NEW ZEALAND EQUITY RESEARCH DOWNSTREAM FUEL RETAILER OIL & GAS 20 JANUARY 2021

Z Energy

Holiday Volumes Offset Margin Squeeze

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OUTPERFORM 2



Z Energy's (ZEL) 3Q21 volumes and shop sales were strong, but not enough to offset a decline in retail margins. We have trimmed our FY21 EBITDAF forecast -NZ\$3m (-1.1%) to NZ\$243m and lowered our target price -5cps (-1.1%) to NZ\$4.30. ZEL continues to trade on undemanding value metrics, and in our view only has to deliver on FY21 EBITDAF guidance with the promise of a modest FY22 dividend to positively rerate. We reiterate our OUTPERFORM rating.

NZX Code	ZEL	Financials: Mar/	20A	21E	22E	23E	Valuation (x)	20A	21E	22E	23
Share price	NZ\$3.11	NPAT* (NZ\$m)	102.2	20.0	97.0	119.9	PE	12.2	81.0	16.7	13.5
Target price	NZ\$4.30	EPS* (NZc)	25.6	3.8	18.7	23.1	EV/EBIT	13.1	31.5	15.2	12.9
Risk rating	Medium	EPS growth* (%)	-47.8	-85.0	n/a	23.6	EV/EBITDA	7.3	11.3	8.2	7.
Issued shares	520.1m	DPS (NZc)	16.5	0.0	25.0	25.0	Price / NTA	n/a	5.3	4.2	4.
Market cap	NZ\$1,618m	Imputation (%)	100	100	100	100	Cash div yld (%)	5.3	0.0	8.0	8.
Avg daily turnover	1,235k (NZ\$3,829k)	*Based on normalis	sed profit	S			Gross div yld (%)	7.4	0.0	11.2	11.

What's changed?

- Earnings: FY21 EBITDAF lowered -NZ\$3m (-1.1%) to NZ\$243m (vs. ZEL FY21 EBITDAF guidance of NZ\$235m to NZ\$265m)
- Target price: Reduced -5cps (-1.1%) to NZ\$4.30

Good volumes, but more retail margin pressure

Following a soft November 2020, December 2020 volumes were well ahead of expectations, ensuring 3Q21 volumes were generally stronger than 3Q20. ZEL's 3Q21 retail volumes increased +2% and commercial diesel volumes increased +7%. These categories are the most important for the profitability of ZEL. The other stand-out feature of 3Q21 was the +6% increase in like-for-like weekly store sales. However, these positive features were offset by very weak December MBIE importer margins. We calculate the 3Q21 blended importer margin was 27.2cpl, -0.9cpl less than the very weak 3Q20 and -4.0cpl down on the prior 2Q21. November and December saw crude oil prices rise sharply, up +21% to NZ\$78/barrel, and crude oil price movements always impact importer margins. In addition, ZEL has indicated its retail margins have not fallen by the amount the MBIE margins imply, with the level of market-wide discounting declining in December - MBIE is currently unable to track intra-quarter discount movements.

Modest forecast changes

We have lowered our FY21 EBITDAF forecast -1.1% (-NZ\$3m) to NZ\$243m. The lower retail margins (-2.9%) have been only partially offset by stronger retail (+1.7%) and commercial diesel (+5.4%) volumes and a +4.4% increase in convenience store sales. Perhaps most importantly, ZEL has reiterated its FY21 EBITDAF guidance range of NZ\$235m to NZ\$265m, indicating ZEL is confident that even if retail margins do not improve from current levels its FY21 result should still be within the guidance range.

Clear positive catalysts ahead

ZEL has two positive catalysts in front of it. First, simply delivering on its earnings guidance and reinstating a dividend will ensure a rerating. ZEL is currently trading on an 11.2% gross dividend yield. Second, the refinery is a material headwind at present with refining margins remaining below the fee floor. Whilst it appears ZEL and Refining NZ are still some distance apart, we expect at some point in the coming six months the parties will agree to convert the refinery to an import terminal, unlocking significant working capital enabling ZEL to compete more effectively with the Tier 2 retailers.

