

Power Points

October 2019 — ASX Futures Prices Power On Up

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It was another positive month for the electricity sector, with the Electricity Price Review (EPR) containing no big surprises, ASX futures prices firming to record levels and share prices once again outperforming the S&P/NZX50. Wholesale electricity prices were again firm and rose noticeably after month end as hydro lakes continued to fall and a cold snap came over the country.

EPR outcomes lower regulatory risk, for now

The long-awaited EPR contained few surprises. As expected prompt payment discounts, win-backs and the low fixed charge tariffs are to be phased out. There is also expected to be stricter rules on futures market making. The Government is expecting the Electricity Authority (EA) to implement most of the recommendations and plans to review the implementation in two to three years.

Wholesale electricity prices firm as South Island hydro lakes fall

The average OTA price in September was \$119/MWh, flat on the pcp, but since month end prices have been above \$200/MWh, with hydro lake storage levels now 83% of average due to low South Island storage. The ASX futures prices have risen to record levels, with long-dated BEN prices above \$90/MWh for the first time and OTA prices above \$102/MWh. Electricity demand was again slightly up on the pcp (+1.2%, +0.8% excluding NZAS demand). We expect Meridian Energy (MEL) has had another good month; however, the outlook is less certain given the lower lake levels. Contact Energy (CEN) has had a more difficult month, with record low hydro generation for September.

MSCI Index changes on a knife-edge for CEN

MSCI Index changes will be set based on prices in the last two weeks of October. At this stage, we expect Mercury (MCY) will enter the MSCI Index. There is a good chance that CEN will also enter the Index, but that requires the number of constituent stock to increase (which we believe is a little more likely than not) and for CEN to not underperform Fletcher Building (FBU) in the coming weeks. All will be revealed on Friday 8 November.

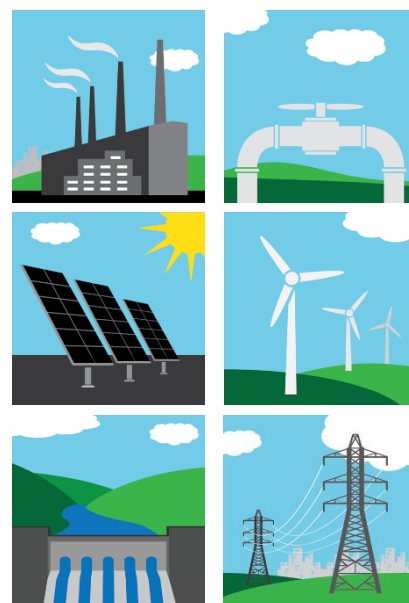


Figure 1. Summary company valuation metric

Ticker	Price	Target Price	Target Return	Rating	EV/ EBITDA(x)	FY20 Adj PE (x)	Gr Yld *	EBITDAF NZ\$m
CEN	\$8.72	\$8.22	-1.3%	NEUTRAL	14.7	23.5	5.7%	488
GNE	\$3.50	\$3.28	-1.3%	NEUTRAL	15.9	33.4	6.9%	367
MCY	\$5.40	\$4.45	-14.7%	UNDERPERFORM	17.3	32.2	4.1%	488
MEL	\$5.27	\$4.20	-16.2%	UNDERPERFORM	19.4	30.5	5.1%	769
TLT	\$2.84	\$2.99	5.4%	OUTPERFORM	11.8	15.9	0.0%	145
TPW	\$8.23	\$8.00	1.4%	OUTPERFORM	15.0	24.5	5.6%	209

Source: Eikon, Forsyth Barr analysis, * Includes any forecast special dividend

Investment View

We are positive on the long-term outlook for the sector. However, all of the electricity stocks are trading on record multiples, and any change in the interest rate environment is likely to impact on share prices. If interest rates stay low, we expect continued support for the sector.

Power Points — October 2019

Electricity Price Review conclusions contain no surprises

The long-awaited Electricity Price Review (EPR) has finally been publicly released. The report was finalised on 21 May and the Government only released the report, along with its response, in the past week, more than four months later.

Overall the key findings/recommendations are consistent with the EPR draft report. There is nothing here that has not previously been raised and much of it already implemented (or is in the process of being implemented). Unsurprisingly, the rhetoric around the report's release somewhat overstated things, in our opinion.

Key points

- **The Government expects the sector to discontinue prompt payment discounts**, but a modest late payment penalty charge can be implemented. Whilst there is no formal regulation, the threat is there. This was expected — Meridian and Contact (for new customers) have already moved to end prompt payment discounts.
- **No saves and win-backs** — again this was expected.
- **Encourage more switching** and establish a pilot scheme to help non-switching consumers find better deals — this had been a key focus.
- **Enforce stricter market-making rules** on generators offering energy into the futures market (if not already done voluntarily) — the EA and the big four generators have already tightened up the market making rules, which has reduced the spreads and made it harder for them walk away from market-making obligations. We understand the EA will look to see whether the rules should be tightened further.
- **Removing the low fixed charge tariffs** — this is a significant positive for the sector. It will result in higher fixed costs and lower variable costs charged to consumers, which in turn will encourage EVs but discourage roof-top solar.
- **The EPR recommends a Government Policy Statement (GPS) on transmission and distribution pricing.** The Government is letting the EA complete the TPM process, but notes a GPS may be required if the outcome is unsatisfactory. In our view this can only slow down the TPM as the EA will be even more cautious on an issue it has been working on for so many years already...
- The EPR found that “wholesale prices appear reasonable compared to the cost of building new power stations” — this is an important statement given the current high wholesale electricity prices. If the EPR had found the opposite, that would have raised more issues and be of greater concern than the retail market tinkering.
- The Government notes that the EA will be responsible for implementing many of the recommendations and that as an independent body it cannot direct specific regulation. However, it then goes on to say that the Government will step in if the EA does not implement the recommendations to its satisfaction!

At the margin retail profits may dip for a period but we do not see this as a long-term issue. The generation side of the business still makes up 70% to 90% of generator/retailer earnings.

The final EPR report can be found here: <https://www.mbie.govt.nz/assets/electricity-price-review-final-report.pdf>

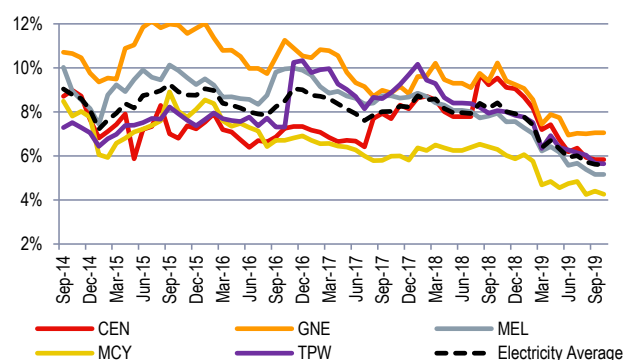
The Government has indicated that it will review outcomes in its second term (assuming it is re-elected) highlighting that the sector will always have some regulatory overhang — but overall the changes recommended are tinkering at the edges as opposed to wholesale changes. We continue to view sector regulatory risk to be low.

Yield story persists, but with a few bumps

September 2019 has seen the yield story continue for the generator/retailers. September did, however, highlight the sensitivity to interest rates. Mid-month the 10-year swap rate increased more than +20 basis points, resulting in the big four electricity stock share prices falling between -5% and -10%. However, the increase in interest rates proved to be temporary with interest rates ending September at similar levels to the beginning (and falling further in early October).

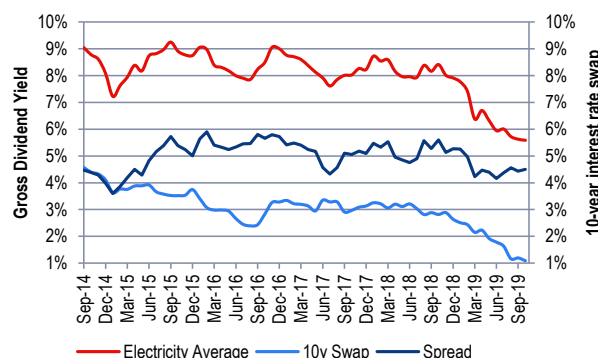
The spread between the 10-year swap rate (1.12%) and the average gross dividend yield (5.59%) remains between 4% and 5% at 4.5%, so slightly above its low point, suggesting there is further upside to electricity share prices.

Figure 2. Gross dividend yields



Source: Bloomberg, Forsyth Barr analysis

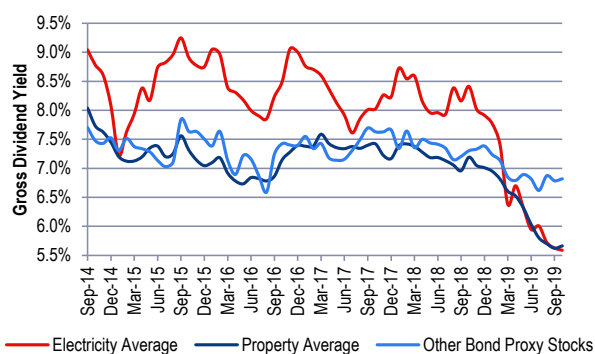
Figure 3. Electricity sector dividend yield vs 10-year swap rate



Source: Bloomberg, Forsyth Barr analysis

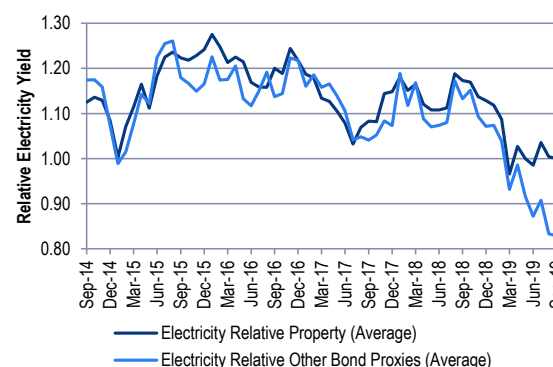
The electricity sector has continued to outperform relative to other high quality yield stocks (CNU, SKC, SPK, VCT). These alternative bond proxies are looking increasingly attractive vs. the electricity stocks. Relative to property, electricity performance has been similar, although in September the electricity sector slightly outperformed property.

Figure 4. Avg. electricity sector yield vs property and bond proxies



Source: Bloomberg, Forsyth Barr analysis

Figure 5. Elec. sector yield relative to property and bond proxies



Source: Bloomberg, Forsyth Barr analysis

MSCI review gets closer — CEN in a tight race with FBU

Some of the strong run in MCY and CEN can likely be attributed to the potential for each company to enter the MSCI New Zealand Standard Index, (the New Zealand segment of the broader MSCI World & ACWI indices), at the upcoming November review. Given the substantial value of passive funds tracking MSCI's indices globally (MSCI's most recent estimate put the total at USD\$786b) there has been increasing amounts of speculation prior to the announcement of index reviews. The outcome of the index review will be announced on Friday 8 November, with the changes becoming effective at close on Tuesday 26 November. Prices to be used at the index review can be taken as at any of the last 10 trading days of October.

At current pricing there are two possible outcomes:

- **Number of members is left unchanged at seven** (we believe this is the slightly less likely scenario): Priority rules would dictate that MCY enters and Fletcher Builder (FBU) exits.
- **Number of members is increased to eight** (we believe this is the slightly more likely scenario): Priority rules would mean that MCY enters and that either FBU stays or CEN replaces FBU. A month ago the latter scenario was the more likely. However, share price movements in the last month have at times seen FBU more likely to remain in the index than being replaced by CEN. We believe at the current share price (CEN at \$8.73 and FBU at \$4.80) CEN has its nose in front, but a relative movement of ~2% in favour of FBU will see the position reverse.

NZAS continues to make more from its electricity contract than aluminium

We have recently heard rumours that NZAS is again struggling financially. Our analysis suggests that in the year to 30 June 2019, the market was less favourable but the September 2019 quarter has seen NZAS make ~NZ\$300/tonne in earnings (EBITDA less maintenance capex). Aluminium prices have been reasonably steady over the past quarter but falling alumina prices and a falling NZDUSD FX rate have been helpful.

