



TRANSPower

# System Operator Industry Forum

16 September 2025



# Today's agenda

## Market and Operational updates

- Key messages
- Market update
- North Canterbury 66kV SPS update
- NZGB update
- Operational update
- Consultations, publications and events





## Key Messages

- Nationally hydro storage has lifted above the 10<sup>th</sup> percentile due to increased inflows. There is more rain in the forecast.
- Early spring we have seen demand soften due to warmer weather.
- Continued focus on fuel (both hydro and thermal) and asset availability is needed to reduce energy and capacity risks.





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# Market update

# Energy: National hydro storage

	Hydro storage level (% of mean ▲ / ▼ )		
	New Zealand	South Island	North Island
Last forum	77%	73%	104%
Now	83% ▲	78% ▲	110% ▲

Note: these numbers include contingent storage, so they differ from those reported by NZX

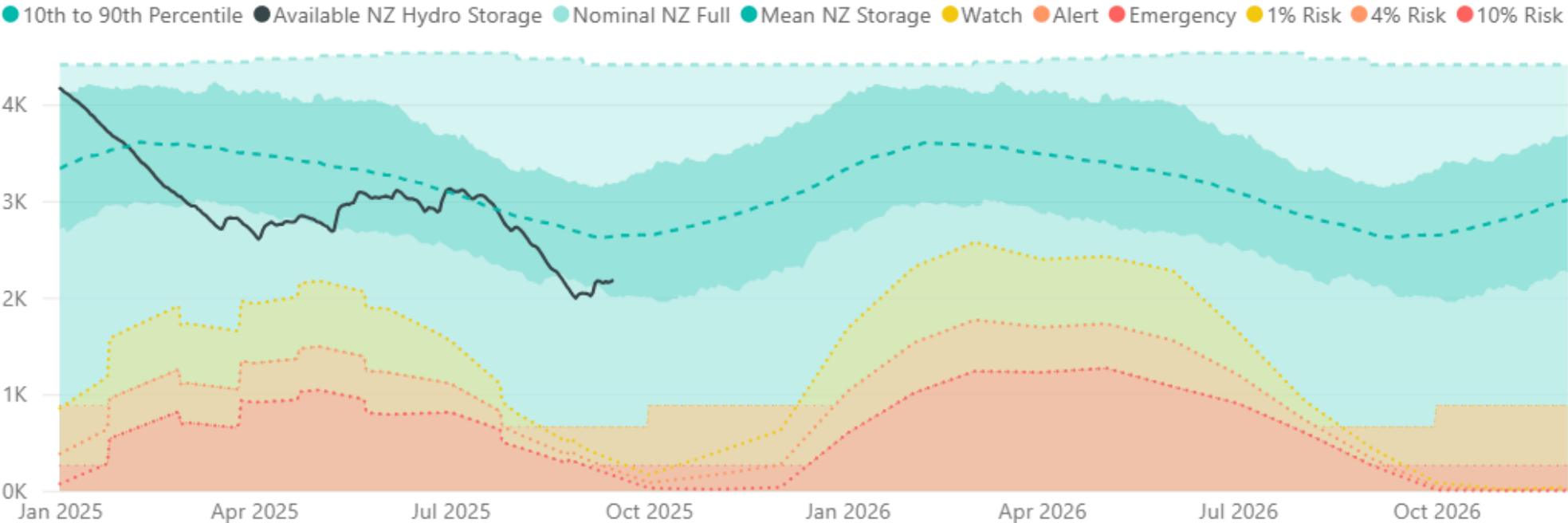
## New Zealand Energy Risk



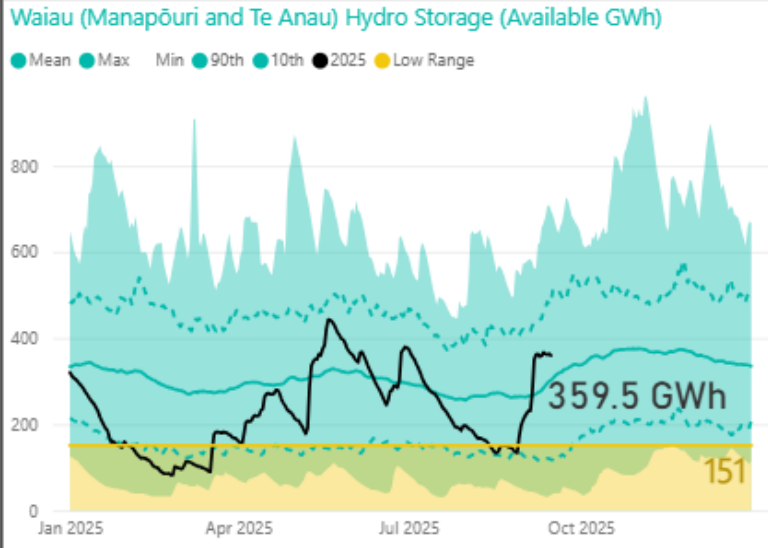
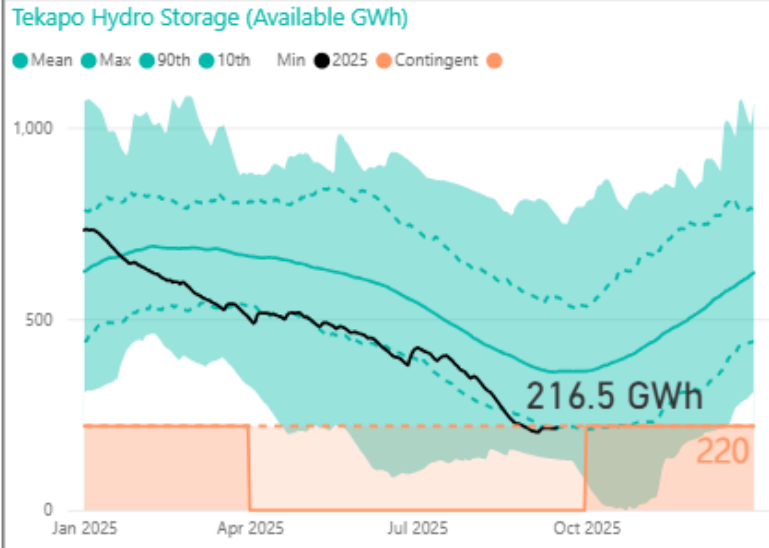
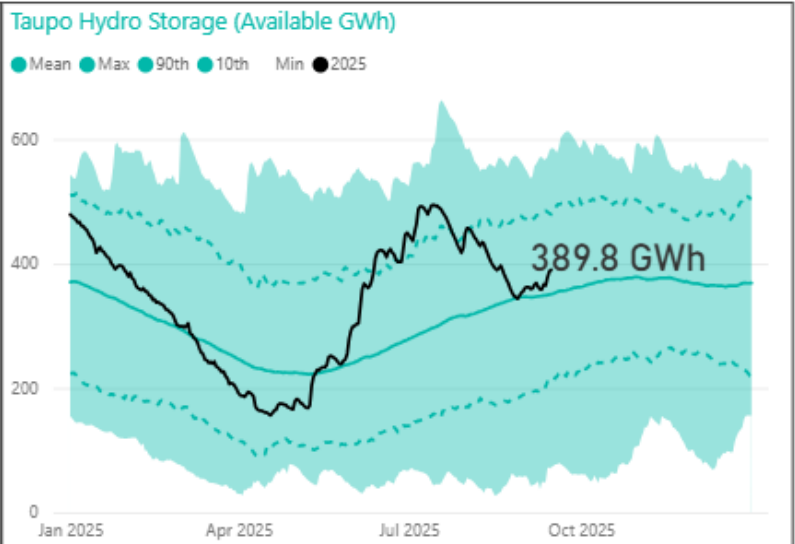
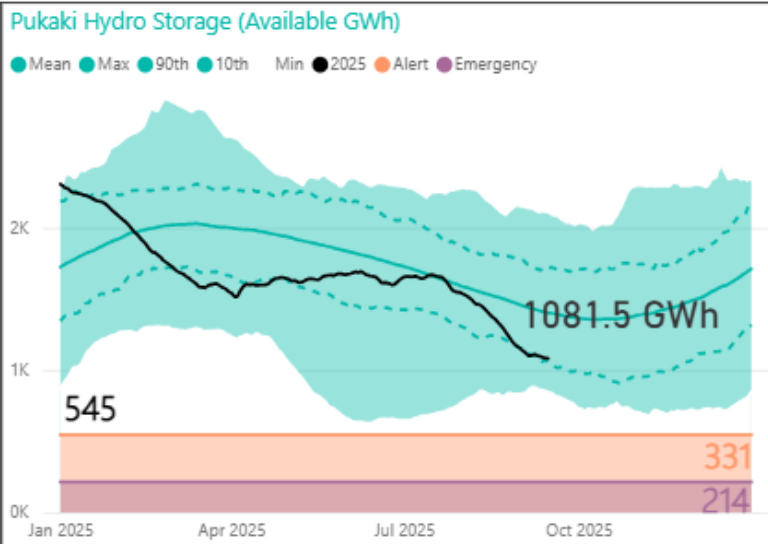
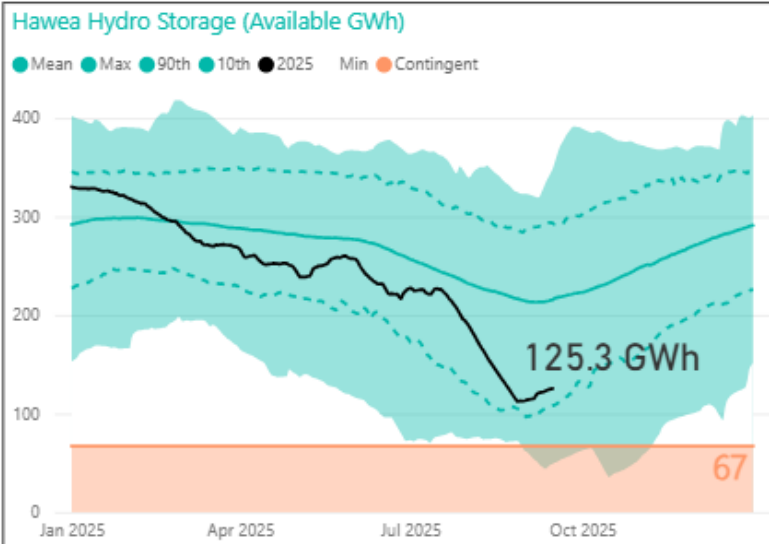
## South Island Energy Risk



## New Zealand Electricity Risk Status Curves (Available GWh)



# Hydro storage by catchment

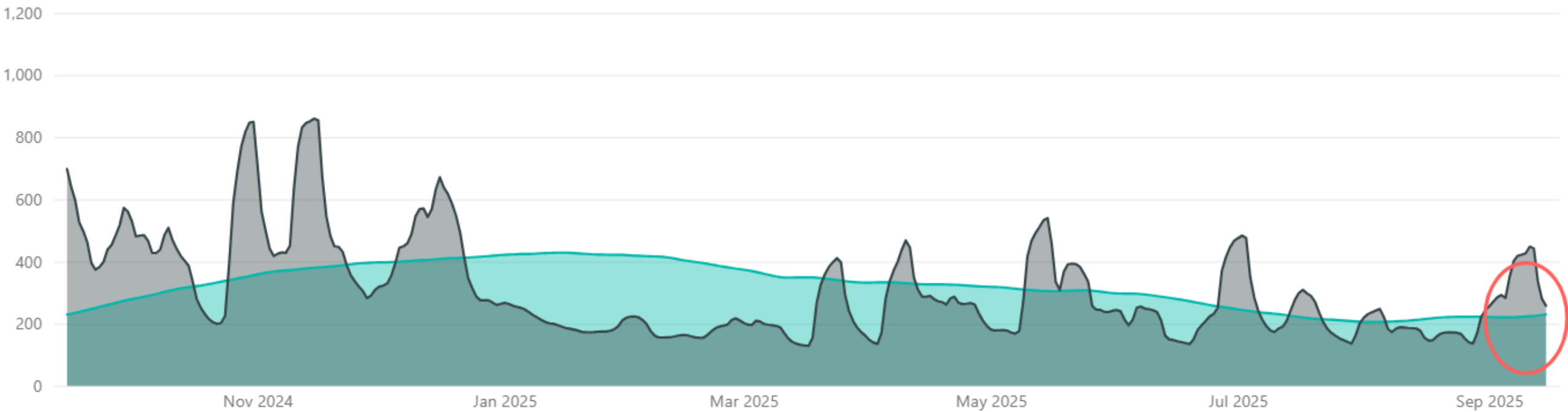


Lake		Current (%) avg
nz_controlled		83
si_controlled		78
hawea		58
pukaki		77
manapouri		106
te_anau		126
tekapo		60
taupo		111

# Hydro inflows

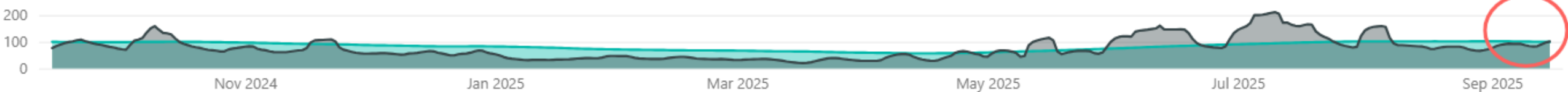
South Island Mean 7 Day Inflows (Available GWh)

