the issues and options for improving prudential security requirements for small retailers.