Figure 6. Estimated NZAS profitability



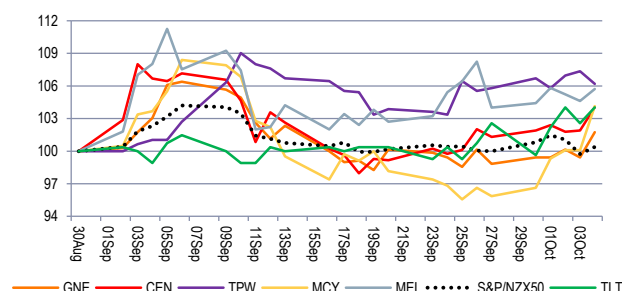
Source: Bloomberg, IRESS, Forsyth Barr analysis

In addition, we estimate that NZAS made ~\$1.5m in September from its electricity contract by not operating at full capacity. NZAS' average electricity consumption was 594MW in September, -28MW below its contracted volume. However, after adjusting "lost" aluminium sales, we estimate the gain is a little under \$1.0m.

Share market performance: Sept 2019

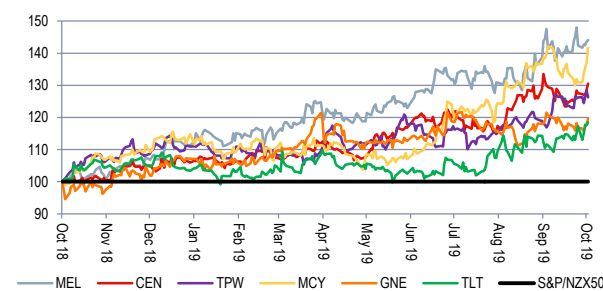
Once again all the generator/retailers outperformed the S&P/NZX50C in September 2019, this month led by TPW (+6.2%) and MEL (+5.7%). However, in mid-September most of the stocks fell as there were hints of interest rates increasing, although that proved to be short-lived. Over the past year all the generator/retailers have outperformed the market by at least +16%.

Figure 7. Stock performance vs. S&P/NZX50C



Source: Thomson Reuters, Forsyth Barr analysis

Figure 8. 12 month performance relative to S&P NZX50C



Source: Thomson Reuters, Forsyth Barr analysis

Market multiples and target returns

- Our electricity target prices are based on a combination of our DCF valuation (30%), market multiples (30%) and gross dividend yield (40%). We focus on year two earnings to avoid short-term hydrological conditions impacting the multiples. Whilst we like the medium-term outlook for the electricity sector, views on interest rates are currently driving the share prices. We have an OUTPERFORM rating on TPW and TLT, a NEUTRAL rating on CEN and GNE and we currently view MEL and MCY as expensive and have an UNDERPERFORM rating on them.

Figure 9. EBITDAF multiples

Company	Code	Price	Target Price	Target Return	Rating	Mkt Cap \$m	EBITDAF (x)		EBITDAF - capex (x)	
							FY19	FY20	FY19	FY20
Contact Energy	CEN	\$8.72	\$8.22	-1.3%	NEUTRAL	6,239	14.7	14.6	17.4	17.3
Genesis Energy (excl Kupe)	GNE	\$3.50	\$3.28	-1.3%	NEUTRAL	3,192	15.9	13.7	19.6	16.4
Mercury	MCY	\$5.40	\$4.45	-14.7%	UNDERPERFORM	7,349	17.3	16.2	20.4	18.9
Meridian Energy	MEL	\$5.27	\$4.20	-16.2%	UNDERPERFORM	13,494	19.4	19.5	21.0	21.1
Trustpower	TPW	\$8.23	\$8.00	1.4%	OUTPERFORM	2,576	15.0	14.6	17.0	16.6
Compco Average							16.4	15.6	19.0	18.0
Tilt Renewables	TLT	\$2.84	\$2.99	5.4%	OUTPERFORM	1,333	11.8	8.8	12.6	9.3
Genesis Energy (incl Kupe)	GNE	\$3.50	\$3.28	-1.3%	NEUTRAL	3,578	13.0	11.7	15.3	13.6

Note: To calculate the GNE excl Kupe multiples, we assume the value of Kupe is \$400m. Debt and interest has been apportioned 10% to Kupe and 90% to Energy (in line with EV proportion) and dividend in line with adjusted NPAT.

Source: Thomson Reuters, Forsyth Barr analysis

Figure 10. PE multiples and dividend yields

Company	PE (x)		Adjusted PE (x)		Cash Div Yield		Gross Div Yield		Free Cash Flow Yield	
	FY19	FY20	FY19	FY20	FY19	FY20	FY19	FY20	FY19	FY20
Contact Energy	36.0	35.8	23.5	23.6	4.5%	4.5%	5.7%	5.8%	4.5%	5.0%
Genesis Energy (excl Kupe)	124.2	54.8	33.4	23.1	3.4%	3.9%	4.7%	5.4%	3.1%	4.4%
Mercury	54.4	41.9	32.2	27.1	2.9%	3.0%	4.1%	4.2%	1.3%	2.8%
Meridian Energy	51.4	51.6	30.5	31.0	4.1%	4.1%	5.1%	5.1%	3.8%	3.8%
Trustpower	28.1	27.3	24.5	24.0	4.1%	4.3%	5.6%	5.8%	4.5%	5.3%
Compco Average	51.2	41.0	28.5	25.6	3.8%	4.0%	5.0%	5.3%	3.4%	4.3%
Tilt Renewables	42.9	28.8	15.9	12.7	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	8.2%	10.4%
Genesis Energy (incl Kupe)	76.4	42.2	22.5	18.0	5.0%	5.0%	6.9%	6.9%	5.2%	6.2%

Note: Adjusted PE replaces actual depreciation with maintenance capital expenditure. This removes the distortion caused by asset revaluations.

Source: Thomson Reuters, Forsyth Barr analysis

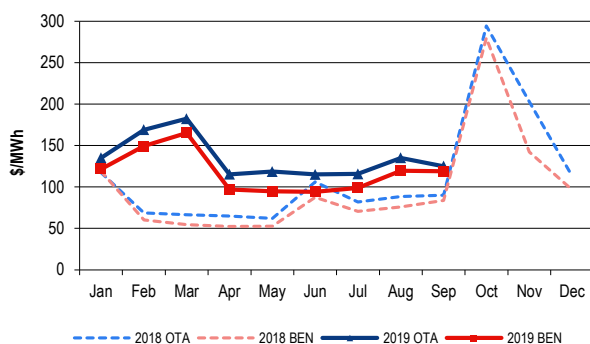
Electricity market: September 2019

Spot wholesale electricity prices and ASX futures

Average wholesale electricity prices remain firm

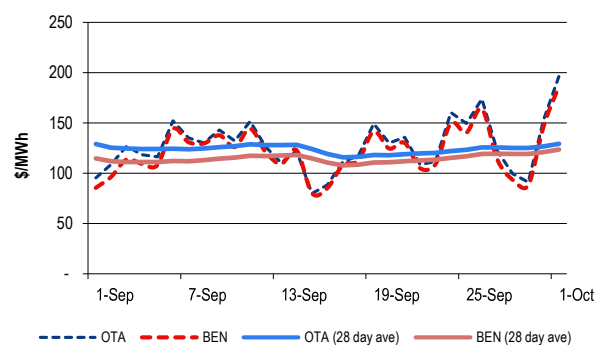
- The OTA average price in September 2019 was \$125/MWh, -7.5% lower than the prior month. The BEN average price was \$119/MWh, -0.4% lower than the prior month.
- Prices were largely range bound between \$100/MWh and \$150/MWh, with South Island hydro storage falling below average and North Island hydro storage slightly above average for this time of year. The change in the hydro storage position has seen the gap between OTA and BEN prices narrow.

Figure 11. Average monthly wholesale electricity prices



Source: NZX Energy, Forsyth Barr analysis

Figure 12. Average daily wholesale electricity prices



Source: NZX Energy, Forsyth Barr analysis

ASX futures continue to rise

- Long-dated ASX futures prices at BEN increased +2.8% to \$93/MWh at month end while the long-dated price at OTA increased +1.0% to \$104/MWh. These long-dated prices are new highs, with BEN prices moving past \$90/MWh for the first time. Compared to a year ago, the long-dated futures prices are +\$19.7/MWh (+27.1%) and +\$26.5/MWh (+34.3%) higher respectively.
- Short-dated ASX futures prices also rose in September as hydro lake storage declined. Prices at OTA increased +14.9% to end the month at \$143/MWh while prices at BEN increased +21.2% to \$123/MWh.

Figure 13. ASX futures price curves (past three years)



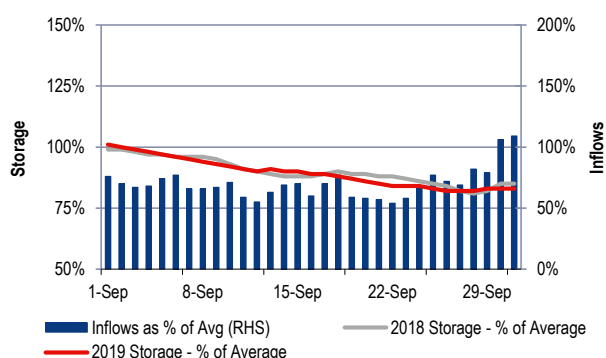
Source: Electricity Authority, Forsyth Barr analysis

Hydro storage volumes

National storage levels decline to below average, mirroring 2018

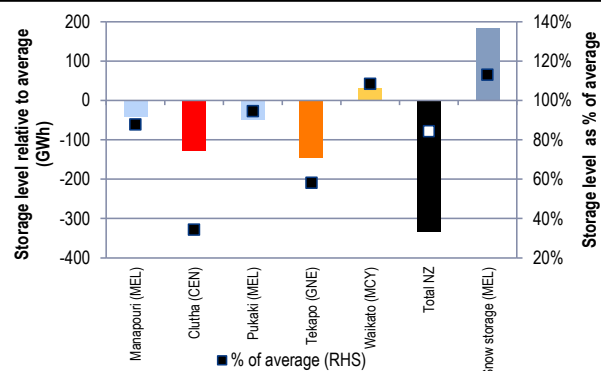
- National lake storage levels decreased -18% in September 2019 to 83% of average at the start of October. Lake levels gradually declined throughout September with only two days of above-average inflows. Total inflows in September were 69% of average, which is very low.
- As at 3 October 2019 only MCY's Waikato catchments have above average storage at 109% of average. MEL's Pukaki catchment experienced the biggest decline during September down -33% to 95%, the first time NZ's largest storage lake has been this low since November 2018. Manapouri also trended down during September, but received a good top-up in the last week. MEL's seasonal snow pack as at 21 September was 113% of average with an estimated 1,522GWh of storage.

Figure 14. Average lake storage levels and average inflows



Source: NZX Energy, Forsyth Barr analysis

Figure 15. Key storage lakes relative to average (as at 5 Sep 2019)



Source: Energylink, MEL, Forsyth Barr analysis

Demand and generation analysis

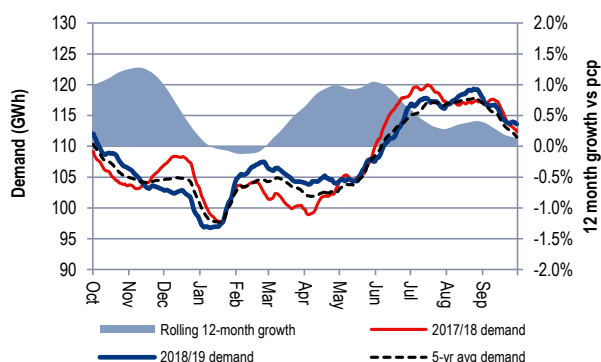
National demand rises slightly

- National electricity demand averaged 113.4GWh/day (including Tiwai) in September 2019, increasing +1.2% vs. the pcp. National demand excluding Tiwai was up +0.8% despite average September 2019 temperatures similar to the pcp.