● SI Inflows - Average ● SI Inflows



North Island Mean 7 Day Inflows (Available GWh)

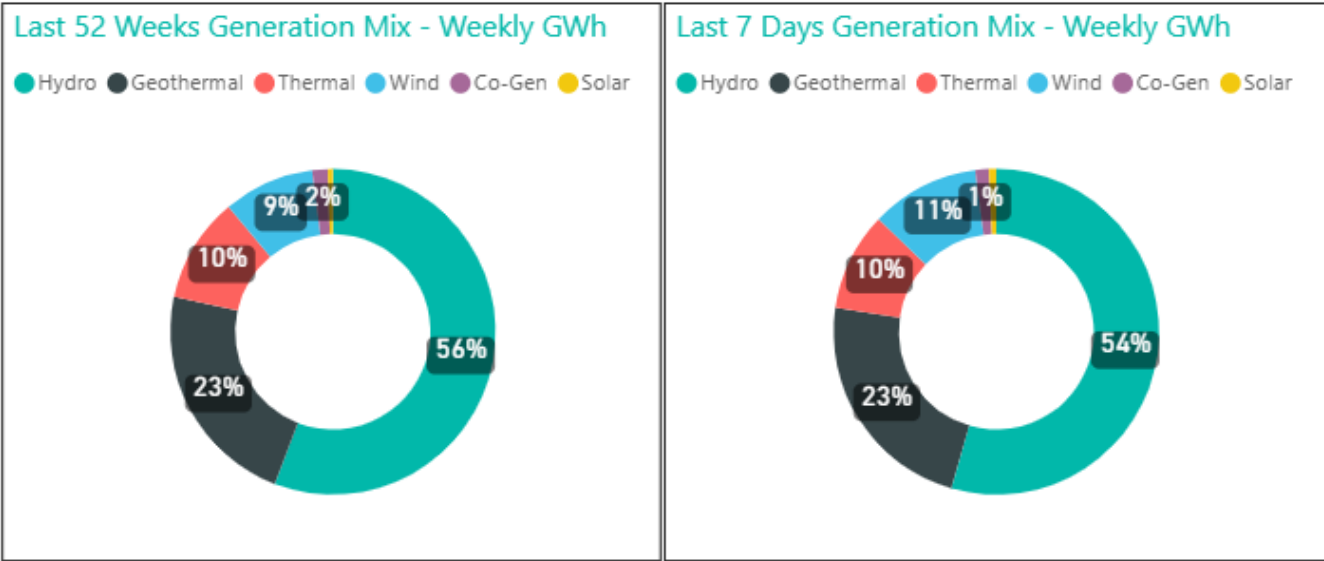
● NI Inflows- Average ● NI Inflows



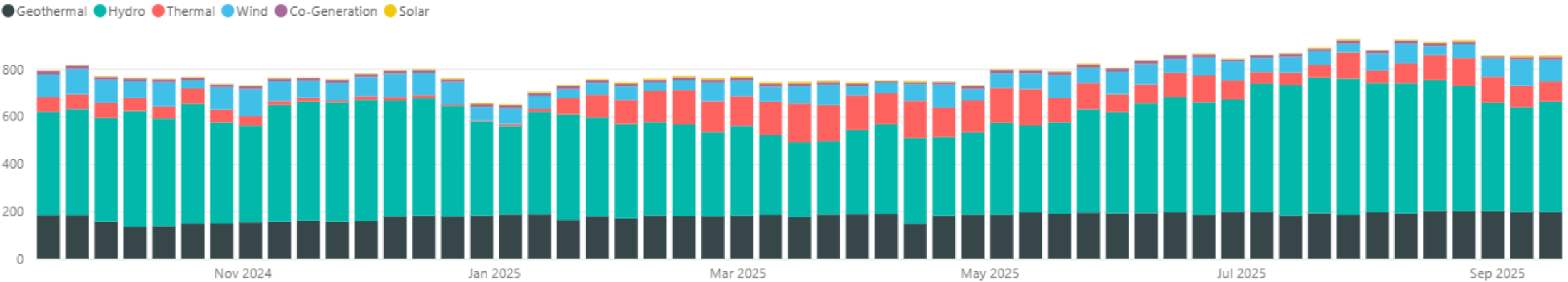


# Generation mix

- The hydro generation share remained below the 52-week average, at 54%.
- Wind generation above average at 11%
- Thermal and geothermal generation have been on par with average at 10% and 23% respectively.



Weekly Generation Mix - GWh



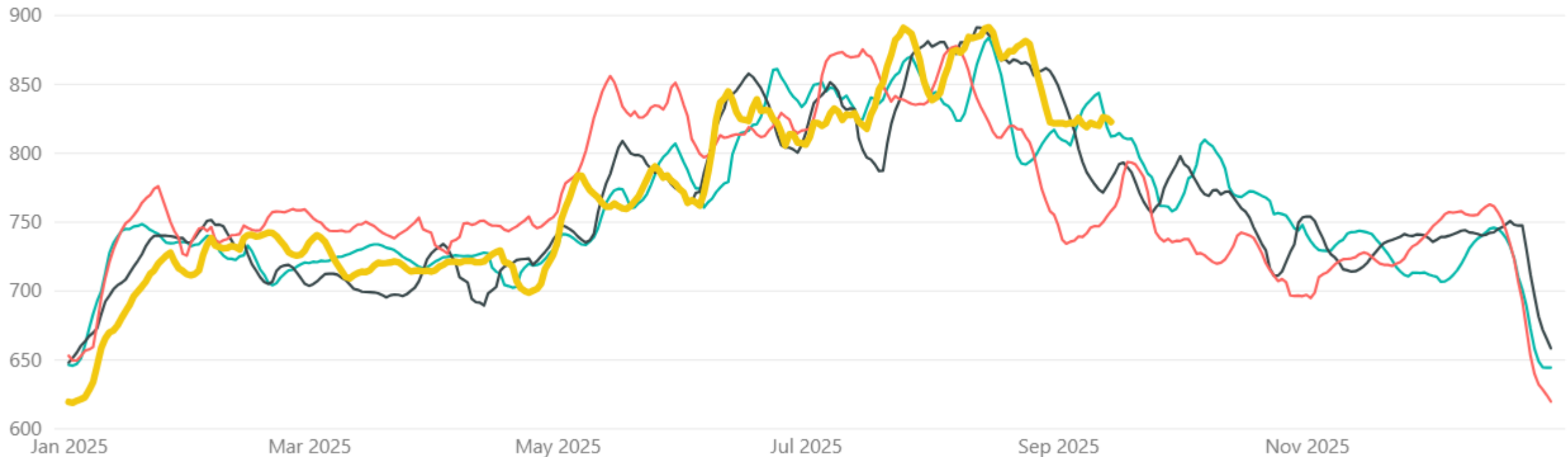


# Demand

- Demand has remained lower since starting September as spring has brought warmer weather
- 822 GWh last week, and 821 GWh the two weeks prior.

