Market Operations Weekly Report - Week Ended 15 February 2026

Overview

New Zealand hydro storage now sits below the 90th percentile at 115%. Hydro generation remains high, maintaining the high share of renewable generation in the mix that we have observed in the last four months.

This week's insight looks at the upcoming annual planned HVDC outages, and at price separation observed during them in previous years.

Security of Supply

Energy

National hydro storage remained at 115% of the seasonal mean at the end of last week, the same figure as the previous week. South Island hydro storage decreased from 110% to 109% of the historic mean, and North Island storage increased from 166% to 177%.

Capacity

Residuals were healthy with the lowest residual of 733 MW occurring during the evening peak of Wednesday 11 February, which was the highest load peak of the week.

The N-1-G margins in the NZGB forecast are healthy through to mid April. Within seven days we monitor these more closely through the market schedules. The latest NZGB report is available on the NZGB website.

Electricity Market Commentary

Weekly Demand

Total demand last week increased from 710 GWh to 736 GWh the week, and is in line with average demand at this time of year over the past three years. The highest demand peak of 5,242 MW occurred at 5:30 pm on Wednesday 11 February.

Weekly Prices

Prices increased this week, with weekday prices not falling below $20/MWh. This contrasts with previous weeks this year in which both islands often fell below $1/MWh. This coincides with the end of spill in some hydro catchments. The average wholesale electricity spot price at Ōtāhuhu last week was $62/MWh, increasing from $23/MWh the week prior. Wholesale prices peaked at $201/MWh at Ōtāhuhu at 6:30 pm on Wednesday 4 February. This roughly coincides with the highest demand peak for the week at 5:30 pm the same day.

Generation Mix

Total renewable contribution to the mix was 97% last week, the 19th consecutive week above 96%. This consisted of hydro generation which remained well above average at 63% of the generation mix. Wind generation was below average at 6% of the mix, solar generation was 1% of the mix and the geothermal share was 26% of the mix, above its average contribution of 23%. Thermal generation was at 2% of the mix.

HVDC

HVDC flow was mostly northward last week with some overnight southward HVDC transfer particularly over the weekend during high wind and low demand periods. In total, 70 GWh was transferred north and 4 GWh was transferred South.

Consultations

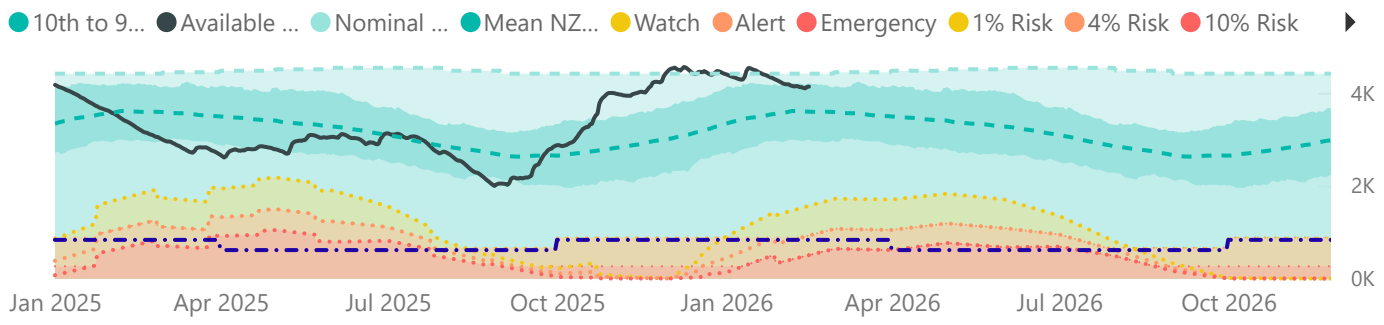
We have released our initial engagement paper as part of the development of a System Operator strategy. This outlines why a refreshed strategy is needed now and describes our approach to shaping the future of system operations. Responses are due by Friday 27 February.

New Zealand Energy Risk

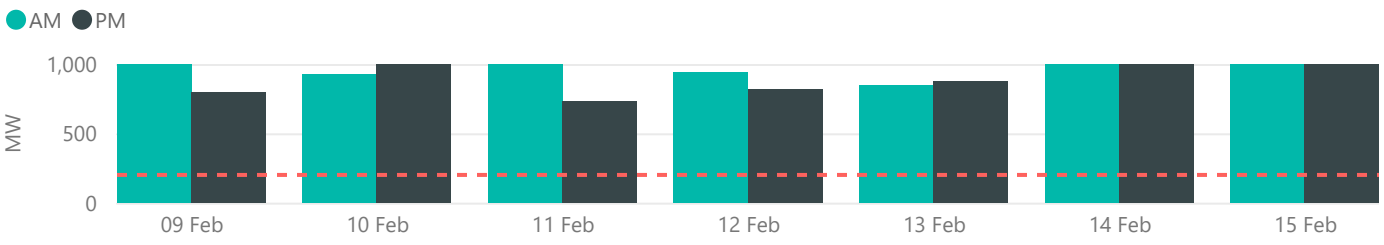
South Island Energy Risk

Normal Watch Alert Emergency

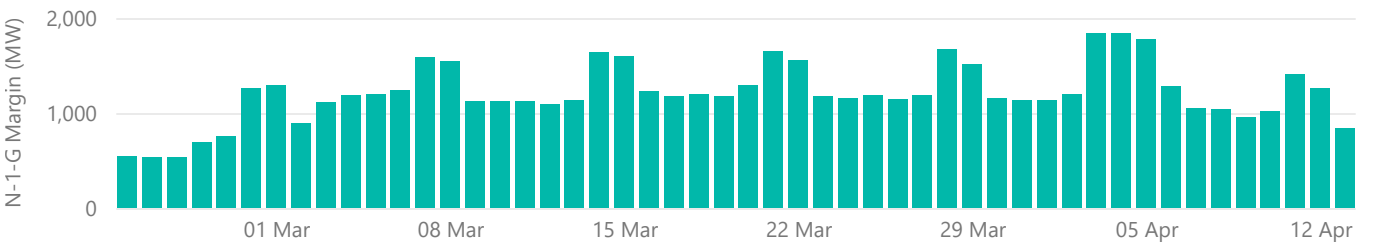
New Zealand Electricity Risk Status Curves (Available GWh)



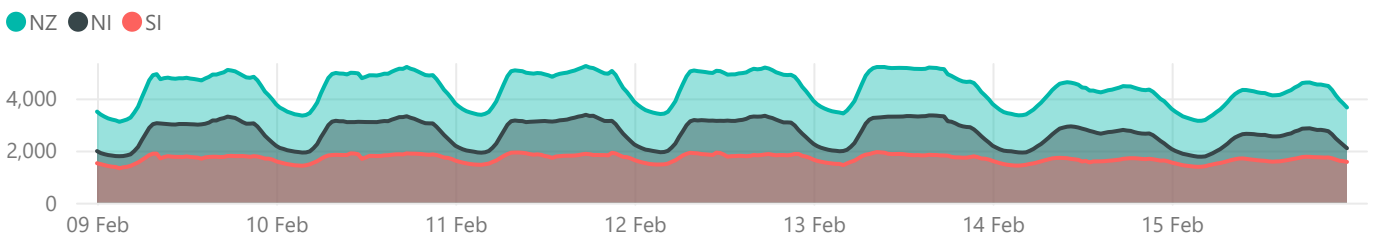
Lowest Residual Points - MW



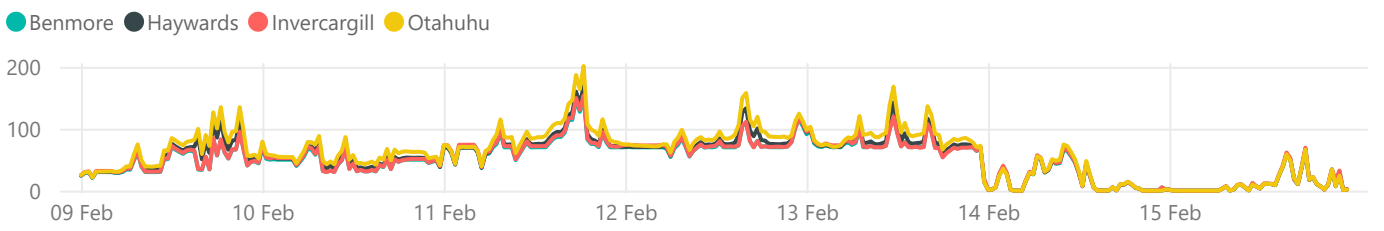
NZGB Look-Ahead (excluding next 7 days)



