



Conference Day One Tuesday 18th November 2025

From boardroom to battery, Day One charged ahead with bold leadership, regulatory reform, and digital innovation
—setting the pace for NZ’s smarter, cleaner, and customer-powered energy future.

08:30	Morning Registration and Networking
	Energy Leader’ Morning Session This double-header dives into the regulatory reform and strategic system shifts shaping New Zealand’s energy future. From market design, access reform, and infrastructure resilience to aligning policy with net-zero goals, the first session explores how governance can enable innovation. Then, hear directly from leading CEOs as they tackle the energy trilemma, investment priorities, and how partnerships, tech, and customer transformation are central to building a smarter, cleaner, and more resilient grid.
08:55	NZ Power Chair’s Opening Remarks
09:00	Regulation, Governance & System Strategy – Navigating Reform & Enabling Innovation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future of electricity market design. • Grid access, connection reform, and investment signals. • Cybersecurity, resilience, and critical infrastructure protection. • Aligning regulatory settings with net-zero and technology adoption. David Knight , Executive General Manager Strategy, Regulation & Governance, Transpower
09:30	Leadership Panel: The CEO Energy Outlook – Building Resilience, Decarbonisation & Growth <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managing the ‘trilemma’: affordability, sustainability, and reliability. • Capital investment and transition pathways. • Role of innovation, partnerships, and customer transformation. • What energy leaders need from tech and vendor ecosystems. <i>Panellists:</i> Nigel Barbour , Group Chief Executive Officer, Orion NZ Ltd Caroline Ovenstone , Chief Executive Officer, Alpine Energy Jason Franklin , Chief Executive Officer, Powerco Michelle Polglase , General Manager Project Delivery, Ara Ake
10:00	Speed Networking Jumpstart your connections with fast-paced, facilitated networking designed to introduce you to over 10 industry peers in just 20 minutes.
10:20	Morning Break and Networking