## National Weekly Demand - GWh - 7 Day Rolling

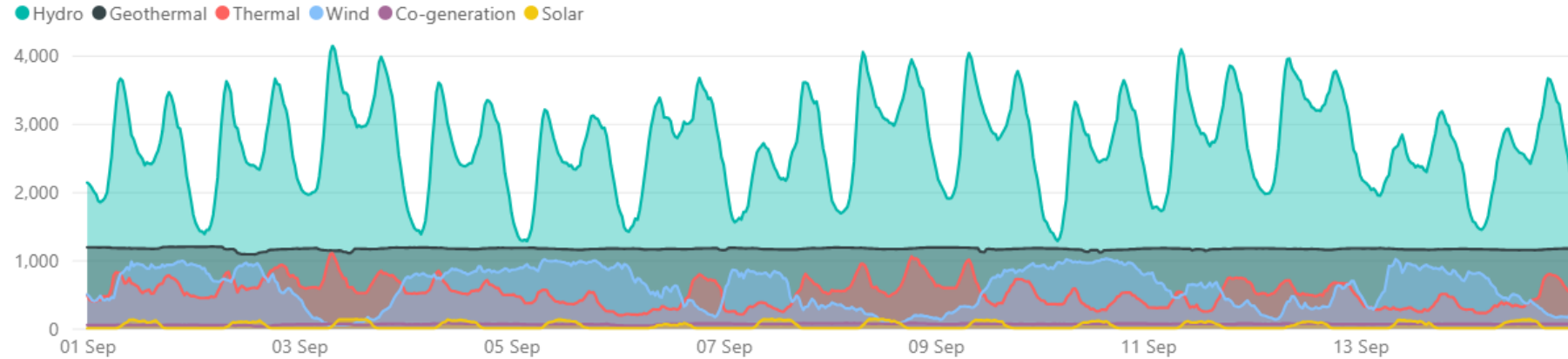
year ● 2022 ● 2023 ● 2024 ● 2025



# Pricing

- Average Ōtāhuhu price was \$174/MWh last week, and \$183/MWh the week prior.
- Wholesale prices peaked at \$286/MWh at BEN, 6am on Thursday 11 September

Generation - MW

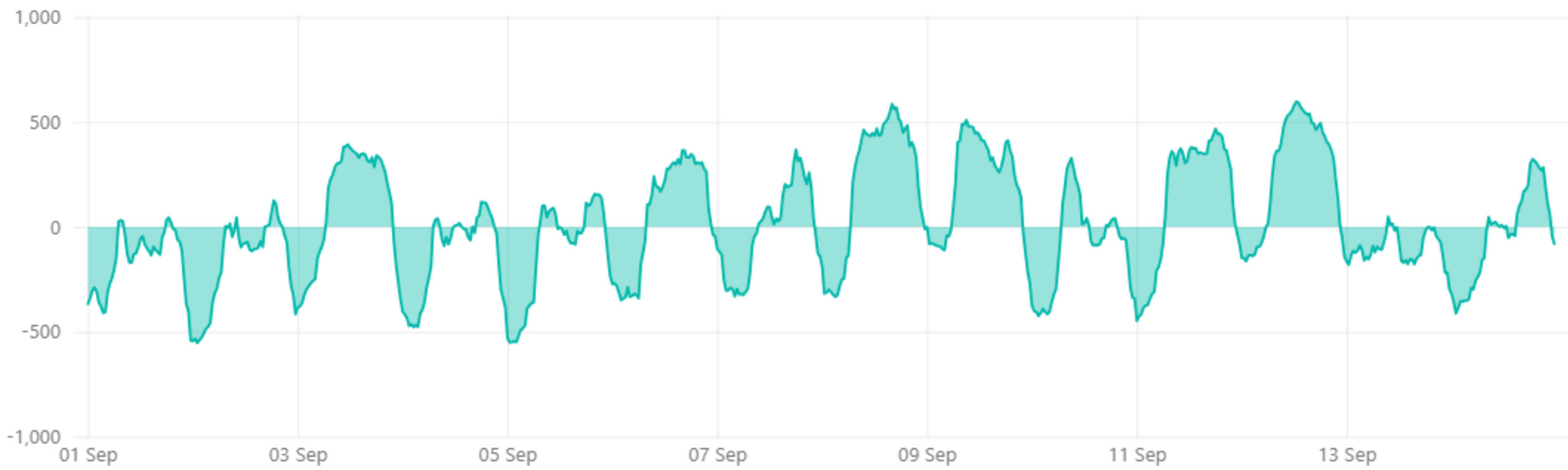


Prices - \$/MWh



# HVDC transfer

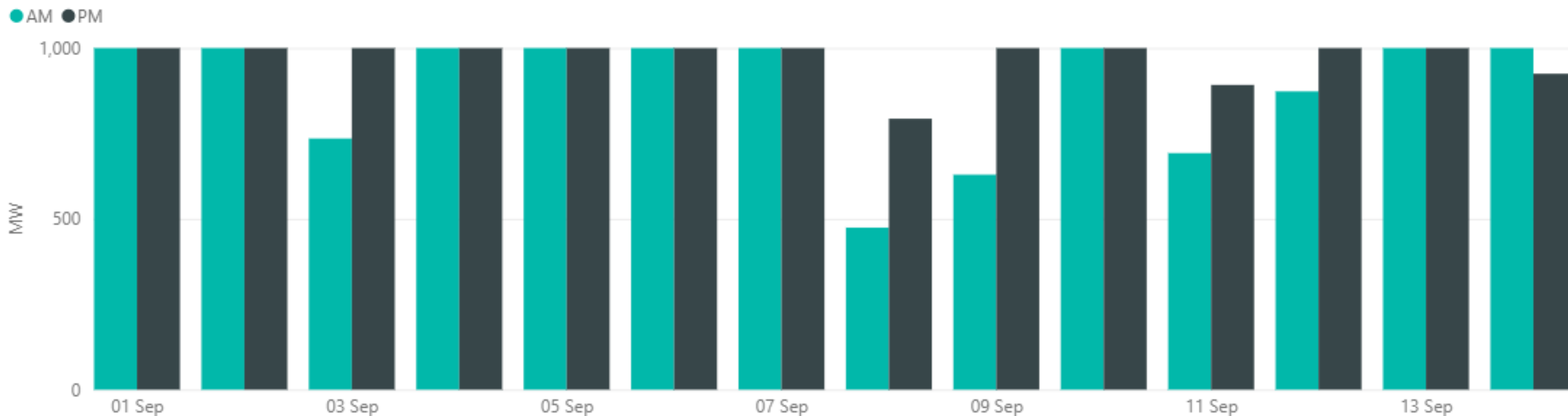
Net HVDC Transfer - MW (Northward positive)