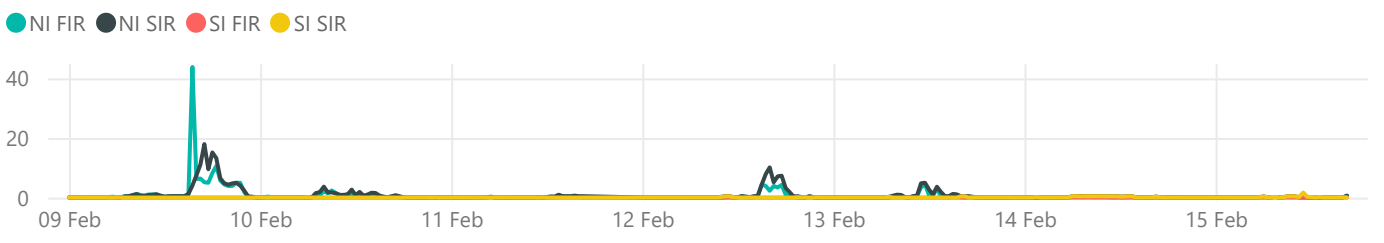
National Demand by Trading period - MW



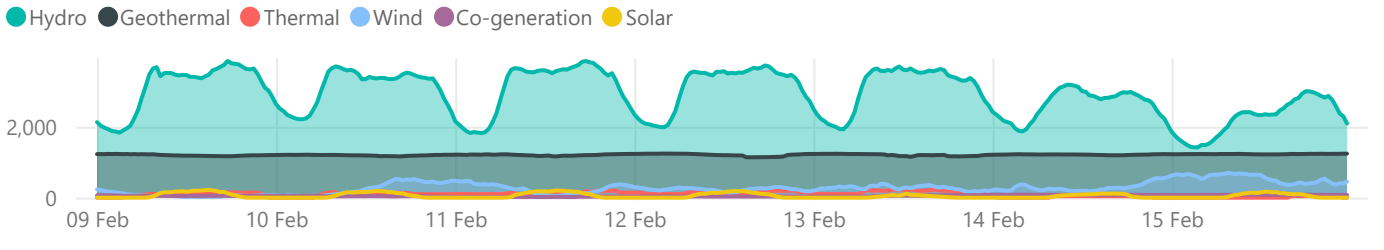
Energy Prices - $/MWh



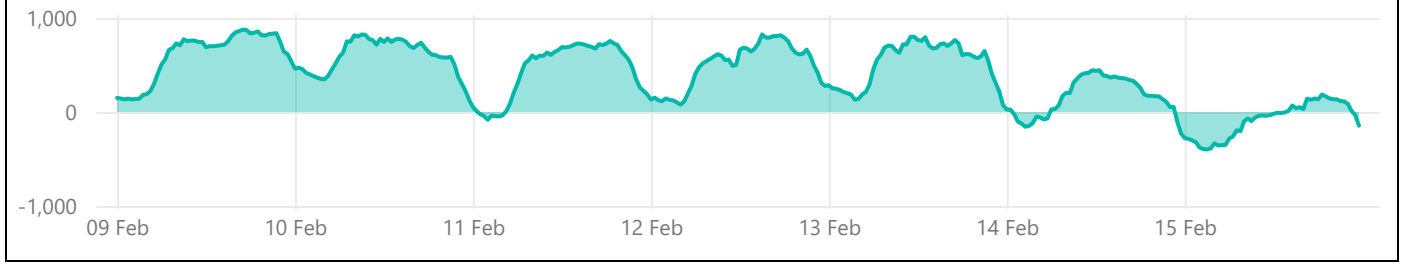
Reserve Prices - $/MW



Generation - MW



Net HVDC Transfer - MW (Northward positive)



Weekly Insight - Upcoming planned HVDC outages

As advised in a Customer Advice Notice (CAN) published 5 February, HVDC outages are planned for the period 19 February to 2 March. These HVDC outages occur annually in between late February to early March, with each pole on outage for approximately one week. There is an overlapping "bipole" outage period, usually two days, when the entire HVDC link (both poles) is on outage and the North and South islands are electrically disconnected.

The outage dates for this year's HVDC outages are as follows:

Asset	North capacity	South capacity
Pole 3 outage: 05:00 19th February to 05:00 21st February 2026		
HVDC Pole 2	500 MW	489 MW
HVDC Pole 3	0 MW	0 MW
Bi-Pole outage: 05:00 21st February to 22:00 22nd February 2026		
HVDC Pole 2	0 MW	0 MW
HVDC Pole 3	0 MW	0 MW
Pole 2 outage: 22:00 22nd February to 22:00 2nd March 2026		
HVDC Pole 2	0 MW	0 MW
HVDC Pole 3	780 MW	780 MW

It is common during the HVDC outage period to see inter-island price separation, usually with higher prices in the North Island than in the South Island. Figure 1 shows weekly average price separation over the past five years (calculated as Haywards price minus Benmore price), showing that the largest periods of price separation typically occur during the annual HVDC outages. Forecast prices in the Weekly Dispatch Schedule (WDS) show expected price separation over this year's HVDC outage period.

Figure 1: Weekly rolling average price separation, Haywards - Benmore

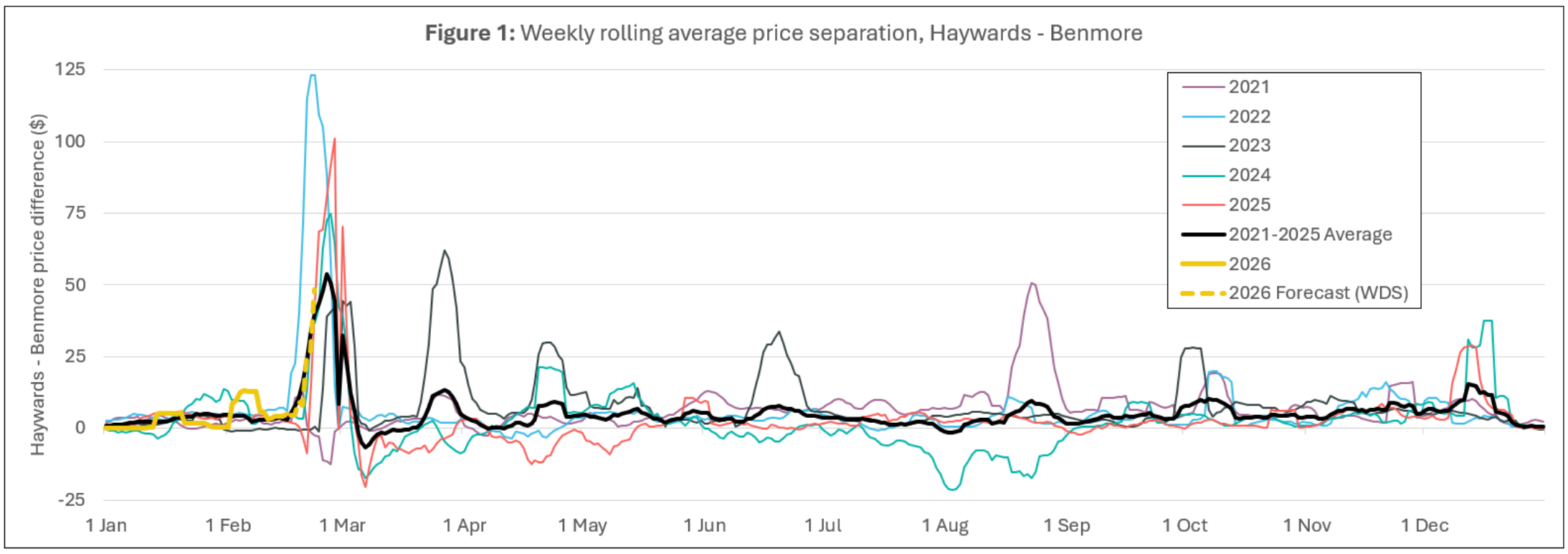
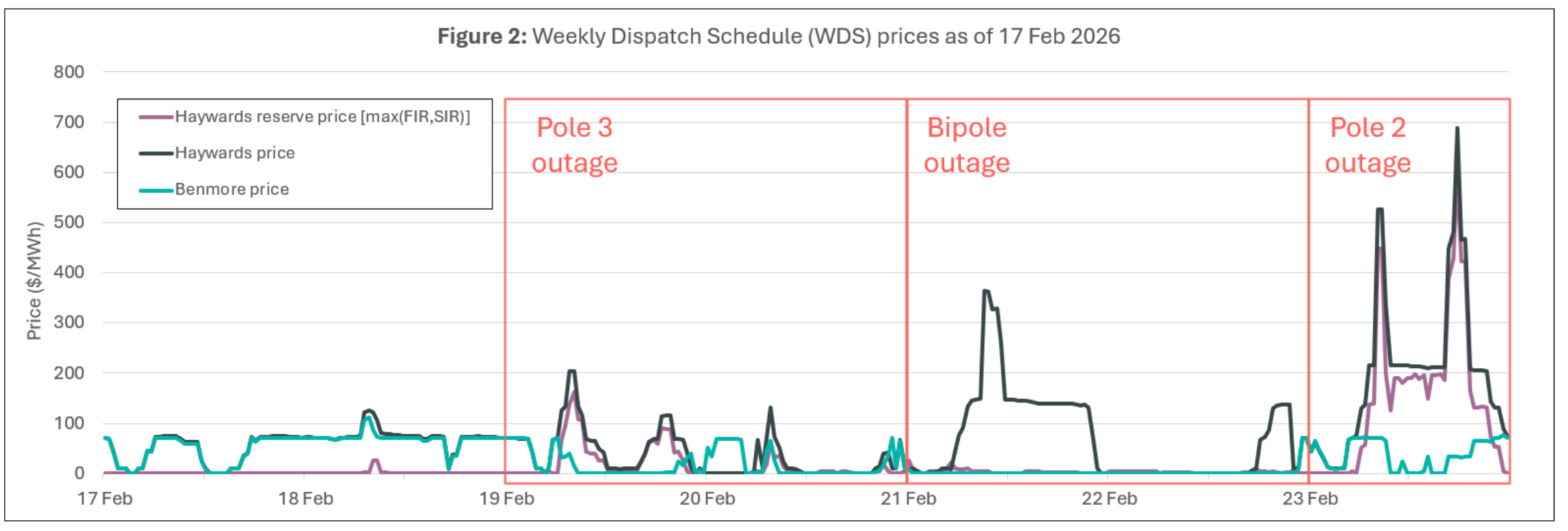


Figure 2 shows Haywards and Benmore prices in the WDS for the Pole 2 outage, bipole outage and Pole 3 outage. During the bipole outage, there is no ability to transfer power between islands and so the two price stacks are cleared separately, i.e prices in one island do not influence the other. This usually results in the North Island price being higher, especially during wet periods, due to the lower demand and high hydro generation capacity in the South Island.

During the single pole outages (Pole 2 and Pole 3), the full HVDC flow must be covered with instantaneous reserve to prevent frequency collapse in the event that the remaining pole trips. This often causes high reserve prices in the receiving island (usually the North Island). Figure 2 shows high North Island reserve (FIR and SIR) prices contributing to price separation on the 19th and 23rd of February.

High forecast prices in the WDS, especially for later dates, often do not eventuate in real time as generators often increase quantities of generation offered at prices lower than the forecast price. Nonetheless, the WDS schedule illustrates the factors leading to price separation during HVDC outages.

