energy trader forum

APRIL MEETING – 2026

Date: Wednesday 15 April 2026

Time: 1.30pm – 5.00pm

MC: **Tania Lund** – Transpower

Venue: Grand Millennium Auckland
71 Mayoral Drive
Cnr Vincent Street, Auckland

Agenda

1.00pm **Doors open:** Registration and networking – tea and coffee

1.30pm **Welcome from the MC**

Tania Lund – *programme director – future grid,* Transpower

1.35pm **Priorities and early signals from the new Gas Industry Co. chief executive**

David Prentice, appointed chief executive of Gas Industry Co in November 2025, brings deep sector experience from his roles leading NZ Windfarms, Manawa Energy, Trustpower, and Opus International Consultants and as chair of the Interim Climate Change Committee.

David will present a short update on the gas market, the findings of the 2026 Supply and Demand study, and an outline of Gas Industry Co's priorities for the year ahead.

David Prentice – *chief executive*, Gas Industry Co.

1.50pm **ASX market and product update, highlighting recent trend**

Ian Waddell – *manager | energy and commodities*, ASX

2.00pm **PANEL | PPAs vs the status quo**

The Government's move to pursue long term PPAs with major public sector energy users is a significant new demand signal, designed to lock in supply and accelerate renewable build.

Alongside level playing field measures and firming workstreams, this shift raises critical questions: Will Crown offtake open space for independent generators and catalyse faster investment, or could it reinforce existing market dynamics? The panel explores the implications for competition, contract design, and the speed of new renewable development.

Panelists:

Justin Holden – *general manager, wholesale*, Lodestone Energy
Jeremy McIver – *head of commercial*, Contact
Nathan Turner – *head of energy procurement*, Fonterra
Natasha Hood – *special counsel*, MinterEllisonRuddWatts

Facilitator: **Elliott Powell** – *head of development*, Mercuria

2.50pm **Afternoon networking break** – tea, coffee, and a snack

3.20pm **ETS 2026 and beyond**

The Government is focused on the New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme (NZ ETS) as its main tool for reducing emissions. But as we look ahead to the second (2026-2030) and third emissions budgets (2031-2035) and the 2050 target, how well-placed is the NZ ETS to help Aotearoa New Zealand to achieve its emissions reduction goals?

This session will outline how the country is tracking towards emissions reductions targets, and what we know about the role the NZ ETS may play.

Jo Hendy – *chief executive*, Climate Change Commission

3.40pm **How are NZ's large batteries being traded in the wholesale market?**

Large, utility scale batteries are increasingly commonplace fixtures on power grids worldwide. New Zealand's electricity market is still relatively early on its big battery journey. Only two big batteries have been commissioned in New Zealand (1x 35 MW / 35 MWh, 1x 100 MW / 200 MWh), but two are under construction (2x 100 MW / 200 MWh) and more are waiting in the wings.

What is the impact that big batteries are having on the wholesale and ancillary service markets? How profitable is their operation? What is the outlook for them?

Buddhika Rajapakse – *associate director*, Concept Consulting

4.05pm **PANEL | System adequacy, risk, and affordability**

New Zealand's electricity market is undergoing its most significant structural shifts in a decade. Declining indigenous gas supply, LNG procurement as dry-year insurance, the arrival of utility-scale batteries, new security-of-supply indicators, and strengthened regulatory powers are collectively reshaping market behaviour and risk settings heading into Winter 2026 and beyond.

This discussion brings together the system operator, regulator, market participants and a major demand-response provider to unpack the state of security margins, hydrology and gas uncertainty, reserves and ancillary services trends, price volatility drivers, and how mandatory time-of-use pricing is changing load behaviour.

Attendees will gain a clear, consolidated view of how supply-side constraints, regulatory shifts and emerging demand-flex opportunities will shape the market over the next several years.

Panelists:

Ramu Naidoo – *market operations manager*, Transpower
Hayden Glass – *general manager, wholesale and supply*, Electricity Authority
Huia Burt – *chief executive officer*, The Energy Collective
Others under invitation

Facilitated by: **Phil Gibson** – *consultant*

5.00pm **Wrap up and networking drinks for 60 minutes**

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