# Capacity residual margins

- Healthy residual margins (lowest 475 MW)
- Slightly lower last week than recently with lower thermal unit commitment

Lowest Residual Points - MW







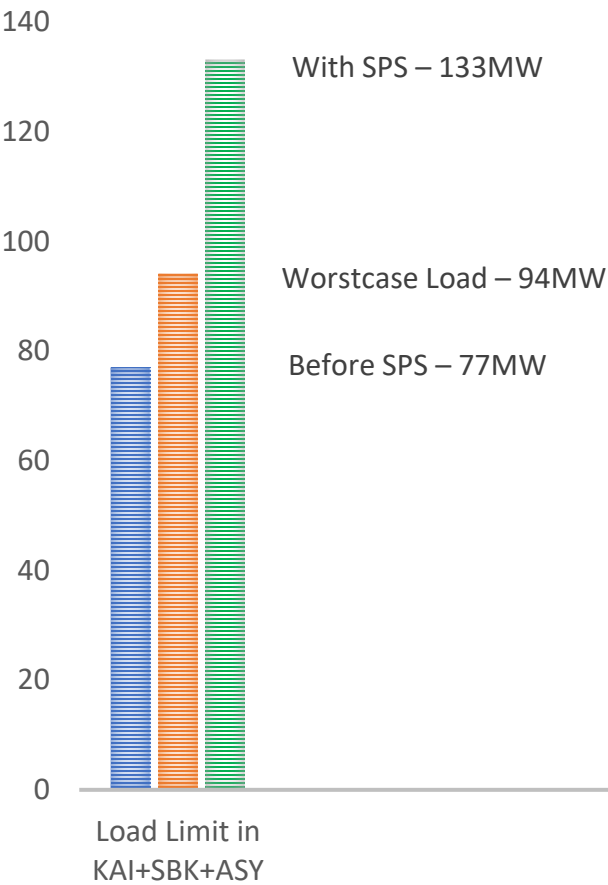
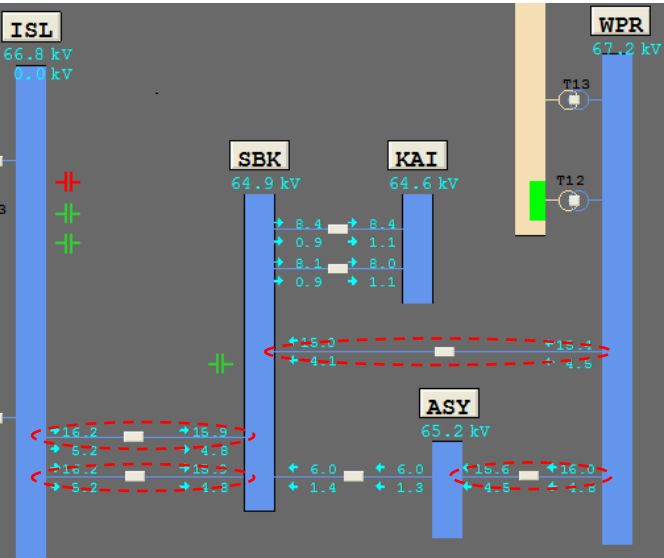
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# North Canterbury 66kV Special Protection Scheme

# North Canterbury 66kV Circuit Overload Protection Scheme (COPS)

The scheme involves four sub schemes, one on each of the following circuits:

- Islington–Southbrook 1
- Islington–Southbrook 2
- Ashley–Waipara 1
- Southbrook–Waipara 1



	N-1-1 (One Planned outage and a tripping)
Without SPS	Load management from ASY, SBK, KAI ≤ 77MW to 80MW
With SPS	More flow to ASY, SBK, KAI up to 133MW (70% more flow into the region)

This COPS will disconnect any overloaded circuit if there is a tripping on the remaining network during a planned outage on the 66kV network





