



TRANSPOWER

Expressions of interest – Emergency Reserve scheme industry co-design panel

4 May 2026

Applications close: 5pm, 20 May 2026



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1 Executive Summary

This Expressions of Interest (EOI) invites appropriately experienced experts to join an industry co-design panel to support Transpower, in its role as System Operator, to develop and implement Emergency Reserve as a new ancillary service.

The Emergency Reserve scheme was enabled by an Electricity Authority Code amendment that came into effect on 1 March 2026 and is intended to strengthen power system reliability by enabling paid demand-response during acute system stress events, acting as a penultimate step before instructed involuntary demand management.

The establishment of a co-design panel for joint workshops will provide practical, operational and market insights to test design assumptions, identify implementation risks (operational, commercial and technical), build shared understanding of how Emergency Reserve differs from existing ancillary services, and help inform draft amendments to policy and procurement documentation, and contractual arrangements.

Transpower expects the panel to participate primarily through a series of facilitated co-design workshops and by supporting the review of outputs, with Transpower retaining access to panel expertise through to implementation as needed.

2 Background

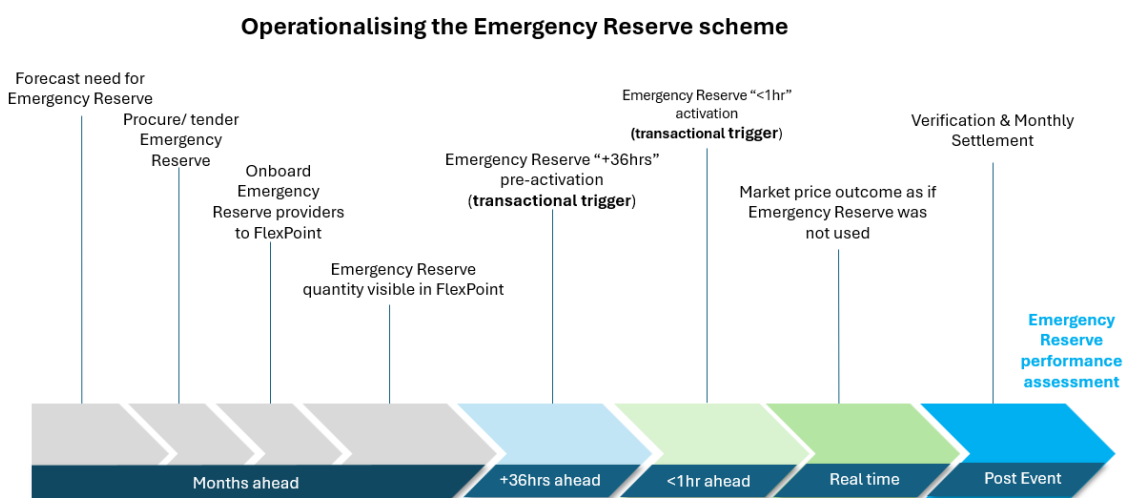
2.1 Emergency Reserve scheme

1. The Electricity Authority (the Authority) has amended the Code to create a requirement for Transpower, in its role as the System Operator, to establish Emergency Reserve as an ancillary service. That [Code amendment](#) came into effect on 1 March 2026.
2. The Emergency Reserve scheme aims to enhance the reliability of New Zealand's electricity system by providing an additional tool for the System Operator to use in periods of acute system stress. It is intended to help manage critical supply shortfalls over short periods of time and could help avoid consumers' power being disconnected to keep the power system stable during emergency events arising from a shortfall of supply to meet demands for energy and reserves.
3. The Emergency Reserve scheme would enable paid demand response from contracted providers during grid emergencies where there is a risk of a supply shortfall. It is intended to complement the existing options available to the System Operator in these circumstances, acting as a penultimate resort mechanism prior to instructed involuntary demand management.
4. The System Operator (and Clearing Manager) supported by the Authority are now working to establish the Emergency Reserve scheme, including the following key areas:
 - a) Procurement; including:
 - tendering and modelling,
 - contract development,
 - onboarding and testing,