Record geothermal generation

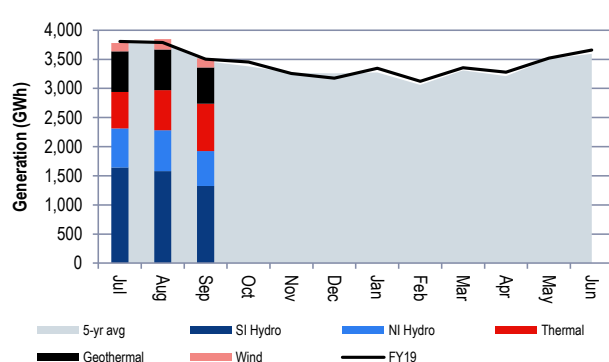
- New Zealand generation totalled 3,514GWh in September 2019, +0.3% above the pcp. The mix change saw thermal generation increase significantly, with both North Island and South Island hydro generation down on the pcp and August 2019. Thermal generation market share was 20.2%, the highest since January 2018.

Figure 16. Rolling 28-day average demand & rolling 12-mth growth



Source: NZX Energy, Forsyth Barr analysis

Figure 17. NZ generation (by technology) – fiscal year to June



Source: EnergyLink, Forsyth Barr analysis

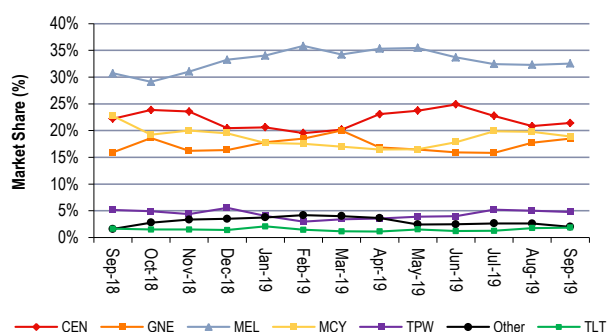
Generation market share — GNE gains market share

- September 2019 generation market shares were similar to August 2019, with CEN, GNE and MEL lifting market share slightly, with MCY having the biggest decline, -0.9% to 18.9%.

CEN — Very soft SI hydro generation

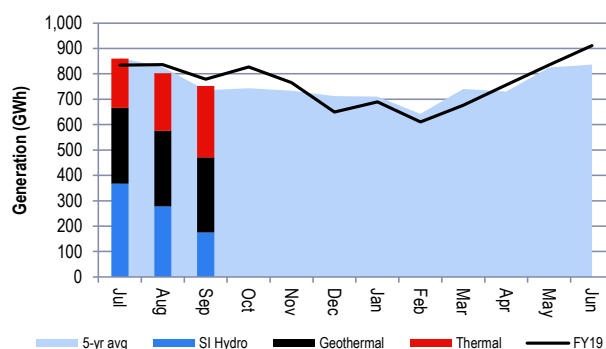
- CEN's generation in September 2019 totalled 752GWh, down -3% on the pcp but +2% ahead of the five-year average. Hydro generation was very low, at 175GWh, it is the lowest September generation for at least 15 years and the first time it has been below 200GWh since January 2018. However, thermal generation was strong at 282GWh, the highest since January 2018. Geothermal generation was steady as expected. Hydro storage is currently 67GWh, 34% of average (i.e. very low).

Figure 18. Monthly generation market share



Source: EnergyLink, Forsyth Barr analysis

Figure 19. CEN monthly generation mix (current, pcp and 5-yr avg)



Source: EnergyLink, Forsyth Barr analysis

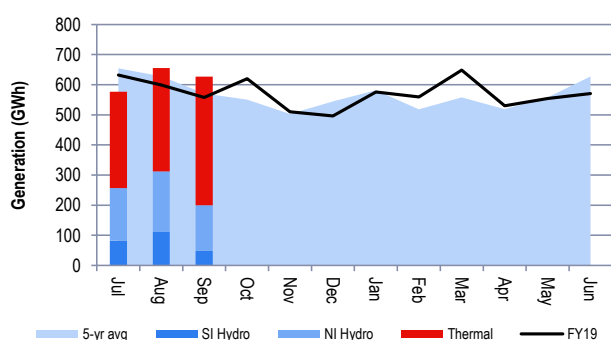
GNE — Strong August thermal generation

- GNE's total generation was 627GWh, +13% higher than the pcp, with thermal generation up +63%. Hydro generation was -20% below average, with SI hydro generation just 47% of normal. GNE's SI hydro storage was 201GWh, 58% of average as of 3 October, ~10% lower than a month ago.

MCY — NI hydro generation a little below average, storage holding up

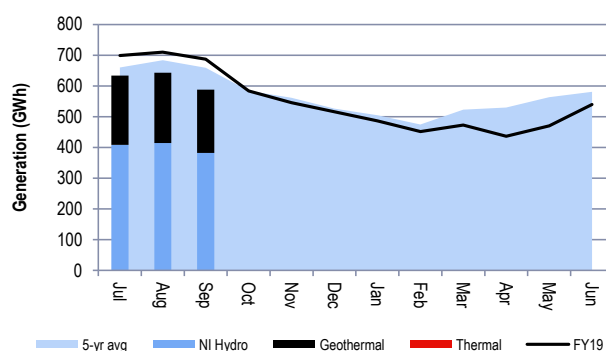
- MCY's September 2019 generation was 588GWh, -4% below average with hydro generation being the main factor. MCY's hydro storage at month end was the only lake with above average storage (+8%) at 392GWh. It was in a similar position a month ago.

Figure 20. GNE monthly generation mix (current, pcp and 5-yr avg)



Source: EnergyLink, Forsyth Barr analysis

Figure 21. MCY monthly generation mix (current, pcp and 5-yr avg)



Source: EnergyLink, Forsyth Barr analysis

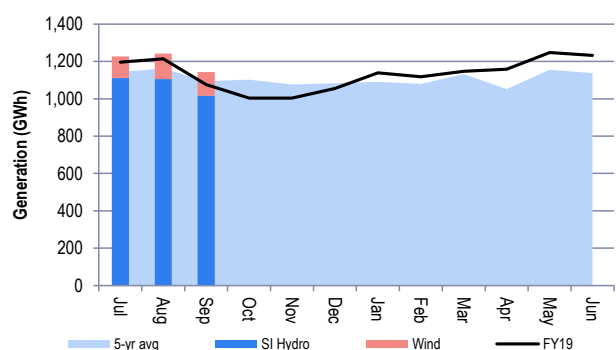
MEL — Strong generation, but hydro storage position moves below average

- MEL's September 2019 hydro generation was again above average (+6%) at 1,016GWh, the ninth month in a row where generation has been above 1,000GWh for the month (and the longest sequence since MEL sold its Tekapo hydro stations to GNE). However, there is evidence that MEL's strong hydrology run is coming to an end. The degree of above average generation is down and hydro storage is 93% of average, the lowest since November 2018.

TPW — Hydro generation remains soft

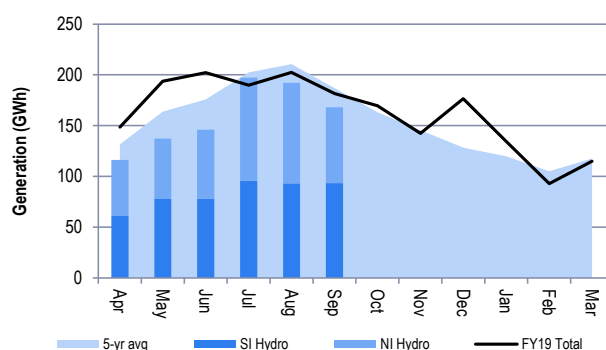
- We estimate TPW's September 2019 generation was 168GWh, the lowest total for September in five years. Both North and South Island generation was below average.

Figure 22. MEL monthly generation mix (current, pcg and 5-yr avg)



Source: EnergyLink, Forsyth Barr analysis

Figure 23. TPW monthly generation mix (current, pcg and 5-yr avg)



Source: EnergyLink, Forsyth Barr analysis

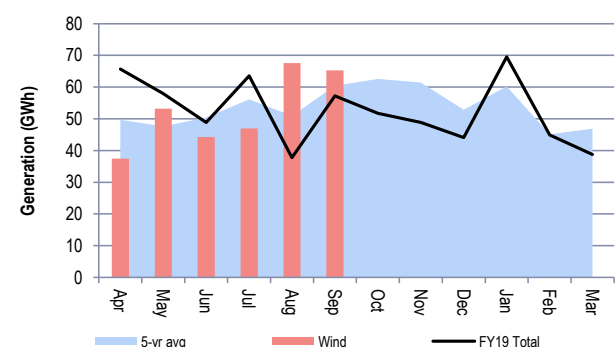
TLT — Strong wind generation

- We estimate TLT's September 2019 generation was 65GWh, the second consecutive month of above average generation volumes and comfortably ahead of the pcg.

Generation prices — Sector GWAP rises

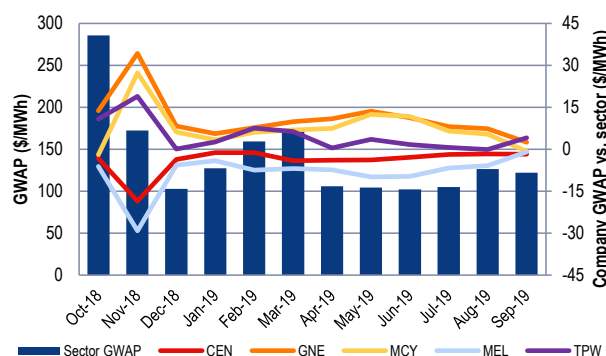
- The average generation weighted average price for September was \$122/MWh, with all the generators closely clustered around this price as the North Island/South Island price split narrowed in September. TPW had the highest GWAP at \$126/MWh, CEN the lowest at \$120/MWh.

Figure 24. TLT monthly generation mix (current, pcg and 5-yr avg)



Source: EnergyLink, Forsyth Barr analysis

Figure 25. Average generation weighted average price (GWAP)



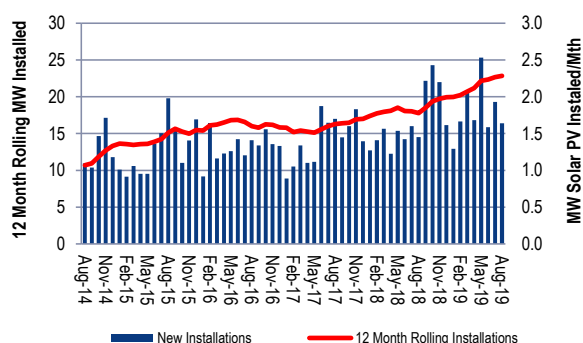
Source: EnergyLink, Forsyth Barr analysis

Solar PV installations

New solar installations continue to flatline

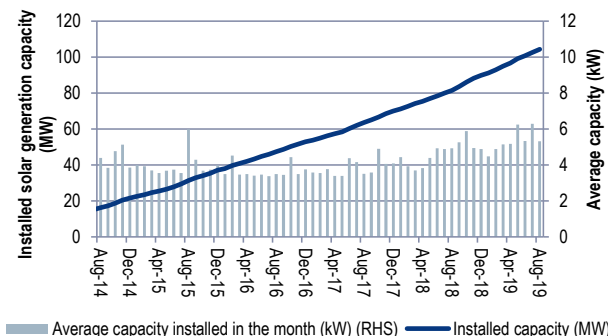
- The home solar market continues to stagnate, with 335 installations in August 2019 and the 12-month rolling total slipping to 4,300. However, the commercial market continues to grow. August 2019 saw a total of 1.6MW installed and the 12-month total increased to almost 23MW.
- There are now more than 24,700 solar installations in the country with a total capacity of 104.3MW.