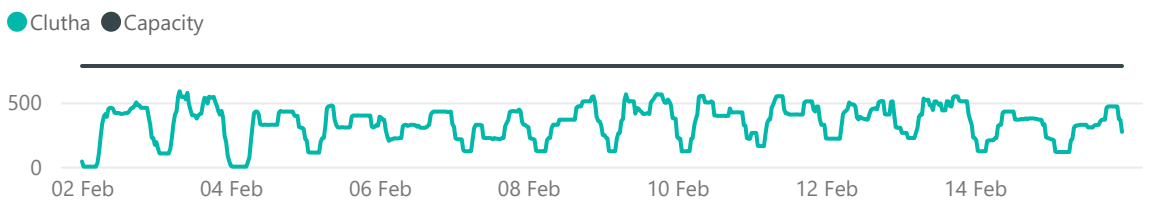
Figure 2: Weekly Dispatch Schedule (WDS) prices as of 17 Feb 2026



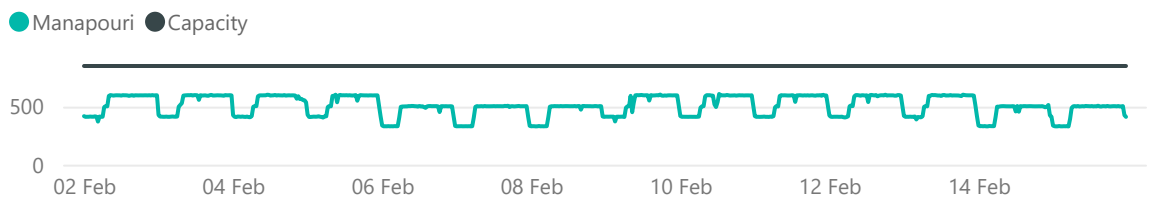
Generation Breakdown - Last Two Weeks

Measured in MW and displayed at trading period level for last 14 days

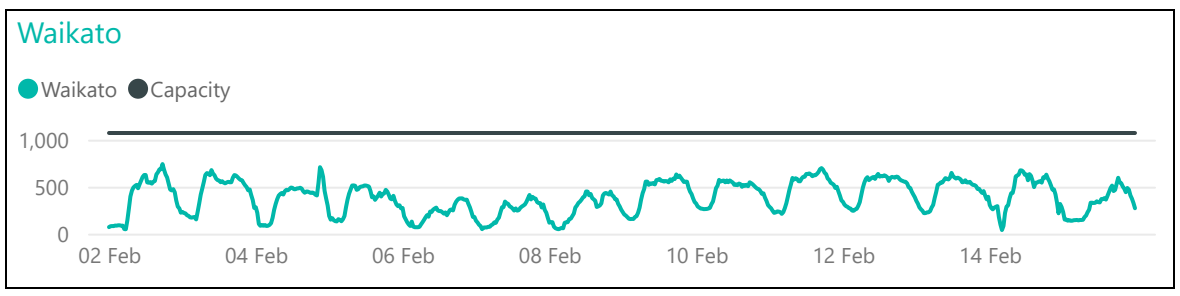
Clutha



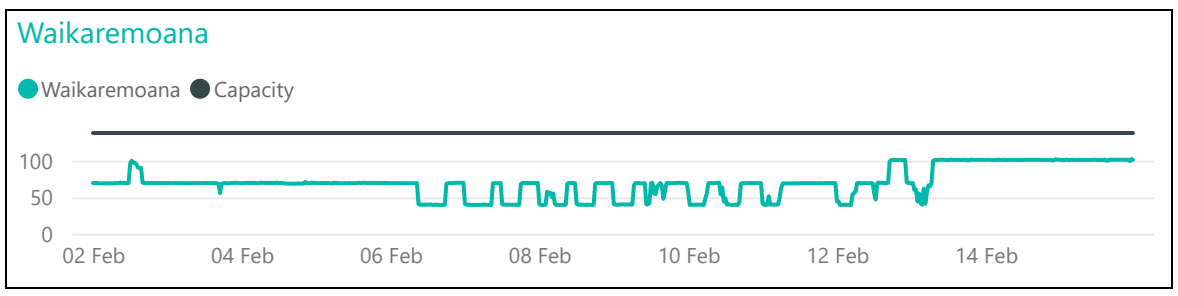
Manapouri



Waikato

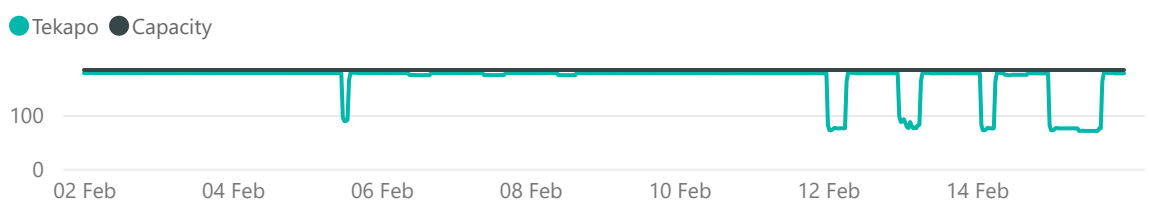


Waikaremoana

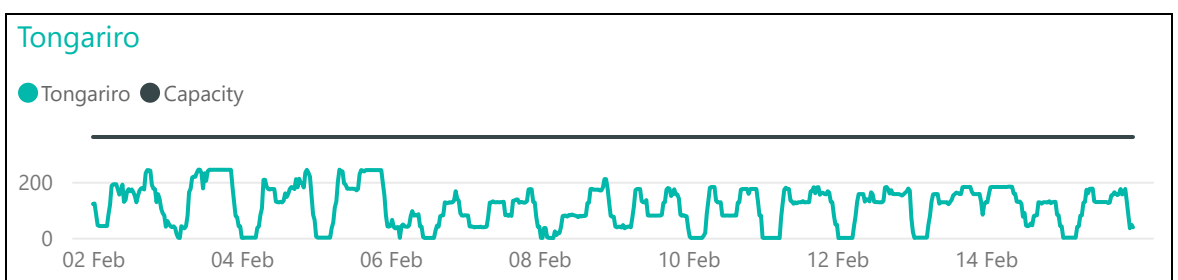


Waitaki

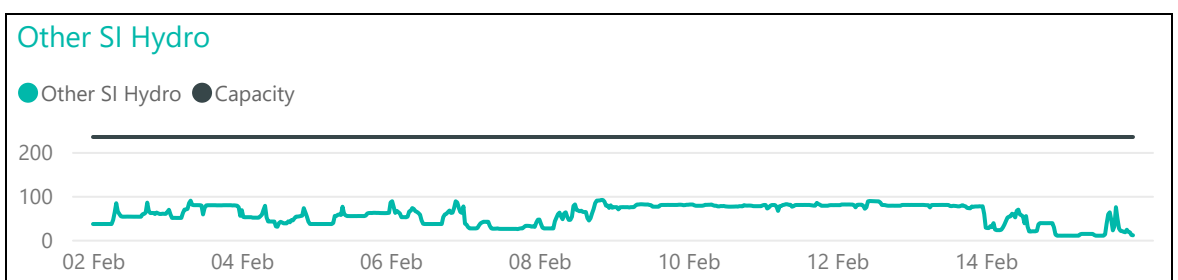
Tekapo



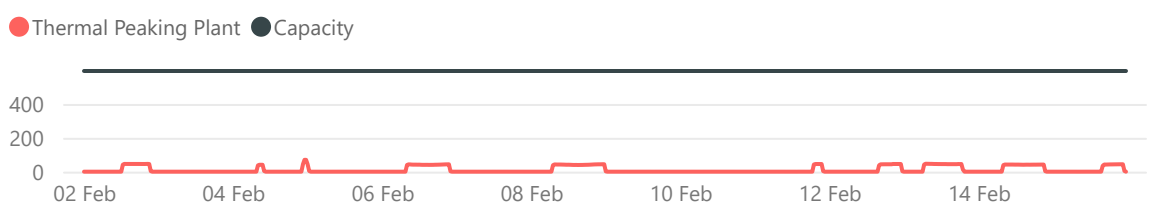
Tongariro



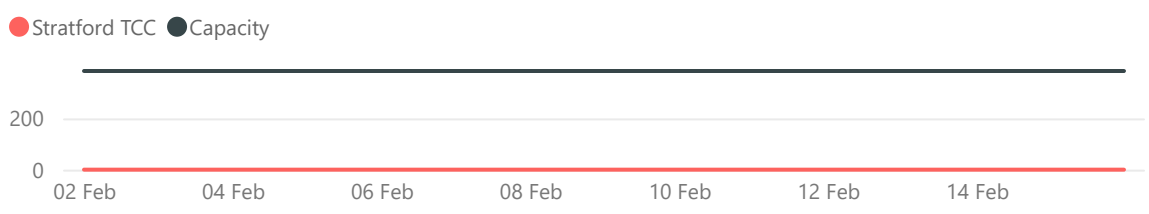
Other SI Hydro