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Z Energy (ZEL)

Priced as at 20 Jan 2021 (NZ\$)					3.11						
12-month target price (NZ\$)*					4.30	Spot valuations (NZ\$)					
Expected share price return					38.3%	1. DCF					4.94
Net dividend yield					6.7%	2. Dividend Yield					3.79
Estimated 12-month return					45.0%	3. Market Multiple					3.90
Key WACC assumptions						DCF valuation summary (NZ\$m)					
Risk free rate					1.30%	Total firm value					3,145
Equity beta					0.88	(Net debt)/cash					(573)
WACC					5.8%	Less: Capitalised operating leases					0
Terminal growth					-5.0%	Value of equity					2,572
Profit and Loss Account (NZ\$m)	2019A	2020A	2021E	2022E	2023E	Valuation Ratios	2019A	2020A	2021E	2022E	2023E
Sales revenue	5,450	4,987	3,384	3,986	4,149	EV/EBITDA (x)	5.4	7.3	11.3	8.2	7.6
Normalised EBITDA	435	366	243	313	335	EV/EBIT (x)	7.5	13.1	31.5	15.2	12.9
Depreciation and amortisation	(122)	(163)	(154)	(144)	(136)	PE (x)	6.4	12.2	81.0	16.7	13.5
Normalised EBIT	312	203	87	169	198	Price/NTA (x)	4.9	n/a	5.3	4.2	4.0
Net interest	(51)	(66)	(50)	(50)	(47)	Free cash flow yield (%)	17.5	13.2	5.1	7.9	10.2
Associate income	(1)	0	(2)	0	0	Net dividend yield (%)	13.8	5.3	0.0	8.0	8.0
Tax	(61)	13	(26)	(33)	(42)	Gross dividend yield (%)	19.2	7.4	0.0	11.2	11.2
Minority interests	(2)	(16)	(7)	(11)	(11)						
Normalised NPAT	196	102	20	97	120	Capital Structure	2019A	2020A	2021E	2022E	2023E
Abnormals/other	(16)	(42)	2	0	0	Interest cover EBIT (x)	6.1	3.1	1.8	3.4	4.2
Reported NPAT	180	60	22	97	120	Interest cover EBITDA (x)	8.5	5.5	4.9	6.3	7.1
Normalised EPS (cps)	49.0	25.6	3.8	18.7	23.1	Net debt/ND+E (%)	55.4	72.4	48.6	44.3	43.6
DPS (cps)	43.0	16.5	0	25.0	25.0	Net debt/EBITDA (x)	1.9	3.0	2.8	2.0	1.8
Growth Rates	2019A	2020A	2021E	2022E	2023E	Key Ratios	2019A	2020A	2021E	2022E	2023E
Revenue (%)	19	-8	-32	18	4	Return on assets (%)	11.0	6.7	3.4	6.4	7.5
EBITDA (%)	-3	-16	-34	29	7	Return on equity (%)	21.3	17.0	2.2	10.3	13.1
EBIT (%)	-10	-35	-57	93	17	Return on funds employed (%)	15.8	13.2	3.3	8.6	10.4
Normalised NPAT (%)	-7	-48	-80	>100	24	EBITDA margin (%)	8.0	7.3	7.2	7.8	8.1
Normalised EPS (%)	-7	-48	-85	>100	24	EBIT margin (%)	5.7	4.1	2.6	4.2	4.8
Ordinary DPS (%)	33	-62	-100	n/a	0	Capex to sales (%)	1.0	2.0	1.6	1.3	1.3
						Capex to depreciation (%)	85	126	68	66	67
Cash Flow (NZ\$m)	2019A	2020A	2021E	2022E	2023E	Imputation (%)	100	100	100	100	100
EBITDA	435	366	243	313	335	Pay-out ratio (%)	88	65	0	134	108
Working capital change	(159)	268	(153)	(34)	(11)						
Interest & tax paid	(161)	(124)	(58)	(91)	(97)	Operating Performance	2019	A 2020A	2021E	2022E	2023E
Other	223	(194)	103	(8)	(8)	Product volumes (m litres)					
Operating cash flow	338	316	136	181	219	Petrol	1,16	5 1,099	969	1,064	1,059
Capital expenditure	(55)	(102)	(54)	(52)	(53)	Diesel - retail	45	4 445	426	469	466
(Acquisitions)/divestments	(28)	21	(1)	0	0	Diesel - commercial	81	2 769	775	798	817
Other	4	(29)	(24)	(24)	(24)	Other fuels	1,19	3 1,120	402	691	839
Funding available/(required)	259	206	57	104	142	Supply - domestic	54		505	539	541
Dividends paid	(152)	(203)	0	(47)	(130)	Sub-total	4,16			3,560	3,722
Equity raised/(returned)	(1)	0	337	0	0	Supply - industry & export	28		39	30	30
(Increase)/decrease in net debt	106	3	394	57	12	Total Fuels	4,44		3,117	3,590	3,752
						Retail service stations	34	3 334	331	330	333
Balance Sheet (NZ\$m)	2019A	2020A	2021E	2022E	2023E	Petrol/service station (m litres)	3.6	0 3.41	3.03	3.34	3.31
Working capital	358	119	276	309	320	Diesel/service station (m litres)	1.3	2 1.30	1.26	1.41	1.41
Fixed assets	830	819	790	763	737	Gross profit (NZDm)					
Intangibles	668	786	598	553	515	Fuels	70			583	590
Right of use asset	0	282	280	280	280	Refining	5			5	26
Other assets	161	253	163	163	163	Non-fuels	8			79	81
Total funds employed	2,017	2,259	2,107	2,068	2,016	Flick Electric		1 2		4	4
Net debt/(cash)	827	1,083	692	622	599	Gross profit	83			671	702
Lease liability	0	299	299	299	299	Fuels gross margin (cpl)	16.			16.4	15.9
Other liabilities	270	275	215	207	200	Fuels margin incl refining (cpl)	17.			15.7	15.8
Shareholder's funds	902	600	906	956	946	Fuels margin excl supply (cpl)	18.	0 17.7	16.7	16.5	16.6
Minority interests	18	2	(5)	(17)	(28)		_				
Total funding sources	2,017	2,259	2,107	2,068	2,016	Non-fuels revenue/station (NZD 000)	39	7 373	378	396	404
* Forsyth Barr target prices reflect valu	uation rolled	iorward at	cost of equi	ly less the n	ext 12-						