Figure 26. Solar PV capacity installed



Source: Electricity Authority, Forsyth Barr analysis

Figure 27. Solar capacity installed

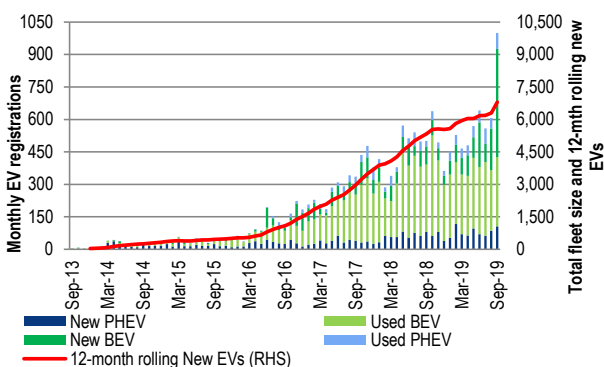


Source: Electricity Authority, Forsyth Barr analysis

EV registrations

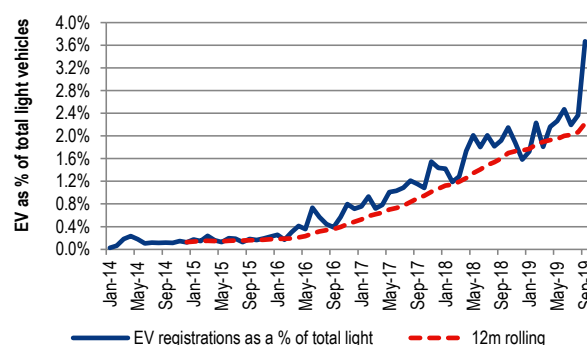
- September 2019 has broken all records for EV registrations. There were 999 new and used car registrations, +55% (+357) more than the old month high set in June 2019. A key driver of the big increase was 356 new Tesla Model 3 sales finally being delivered. That was enough to see the Model 3 reach the top three sales.
- 4.2% of new car sales were electric, almost +2% more than the previous best month. Including used car registrations, 3.7% of all newly registered vehicles were some form of EV, a new record. We expect these figures to be a temporary spike.
- The EV fleet is now almost 16,500 (0.4% of total light vehicles), with rolling 12-month sales almost 6,800 (2.2% of total registrations).

Figure 28. EV registrations



Source: Ministry of Transport, Forsyth Barr analysis

Figure 29. EV registrations as % of total light vehicle registrations



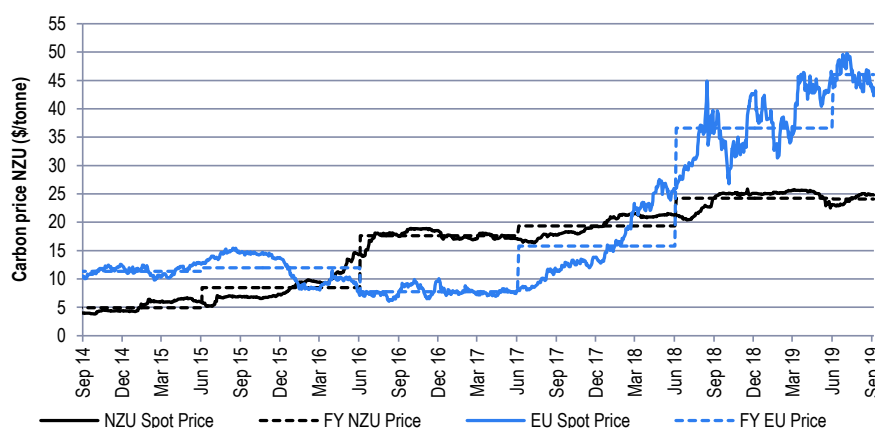
Source: Ministry of Transport, Forsyth Barr analysis

Carbon prices

NZ carbon price range bound

- NZ Units continue to trade close to the \$25/unit cap. Prices ranged between \$24.75 and \$25.05/unit, and last traded at \$24.80.
- EU carbon prices continued to trend lower and are currently €24.2/unit, down from €26.3 (-8.1%) at the end of August.

Figure 30. Price of carbon (NZ\$/tonne)



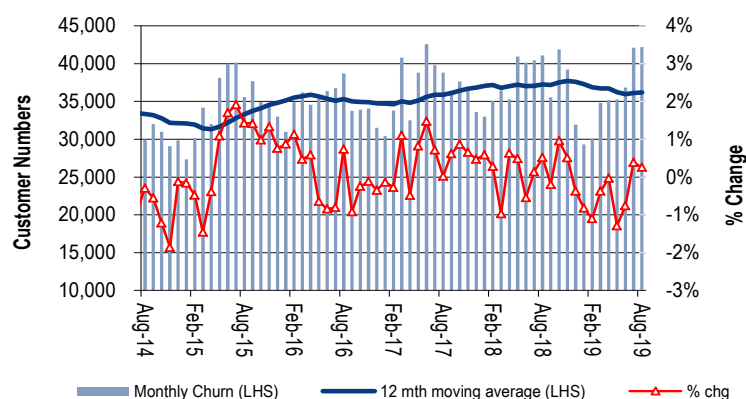
Source: Bloomberg, Forsyth Barr analysis

Retail electricity customers

Connection churn — Churn levels stay high

- August 2019 switching was the highest in several years. There were more than 42,000 switches, the highest since June 2017. Trader switches at 18,674 is the highest monthly total since March 2014. Driving the high level of switches has been MCY's exit from the Farm Source contract, with many farms switching to either MEL or GNE. The elevated number of switches is expected to continue for another month or two.

Figure 31. Electricity connection churn



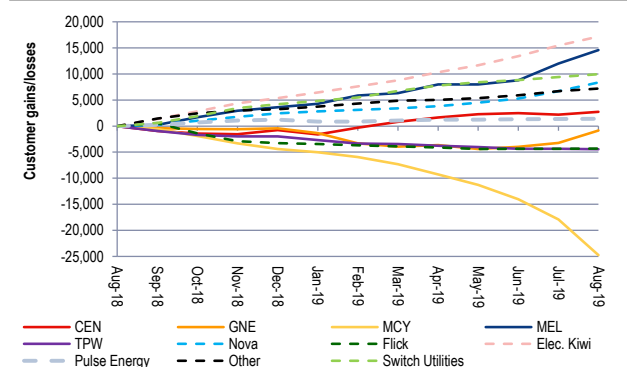
Source: Electricity Authority, Forsyth Barr analysis

Customer number changes — MCY continues to shed customers

MCY had another difficult month in the retail market in August 2019, losing -6,830 connections. Most of these connection losses relate to MCY no longer being Farm Source's electricity supplier of choice. Over the past 12-months MCY has lost close to -25,000 connections. MEL and GNE had strong months adding +2,590 and +2,376 connections respectively, picking up most of MCY's losses. CEN also had a solid month adding +553 connections.

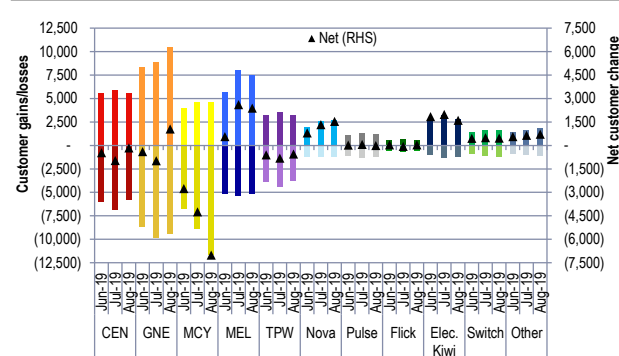
- Of the Tier 2 players both Electric Kiwi and Nova had strong months in August adding +1,708 and +1,652 connections respectively and continuing their strong recent retail market performances. Flick Electric (ZEL) returned to positive growth in August, albeit at a slow rate adding just +52 connections

Figure 32. Cumulative 12-mth electricity customer gains/losses



Source: Electricity Authority, Forsyth Barr analysis

Figure 33. Customer switches (excludes market growth)

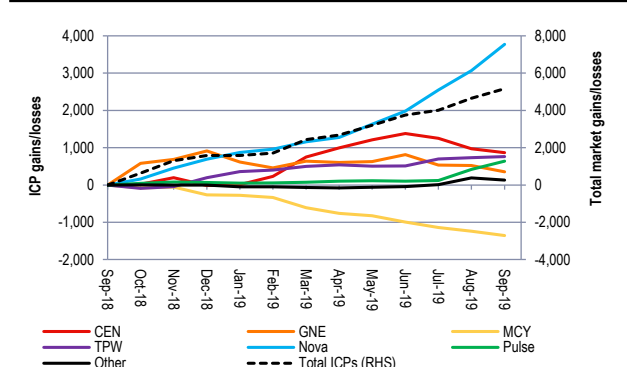


Source: Electricity Authority, Forsyth Barr analysis

Retail gas customers

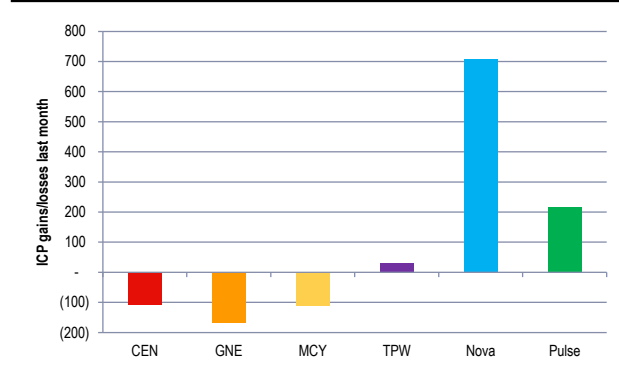
- Nova led customer retail gains in the gas market again and continued its strong performance over the past year by adding a further +707 connections in September 2019, its biggest monthly gain in almost five years. It has now added 3,770 connections (+11%) over the past 12 months. Pulse also had a solid month adding +217 connections. GNE experienced the largest losses in September 2019, losing -167 connections.

Figure 34. Gas customer numbers — 12-mth cumulative gains/losses



Source: Gas Industry Co, Forsyth Barr analysis

Figure 35. Gains/losses by retailer



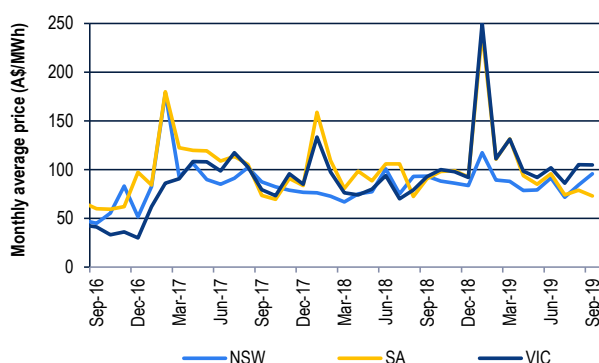
Source: Gas Industry Co, Forsyth Barr analysis

Australian electricity market

Wholesale prices rise up in NSW, down in SA and Victoria

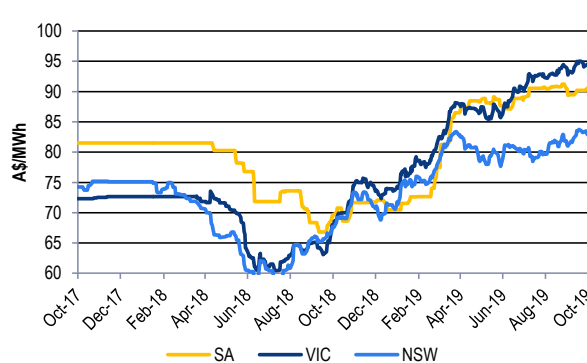
- Average wholesale electricity prices rose +14% to A\$96/MWh in NSW in September 2019, but SA and VIC prices fell -7% to A\$73/MWh and A\$105/MWh respectively.
- FY21 futures prices were generally flat. The NSW futures price increased +2.3% to A\$83/MWh, but SA was only up +0.1% to A\$91/MWh and VIC was up +0.9% to A\$95/MWh.