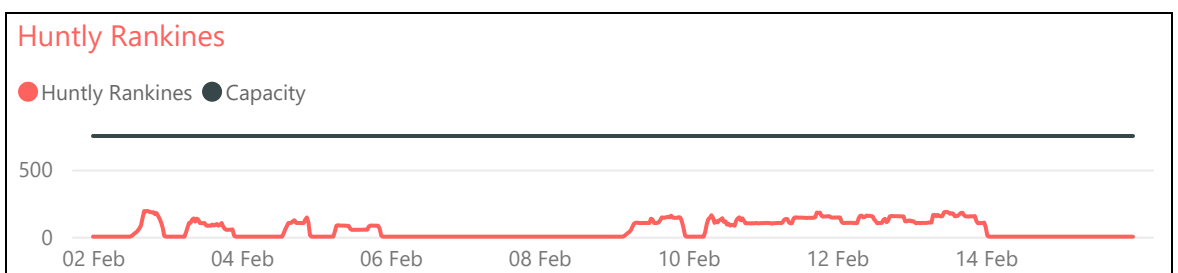
Thermal Peaking Plant



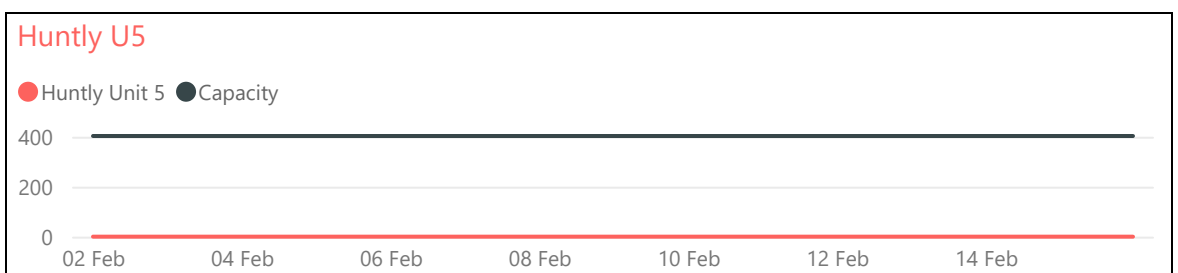
Stratford TCC



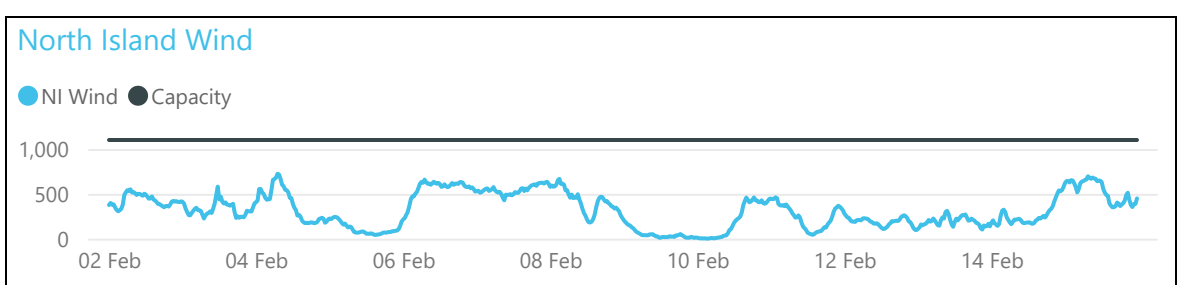
Huntly Rankines



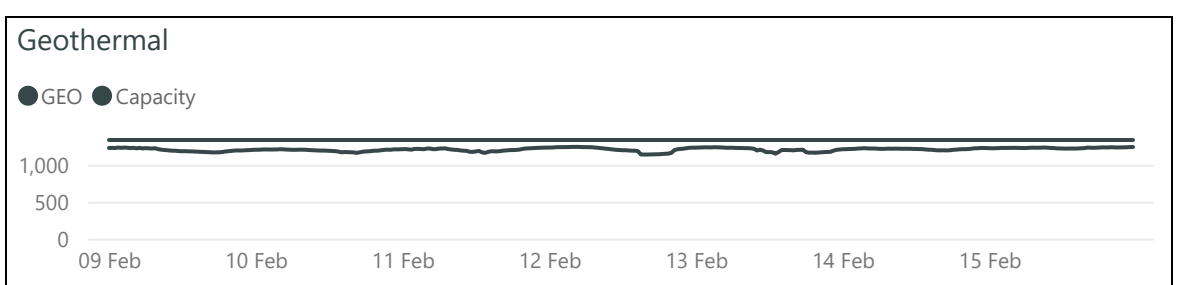
Huntly U5



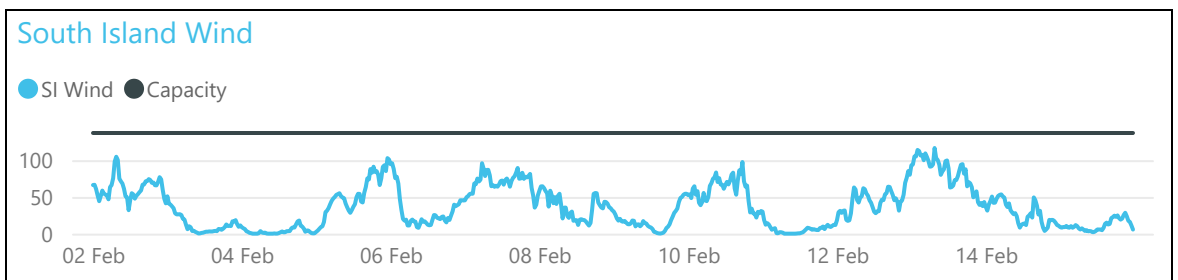
North Island Wind



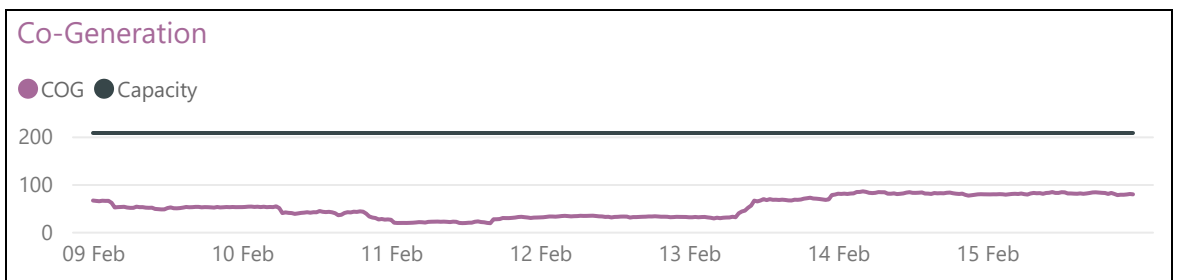
Geothermal



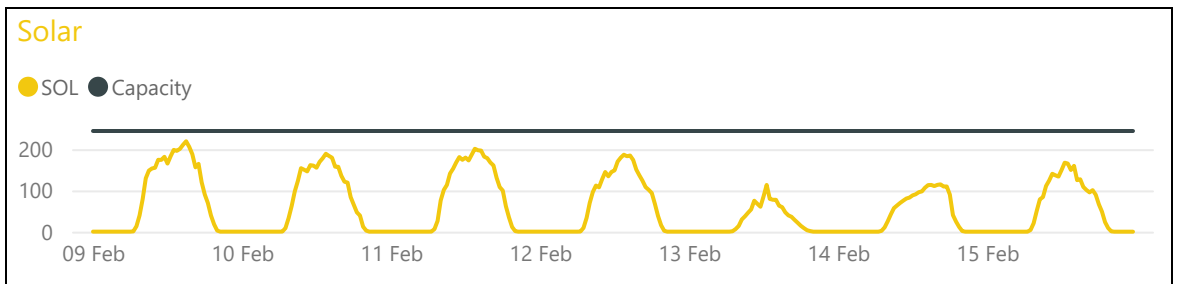
South Island Wind



Co-Generation

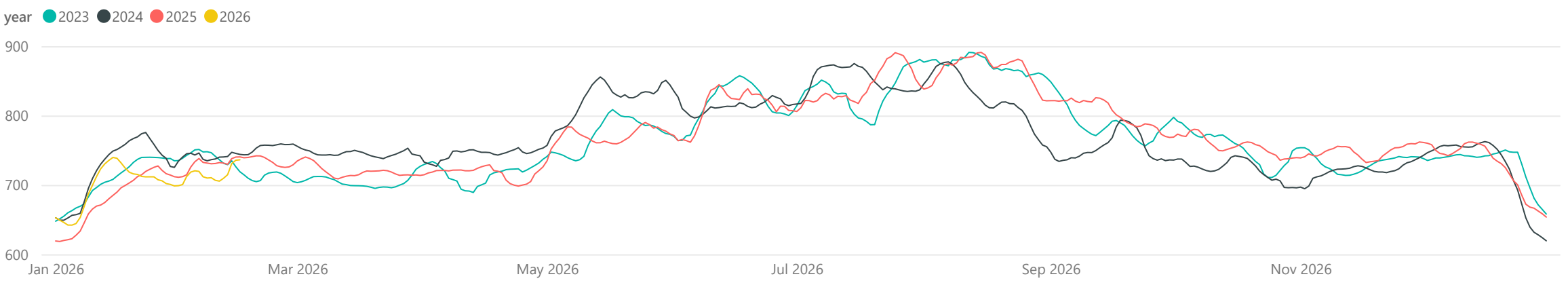


Solar

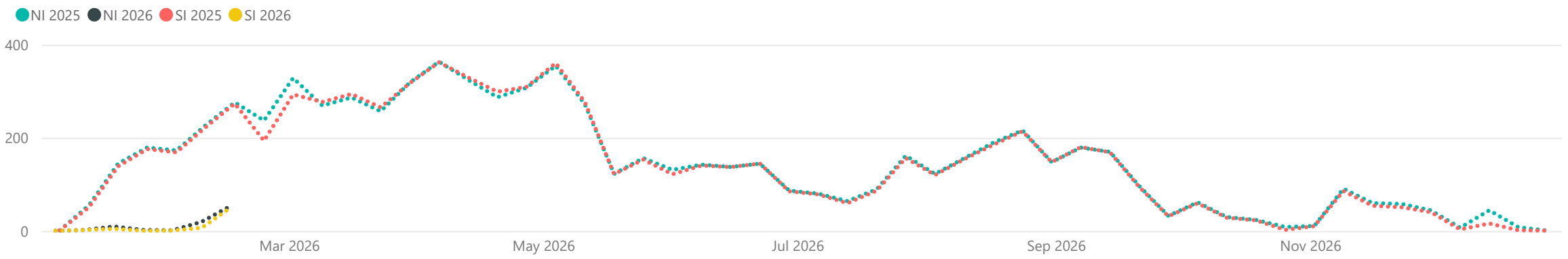


Weekly Profiles

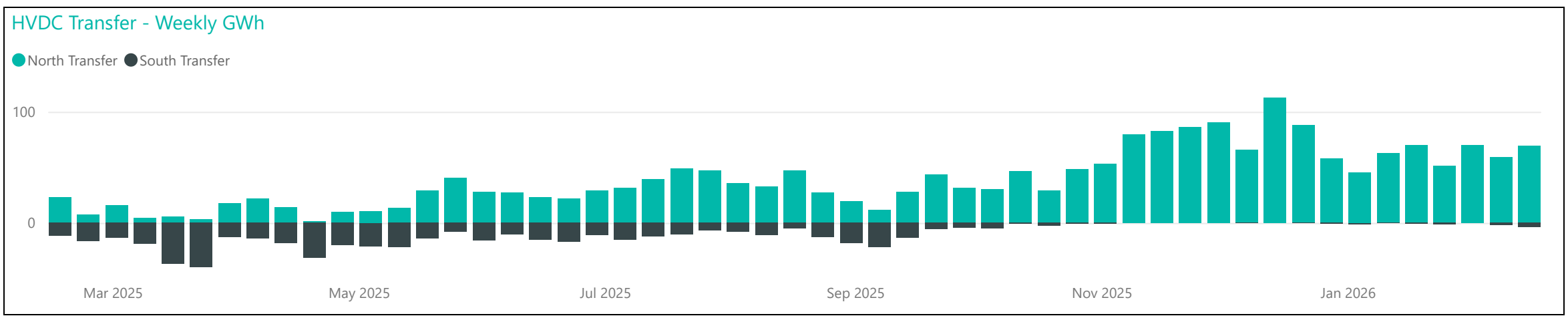
National Weekly Demand - GWh - 7 Day Rolling