- considering availability payment terms,
 - updating the Ancillary Services Procurement Plan and Policy Statement.
- b) Tooling; including:
- FlexPoint detailed design and implementation,
 - Market System updates,
 - ASCAS updates, and
 - integration with other systems as necessary.
- c) Real-time operations; including:
- co-design workshops with Industry (including EOI process and external consultant to support workshops),
 - concept design finalisation (including decisions on pre-activation, activation, integration with existing operational processes for managing capacity shortfall situations),
 - change management activities (including training and business procedure updates), and
 - operations support model and resourcing for Emergency Reserve in place.
- d) Performance Assessment and Settlement; including:
- process updates between System Operator and Clearing Manager for Emergency Reserve cost allocation methodology, and
 - payment mechanisms based on performance assessment.
5. The Authority has published additional information to support its consultations on the [establishment of the Emergency Reserve scheme](#) and [Emergency Reserve Code amendment](#).

2.2 Conceptual Design

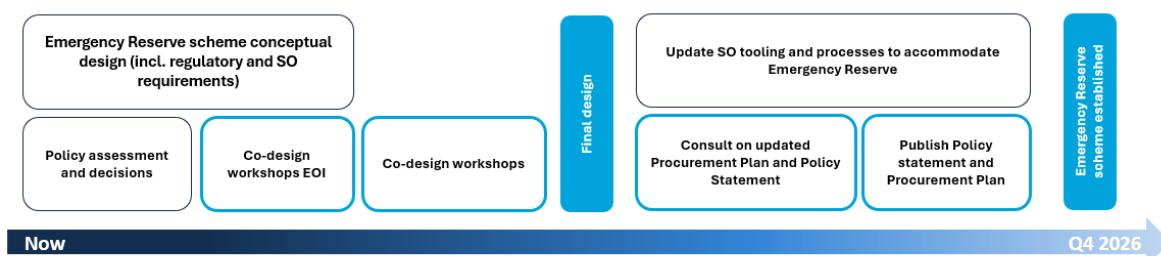
6. Transpower has been working with the support of the Authority to define the conceptual process and tooling design. The conceptual design, as shown in the diagram below, leverages existing tools and processes where possible.



NB: scope for pragmatic 'initial' options as described in the Electricity Authority's decision paper.

2.3 Emergency Reserve scheme co-design and implementation timeline

7. Transpower seeks to establish an industry co-design panel (the Panel) to enable industry engagement and input into the development of the Emergency Reserve scheme.
8. The Panel will primarily participate in a series of co-design workshops and review of resulting outputs to inform the development of the Emergency Reserve. It is anticipated that Transpower will retain access to the Panel through the development process to provide subject matter expertise, should Transpower require further input or review through to implementation.
9. Key deliverables and timeframe to implement the Emergency Reserve scheme:



10. The key objectives of the co-design process are to:
 - Test Emergency Reserve design assumptions with market participants before finalising procurement documentation;
 - Identify practical implementation risks early (operational, commercial, and technical);
 - Build shared understanding of how Emergency Reserve differs from existing ancillary services;
 - Inform the development of the Procurement Plan, panel settings, and contractual arrangements; and
 - Identify potential energy demands that might be likely to participate in the Emergency Reserve.

3 Expression of Interest – Co-design Panel

11. Transpower New Zealand Limited, in its role as System Operator, is seeking Expressions of Interest (EOIs) from individuals with the appropriate expertise and industry knowledge to contribute to a collaborative co-design process with Transpower to inform the development of the Emergency Reserve scheme.
12. The purpose of this EOI is to:
 - Identify suitably qualified individuals to be Members of the Panel;

- Outline the process of determining the Panel membership;
- Provide an overview of the co-design process and schedule; and
- Provide the Terms of Reference for the Panel.

3.1 Scope

13. The role anticipated for the Panel includes to:

- Provide input, views, and feedback on the detailed operational design of the proposed Emergency Reserve;
- Provide insight into the participation and operability of the proposed scheme;
- Identify potential processes and technologies that may be suitable Emergency Reserve providers, and help understand how their available demand would interact with the service; and
- Inform System Operator's subsequent proposals for amendment of the [procurement plan](#)¹ and other incorporated documents where applicable.