Figure 36. Australian wholesale electricity price (A\$/MWh)



Source: AEMO, Forsyth Barr analysis

Figure 37. Australian FY21 futures price (A\$/MWh)

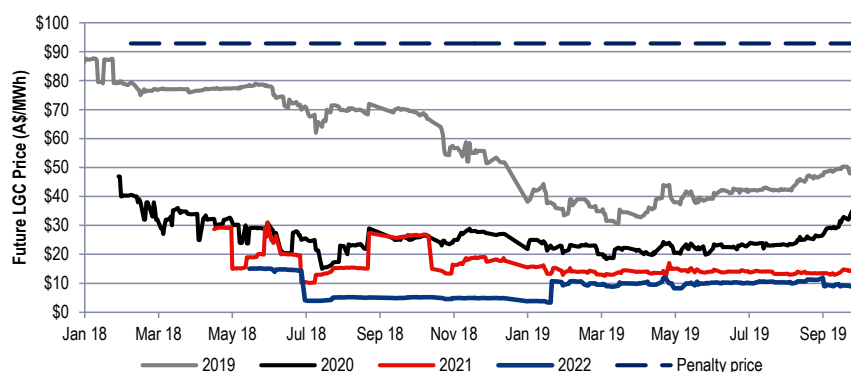


Source: Thomson Reuters, Forsyth Barr analysis

Renewable energy certificate (LGC) prices increase

- LGC prices showed some volatility in September 2019. The 2019 price rose above A\$50/MWh for the first time in 2019, before falling back to A\$44/MWh at month end. 2020 prices also show some strength, increasing +A\$5/MWh to A\$32/MWh at month end, the first time the 2020 price has been above A\$30/MWh since May 2018. Longer-dated LGC prices continue to trade below A\$15/MWh.

Figure 38. Renewable energy certificate prices (LGCs)



Source: Bloomberg, Forsyth Barr analysis

Key statistics

New Zealand electricity market statistics

Figure 39. Key statistics – New Zealand

	Sep-18	Aug-19	Sep-19	% Chg pcp	% Chg mom
Average Monthly Prices					
OTA avg (\$/MWh)	\$83.8	\$119.6	\$119.0	42.0%	-0.4%
HAY avg (\$/MWh)	\$90.0	\$135.1	\$125.0	38.9%	-7.5%
BEN avg (\$/MWh)	\$85.3	\$123.0	\$120.4	41.2%	-2.2%
Avg Daily Generation (GWh)					
CEN	26.0	25.9	25.1	-3.4%	-3.1%
% of NZ Generation	22.2%	20.9%	21.4%	-3.6%	2.7%
GNE	18.6	22.0	21.7	16.4%	-1.5%
% of NZ Generation	15.9%	17.7%	18.5%	16.0%	4.3%
MCY	26.5	24.5	22.1	-16.6%	-9.9%
% of NZ Generation	22.7%	19.8%	18.9%	-16.9%	-4.5%
MEL	35.9	40.1	38.1	6.3%	-4.9%
% of NZ Generation	30.7%	32.3%	32.5%	5.9%	0.8%
TPW	8.0	8.4	7.8	-2.3%	-7.1%
% of NZ Generation	6.8%	6.8%	6.6%	-2.6%	-1.6%
Daily Demand (GWh)					
Demand (excl Tiwai)	98.3	104.1	99.1	0.8%	-4.8%
NZAS demand	13.7	14.3	14.3	4.0%	-0.3%
Total NZ Demand	112.0	118.4	113.4	1.2%	-4.3%
Hydrology (% of average)					
Average hydro inflows	105%	90%	69%	-34.4%	-23.4%
Average hydro storage	90%	105%	90%	-0.6%	-14.4%
Month end hydro storage	85%	101%	83%	-2.4%	-17.8%
ASX futures as at:					
	28-Sep-18	30-Aug-19	1-Oct-19		
Short-dated OTA	\$88.3	\$124.4	\$142.9	61.9%	14.9%
Long-dated OTA	\$77.4	\$102.9	\$103.9	34.3%	1.0%
Short-dated BEN	\$83.1	\$101.5	\$123.0	48.1%	21.2%
Long-dated BEN	\$72.8	\$90.0	\$92.5	27.1%	2.8%

Source: NZX Energy, EnergyLink, Thomson Reuters, Forsyth Barr analysis

Australian electricity market statistics

Figure 40. Key statistics - Australia

	Sep-18	Aug-19	Sep-19	% Chg pcp	% Chg mom
Average Monthly Prices					
NSW avg (A\$/MWh)	\$93.4	\$84.0	\$95.6	2.4%	13.8%
SA avg (A\$/MWh)	\$90.6	\$78.8	\$73.0	-19.5%	-7.4%
VIC avg (A\$/MWh)	\$92.9	\$105.0	\$104.8	12.8%	-0.2%
Electricity Futures for FY21:					
	30-Sep-18	30-Aug-19	30-Sep-19		
NSW avg (A\$/MWh)	\$67.5	\$81.1	\$83.0	22.9%	2.3%
SA avg (A\$/MWh)	\$69.8	\$90.5	\$90.6	29.9%	0.1%
VIC avg (A\$/MWh)	\$67.9	\$93.8	\$94.6	39.3%	0.9%
Spot and Future LGC Prices					
	30-Sep-18	30-Aug-19	3-Oct-19		
Spot (A\$/MWh)	\$71.8	\$46.8	\$45.5	-36.6%	-2.8%
2019 (A\$/MWh)	\$69.0	\$47.4	\$44.0	-36.2%	-7.2%
2020 (A\$/MWh)	\$26.0	\$26.4	\$31.8	22.1%	20.3%
2021 (A\$/MWh)	\$26.8	\$13.5	\$14.5	-45.8%	7.4%

Source: Bloomberg, AEMO, Thomson Reuters, Forsyth Barr analysis

Industry news — September 2019

Listed sector company news

Contact Energy (CEN)

- In a surprise announcement, the CEN Board has appointed current Refining NZ (NZR) CEO, Mike Fuge, to be the new CEN CEO. Mr Fuge is expected to start no later than March 2020 and has been the NZR CEO for a little over one year.
- A project to extract silica from Ohaaki geothermal fluid is underway following a \$15m grant that Geo40 received from the Provincial Growth Fund. The silica is used in various applications within the paint, pulp & paper and precision casting. There is also the potential to extract lithium from the silica. From CEN's perspective, removing the silica helps prevent the build-up of silica in geothermal pipes and reinjection wells.

Genesis Energy (GNE)

- Two separate issues temporarily reduced production capacity at Kupe, lowering production ~-30% for a week.
- GNE is looking to buy its first fully electric LPG delivery truck before June 2020. It is the next step towards its goal of having half of its 84 delivery fleet electric by 2025. GNE currently has four plug-in hybrid trucks in its fleet.

Trustpower (TPW)

- TPW has been forced to alter how it operates its Waipori hydro system (located near Dunedin) following an earthquake assessment. TPW has lowered the lake level of Lake Two -2.1m and is likely to remove the at risk blockwork. Indications are that the change should not impact TPW's operations or energy output significantly, with the main effect being a reduction in peaking capacity.

Tilt Renewables (TLT)

- TLT's Waipipi wind farm (formerly the Waverley wind farm) has reached financial close and will commence construction in the near future. The 133MW wind farm will cost \$280m and produce 455GWh p.a. GNE has signed a 20-year offtake agreement.

Vector (VCT)

- VCT's Powersmart business is going to install a 1MW floating solar array on Watercare's Rosedale wastewater treatment pond. The project is expected to cost \$2.5m and we estimate will produce ~1.4GWh of energy. We estimate the cost of energy (assuming a 6% WACC) is \$188/MWh.

Political / regulatory news

- The Government has released the final Electricity Price Review report. We cover off the important points earlier in this report.
- The EA is proposing to remove the option of South Island only official conservation campaigns. These savings campaigns (although never actually used as yet) are triggered by low hydro storage and were to start in the South Island, before becoming nationwide. The EA says that the HVDC inter-island transmission link now has more capacity to transfer energy southwards. The implication is that North Island retailers would face having to make compensation payments earlier than previously.
- Small electricity retailer, Ecotricity, has complained to the EA and the ComCom that MEL is predatory pricing as it has been offering commercial rates below ASX futures prices. MEL strongly rejects the claim.
- The System Operator has indicated that supply margins in late November are tight, particularly between 13 and 22 November when several plants are out for maintenance, totalling 1,850MW.

Emerging technology news (EV, solar & storage)

- MBIE is encouraging EV suppliers who are in the all-of-Government Motor Vehicle Contract to submit new tenders to supply EVs, recognising the EV market has evolved since 2016 when the contract was agreed. The Government is aiming for its vehicle fleet to be 100% electric by 2026 (where practical).
- Hiringa Energy has chosen Hamilton, Tauranga, New Plymouth and Palmerston North as the first four locations for hydrogen filling stations. All four stations are expected to be operational before June 2021. Hiringa is targeting 20 resupply sites within five years.

Other industry news

- Top Energy's Ngawha 32MW, \$176m geothermal expansion is progressing well, with power station equipment expected to arrive mid-October. The expansion adds to the existing 25MW plant and is expected to be operational by the end of 2020. Top Energy is also considering expanding the plant a further 32MW by 2026.
- The World Energy Council has released its latest global energy assessment using its Energy Trilemma Index which measures security of supply, cost of supply and energy sustainability. NZ ranks 10th out of 128 countries, down two positions from last year, but still a strong result and the highest non-European country. Australia is ranked 28th.
- Pioneer Energy (part owner of retailer Pulse Energy) has opened a new 8.1MW hydro station in Central Otago. The new hydro station is expected to produce ~31GWh (44% capacity factor).