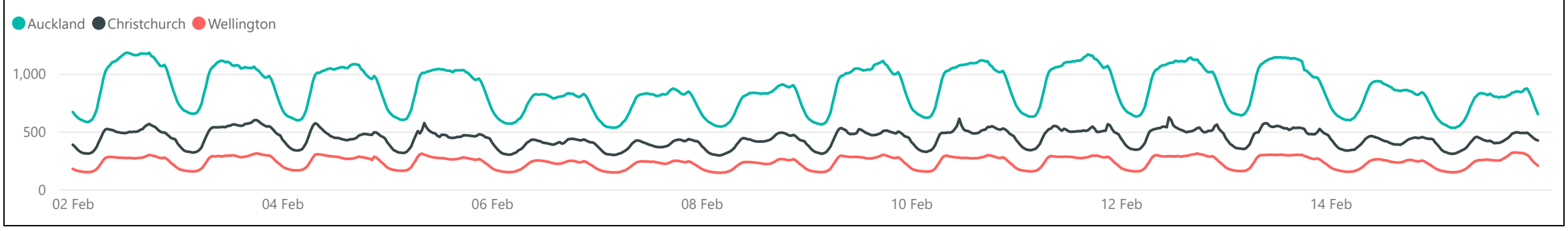
Weekly Spot Price - $/MWh



HVDC Transfer - Weekly GWh



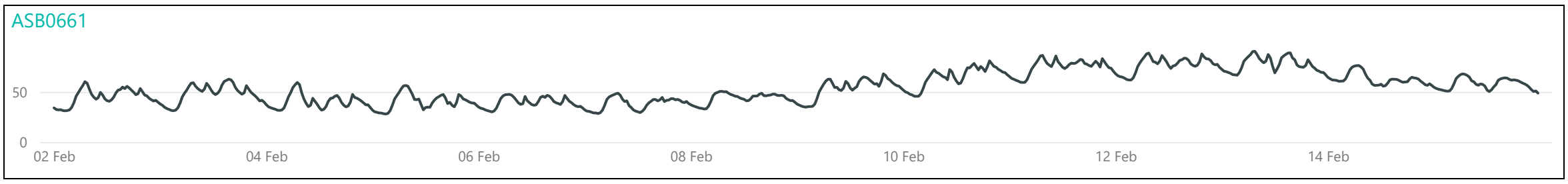
Conforming Load Profiles - Last Two Weeks *Measured in MW shown by region*



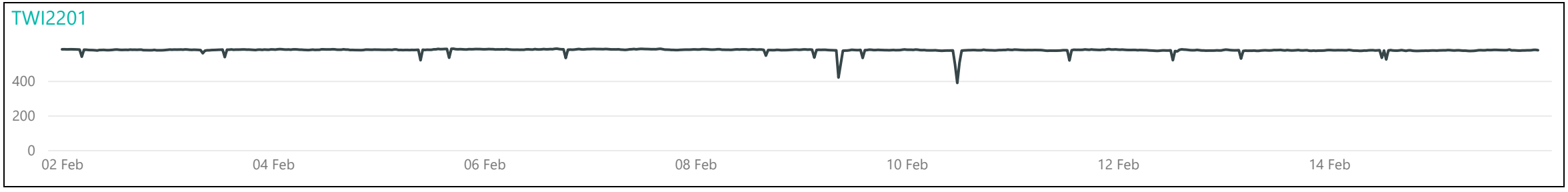
Non-Conforming Load Profiles - Last Two Weeks *Measured in MW shown by GXP*

