

Date: 27 November 2024

Venue: Online

Time: 1.30 – 4.15pm

MC: Karen Frew

Agenda

1.15pm **Broadcasting begins**

1.30pm **Introduction and welcome from the MC**

Karen Frew – *General Manager Electricity, PowerCo*

1.35pm **Lessons From Across the Pond**

Are confusing policy signals from governments spooking investors? As a major gas exporter how have the Australian gas markets gotten so bad and are there any cautionary lessons for New Zealand? With LNG imports back on the cards leading Australian energy expert, Saul Kavonic, looks to shed light on the realities of playing in the global LNG market.

Saul Kavonic – *Senior Research Analyst, MST Financial*

1:55pm **Leaders' Panel**

As our electricity system becomes more renewable, energy supply and demand must be flexible. This winter's events show supply constraints make demand-side response (DR) critical for energy security. This panel will explore generation's changing role and how innovative DR arrangements can enhance grid stability, and support sustainability. Join us to discuss opportunities in DR with insights from Rio Tinto, Mercury and Meridian Energy.

Jen Nolan (Facilitator) – *Director, At Large*

Neal Barclay - *Chief Executive, Meridian*

Stewart Hamilton - *Chief Executive, Mercury*

Chris Blenkiron - *Chief Executive, Rio Tinto*

2.35pm **International Regulatory Trends (Pre-recorded)**

On 5 July 2024, the United Kingdom (UK) elected a new Ministry under the premiership of Rt Hon Sir Keir Starmer. Amongst its long list of energy priorities was a promise not to “issue new licences to explore new fields because they will not take a penny off bills, cannot make us energy secure, and will only accelerate the worsening climate crisis.” Hear David outline the risks and opportunities that arise from the new policies, their alignment with a secure, affordable and sustainable future, the lessons they have learned from observing New Zealand’s experience with banning oil and gas exploration, along with any tips for New Zealand on how to balance energy security with climate action as we emerge from the ban

David Whitehouse - *Chief Executive, Offshore Energy UK*

3.05pm **Ministerial Address (Pre-recorded)**

With economic prosperity at its core, the Government seeks to ensure that climate change policies are aligned and do not undermine energy security. Hear about the Minister’s objectives, his plans for and expectations of the energy sector in meeting our emissions reduction budgets as we progress towards our 2050 net zero goals.

Hon Simon Watts - Minister for Climate Change

3.20pm **Operational updates**

Beach Energy
OMV
Todd Energy
Matahio
Clarus
Powerco

Facilitated by: **Craig Barry** – *Policy Director, Energy Resources Aotearoa*

3.55pm **Sector insights and outlook**

John Kidd – *Director, Head of Research, Enerlytica*

4.15pm **Closing remarks**

**Karen Frew**

Karen's team manages our electricity network, responsible for planning, designing, constructing, maintaining and operating our network 24/7. Karen has an electrical engineering degree and a diploma in management. She's a chartered engineer with over 25 years' experience in electricity generation, distribution and large industrial sectors in New Zealand and the United Kingdom. She has held leadership roles in Powerco across engineering, asset management, strategy, system project delivery, regulation, and service delivery and operations. Karen was appointed to the Electricity Engineers' Association (EEA) Executive Committee in May 2023 and the Electricity Authority Security and Reliability Council for a three-year term from 1 April 2024.

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**Saul Kavonic**

Saul is the Head of Integrated Energy, Resources and Carbon Research at Credit Suisse, covering the energy, green metals, and carbon market sectors. Saul holds degrees in Law (Honours) and Chemical Engineering (Honours) from the University of Melbourne and has previously worked across the energy sector in commercial, research and government policy roles. He was previously head of energy research in Australasia for Wood Mackenzie - the world's leading energy consultancy, Woodside Energy- Australia's largest oil and gas company, M.H.Carnegie & Co - one of Australia's largest Venture Capital funds, and has worked in economic development policy roles for the United Nations and African Union Commission.

**Jen Nolan**

Jen is the Director of At Large, a Wellington-based corporate affairs firm. Jen has more than 25 years' experience in communications and corporate affairs, specialising in; change management, partnerships, reputation, media and crisis management, regulatory change and relationships. Jen has held several roles for large government agencies, including the Ministry for the Environment. Previously, Jen was the External Relations Director for Rio Tinto in New Zealand and is also a former broadcast journalist and producer.

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Stewart Hamilton

Stew became Mercury's Chief Executive in September 2024. He joined Mercury in 2021 as the Executive General Manager, Generation, and was responsible for the management, operation and maintenance of the company's electricity generation assets. Before joining Mercury, Stew was the Chief Executive at New Zealand Aluminium Smelters Ltd. He has over 25 years' experience working for industrial energy customers in mining, minerals processing and manufacturing in Australia, New Zealand and Africa.

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Neal Barclay

Neal Barclay is the Chief Executive of Meridian, appointed in January 2018. Neil is a qualified chartered accountant and has previously held a number of roles in finance and general management. Neal joined Meridian in 2008 as their Chief Financial Officer. He then moved into the position of General Manager Markets and Production where he was responsible for generation asset management and wholesale trading. Neal held this position until April 2016 when he was appointed General Manager Retail, responsible for Meridian and Powershop New Zealand's customer sales, service and operations.

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Chris Blenkiron

Chris joined the Tiwai team in 2022, having previously been the President of NS BlueScope Indonesia, a joint venture between BlueScope and Nippon Steel. He has more than 15 years' experience in various leadership roles in manufacturing and building products businesses across New Zealand, Australia, and the wider Asia-Pacific region. He has a strong commercial background and a people focused approach to leading business outcomes. Chris holds a BCom from Otago University and is passionate about the community, having previously served on the board of Youthtown, an organisation empowering young people across New Zealand.



David Whitehouse

David Whitehouse is the Chief Executive of Offshore Energies UK (OEUK.) David has a PhD in Theoretical Chemistry from Cambridge University and a first-class degree in Chemistry from Manchester University. David has over 30 years of leadership experience in the industry and is currently studying at the University of Aberdeen for a Masters in Renewable Engineering.

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John Kidd

John is the Director of Enerlytica and a former Director of Equity Research at Woodward Partners. John was previously Head of Research - Asia Pacific at Edison Investment Research, and Head of Research at specialist sharebroking and investment banking firm McDouall Stuart. John has over 15 years of analytical and consulting experience in the energy sector, including four years at Shell's global head office in London where he worked on the development of new E&P, gas and petrochemical business ventures across the Shell Group. John's work has taken him to more than 20 countries.

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