Sources: Energy News, Energy and Environment, EV Talk

Forsyth Barr valuation						Valuation Ratios		2018A	2019A	2020E	2021E	2022E
Valuation methodology	Blend of spot valuations, weighted to multiples					EV/EBITDA (x)	16.2	14.3	14.7	14.7	14.3	
						EV/EBIT (x)	29.9	23.7	25.1	24.8	23.8	
12-month target price (NZ\$)*	8.22	Spot valuations (NZ\$)				PE (x)	27.5	22.3	23.5	23.6	22.9	
Expected share price return	-5.7%	1. DCF		7.38		Price/NTA (x)	2.7	2.6	2.8	2.9	3.1	
Net dividend yield	4.5%	2. Market multiples		8.43		Free cash flow yield (%)	4.8	5.4	4.2	4.7	4.8	
Estimated 12-month return	-1.2%	3. Dividend yield		8.89		Net dividend yield (%)	3.7	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.6	
						Gross dividend yield (%)	4.4	5.6	5.7	5.8	5.9	
Key WACC assumptions		DCF valuation summary (NZ\$m)				Imputation (%)	48	64	70	70	75	
Risk free rate	2.00%	Total firm value		6,389		Pay-out ratio (%)	101	100	105	107	105	
Equity beta	0.88	(Net debt)/cash		(1,108)								
WACC	6.6%	Value of equity		5,281		Capital Structure	2018A	2019A	2020E	2021E	2022E	
Terminal growth	1.5%	Shares (m)		716		Interest cover EBIT (x)	3.3	4.8	5.5	5.5	5.8	
						Interest cover EBITDA (x)	5.7	7.4	8.5	8.5	8.8	
Profit and Loss Account (NZ\$m)	2018A	2019A	2020E	2021E	2022E	Net debt/ND+E (%)	34.7	25.3	26.4	26.9	27.3	
Sales revenue	2,275	2,519	2,413	2,332	2,341	Net debt/EBITDA (x)	3.0	1.8	2.0	1.9	1.8	
Normalised EBITDA	479	518	488	491	501							
Depreciation and amortisation	(220)	(205)	(202)	(201)	(199)	Key Ratios	2018A	2019A	2020E	2021E	2022E	
Normalised EBIT	259	313	286	290	302	Return on assets (%)	4.9	9.8	5.9	6.2	6.6	
Net interest	(84)	(70)	(57)	(58)	(57)	Return on equity (%)	4.7	6.3	6.2	6.5	7.2	
Depreciation capex adjustment	99	104	100	98	96	Return on funds employed (%)	4.5	9.4	5.7	5.9	6.4	
Tax	(48)	(72)	(64)	(65)	(69)	EBITDA margin (%)	21.1	20.6	20.2	21.0	21.4	
Minority interests	-	-	-	-	-	EBIT margin (%)	11.4	12.4	11.9	12.4	12.9	
Adjusted normalised NPAT	227	280	265	265	272	Capex to sales (%)	3.6	2.5	3.9	2.8	2.8	
Abnormals/other	(97)	65	(100)	(98)	(96)	Capex to depreciation (%)	37	31	46	32	33	
Reported NPAT	130	345	165	167	177							
Normalised EPS (cps)	31.7	39.2	37.0	37.0	38.0	Operating Performance	2018A	2019A	2020E	2021E	2022E	
DPS (cps)	32.0	39.0	39.0	39.5	40.0							
						Divisional Revenue (\$m)						
Growth Rates	2018A	2019A	2020E	2021E	2022E	Wholesale electricity	1,157	1,463	1,370	1,258	1,241	
Revenue (%)	9.4	10.7	-4.2	-3.4	0.4	Retail electricity	883	863	891	907	920	
EBITDA (%)	-4.4	8.1	-5.7	0.4	2.2	Retail gas sales	71	73	81	83	85	
EBIT (%)	-11.6	20.8	-8.5	1.1	4.3	LPG sales	121	58	-	-	-	
Normalised NPAT (%)	9.1	23.4	-5.5	-0.1	2.8	Other	31	32	33	33	33	
Normalised EPS (%)	9.1	23.4	-5.5	-0.1	2.8	Total Revenue	2,263	2,489	2,373	2,281	2,279	
DPS (%)	23.1	21.9	0.0	1.3	1.3							
						Operating Statistics						
Cash Flow (NZ\$m)	2018A	2019A	2020E	2021E	2022E	Hydro generation (GWh)	3,479	4,232	3,887	3,887	3,887	
EBITDA	479	518	488	491	501	Geothermal generation (GWh)	3,323	3,257	3,346	3,346	3,346	
Working capital change	38	(19)	(8)	(4)	(1)	Thermal generation (GWh)	1,812	1,422	1,624	1,704	1,784	
Interest & tax paid	(111)	(112)	(123)	(127)	(132)	Total Generation (GWh)	8,614	8,911	8,857	8,937	9,018	
Other	(27)	14	-	-	-	GWAP (\$/MWh)	85	129	114	96	92	
Operating cash flow	379	401	357	359	368	Gas consumed (PJ)	17.5	13.9	15.4	16.1	16.9	
Capital expenditure	(82)	(63)	(93)	(65)	(66)	Gas price (\$/GJ)	6.1	7.1	7.2	7.3	7.4	
(Acquisitions)/divestments	6	382	-	-	-	Retail electricity volumes (GWh)	6,997	6,554	6,548	6,692	6,678	
Other	(7)	-	-	-	-	Electricity customers (000)	413	411	411	407	404	
Funding available/(required)	296	720	264	294	301	Average usage/customer (MWh)	8.7	8.6	8.7	8.7	8.7	
Dividends paid	(201)	(251)	(279)	(279)	(283)	Average retail price (\$/MWh)	242	244	250	255	260	
Equity raised/(returned)	1	-	-	-	-							
Increase/(decrease) in net debt	(96)	(469)	15	(15)	(19)	LWAP (\$/MWh)	91	138	125	104	100	
						LWAP/GWAP	1.07	1.07	1.09	1.09	1.09	
Balance Sheet (NZ\$m)	2018A	2019A	2020E	2021E	2022E	Retail gas volumes (PJ)	2.9	3.1	3.2	3.2	3.2	
Working capital	(22)	(3)	5	9	10	Gas customers (000)	65	67	67	67	68	
Fixed assets	4,253	4,126	4,017	3,881	3,748	Average gas sales price (\$/GJ)	24.6	23.6	25.5	26.0	26.5	
Intangibles	441	425	425	425	425							
Other assets	404	132	132	132	132							
Total funds employed	5,076	4,680	4,579	4,447	4,316							
Net debt/(cash)	1,448	943	958	943	925							
Other non current liabilities	901	955	950	941	931							
Shareholder's funds	2,727	2,782	2,671	2,563	2,460							
Minority interests	-	-	-	-	-							
Total funding sources	5,076	4,680	4,579	4,447	4,316							

* Forsyth Barr target prices reflect valuation rolled forward at cost of equity less the next 12-months dividend

Forsyth Barr valuation						Valuation Ratios					
Valuation methodology						2018A 2019A 2020E 2021E 2022E					
Mix of market multiple and DCF						EV/EBITDA (x)	13.2	13.1	13.0	11.8	10.8
						EV/EBIT (x)	30.9	28.5	30.6	24.9	22.4
						PE (x)	27.4	22.5	22.8	18.4	15.0
						Price/NTA (x)	2.2	2.0	2.1	2.2	2.3
						Free cash flow yield (%)	4.4	4.5	5.1	6.0	7.1
						Net dividend yield (%)	4.8	4.9	5.0	5.0	5.1
						Gross dividend yield (%)	6.3	6.8	6.9	6.9	7.0
						Imputation (%)	80	100	100	95	95
						Pay-out ratio (%)	132	110	113	93	77
Key WACC assumptions						Capital Structure					
DCF valuation summary (NZ\$m)						2018A 2019A 2020E 2021E 2022E					
Risk free rate	2.00%	Total firm value	4,243			Interest cover EBIT (x)	1.4	2.1	2.2	2.9	3.5
Equity beta	0.88	(Net debt)/cash	(1,256)			Interest cover EBITDA (x)	4.9	5.0	5.1	6.2	7.3
WACC	6.7%	Value of equity	2,987			Net debt/ND+E (%)	37.7	35.5	37.2	36.7	35.6
Terminal growth	1.5%	Shares (m)	1,022			Net debt/EBITDA (x)	3.3	3.3	3.4	2.9	2.4
Profit and Loss Account (NZ\$m)						Key Ratios					
2018A 2019A 2020E 2021E 2022E						2018A 2019A 2020E 2021E 2022E					
Sales revenue	2,305	2,701	2,513	2,408	2,399	Return on assets (%)	2.4	3.4	3.4	4.4	5.1
Normalised EBITDA	361	363	367	406	446	Return on equity (%)	3.0	3.1	2.9	4.5	5.6
Depreciation and amortisation	(206)	(197)	(210)	(214)	(231)	Return on funds employed (%)	3.6	3.6	3.4	4.3	5.1
Normalised EBIT	155	167	156	193	215	EBITDA margin (%)	15.6	13.5	14.6	16.9	18.6
Net interest	(74)	(73)	(72)	(65)	(61)	EBIT margin (%)	6.7	6.2	6.2	8.0	9.0
Associate income	-	-	-	-	-	Capex to sales (%)	4.7	2.5	2.9	2.7	2.4
Tax	(22)	(27)	(24)	(36)	(43)	Capex to depreciation (%)	52	35	35	30	25
Depreciation capex adjustment	71	92	98	107	134						
Adjusted normalised NPAT	129	159	159	199	245						
Abnormals/other	(109)	(100)	(98)	(107)	(134)						
Reported NPAT	20	59	60	92	111						
Normalised EPS (cps)	5.8	6.5	5.9	8.8	10.6						
DPS (cps)	16.9	17.1	17.4	17.7	18.0						
Growth Rates						Operating Performance					
2018A 2019A 2020E 2021E 2022E						2018A 2019A 2020E 2021E 2022E					
Revenue (%)	18.1	17.2	-6.9	-4.2	-0.4	Renewable generation	3,084	2,835	2,683	2,717	2,717
EBITDA (%)	8.4	0.8	1.0	10.7	9.9	Gas generation	3,392	2,586	2,791	2,783	2,783
EBIT (%)	-2.0	7.8	-6.3	23.2	11.5	Coal generation	657	1,410	900	876	876
Normalised NPAT (%)	-18.9	23.5	-0.1	25.4	23.2	Total GNE generation (GWh)	7,133	6,831	6,375	6,377	6,377
Normalised EPS (%)	-19.6	21.8	-1.2	24.1	22.6	GWAP (\$/MWh)	92	143	115	107	101
DPS (%)	1.8	0.9	1.8	1.7	1.7	Coal used (tonnes)	348	720	466	453	453
						Coal price (\$/tonne)	120	139	135	125	126
						Gas used (PJ)	26.7	20.2	20.6	20.5	20.5
						Gas price (\$/GJ)	7.9	8.6	8.4	8.2	8.3
Cash Flow (NZ\$m)						Electricity customers (000)					
2018A 2019A 2020E 2021E 2022E						503.7 499.5 494.5 489.6 487.1					
EBITDA	361	363	367	406	446	MM/SME volumes	4,169	4,077	4,069	4,048	4,027
Working capital change	33	(27)	(2)	(10)	(8)	TOU volumes	1,811	1,992	2,011	2,032	2,052
Interest & tax paid	(120)	(123)	(109)	(117)	(128)	Total fixed price volumes (GWh)	5,980	6,068	6,080	6,080	6,079
Other	(7)	17	-	-	-	Average MM usage/cust (kWh/yr)	8,240	8,126	8,186	8,227	8,257
Operating cash flow	266	231	256	279	311	Average FPV price (\$/MWh)	206	207	211	213	215
Capital expenditure	(108)	(69)	(74)	(64)	(57)	LWAP (\$/MWh)	92	139	116	108	101
(Acquisitions)/divestments	0	(0)	-	-	-	LWAP/GWAP	1.01	0.97	1.01	1.01	1.01
Other	-	-	-	-	-	Line losses (%)	5.3	5.4	5.5	5.5	5.5
Funding available/(required)	159	162	182	215	254	Retail gas customers (000)	106.2	107.1	107.7	108.2	108.7
Dividends paid	(148)	(132)	(139)	(142)	(166)	Retail gas volumes (PJ)	7.5	8.2	8.3	8.4	8.4
Equity raised/(returned)	(1)	(1)	-	-	-	Gas volume/cust (GJ/yr)	70.5	76.7	77.1	77.5	77.9
Increase/(decrease) in net debt	(10)	(29)	(43)	(72)	(87)	LPG retail sales (tonnes)	35,005	38,507	41,954	45,536	48,014
Balance Sheet (NZ\$m)						Kupe production					
2018A 2019A 2020E 2021E 2022E						Gas production (PJ)					
Working capital	90	111	113	123	131	Oil production (k barrels)	533	473	381	355	564
Fixed assets	3,430	3,717	3,664	3,536	3,371	LPG production (k tonnes)	45.9	50.6	45.2	42.4	47.8
Intangibles	364	364	368	362	355	Kupe EBITDAF (\$m)	115	109	99	95	121
Other assets	84	121	121	121	121	Energy EBITDAF (\$m)	245	255	268	311	325
Total funds employed	3,968	4,313	4,266	4,142	3,978	GNE EBITDAF (\$m)	361	363	367	406	446
Net debt/(cash)	1,206	1,228	1,272	1,216	1,130						
Other non current liabilities	806	934	921	905	881						
Shareholder's funds	1,956	2,151	2,073	2,022	1,966						
Minority interests	-	-	-	-	-						
Total funding sources	3,968	4,313	4,266	4,142	3,978						

* Forsyth Barr target prices reflect valuation rolled forward at cost of equity less the next 12-months dividend