 $^{^{\}ast}$ Forsyth Barr target prices reflect valuation rolled forward at cost of equity less the next 12-months dividend

Modest forecast changes following December 2020/3Q21 statistics

Following the 3Q21 operating statistics we have made three key forecast changes, two positive, one negative:

- 1. Increased retail and commercial diesel volumes +1.7% and +5.4% respectively. Retail and commercial diesel are the highest margin fuel categories
- 2. Increase non-fuel (convenience store) sales +4.4%
- 3. Lowered our 2H21 retail margin assumption -0.7cpl (-2.9%) to 22.9cpl

The net effect of these adjustments is to lower our FY21 EBITDAF forecast -NZ\$3m (-1.1%) to NZ\$243m. This compares to ZEL's FY21 EBITDAF guidance of NZ\$235m to NZ\$265m.

Figure 1. Forecast changes

	FY21	FY21	%	FY22	FY22	%	FY23	FY23	%
	Old	New	Chg	Old	New	Chg	Old	New	Chg
Revenue	3,225	3,384	5%	3,982	3,986	0%	4,146	4,149	0%
Gross profit	594	592	0%	677	671	-1%	707	702	-1%
Gross Margin	18.4%	17.5%	-5%	17.0%	16.8%	-1%	17.1%	16.9%	-1%
Operating costs	(348)	(349)	0%	(357)	(358)	0%	(366)	(367)	0%
EBITDAF	246	243	-1%	320	313	-2%	342	335	-2%
Depreciation & amortisation	(154)	(154)	0%	(144)	(144)	0%	(136)	(136)	0%
EBIT	92	89	-3%	176	169	-4%	205	198	-4%
Net Interest	(50)	(50)	0%	(49)	(50)	2%	(46)	(47)	1%
Other	4	4	0%	-	-		-	-	
Pre-tax profit	46	44	-6%	128	119	-7%	159	151	-5%
Tax expense	(27)	(26)	-3%	(36)	(33)	-7%	(45)	(42)	-5%
NPAT	20	18	-10%	92	86	-7%	114	109	-5%
Minority interest	7	7	0%	11	11	0%	11	11	0%
NPAT post-minorities	27	25	-7%	103	97	-6%	126	120	-4%
Normalised Profit	22	20	-9%	103	97	-6%	126	120	-4%
Earnings per share (eps)	4.2	3.8	-9%	19.8	18.7	-6%	24.1	23.1	-4%
Dividend (cps)	-	-		25.0	25.0	0%	25.0	25.0	0%
Key operating assumptions									
Retail - petrol	959	969	1%	1,054	1,064	1%	1,049	1,059	1%
Retail - diesel	413	426	3%	456	469	3%	454	466	3%
Commercial - diesel	760	775	2%	774	798	3%	793	817	3%
Comerciel - jet	238	250	5%	499	527	6%	638	671	5%
Commercial - marine	87	42	-52%	106	39	-63%	109	41	-63%
Commercial - bitumen & other	110	110	0%	125	125	0%	127	127	0%
Domestic supply	507	505	0%	540	539	0%	542	541	0%
ZEL specific volumes (m litres)	3,074	3,078	0%	3,554	3,560	0%	3,713	3,722	0%
Industry and export supply	141	39	-72%	165	30	-82%	169	30	-82%
Terminal gate sales	-	112		-	150		-	150	
Total fuel volumes (m litres)	3,215	3,117	-3%	3,719	3,590	-3%	3,881	3,752	-3%
GM excl supply (cpl)	17.6	17.5	-1%	16.5	16.4	-1%	16.0	15.9	-1%
GM incl refining (cpl)	16.8	16.7	0%	16.7	16.5	-1%	16.7	16.6	-1%
Gross profit make-up									
Fuels gross profit	542	538	-1%	587	583	-1%	595	590	-1%
Refining gross profit	(24)	(25)	4%	10	5	-47%	30	26	-15%
Non-fuel gross profit	73	76	4%	76	79	4%	78	81	4%
NZR dividend	-	-		-	-		-	-	
Flick gross profit	3	3	0%	4	4	0%	4	4	0%
	594	592	0%	677	671	-1%	707	702	-1%