GLN0331

ASB0661



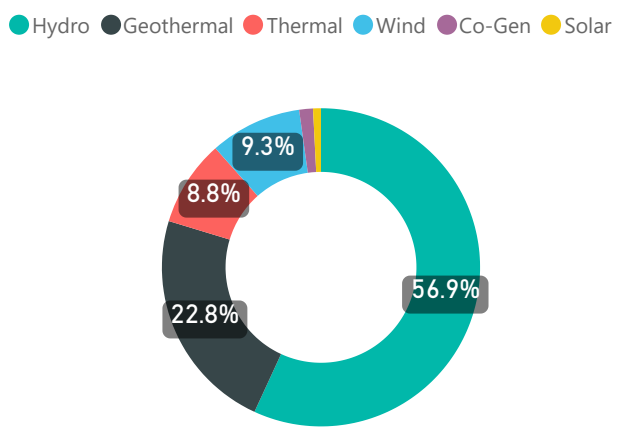
TWI2201



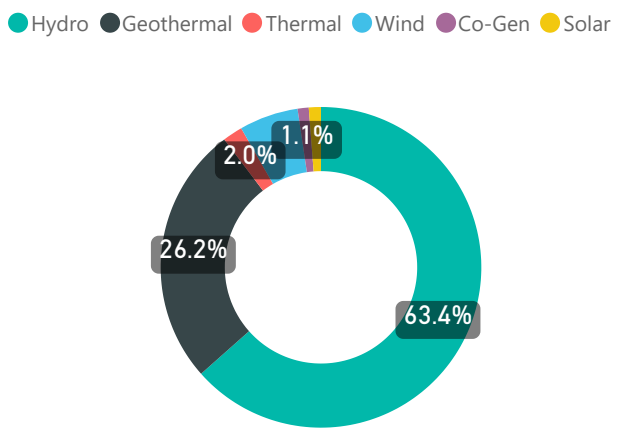
TRANSPOWER

Generation Mix

Last 52 Weeks Generation Mix - Weekly GWh



Last 7 Days Generation Mix - Weekly GWh



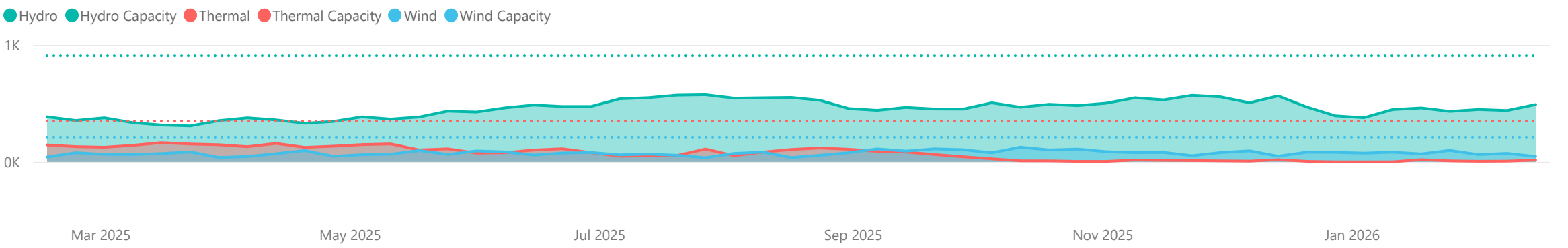
Average Metrics Last 7 Days

Renewable Percentage	CO2e Tonnes/Week	CO2e g/kWh
97%	32,718	42.0

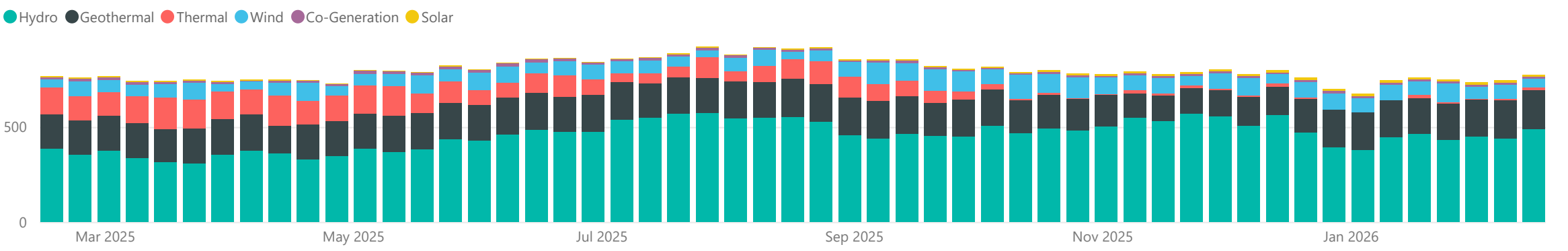
Average Metrics Last 52 Weeks

Renewable Percentage	CO2e Tonnes/Week	CO2e g/kWh
90%	59,124	73.9

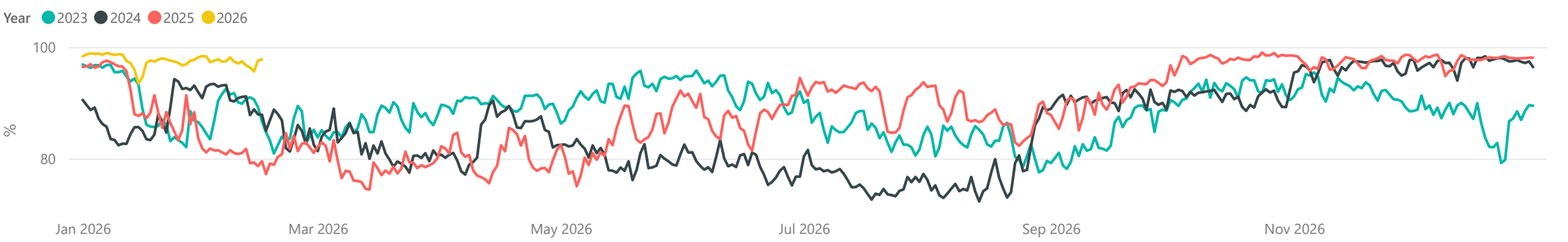
Weekly Generation Mix vs Capacity - GWh



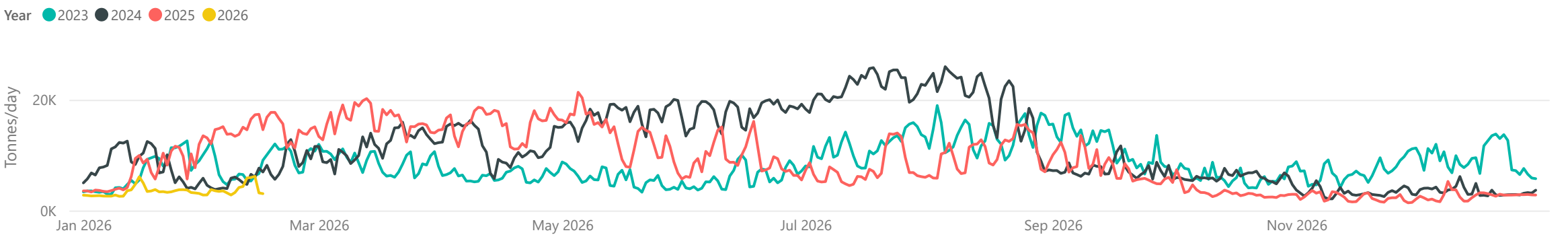