Forsyth Barr valuation						Valuation Ratios					2018A	2019A	2020E	2021E	2022E
Valuation methodology						Mix of market multiple and DCF									
12-month target price (NZ\$)*						Spot valuations (NZ\$)									
Expected share price return						1. DCF									
Net dividend yield						2. Market multiple									
Estimated 12-month return						3. Dividend yield									
Key WACC assumptions						DCF valuation summary (NZ\$m)									
Risk free rate						Total firm value									
Equity beta						(Net debt)/cash									
WACC						Value of equity									
Terminal growth						Shares (m)									
Profit and Loss Account (NZ\$m)						2018A	2019A	2020E	2021E	2022E	Capital Structure				
Sales revenue						1,798	2,000	1,818	1,784	1,766	Interest cover EBIT (x)				
Normalised EBITDA						566	505	488	522	549	Interest cover EBITDA (x)				
Depreciation and amortisation						(201)	(204)	(205)	(208)	(212)	Net debt/ND+E (%)				
Normalised EBIT						365	301	284	314	337	Net debt/EBITDA (x)				
Net interest						(91)	(75)	(66)	(70)	(72)	Key Ratios				
Associate income						2	1	3	3	3	Return on assets (%)				
Tax						(91)	(73)	(64)	(71)	(77)	Return on equity (%)				
Depreciation capex adj						58	78	71	95	95	Return on funds employed (%)				
Adjusted normalised NPAT						256	239	228	271	286	EBITDA margin (%)				
Abnormals/other						(7)	118	(71)	(95)	(95)	EBIT margin (%)				
Reported NPAT						249	357	157	176	191	Capex to sales (%)				
Normalised EPS (cps)						18.8	17.6	16.8	19.9	21.0	Capex to depreciation (%)				
DPS (cps)						15.1	15.5	15.8	16.2	22.1	Operating Statistics				
Growth Rates						2018A	2019A	2020E	2021E	2022E	Hydro				
Revenue (%)						12.6	11.2	-9.1	-1.9	-1.0	Geothermal				
EBITDA (%)						8.2	-10.8	-3.3	6.9	5.0	Wind				
EBIT (%)						7.9	-17.7	-4.9	10.5	7.2	Total MCY Generation (GWh)				
Normalised NPAT (%)						1.8	-6.5	-4.5	18.9	5.4	GWAP (\$/MWh)				
Normalised EPS (%)						2.9	-6.4	-4.5	18.9	5.4	Electricity customers (000)				
Ordinary DPS (%)						3.4	2.6	1.9	2.5	36.4	MM volumes				
Cash Flow (NZ\$m)						2018A	2019A	2020E	2021E	2022E	TOU volumes				
EBITDA						566	505	488	522	549	Total Fixed Price volumes (GWh)				
Working capital change						4	2	52	(63)	(2)	Spot Sales				
Interest & tax paid						(192)	(148)	(151)	(160)	(167)	Net CFD's				
Other						(4)	(33)	-	-	-	Total Sales (GWh)				
Operating cash flow						374	326	390	299	381	Average usage per cust (MWh/yr)				
Capital expenditure						(127)	(122)	(301)	(111)	(80)	LWAP (\$/MWh)				
(Acquisitions)/divestments						(139)	215	-	-	-	LWAP/GWAP				
Other						6	5	1	1	1	Average FPV price (\$/MWh)				
Funding available/(required)						114	424	90	189	301	Line losses (%)				
Dividends paid						(273)	(208)	(212)	(218)	(225)	Retail gas customers (000)				
Equity raised/(returned)						(55)	7	-	-	-	Retail gas volumes (PJ)				
Increase/(decrease) in net debt						214	(223)	122	29	(76)	Gas volume/cust (GJ/yr)				
Balance Sheet (NZ\$m)						2018A	2019A	2020E	2021E	2022E	Energy margin (\$m)				
Working capital						63	63	11	73	75	Operating costs (\$m)				
Fixed assets						5,370	5,528	5,629	5,539	5,410	Other revenue (\$m)				
Intangibles						85	62	59	57	55	MCY EBITDAF (\$m)				
Other assets						385	521	523	526	529	566				
Total funds employed						5,903	6,174	6,223	6,195	6,069	505				
Net debt/(cash)						1,264	1,096	1,218	1,247	1,171	488				
Other non current liabilities						1,306	1,498	1,480	1,464	1,448	522				
Shareholder's funds						3,333	3,580	3,525	3,484	3,450	549				
Minority interests						-	-	-	-	-					
Total funding sources						5,903	6,174	6,223	6,195	6,069					

* Forsyth Barr target prices reflect valuation rolled forward at cost of equity less the next 12-months dividend

Forsyth Barr valuation						Valuation Ratios		2018A	2019A	2020E	2021E	2022E	
Valuation methodology		Mix of market multiple and DCF				EV/EBITDA (x)		22.2	17.8	19.5	19.6	19.3	
						EV/EBIT (x)		37.2	26.6	32.6	32.4	31.1	
12-month target price (NZ\$)*		4.20	Spot valuations (NZ\$)			PE (x)		37.4	28.0	30.5	31.0	30.6	
Expected share price return		-20.2%	1. DCF	3.85		Price/NTA (x)		2.8	2.5	2.6	2.8	3.0	
Net dividend yield		4.1%	2. Market multiple	4.40		Free cash flow yield (%)		1.3	4.2	3.4	3.4	3.6	
Estimated 12-month return		-16.2%	3. Dividend yield	4.47		Net dividend yield (%)		3.6	4.0	4.1	4.1	3.9	
						Gross dividend yield (%)		4.6	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.0	
Key WACC assumptions		DCF valuation summary (NZ\$m)				Imputation (%)		68	66	65	65	70	
Risk free rate		2.00%	Total firm value		11,279	Pay-out ratio (%)		136	113	124	127	119	
Equity beta		0.84	(Net debt)/cash		(1,424)								
WACC		6.7%	Value of equity		9,855	Capital Structure							
Terminal growth		1.5%	Shares (m)		2,563	2018A 2019A 2020E 2021E 2022E							
						Interest cover EBIT (x)		4.7	6.6	5.4	5.2	5.2	
						Interest cover EBITDA (x)		8.2	10.1	9.3	9.0	8.8	
						Net debt/ND+E (%)		23.2	20.7	23.0	25.1	27.1	
						Net debt/EBITDA (x)		2.2	1.7	2.0	2.1	2.2	
Profit and Loss Account (NZ\$m)						2018A 2019A 2020E 2021E 2022E		Key Ratios					
Sales revenue		3,297	4,104	3,531	3,443	3,458	Return on assets (%)		4.4	5.7	4.7	4.9	5.2
Normalised EBITDA		666	838	769	766	779	Return on equity (%)		4.3	6.1	5.0	5.3	5.9
Depreciation and amortisation		(268)	(276)	(309)	(302)	(296)	Return on funds employed (%)		4.6	5.9	5.0	5.2	5.5
Normalised EBIT		398	562	460	464	483	EBITDA margin (%)		20.2	20.4	21.8	22.3	22.5
Net interest		(81)	(83)	(82)	(86)	(88)	EBIT margin (%)		12.1	13.7	13.0	13.5	14.0
Associate income & other		(19)	(14)	(17)	(19)	(19)	Capex to sales (%)		7.5	1.7	2.1	2.2	1.7
Tax		(95)	(133)	(101)	(101)	(105)	Capex to depreciation (%)		100	28	27	27	21
Minority interests		-	-	-	-	-	Operating Statistics						
Reported NPAT		203	332	259	259	270	2018A 2019A 2020E 2021E 2022E						
Abnormals/other		158	149	183	177	171	Hydro generation		11,266	12,326	12,035	11,701	11,701
Adjusted normalised NPAT		361	481	442	436	442	Wind generation		1,263	1,244	1,460	1,474	1,474
Adjusted normalised EPS (cps)		14.1	18.8	17.3	17.0	17.2	Total NZ generation (GWh)		12,528	13,570	13,494	13,175	13,175
DPS (cps)		19.2	21.3	21.4	21.6	20.6	GWAP (\$/MWh)		83.0	123.3	102.5	94.9	90.6
Growth Rates						2018A 2019A 2020E 2021E 2022E		Overseas generation (GWh)					
Revenue (%)		16.7	24.5	-14.0	-2.5	0.4	Overseas GWAP (\$/MWh) (NZD)		151	100	136	106	96
EBITDA (%)		1.4	25.8	-8.2	-0.4	1.7	Overseas customer numbers (000)		97	110	127	143	153
EBIT (%)		1.3	41.2	-18.2	1.0	4.0	Powershop customers (000)						
Normalised NPAT (%)		-3.1	33.4	-8.1	-1.5	1.3	Meridian branded customers (000)		66	74	74	76	77
Normalised EPS (%)		-3.1	33.4	-8.1	-1.5	1.3	NZ electricity customers (000)		225	228	228	233	237
DPS (%)		1.5	10.9	0.4	0.9	-4.6	Average usage per cust (MWh/yr)		13.5	13.2	13.1	13.1	13.1
Cash Flow (NZ\$m)						2018A 2019A 2020E 2021E 2022E		Mass market volumes					
EBITDA		666	838	769	766	779	Time of use volumes		3,824	3,901	3,952	3,995	4,079
Working capital change		(34)	(36)	6	12	16	Total fixed price volumes (GWh)		5,981	6,239	6,460	6,523	6,627
Interest & tax paid		(186)	(200)	(224)	(227)	(235)	NZAS sales		5,011	5,310	5,464	5,449	5,449
Other		(19)	33	(17)	(19)	(19)	Sell CFDs		2,278	2,239	2,195	2,195	2,195
Operating cash flow		427	635	533	532	541	Buy CFDs		-2,222	-1,965	-1,938	-1,740	-1,740
Capital expenditure		(247)	(69)	(75)	(76)	(58)	Total Sales (GWh)		11,047	11,823	12,181	12,426	12,531
(Acquisitions)/divestments		23	-	-	-	-	Average FPVW price (\$/MWh)		105.2	104.8	106.2	108.3	110.5
Other		-	-	-	-	-	LWAP (\$/MWh)						
Funding available/(required)		203	566	458	456	483	LWAP/GWAP		1.06	1.07	1.09	1.07	1.08
Dividends paid		(486)	(500)	(569)	(550)	(556)	Lines losses (%)		5.3	5.9	5.2	5.2	5.2
Equity raised/(returned)		(2)	(2)	-	-	-	New Zealand Energy Margin (\$m)						
Increase/(decrease) in net debt		285	(64)	111	95	73	Overseas Energy Margin (\$m)		86	118	124	115	114
Balance Sheet (NZ\$m)						2018A 2019A 2020E 2021E 2022E		Meridian Energy Margin (\$m)					
Working capital		(17)	(24)	(13)	(6)	(3)	2018A 2019A 2020E 2021E 2022E						
Fixed assets		7,941	8,825	8,599	8,377	8,139	LWAP (\$/MWh)		88	132	111	101	98
Intangibles		60	59	51	47	47	LWAP/GWAP		1.06	1.07	1.09	1.07	1.08
Other assets		291	383	366	347	328	Lines losses (%)		5.3	5.9	5.2	5.2	5.2
Total funds employed		8,275	9,243	9,003	8,766	8,511	New Zealand Energy Margin (\$m)		944	1,108	1,022	1,013	1,013
Net debt/(cash)		1,461	1,424	1,535	1,630	1,703	Overseas Energy Margin (\$m)		86	118	124	115	114
Other non current liabilities		1,991	2,362	2,321	2,280	2,238	Meridian Energy Margin (\$m)		1,030	1,226	1,146	1,128	1,127
Shareholder's funds		4,823	5,457	5,147	4,856	4,571							
Minority interests		-	-	-	-	-							
Total funding sources		8,275	9,243	9,003	8,766	8,511							