Source: Forsyth Barr analysis

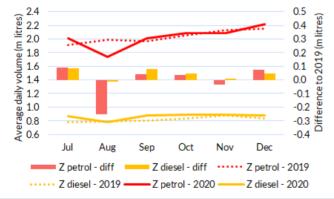
December volumes strong and key segments up

Figure 2. December 2020 volumes

m litres	Dec-19	Nov-20	Dec-20	% chg vs. pcp	% chg vs. prior mth
Volumes by brand/product					
Petrol - Z	67	63	69	3%	6%
Petrol - Caltex	31	28	31	-2%	5%
Petrol - Domestic supply	13	11	12	-6%	10%
Diesel - Z	26	27	27	5%	-2%
Diesel - Caltex	13	13	14	2%	2%
Diesel - Domestic supply	34	37	35	3%	-8%
Diesel - Commercial	61	70	65	7%	-10%
Other - Jet	83	24	27	-67%	6%
Other - Marine	14	1	1	-95%	-46%
Other - Bitumen & other	13	16	10	-20%	-40%
Total ZEL excl export & terminal sales	354	290	290	-18%	-3%
Terminal gate sales	0	12	13		8%
Industry & export	0	7	2		-74%
Total ZEL	354	309	305	-14%	-4%
Volumes by category					
Total Z	92	89	96	4%	4%
Total Caltex	44	41	44	-1%	4%
Total domestic supply	47	47	47	1%	-4%
Total retail (incl supply)	184	178	187	2%	2%
Total commercial	170	112	103	-40%	-11%
Total volumes	354	290	290	-18%	-3%

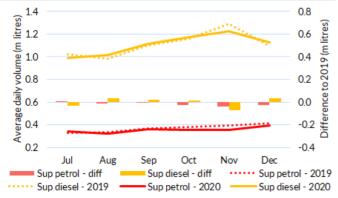
Source: ZEL, Forsyth Barr analysis

Figure 3. Z branded volumes



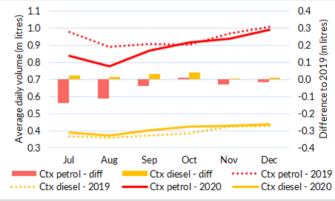
Source: ZEL, Forsyth Barr analysis

Figure 5. Domestic supply volumes



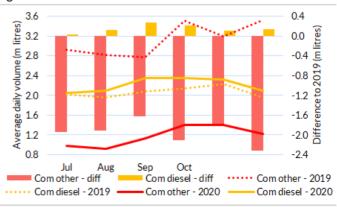
Source: ZEL, Forsyth Barr analysis

Figure 4. Caltex branded volumes



Source: ZEL, Forsyth Barr analysis

Figure 6. Commercial volumes



Source: ZEL, Forsyth Barr analysis

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December 2020 quarter generally show positive statistics

Our key take-outs from the 3Q21 operating statistics:

- Retail and commercial diesel volumes were strong, up +2% and +7% respectively. Following a softer than expected November, the December outcome is a great result
- The blended retail MBIE importer margin was down -3% on 3Q20. Given 3Q20 was a soft quarter, margin pressure has been intense. We discuss this in more detail on the next page
- Shop only transactions were up +9%, indicating ZEL's convenience store offering is performing well. This uplift in traffic has flowed through to sales. Like-for-like weekly shop sales increased +6% vs. 2Q20

Figure 7. 3Q21 operating statistics

		3Q20	2Q21	3Q21	% diff	% diff
		Dec-19	Sep-20	Dec-20	vs pcp	vs pq
Volumes (ml)						
Petrol -	Z	194	177	196	1%	11%
Petrol -	Caltex	88	76	87	-1%	14%
Petrol - S	Subtotal	282	253	283	0%	12%
Diesel -	Z	78	77	81	4%	5%
Diesel -	Caltex	38	36	40	5%	12%
Diesel - S	Subtotal	116	113	121	4%	7%
TOTAL F	Retail	398	366	404	2%	10%
Diesel - 0	Commercial	194	199	208	7%	5%
Jet/Fuel	Oil/Bitumen	316	93	125	-60%	35%
Supply -	Domestic	145	127	142	-2%	12%
TOTAL (Commercial	655	418	475	-27%	13%
TOTAL	Inderlying Volume	1,053	784	879	-17%	12%
Supply -	Industry & Export	39	12	14		
Supply -	Terminal gate sales	0	37	38		
TOTAL		1,092	833	931	-15%	12%
Z retail (as reported)	272	254	277	2%	9%
Caltex re	etail	126	112	127	1%	13%
Margin (MBIE data) (c	pl)					
Regular	petrol - MBIE	23.9	25.6	22.8	-5%	-11%
Premiun	n petrol - MBIE	37.1	37.7	35.4	-5%	-6%
Diesel - I	MBIE	31.1	37.2	30.4	-2%	-18%
Blended	retail margin	28.1	31.2	27.2	-3%	-13%
Transaction volumes -	Z (m)					
Fuel only	/	7.4	6.4	7.3	-1%	14%
Fuel & sl	пор	1.6	1.3	1.5	-6%	15%
Shop on	У	5.8	5.3	6.3	9%	19%
TOTAL		14.8	13.0	15.1	2%	16%
Weekly	shop sales (\$)	40,906	39,554	43,087	5%	9%
Like-for-	like weekly sales (\$)	41,208	40,218	43,639	6%	9%
Outlet Numbers						
Services	stations - Z	202	198	197	-2%	-1%
Services	stations - Caltex	136	136	136	0%	0%
Service	stations - Total	338	333	333	-1%	0%
Truck sto	ops	154	152	151	-2%	-1%

Source: ZEL, Forsyth Barr analysis

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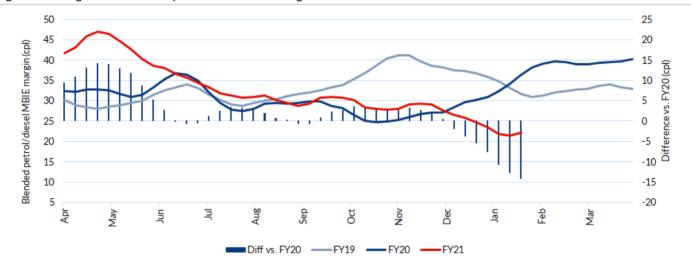
Retail margins drop to new lows

Retail margins have been weak during the holiday period, dipping below the lows of the October/November 2019 period. The regular petrol MBIE importer margin for the last two weeks of December 2020 were the lowest in eight years. Several factors appear to be at play:

- Rising crude oil prices. During periods of sharp crude oil price increases there tends to be a margin squeeze. From the beginning of November 2020 to early January crude oil prices have lifted +37% (+NZ\$21/barrel or +13.2cpl) to NZ\$78/barrel. Margins tend to stabilise when crude oil movements cease
- According to ZEL data, discount levels for regular petrol eased from ~25cpl at the beginning of December to ~15cpl at the end of December. MBIE data does not capture intra-quarter discount changes, applying a flat estimate across each quarter. This will ameliorate some of the decline observed in the charts below
- Margin squeeze as fuel stations fought for market share during the summer holiday driving season. Notwithstanding the above two points, lower importer margins have hurt ZEL

Retail margins have started to rebound in the first two weeks of January — in particular diesel, which is back to early November levels. We do not expect importer margins to match those of 4Q20 which had a very strong tailwind due to falling crude oil prices, however, we do expect them to return to between 27cpl and 30cpl (on a blended basis).

