

30 March 2026

John Clarke
Executive General Manager Future Grid
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Sent via email: feedback@transpower.co.nz

Dear John

Future Direction – Our Energy Scenarios

1. The Major Electricity Users' Group (MEUG) welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on Transpower's consultation paper "*Future Direction – Our Energy Scenarios*"¹ published in March 2026. This submission does not contain any confidential information and can be published on Transpower's website unaltered. Members may lodge separate responses.

Commend Transpower for Te Kanapu initiative

2. MEUG commends Transpower for establishing the *Te Kanapu – Future Grid Blueprint* initiative and the work it has done to date to model possible energy futures for New Zealand. It is encouraging to see Transpower taking a whole of system approach, looking at all aspects of the electricity system, beyond simply New Zealand's electricity transmission system. MEUG believes that Transpower has established a set of scenarios that explore a range of plausible future directions for New Zealand's economy and the electricity system that needs to support it.
3. This initiative raises two broader questions that urgently need to be addressed within the energy sector:
 - **What is the overarching strategy or direction for New Zealand's energy system?** As discussed by many stakeholders,² New Zealand needs a national energy strategy to guide development of the sector for the long term. The *Te Kanapu* initiative paints several possible futures, but (understandably) does not look at the key policy decisions or founding principles that need to be agreed upon (across the political spectrum) to enable a successful energy transition, with much greater electrification.
 - **How will New Zealand pay for its energy future?** Energy affordability is a key concern for many businesses and households, with both electricity, gas, petrol and diesel prices continuing to increase year on year. Alongside the discussion of what needs to be invested into our energy system (both generation and networks), there needs to be some hard discussion around who pays and how costs are allocated.

¹ https://static.transpower.co.nz/public/uncontrolled_docs/Te%20Kanapu%20Consultation%203%20-%20Future%20Direction.pdf?VersionId=RM.d91b1bBaN.njFNpMgnirt0Ok2PHki

² For example, the [Northern Infrastructure Forum](#), [Energy Resources Aotearoa](#) and the [Electricity Engineers' Association](#), the [BusinessNZ Energy Council](#).

With demand growth being relatively flat and certainly not increasing at the rates forecast by organisations such as Transpower and the Climate Change Commission, it is difficult to see how existing customers across the country could absorb the costs of any anticipatory investments in the network, without further impacting cost of living pressures.

4. We would welcome further discussion with Transpower on these broader sector-wide issues, and how the Te Kanapu initiative can adjust and incorporate developments in the broader policy space and reflect consumer affordability within its work.

Next steps

5. MEUG looks forward to hosting Transpower at one of our upcoming member meetings in April 2026, where we will have a further opportunity to discuss this initiative and the insights Transpower has gained through the work to date.
6. If you have any questions regarding our submission, please contact MEUG on 027 472 7798 or via email at karen@meug.co.nz.

Yours sincerely



Karen Boyes
Major Electricity Users' Group