Forsyth Barr valuation						Valuation Ratios		2018A	2019A	2020E	2021E	2022E	
Valuation methodology		Mix of market multiple (33%) and DCF (67%)				EV/EBITDA (x)		17.3	12.8	13.8	11.2	10.1	
						EV/EBIT (x)		67.1	33.6	35.3	22.6	23.2	
12-month target price (NZ\$)*		2.80	Spot valuations (NZ\$)			PE (x)		17.4	17.7	67.4	n/a	12.6	
Expected share price return		-1.4%	1. DCF	2.60		Price/NTA (x)		n/a	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9	
Net dividend yield		0.0%	2. Multiple	2.79		Free cash flow yield (%)		3.6	6.0	3.2	-3.0	9.0	
Estimated 12-month return		-1.4%	3. n/a	n/a		Net dividend yield (%)		1.2	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	
						Gross dividend yield (%)		1.2	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Key WACC assumptions		DCF valuation summary (NZ\$m)				Imputation (%)		0	0	0	0	0	
Risk free rate		2.0%	Total firm value		1,612	Pay-out ratio (%)		20	7	0	0	0	
Equity beta		0.94	(Net debt)/cash		(392.9)								
WACC		7.4%	Value of equity		1,219								
Terminal growth		1.5%	Shares (m)		469								
Profit and Loss Account (A\$m)		2018A	2019A	2020E	2021E	2022E	Capital Structure		2018A	2019A	2020E	2021E	2022E
Sales revenue		158.0	193.3	194.5	255.8	291.7	Interest cover EBIT (x)		0.9	1.7	2.9	2.7	1.9
Normalised EBITDA		103.8	134.8	127.9	171.0	190.5	Interest cover EBITDA (x)		3.5	4.5	7.4	5.5	4.4
Depreciation and amortisation		(77.1)	(83.6)	(77.9)	(86.1)	(107.7)	Net debt/ND+E (%)		53.8	36.0	48.9	55.9	51.4
Normalised EBIT		26.8	51.2	50.0	84.9	82.8	Net debt/EBITDA (x)		5.7	2.7	5.1	5.3	4.1
Net interest		(29.4)	(30.1)	(17.2)	(31.1)	(43.5)	Key Ratios		2018A	2019A	2020E	2021E	2022E
Other		26.3	(2.0)	-	-	-	Return on assets (%)		2.0	3.3	3.2	4.4	4.6
Tax		(6.6)	(6.9)	(9.7)	(15.9)	(11.6)	Return on equity (%)		9.3	10.7	2.8	-5.0	13.5
Deprecation capex adjustment		48.6	56.6	(4.5)	(73.6)	72.5	Return on funds employed (%)		1.7	3.5	2.7	3.7	3.8
Normalised NPAT		47.3	70.1	18.7	(35.7)	100.2	EBITDA margin (%)		65.7	69.7	65.8	66.9	65.3
Abnormals/other		(30.3)	(58.0)	4.5	73.6	(72.5)	EBIT margin (%)		16.9	26.5	25.7	33.2	28.4
Reported NPAT		17.0	12.2	23.2	37.9	27.7	Capex to sales (%)		52.9	47.0	209.9	158.8	2.4
Normalised EPS (cps)		15.1	14.9	4.0	(7.6)	21.3	Capex to depreciation (%)		108	109	524	472	6
DPS (cps)		3.1	1.1	-	-	-	Operating Performance		2018A	2019A	2020E	2021E	2022E
Growth Rates		2018A	2019A	2020E	2021E	2022E	Australia installed capacity (MW)		386	440	440	776	776
Revenue (%)		n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	NZ installed capacity (MW)		197	197	197	197	330
EBITDA (%)		-46.6	91.7	-2.3	69.7	-2.6	TLT installed capacity (MW)		583	637	637	973	1,106
EBIT (%)		n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Australia wind generation (GWh)		1,225	1,395	1,385	2,209	2,653
Normalised NPAT (%)		3.9	-52.3	90.2	63.8	-27.0	NZ wind generation (GWh)		571	658	658	672	1,119
Normalised EPS (%)		-41.9	-47.5	-100.0	n/a	n/a	TLT wind generation (GWh)		1,796	2,053	2,043	2,881	3,772
DPS (%)		n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Price assumptions						
Cash Flow (A\$m)		2018A	2019A	2020E	2021E	2022E	Australia REC price (A\$/MWh)		83	78	55	25	12
EBITDA		103.8	134.8	127.9	171.0	190.5	SA wholesale price (A\$/MWh)		69	87	91	78	62
Working capital change		(18.9)	0.6	14.6	2.2	(22.9)	VIC wholesale price (A\$/MWh)			105	111	91	71
Interest & tax paid		(41.9)	(41.7)	(15.5)	(25.2)	(40.3)	Australia PPA price (A\$/MWh)		98	94	89	81	77
Other		13.9	(8.6)	-	-	-	NZ PPA price (NZ\$/MWh)		65	65	65	66	68
Operating cash flow		56.9	85.0	127.0	148.1	127.4	Australia spot sales (GWh)		23	155	346	668	535
Capital expenditure		(83.6)	(90.8)	(408.1)	(406.3)	(7.0)	Australia PPA sales (GWh)		1,202	1,239	1,038	1,541	2,118
(Acquisitions)/divestments		-	-	-	-	-	Australia spot revenue (A\$m)		3	34	60	88	57
Other		-	-	-	-	-	Australia PPA revenue (A\$m)		118	117	93	125	162
Funding available/(required)		(26.7)	(5.8)	(281.1)	(258.2)	120.4	Australia revenue (A\$m)		122	151	153	213	219
Dividends paid		(11.0)	(10.6)	-	-	-	NZ revenue (A\$m)		36	42	42	43	73
Equity raised/(returned)		-	259.9	-	-	-							
Increase/(decrease) in net debt		37.7	(243.5)	281.1	258.2	(120.4)							
Balance Sheet (NZ\$m)		2018A	2019A	2020E	2021E	2022E	Australia EBITDAF (A\$m)		82	109	105	148	146
Working capital		17.9	14.3	0.7	(1.5)	21.3	NZ EBITDAF (A\$m)		22	25	23	24	45
Fixed assets		1,170.6	1,066.7	1,396.9	1,717.1	1,616.4							
Intangibles		0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5							
Other assets		100.5	114.3	113.3	113.3	113.3							
Total funds employed		1,289.6	1,195.9	1,511.5	1,829.5	1,751.6							
Net debt/(cash)		593.1	369.3	650.4	908.7	788.3							
Other non current liabilities		186.3	170.6	181.9	203.7	218.5							
Shareholder's funds		510.2	656.0	679.1	717.1	744.8							
Minority interests		-	-	-	-	-							
Total funding sources		1,289.6	1,195.9	1,511.5	1,829.5	1,751.6							

Forsyth Barr valuation						Valuation Ratios					2018A	2019A	2020E	2021E	2022E		
Valuation methodology		Blend of spot valuations, weighted to multiples				EV/EBITDA (x)		11.7	14.0	15.2	14.9	14.7					
						EV/EBIT (x)		14.2	17.7	19.2	18.7	18.3					
12-month target price (NZ\$)*		8.00	Spot valuations (NZ\$)			PE (x)		18.3	22.2	24.6	24.0	23.5					
Expected share price return		-2.8%	1. DCF	7.45		Price/NTA (x)		1.8	2.2	2.3	2.3	2.3					
Net dividend yield		4.2%	2. Market multiples	8.08		Free cash flow yield (%)		6.5	3.5	4.1	4.8	4.9					
Estimated 12-month return		1.4%	3. Dividend Yield	8.00		Net dividend yield (%)		4.1	4.1	4.1	4.3	4.4					
						Gross dividend yield (%)		5.7	5.0	5.6	5.8	6.0					
Key WACC assumptions			DCF valuation summary (NZ\$m)			Imputation (%)		100	55	90	95	95					
Risk free rate		2.00%	Total firm value		2,906	Pay-out ratio (%)		76	92	102	102	103					
Equity beta		0.88	(Net debt)/cash		(557)												
WACC		6.8%	Value of equity		2,333	Capital Structure											
Terminal growth		1.5%	Shares (m)		313	2018A 2019A 2020E 2021E 2022E											
						Interest cover EBIT (x)		7.0	6.8	5.8	5.7	5.9					
						Interest cover EBITDA (x)		7.9	7.9	6.7	6.7	6.8					
Profit and Loss Account (NZ\$m)						2018A 2019A 2020E 2021E 2022E		Net debt/ND+E (%)									
Sales revenue						979	1,030	997	1,015	1,029	24.8		31.3	34.2	33.7	33.5	
Normalised EBITDA						270	222	209	214	218	Net debt/EBITDA (x)		1.7	2.5	2.9	2.7	2.6
Depreciation and amortisation						(47)	(47)	(44)	(43)	(43)	Key Ratios						
Normalised EBIT						223	175	166	171	175	2018A 2019A 2020E 2021E 2022E						
Net interest						(34)	(28)	(31)	(32)	(32)	Return on assets (%)		9.2	7.2	7.6	7.9	8.2
Depreciation capex adjustment						8	19	16	15	14	Return on equity (%)		9.9	9.7	9.2	9.5	9.9
Tax						(55)	(48)	(43)	(44)	(45)	Return on funds employed (%)		8.5	7.2	6.6	6.9	7.1
Minority interests						(1)	(2)	(2)	(2)	(2)	EBITDA margin (%)		27.5	21.6	21.0	21.1	21.2
Normalised NPAT						141	117	105	107	110	EBIT margin (%)		22.8	17.0	16.6	16.8	17.0
Abnormals/other/depn adj						(13)	(26)	(11)	(11)	(10)	Capex to sales (%)		4.2	3.0	2.8	2.8	2.8
Reported NPAT						128	91	94	97	100	Capex to depreciation (%)		134	98	96	98	100
Normalised EPS (cps)						44.9	37.1	33.5	34.2	35.0	Divisional Revenue						
DPS (cps)						34.0	34.0	34.0	35.0	36.0	2018A 2019A 2020E 2021E 2022E						
						NZ electricity revenue		810	861	829	838	843					
						Australia electricity revenue		33	-	-	-	-					
Growth Rates						2018A 2019A 2020E 2021E 2022E	Gas revenue		29	29	31	33	35				
Revenue (%)						4.2 5.2 -3.3 1.8 1.4	Telecommunication revenue		81	88	94	102	110				
EBITDA (%)						15.0 -17.6 -5.8 2.3 1.8	Other revenue		27	52	43	42	42				
EBIT (%)						19.3 -21.6 -5.3 3.1 2.3	Total revenue		979	1,030	997	1,015	1,029				
Normalised NPAT (%)						8.5 -17.3 -9.8 2.3 2.2	Operating Statistics						2018A 2019A 2020E 2021E 2022E				
Normalised EPS (%)						8.5 -17.3 -9.8 2.3 2.2	NZ generation (GWh)		2,235	1,995	1,801	1,896	1,896				
DPS (%)						3.0 0.0 0.0 2.9 2.9	Australian generation (GWh)		284	-	-	-	-				
						Total generation (GWh)		2,519	1,995	1,801	1,896	1,896					
Cash Flow (NZ\$m)						2018A 2019A 2020E 2021E 2022E	NZ GWAP \$/MWh		88	125	101	93	88				
EBITDA						270 222 209 214 218	Mass market sales (GWh)		1,887	1,845	1,812	1,807	1,798				
Working capital change						25 (47) (9) 10 10	TOU sales (GWh)		842	880	912	915	918				
Interest & tax paid						(64) (75) (68) (71) (73)	Spot sales (GWh)		1,086	1,021	1,025	1,028	1,032				
Other						(23) 20 - - -	Total Sales (GWh)		3,815	3,746	3,749	3,751	3,748				
Operating cash flow						208 120 133 153 155	LWAP \$/MWh		91	131	109	99	94				
Capital expenditure						(42) (31) (28) (29) (29)	LWAP/GWAP		1.04	1.04	1.08	1.07	1.07				
(Acquisitions)/divestments						118 8 - - -	Electricity customers (000)		273	267	265	264	262				
Other						4 (2) - - -	Usage/customer (MWh)		6.9	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8				
Funding available/(required)						288 96 105 124 126	Revenue/MWh sold (\$)		212	230	221	223	225				
Dividends paid						(110) (190) (153) (106) (113)	Gas customers (000)		37	39	41	42	43				
Equity raised/(returned)						(0) - - - -	Volume/customer (GJ)		27.5	26.5	26.5	26.5	26.5				
Increase/(decrease) in net debt						(178) 95 49 (18) (13)	Telco customers (000)		87	96	104	111	117				
						Revenue/customer (\$)		991	963	972	982	992					
Balance Sheet (NZ\$m)						2018A 2019A 2020E 2021E 2022E											
Working capital						(28) (0) 9 8 10											
Fixed assets						2,102 1,925 1,910 1,896 1,882											
Intangibles						44 37 36 35 35											
Other assets						60 115 114 106 94											
Total funds employed						2,178 2,076 2,070 2,045 2,021											
Net debt/(cash)						467 557 606 588 575											
Other non current liabilities						276 270 272 273 273											
Shareholder's funds						1,413 1,224 1,165 1,155 1,142											
Minority interests						22 25 27 29 31											
Total funding sources						2,178 2,076 2,070 2,045 2,021											

* Forsyth Barr target prices reflect valuation rolled forward at cost of equity less the next 12-months dividend

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