Figure 8. Rolling 4-week blended petrol/diesel MBIE margin



Source: MBIE, Forsyth Barr analysis

Figure 9. Regular petrol import margin



Source: MBIE, Forsyth Barr analysis

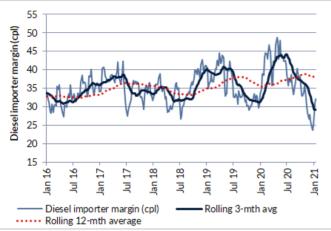
Figure 10. Premium petrol importer margin



Source: MBIE, Forsyth Barr analysis

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Figure 11. Diesel importer margin



Source: MBIE, Forsyth Barr analysis

Figure 12. MBIE importer margins

	Regular	Premium	Diesel	Blended
	petrol	petrol		
Spot	20.0	35.6	32.1	25.4
Last 4 weeks	17.4	31.6	28.0	22.2
Last 3 months	21.5	34.7	28.8	25.3
FY21 YTD	27.5	40.4	36.7	31.7
FY20	28.7	39.8	36.0	32.2
FY19	30.2	40.8	35.8	33.2
FY18	29.0	40.1	34.9	32.2

Source: MBIE, Forsyth Barr analysis

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Figure 13. Price performance



Source: Forsyth Barr analysis

Figure 14. Substantial shareholders

Shareholder	Latest Holding
ACC	9.3%
Commonwealth Bank of Australia	6.1%
L1 Capital Partners Pty	5.0%

Source: NZX, Forsyth Barr analysis, NOTE: based on SPH notices only

Figure 15. International valuation comparisons

Company	Code	Price	Mkt Cap	Р	E	EV/EB	ITDA	EV/E	BIT	Cash Yld
(metrics re-weighted to reflect ZEL's balan	ce date - March)		(m)	2021E	2022E	2021E	2022E	2021E	2022E	2022E
Z Energy	ZEL NZ	NZ\$3.11	NZ\$1,618	>50x	16.7x	11.1x	8.6x	30.9x	16.0x	8.0%
SUBURBAN PROPANE PARTNERS LP	SPH US	US\$15.45	US\$966	14.3x	12.6x	8.3x	8.6x	16.2x	16.2x	8.0%
AMPOL	ALD AT	A\$29.99	A\$7,489	32.1x	19.0x	11.3x	9.2x	21.8x	14.7x	2.9%
VIVA ENERGY GROUP	VEA AT	A\$1.84	A\$2,950	>50x	23.7x	9.1x	6.8x	39.7x	15.6x	3.5%
CONTACT ENERGY *	CEN NZ	NZ\$9.18	NZ\$6,596	27.1x	27.3x	16.8x	16.7x	36.6x	35.0x	3.9%
MERCURY*	MCY NZ	NZ\$6.90	NZ\$9,400	36.1x	32.6x	21.0x	19.3x	36.8x	33.0x	2.6%
TRUSTPOWER *	TPW NZ	NZ\$8.75	NZ\$2,739	33.9x	28.9x	17.8x	15.9x	23.3x	20.4x	3.9%
MERIDIAN ENERGY *	MEL NZ	NZ\$7.44	NZ\$19,066	44.7x	46.6x	27.7x	28.1x	47.7x	48.2x	2.3%
GENESIS ENERGY *	GNE NZ	NZ\$3.60	NZ\$3,757	21.0x	17.8x	12.8x	11.7x	28.1x	24.1x	4.9%
		(Compco Average:	29.9x	26.1x	15.6x	14.5x	31.3x	25.9x	4.0%
EV = Current Market Cap + Actual Net De	bt		ZEL Relative:	n/a	-36%	-29%	-41%	-1%	-38%	101%

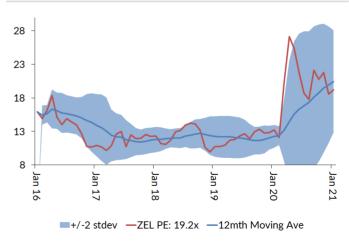
Source: *Forsyth Barr analysis, Bloomberg Consensus, Compco metrics re-weighted to reflect headline (ZEL) companies fiscal year end

Figure 16. Consensus EPS momentum (NZ\$)



Source: Forsyth Barr analysis

Figure 17. One year forward PE (x)



Source: Forsyth Barr analysis

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