14. The following areas are out of scope for the Panel:

- The Authority's consultation process and decision to establish the Emergency Reserve scheme;
- Redefining the intended purpose and boundaries of the new Emergency Reserve ancillary service;
- Amendment to existing Ancillary Services, other than to understand the relationship and potential risk created by Emergency Reserve on these other services;
- Payment structures outlined in the Code; and
- The conceptual design for implementation in Transpower's tooling, implementation of which is necessarily progressing in parallel to the co-design process.

3.2 Roles

15. The Panel is an advisory body. Transpower will consider its input, views and recommendations in addition to any other advice or information available to Transpower, including its own analysis in its decision making.

16. The Panel members (Members) are appointed as subject matter experts. The role of the Panel is to:

- Provide input, views and feedback to Transpower based on members' experience and expertise in the electricity industry.
- Members will also represent the views of their organisation, however, this should be in line with the goal of collaboratively designing the best possible Emergency Reserve

¹ The System Operator will consult on proposed changes to the Procurement Plan and the amendment proposal may ultimately be approved by The Authority.

scheme for Aotearoa, rather than campaigning for the interests of any particular organisation or person.

17. The Independent Chair will be appointed by Transpower and will be neither an employee of Transpower nor one of the applicants to this EOI. The role of the Independent Chair is to:

- Lead the workshops; and
- Facilitate discussion between the Members and Transpower.

18. The role of Transpower is to:

- Facilitate the effective operation of the Panel by providing appropriate support;
- Make its expectations of the Panel and its work clear;
- Provide an Independent Chair;
- Provide secretariat resources to support efficient operation of the Panel; and
- Ensure supporting information and/or resources are made available including a conceptual design for consideration.

19. The role of the Authority:

- Staff from the Authority will attend as observers to the co-design process.

20. For the avoidance of doubt:

- Transpower is not bound to give effect to any Panel recommendations.
- The Panel is not authorised to speak for Transpower, to make decisions or commitments on Transpower's behalf and does not hold any delegations of authority from Transpower.

3.3 Information Requested

21. Applicants are requested to fill out the form in Appendix A.

3.3.1 Applications

Open: Monday 4 May 2026

Close: 5pm, Wednesday 20 May 2026

Decision: by 5pm, Friday 22 May 2026

Application Form: [Refer Appendix A](#)

Submit via Email to: System.Operator@transpower.co.nz

Include Subject Line: Emergency Reserve scheme Co-design Panel - EOI

Any questions can also be directed to the email address above.

3.3.2 Assessment

22. Transpower intend to establish a diverse Panel of suitably qualified Members. Transpower will apply the following criteria in determining the Panel Members:

- Expertise and experience in appropriate aspects of the electricity industry;

- Experience with Ancillary Services and/or demand response products;
- Experience with market/product design;
- Appropriate diversity of expertise across the Panel; and
- Ability to work within a co-design workshop environment.

3.3.3 Decision

23. All applicants will be informed of the outcome via email by 5pm on Friday 22 May 2026.
- Successful applicants will be informed directly via email including relevant information on next steps.
 - Unsuccessful applicants will be offered the opportunity of a debrief on the decision relevant to their application.
24. Transpower’s decision on the Panel is final and Transpower will not enter into discussion on the make-up of the Panel, the selected Members, or relitigate the decision process.

4 Workshops and schedule

25. The primary function of the Panel is to attend and contribute to a series of four co-design workshops facilitated by Transpower.
26. Workshops will be primarily held via Teams though Transpower staff and Members of the Panel are welcome to attend at the Transpower Wellington Office in person if they wish to do so. Please indicate if this is of interest when filling out the application form.
27. Further details will be provided to successful applicants at confirmation.

4.1 Workshops

28. An indicative workshop schedule. Please note the dates and topics shown here are not finalised and are for illustrative purposes only.