Weekly Generation Mix - GWh



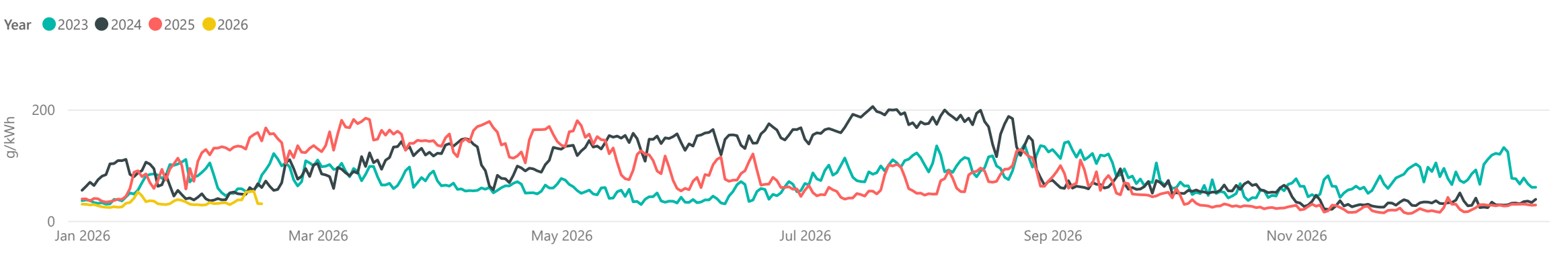
NZ Renewable Percentage



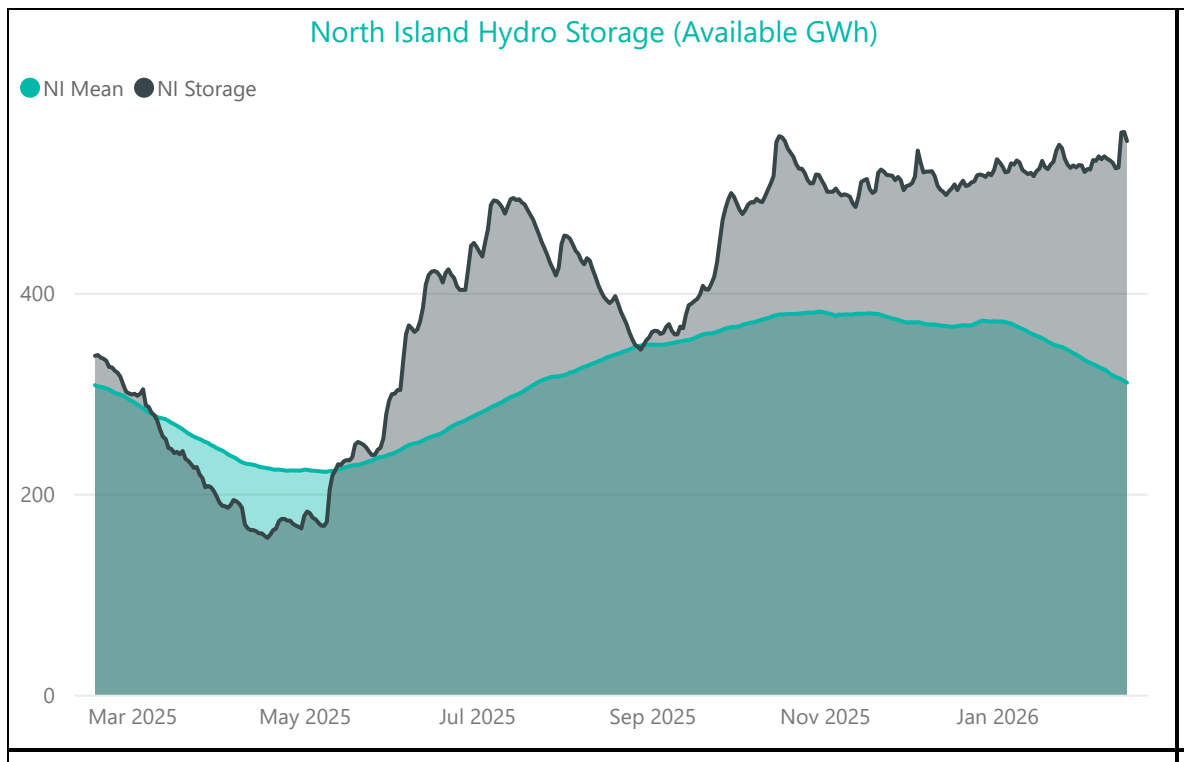
CO2 Tonnes/Day

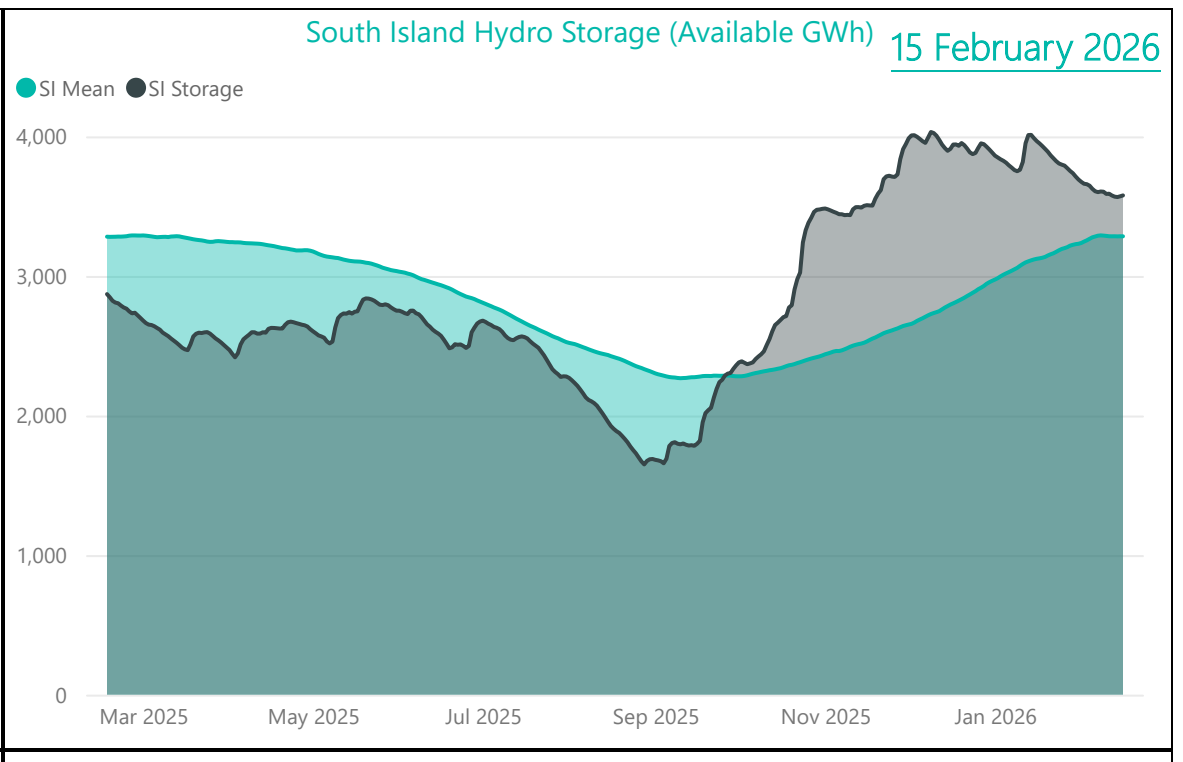


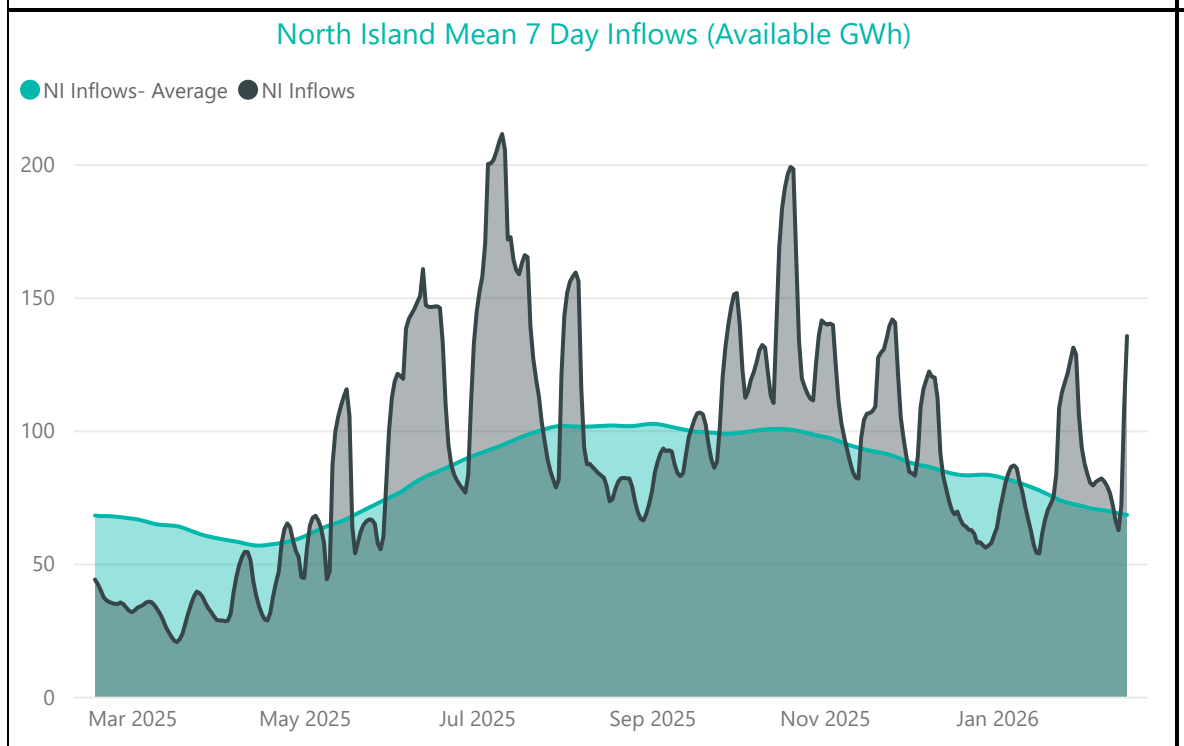
CO2 g/kWh

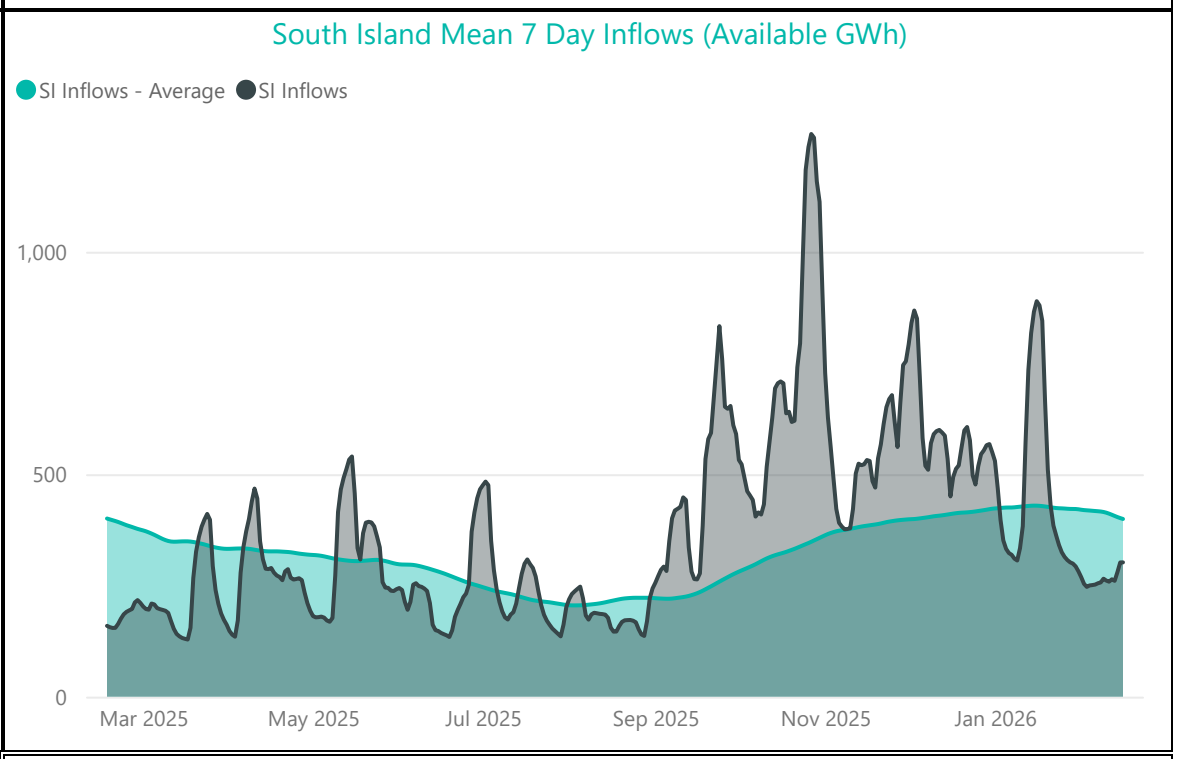


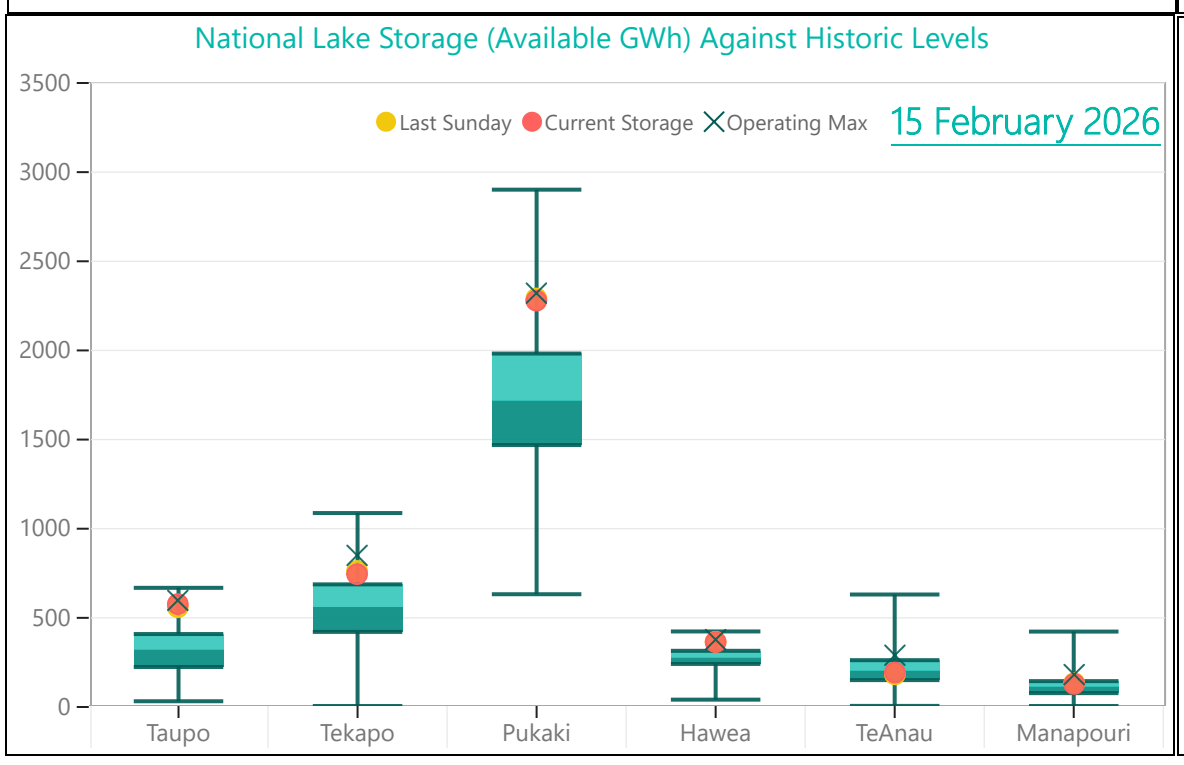
Hydro Storage

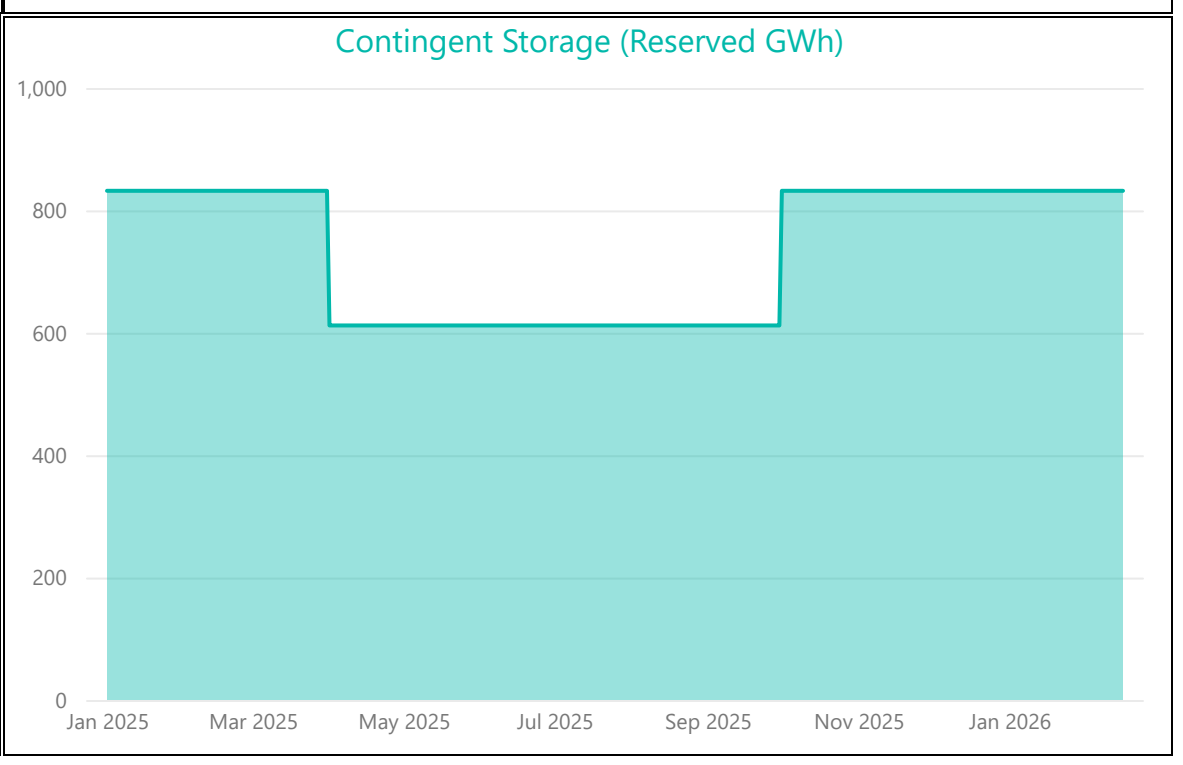












For further information on security of supply and Transpower's responsibilities as the System Operator, refer to our webpage here: https://www.transpower.co.nz/system-operator/security-supply