10:50	<p align="center">Interactive Discussion Groups (IDGs): Choose Your Conversations, Shape the Dialogue</p> <p>Join one of five small-group discussions designed for deeper engagement on the sector’s most pressing topics. Each session runs for 30 minutes before attendees rotate to their next chosen table — with three rounds in total. This is your chance to exchange insights, ask tough questions, and collaborate directly with peers and industry leaders. Be sure to register your preferred IDGs at least one week before the conference to secure your seat.</p>		
	<p>IDG A: Grid of the Future: Smart Networks & Asset Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leveraging digital twins, sensors, and analytics for predictive maintenance and asset optimisation. Transitioning to real-time, data-driven network operations for improved reliability and efficiency. Integrating legacy infrastructure with modern smart grid technologies. <p>Brett Horwell, Head of Electricity Supply, Meridian Energy</p>	<p>IDG B: AI & Automation in the Network: Turning Data into Real-Time Decisions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss how advanced analytics, automation, and digital twins are transforming grid visibility, efficiency, and operational decision-making. <p>Raj Singh, General Manager Operations and DSO, Northpower</p>	<p>IDG C: Customer 2030: Building Trust, Choice & Participation in the Energy Transition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examine how retailers and networks can create transparent, flexible, and customer-centric models that empower active participation in the energy system.
	<p>IDG D: Decarbonising Generation: Hydro, Geothermal & the Role of Emerging Fuels</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Debate the evolving mix of renewable and transitional generation technologies required to deliver secure, affordable, and low-emission power. 		<p>IDG E: Future Grid Workforce: Skills, Safety & Capability for a Smarter Energy System</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify the critical skills, training, and leadership needed to equip New Zealand’s energy workforce for an increasingly digital, decentralised grid. <p>Esther Evening, Sustainability and Strategy Analyst, Mercury</p>
12:30	<p>Lunch And Networking</p>		
	<p align="center">Balancing the Grid: Baseload, Innovation & the Path to 100% Renewables</p> <p>This dynamic session pairs a fireside chat on the future role of baseload and transition fuels in a 100% renewable system with an industry panel exploring how innovation, smart infrastructure, and true collaboration are accelerating decarbonisation and delivering equitable energy outcomes.</p>		
13:30	<p>Industry Case Study Hosted by Zion Technologies</p> <p>Vanadium Flow Battery – Long Duration Energy Storage Infrastructure for Future Power System</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is VFB and how can VFB improve energy independency and grid stability under high renewable penetration Cost competitiveness and how VFB's LCOS advantage drives economic benefits from decarbonization Commercial ready today with established supply chain and proven records <p>Min Tan, Director, RKP International</p>		
14:00	<p>The Role of Hydro In NZ's Future Power System</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hydro capacity and operation 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact of flexibility demands on NZ's existing Hydro assets • Opportunities to leverage our national economic advantage <p>Brett Horwell, Head of Electricity Supply, Meridian Energy</p>
14:30	<p>Advancing energy generation with flexible and rapid power solutions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementing Powerships to deliver reliable, utility-grade power in under 30 days to address urgent energy needs • Optimising fuel use with multi-fuel flexibility to reduce generation costs and improve environmental outcomes • Supporting renewable energy integration by providing flexible power generation to manage intermittency issues • Maximising operational efficiency with advanced heat recovery systems and steam turbines across varying loads <p>Jad El Sebaaly, Sales and Business Development Director, Asia and Pacific Region, Karpowership</p> 
15:00	<p>Afternoon Tea and Networking</p>
15:30	<p>Fire Side Chat Baseload, Flexibility & the Future</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the realistic role of baseload generation like geothermal and gas in New Zealand's journey to a 100% renewable electricity system — is it achievable without them? • How do we manage the trade-offs between energy security, affordability, and emissions reduction when considering the future role of transition fuels and geothermal? • What policy or regulatory changes are needed to ensure investment confidence in geothermal expansion and transitional fuels like gas and hydrogen? • How can the energy sector better engage with communities—especially iwi and Māori enterprises—when it comes to geothermal development and transition fuel projects? • Looking ahead, what innovations or technologies do you believe will be the game-changers for ensuring reliability and flexibility in a renewables-heavy grid? <p><i>Panellists:</i> John Carnegie, Chief Executive, Energy Resources Aotearoa Alice Pettigrew, Chief Executive Officer, Eastland Generation Limited Dr. Mike Allen, Vice President, New Zealand Geothermal Association Dr. Marcos Pelenur, Chief Executive, Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority</p>
16:15	<p>Industry Panel: Distributed Energy & Network Innovation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interoperability, visibility & control of DERs. • Grid digitalisation, orchestration & automation. • Lessons from pilot programs and scaling network innovation. <p><i>Panellists:</i> Raj Singh, General Manager Operations and DSO, Northpower Astad Kapadia, Head of DSO Strategy, Counties Energy Dr. Kannan Munisamy, Head of Future Networks, Alpine Energy</p>

	Marko Simunac , General Manager Operations & Maintenance, Vector Limited Michelle Polglase , General Manager Project Delivery, Ara Ake
17:00	NZ Power Chair's Closing Remarks
17:05	NZ Power 2025 Drinks Reception
18.05	End of Conference Day One

	Conference Day TWO Wednesday 19th November 2025 From customer-led innovation to AI-powered flexibility, Day Two powered ahead with bold ideas, cultural leadership, and future-ready solutions to shape a smarter, faster, and fairer energy system by 2030.
09:00	Morning Break and Networking
	Navigating NZ's Energy Future Through Customer-Led Innovation Explore how evolving customer expectations, decarbonisation, and innovation in flexibility are reshaping New Zealand's energy transition—followed by a panel on redefining energy experience through trust, data, and empowerment.
09:25	NZ Power Chair's Opening Remarks
09:30	Keynote Session: Customers, Carbon & Choice: Navigating the Next Phase of New Zealand's Energy Transition" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Evolving Energy Customer. • Decarbonisation as a Commercial and Cultural Imperative. • Innovation in Choice and Flexibility. • Trust, Inclusion, and Partnership. • Looking Ahead. Stephen England-Hall , Chief Revenue Officer, Genesis
10:00	Industry Panel: Customers Leaders' Panel – Redefining the Energy Experience: From Engagement to Empowerment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do energy customers actually want in a decarbonising world? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ From price takers to active participants: building trust in VPPs, demand response, and DER integration. • Personalisation, data visibility, and multi-channel engagement – what's working? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Turning customer insight into network and retail strategy. • Partnering with tech and vendors: what helps and what hurts? <i>Panellists:</i> Andrew Kerr , Chief Customer & Strategy, Alpine Energy Steve Macdonald , General Manager Electricity Network, Orion NZ Ltd