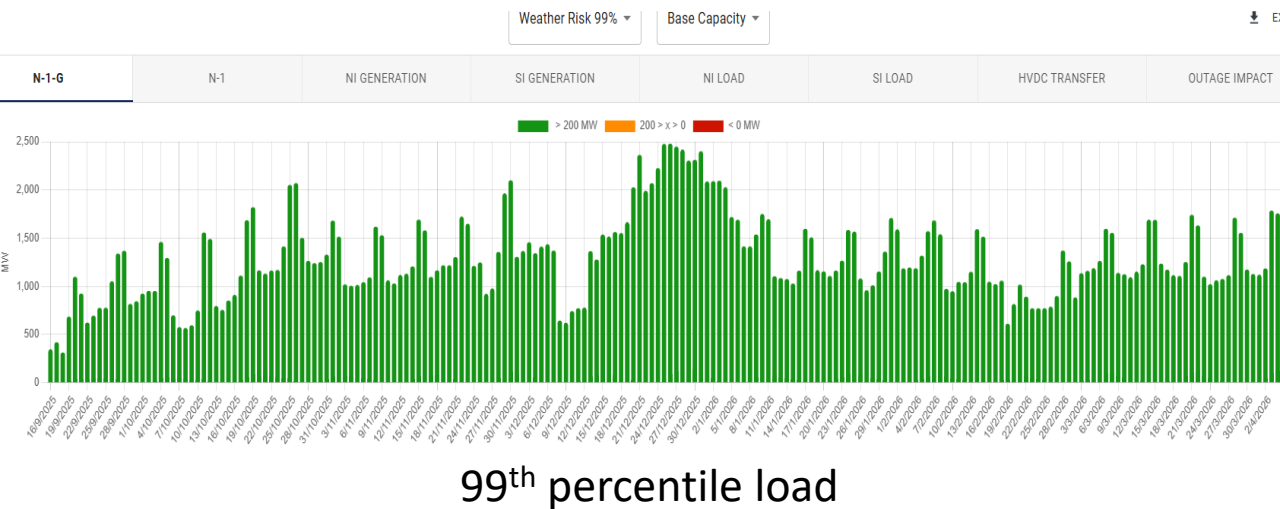
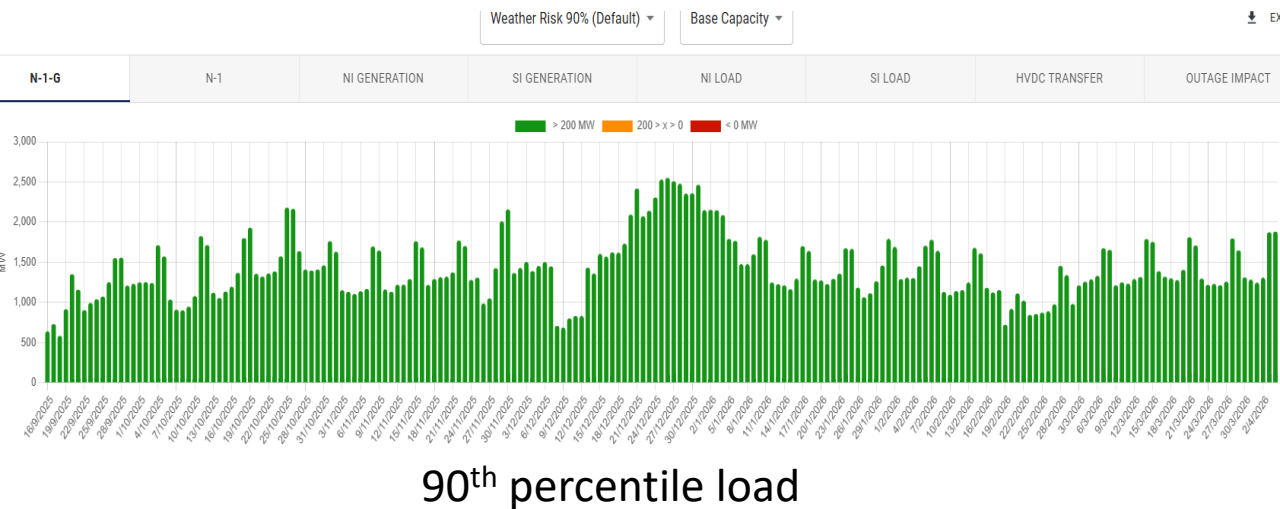
NZGB update

# NZGB update: base capacity N-1-G

- N-1-G margins are currently showing healthy values
- Under the 99<sup>th</sup> percentile load, which we would expect under a cold snap, the margins drop but are still healthy

Base case capacity at 90%

- *This triggers the CAN process*
- Assumes all generation available in POCP is offered
- It uses 20% of total wind capacity





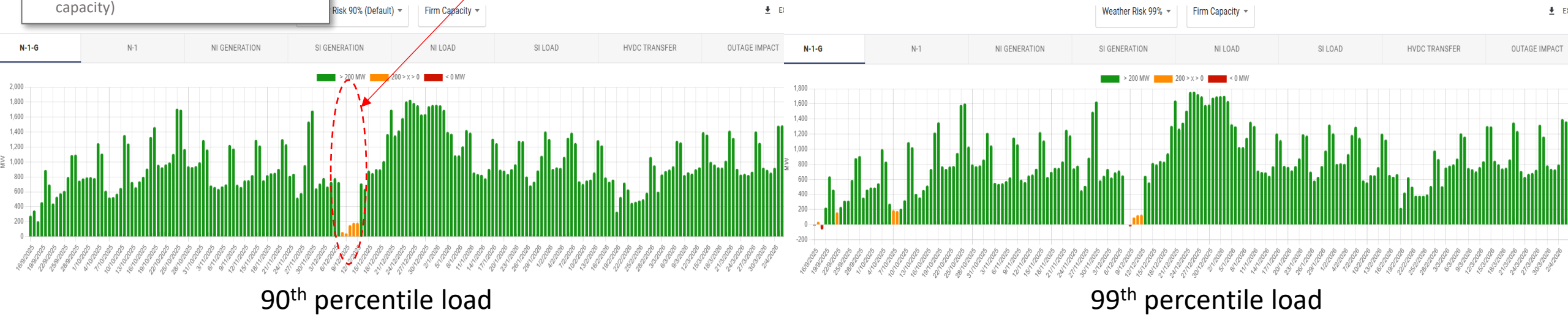
# NZGB update: firm capacity only N-1-G

- Firm capacity scenario reflects units that historically operate for at least 90% of AM & PM peaks
- Shortfall and low margin periods highlight the potential reliance on these units to be available to cover N-1-G
- This means we are relying on the market to coordinate especially slow starting thermal units, to get through high peak load periods

Firm capacity removes

- TCC (-360MW) all months,
- 1 HLY Rankine over winter months June to November, and 2 Rankines over the remaining months
- It uses the lowest 10<sup>th</sup> percentile generation for wind (8% of total capacity)