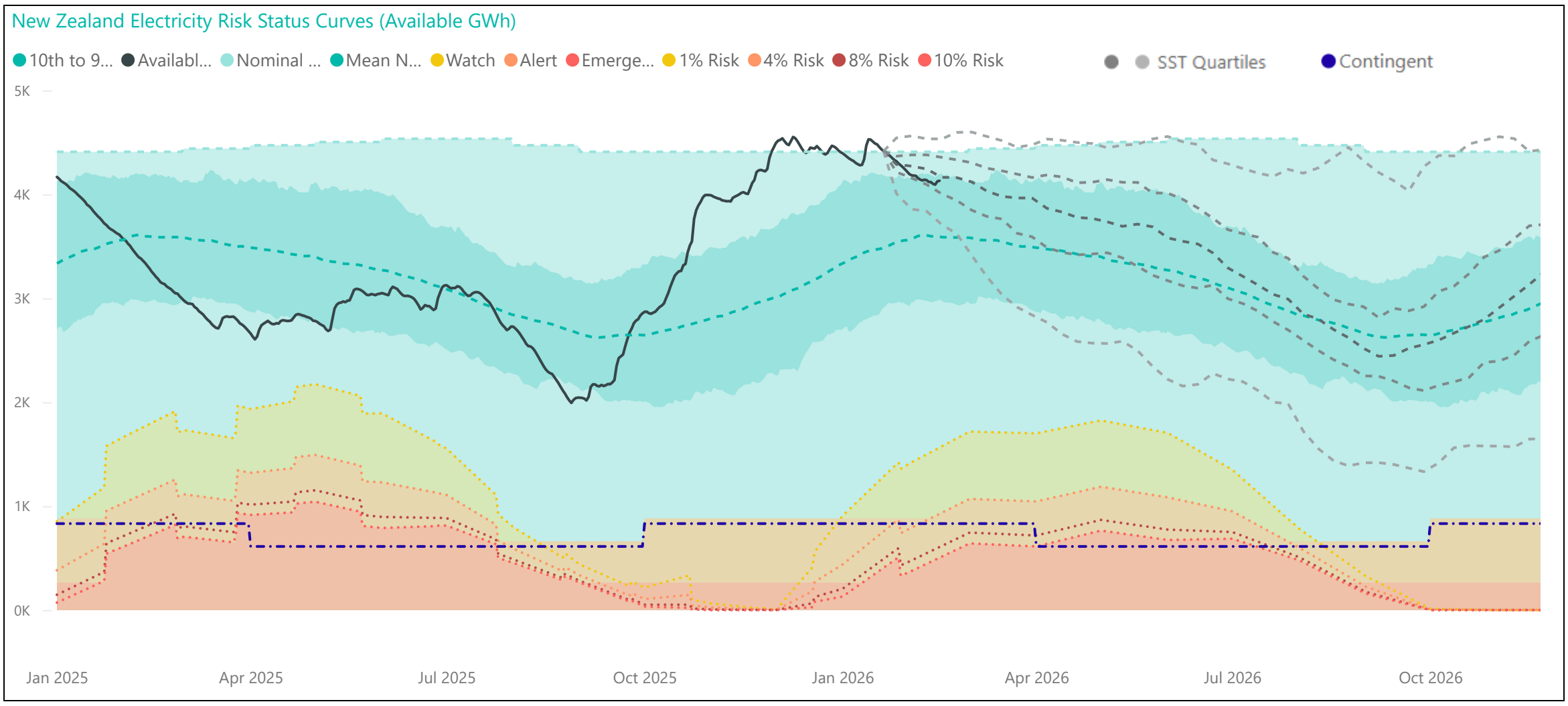
For any inquiries related to security of supply contact market.operations@transpower.co.nz

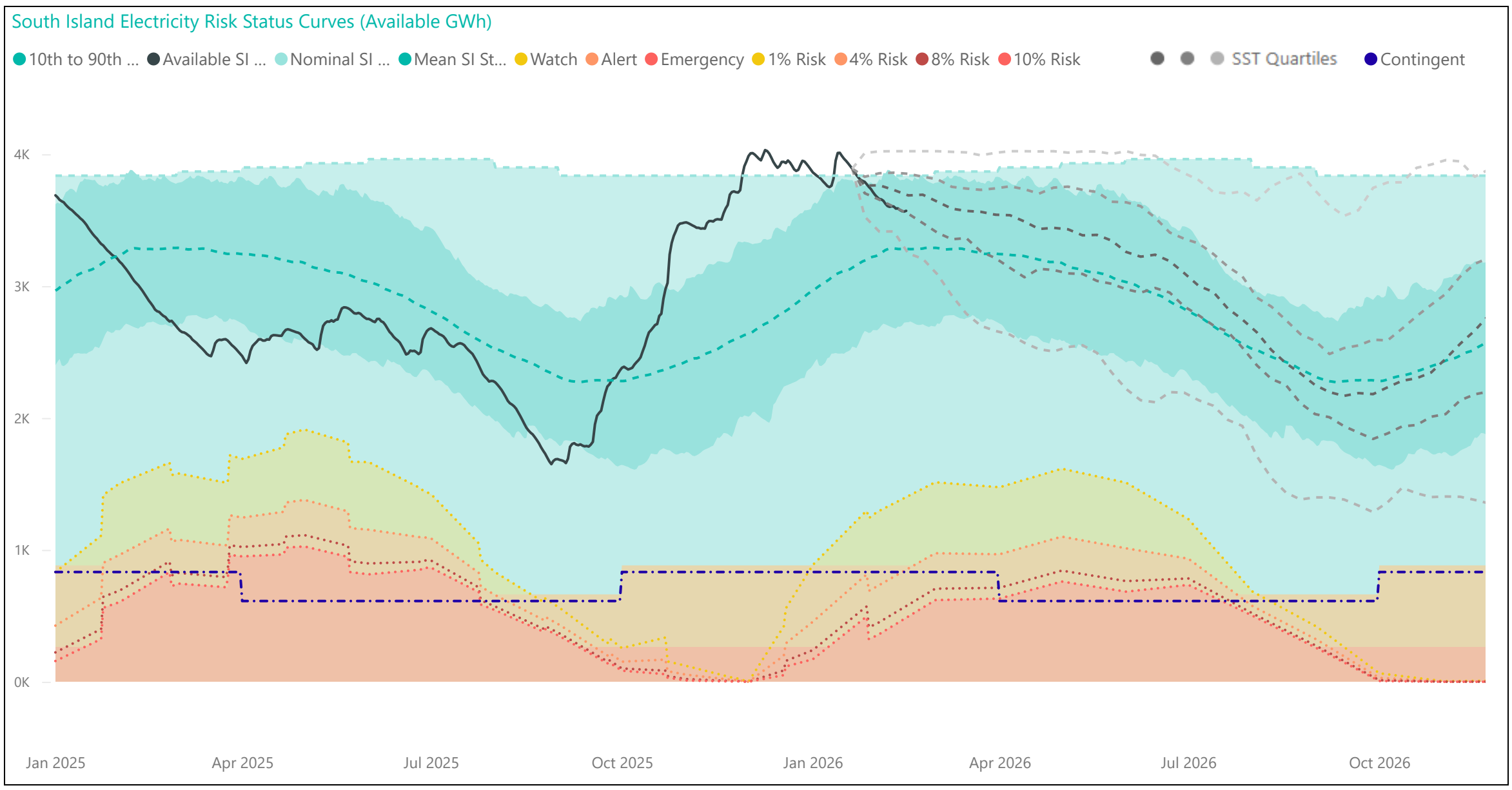
Hydro data used in this report is sourced from *NZX Hydro*.

Electricity risk curves have been developed for the purposes of reflecting the risk of extended energy shortages in a straightforward way, using a standardised set of assumptions.

Further information on the methodology of modelling electricity risk curves may be found here: https://www.transpower.co.nz/system-operator/security-supply/hydro-risk-curves-explanation

Electricity Risk Curves





Electricity Risk Curve Explanation:

Watch Curve - The maximum of the one percent risk curve and the floor and buffer
Alert Curve - The maximum of the four percent risk curve and the floor and buffer
Emergency Curve - The maximum of the 10 percent risk curve and the floor and buffer
Official Conservation Campaign Start - The Emergency Curve
Official Conservation Campaign Stop - The maximum of the eight percent risk curve and the floor and buffer

Note: The floor is equal to the amount of contingent hydro storage that is linked to the specific electricity risk curve, plus the amount of contingent hydro storage linked to electricity risk curves representing higher levels of risk of future shortage, if any. The buffer is 50 GWh.

The dashed grey lines represent the minimum, lower quartile, median, upper quartile and the maximum range of the simulated storage trajectories (SSTs). These will be updated with each Electricity Risk Curve update (monthly).