	<p>Graeme Jackson, GM Data & Analytics – Enterprise, Vector Limited Michelle Polglase, General Manager Project Delivery, Ara Ake</p>
10:30	Morning Break and Networking
	<p style="text-align: center;">Smart Energy Solutions: Predictive Analytics, Demand Response & Energy-as-a-Service</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Discover how AI-driven demand response and advanced energy management platforms are boosting efficiency, alongside insights into virtual power plants, battery storage strategies, and evolving customer-centric energy models shaping the future grid.</p>
11:00	<p>Predictive Analytics & Energy Management Software – Unlocking Efficiency Gains</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AI-enabled demand response. • Load forecasting & market participation. • Energy management platforms for C&I. <p>Dr. Kannan Munisamy, Head of Future Networks, Alpine Energy</p>
11:30	Keynote
12:00	Lunch And Networking
	<p style="text-align: center;">From Community to Market: Embedding Culture and Innovation in NZ's Energy Future</p> <p style="text-align: center;">This dual-panel session explores how cultural values and inclusive leadership are shaping renewable energy outcomes, while also tackling the delivery challenges and collaborative pathways needed to bring innovative projects to market at speed.</p>
13:00	<p>Panel Discussion: Community & Culture: Renewable Energy Leadership and Social Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring fair and inclusive energy outcomes. • Cultural values in clean energy investment. • Lessons from the ground. <p>Hugh Karena - Ngai Takoto Trustee, Te Hiku Iwi Development Trust Esther Evening - Sustainability and Strategy Analyst / Global Future Energy Leader, Mercury Energy Gareth Cartwright - Executive Officer, Community Energy Network Michelle Polglase, General Manager Project Delivery, Ara Ake</p>
13:30	<p>Industry Panel: Project Delivery & Innovation: Accelerating Market Readiness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross-sector collaboration for innovation execution. • Managing technical, regulatory, and investment risk. • Building capability and regional delivery pipelines. <p><i>Panellists:</i> Michelle Polglase, General Manager Project Delivery, Ara Ake Mathew Smith, Commissioning Manager - BESS, Contact Energy Ltd</p>

	Hayden Mackenzie , Head of Energy Investment, Invest New Zealand
	<p>Future Grid, Future Ready: Accelerating the Energy System of Tomorrow</p> <p>In this closing panel, energy network leaders share bold insights on building a flexible, AI-enabled, and culturally adaptive electricity system—laying out the critical actions New Zealand must take by 2030 to thrive in a decentralised, DER-driven energy future.</p>
14:15	<p>Industry Panel: Future Grid, Future Ready: Accelerating the Energy System of Tomorrow</p> <p>We're moving from a one-way grid to a dynamic, decentralised ecosystem — what's the most urgent technical or operational capability your organisation needs to build in the next five years?</p> <p>How are you designing for flexibility at scale — and what do you believe will be the role of AI, automation, or real-time data in managing tomorrow's electricity flows?</p> <p>As DERs (distributed energy resources) like EVs, solar, and batteries surge, how do you see the traditional boundaries between generation, supply, and networks shifting?</p> <p>The network transition isn't just technical — it's cultural. How are you leading your workforce and internal systems through this transformation to 'future grid' operations?</p> <p>Fast-forward to 2035: What will success look like for New Zealand's power system? And what do we risk if we don't act fast enough in the next 24 months?</p> <p>What are the three things businesses focus on after this conference – questions to the audience from the Chair</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <p>Dr. Kannan Munisamy, Head of Future Networks, Alpine Energy</p> <p>Steve Macdonald, General Manager Electricity Network, Orion NZ Ltd</p> <p>Michelle Polglase, General Manager Project Delivery, Ara Ake</p>
15:00	Afternoon Tea and Networking and Close of Conference