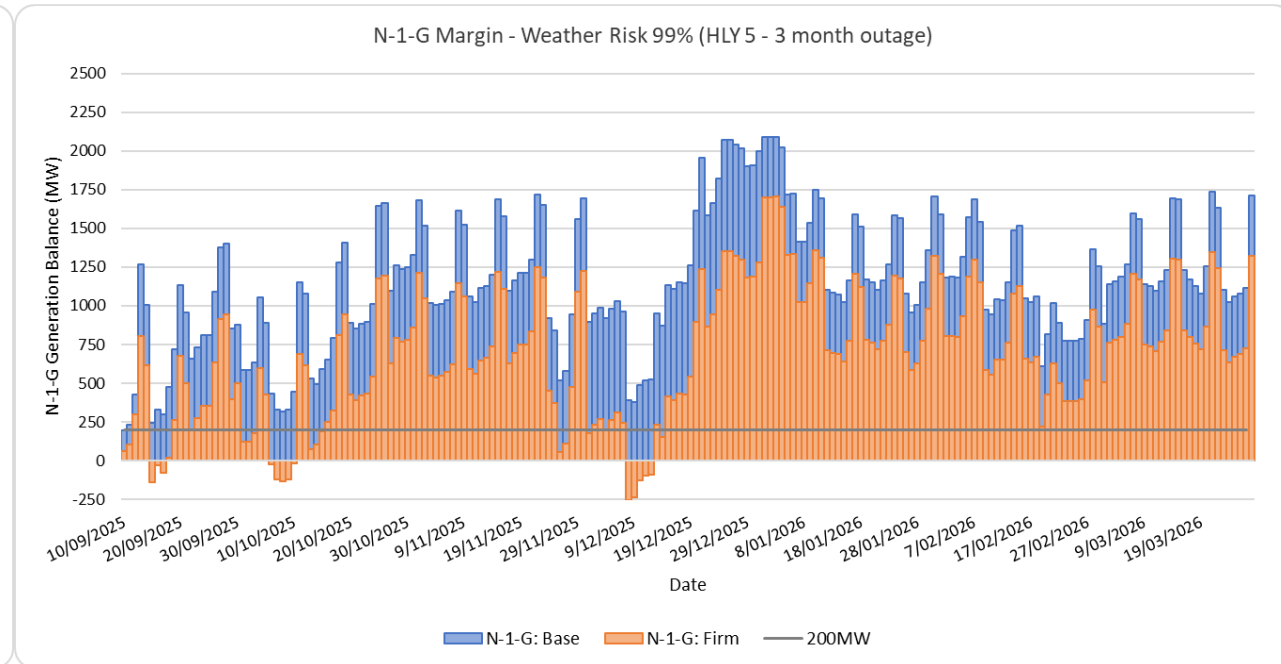
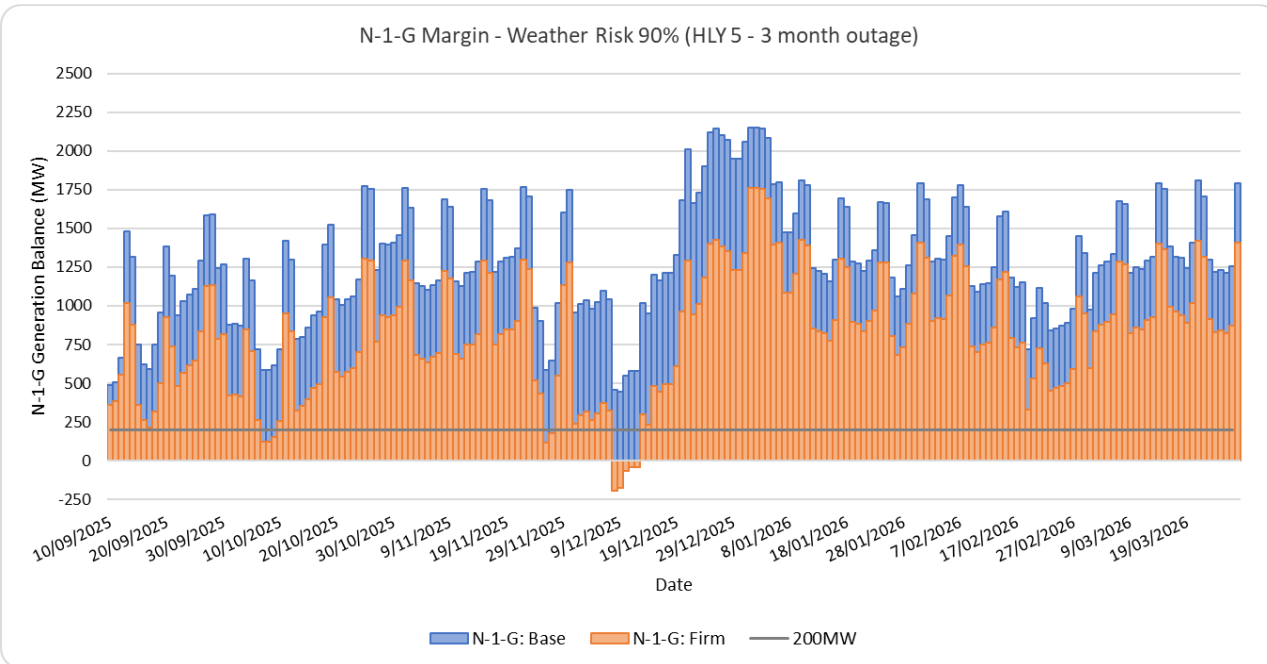
WKM-WRK-1  
outage



# NZGB update: Information

## Additional information from the Industry:

- On 4 September Genesis announced that they will be extending the Huntly Unit 5 outage. This means it will be shut down from 1 October to 31 December to make gas available for commercial and industrial users
- This is not reflected in POCP and NZGB
- To understand this impact, we have modelled the scenario, and it can be seen in the figures below
- The N-1-G balance is still above 200MW and only the firm capacity scenario drops below 0MW during October and the December Wairakei ring outage



# NZGB update: Information

## Recommendations from SO:

- Avoid further outages during periods with low margins
- Market coordination is required from industry to ensure available generation capacity remains high to cover potential cold snaps
- Keep POCP updated with scheduled or tentative outages
- Keep the WDS up to date with the latest offers
- Any other information on plant availability, please contact the SO