Workshop	When	Theme	Details
1	W/c 25 May 2026	Define	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Clarify target audience / market ▪ Testing ▪ Comms / notifications / dispatch ▪ Duration ▪ Performance evaluation / measurement and data (incl. baselining) (i.e. measurement and verification)

Workshop	When	Theme	Details
2	W/c 25 May 2026	Enrol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Onboarding and registration / evergreen portal (on our website) ▪ Quantity tender ▪ Quantity activated ▪ Timing ▪ Testing
3	W/c 29 June	Orchestrate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Forecast ▪ Trigger ▪ Comms / notifications / dispatch ▪ Duration
4	W/c 29 June	Analyse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Performance evaluation / measurement and data (incl. baselining) (i.e. measurement and verification) ▪ Testing ▪ Payments ▪ Metering ▪ Disputes handling

5 Panel terms of reference

29. This section outlines the Terms of Reference that the Panel Members are expected to abide by.

5.1 Memberships and expectations

30. Transpower appoints Members to the Panel after considering applicants against the criteria in paragraph 22.

31. In addition, Transpower endeavours to ensure the Panel has an appropriate mix of individuals representing a diverse cross-section of New Zealand electricity interests.

32. Transpower may replace a Member who resigns or is removed from the Panel:

- The replacement may come from the same organisation, or from different organisation, as Transpower sees fit to meet the purpose of the Emergency Reserve scheme co-design process.

- In appointing a replacement Member, Transpower may choose to run an additional open selection round, or to approach a potential replacement candidate directly, as it sees fit and taking into account the required timelines.
33. Members are appointed until the end of December 2026, or such longer period as agreed between a Member and Transpower if the duration of the Panel goes beyond the end of December 2026.
 34. Members may resign at any time by notifying Transpower. Resigning Members should give as much notice as practicable.
 35. Transpower may remove a Member at any time and for reasonable cause (e.g., for not complying with the Panel’s responsibilities set out below) by notifying the Member. Transpower will provide a summary of reasons for the removal if requested by the Member.
 36. Transpower’s Executive General Manager Operations (or nominee) approves all Member appointments and removals.

5.2 Responsibilities

37. All Members must:
 - Be actively involved;
 - Behave ethically;
 - Respect others;
 - Protect confidential information;
 - Communicate appropriately; and
 - Manage conflicts of interest.
38. Members must be able to commit approximately three days total accumulated time over the Panel life to:
 - complete pre-reading prior to scheduled workshops;
 - participate in the workshops in person or remotely and to review workshops outputs; and
 - to review applicable documents post the workshop process, where requested by Transpower.

Excluding any travel time should the Member choose to attend workshops in person.

5.3 Chair and structure

The Panel will include:

- Independent Chair – Appointed by Transpower;
- Industry experts – selected by Transpower by way of this EOI;
- Transpower staff members; and
- The Authority – Observer(s).

5.4 Payment

39. Membership of the Panel is on a voluntary basis and is not paid.
40. Participation on the Panel including attendance at the workshops will not be paid for by Transpower. Remote access via Teams will be provided to all sessions.
41. Transpower will not reimburse expenses related to Membership of the Panel.

5.5 Disputes

42. Disputes about the meaning of these Terms of Reference are resolved by determination by Transpower's Executive General Manager Operations (or nominee), whose decision is final.

5.6 Confidentiality

43. Please note that all information provided to Transpower is subject to potential disclosure under the Official Information Act 1982. Clause 7.20(4) of the Code also requires that the System Operator provide a copy of each submission received to the Authority.
44. Members are not expected to disclose confidential information. If your response contains confidential material, please ensure this is clearly identified.

5.7 General

45. These Terms of Reference are to be interpreted and applied flexibly and pragmatically to achieve the purpose of the Panel.
46. The Panel may be disestablished or suspended at any time by resolution of Transpower's Executive General Manager Strategy, Regulation & Governance (or nominee).

Appendix A: Panel Member Application Form

Name:	
Role:	
Organisation:	
Email:	
Mobile:	
Attendance mode:	<p>I would prefer to attend:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> in person, at 22 Boulcott St Wellington;</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> online; or</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> no preference.</p> <p>Note: travel is at your own expense and will not be reimbursed by Transpower.</p>
Industry background:	
Ancillary services experience:	
Market/Product design experience:	
Other relevant information, e.g. on ability to work in a co-design workshop environment:	
List or link appended / supporting information:	