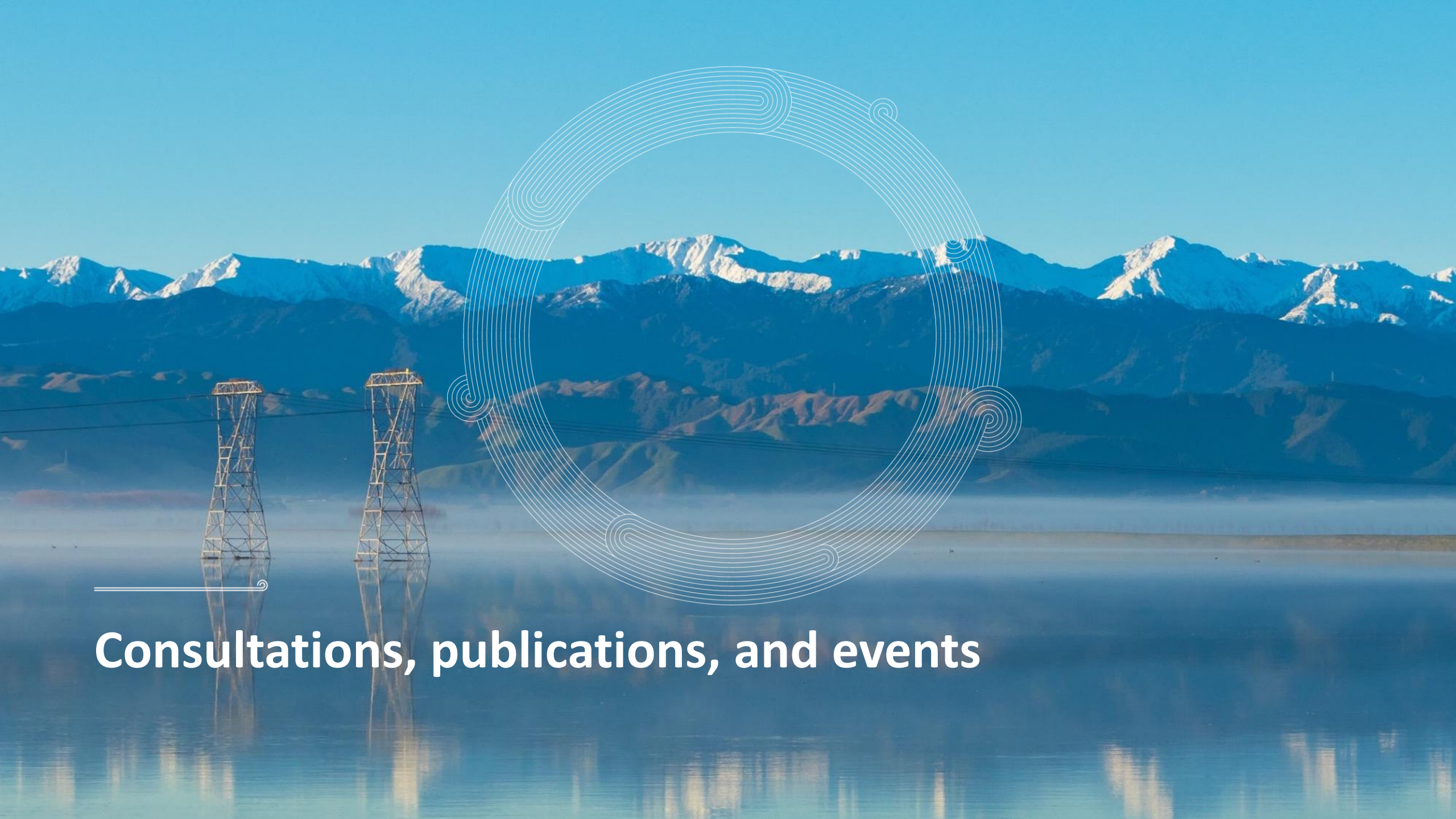
# Operational update



# Operations Update: Inflexible Generation Outcomes

- We've spoken previously about priorities when dispatching generation down within a constrained area or during low demand situations.
- SPD looks for the most economic solution. It doesn't account for the physical limitations of generating plant and their ability to consistently vary or generate at very low levels.
- When generation is offered at the same price, infeasible dispatch solutions can arise, at which point NCC can use discretion to produce a viable outcome.
- A general priority is intermittent generation off first, then hydro and thermal down to minimum run (if required on for security reasons), and lastly, geothermal.





**Consultations, publications, and events**



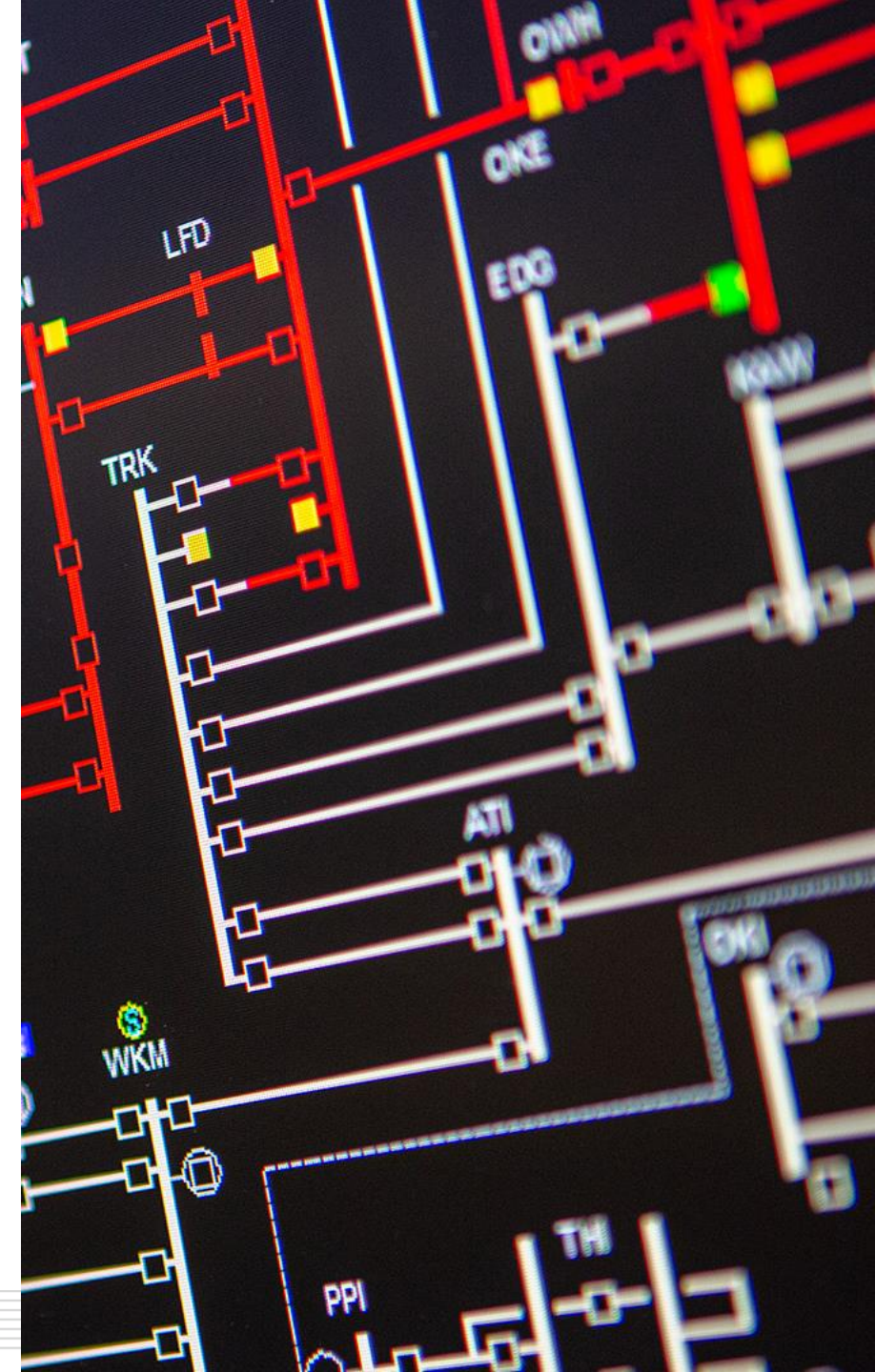
# Consultations, publications, and events

At the end of August we submitted out [Annual Self Review for 2024/25](#) to the Authority which has now been published their website.

Our [CACTIS consultation](#) is still open for comment, submissions are due by 5pm on 29 September.

The most recent [Energy Security Outlook](#) and [Quarterly Security of Supply Outlook](#) are available on our website.

If you have feedback or suggestions on today' s forum or other System Operator publications please let as know via our [Feedback Form](#)





**Any questions**  
**Please raise your hand**

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