



**INDEPENDENT ASSURANCE REPORT
TO THE DIRECTORS OF NELSON ELECTRICITY LIMITED AND THE COMMERCE COMMISSION**

The Auditor-General is the auditor of Nelson Electricity Limited (the Company). The Auditor-General has appointed me, Michael Wilkes, using the staff and resources of Deloitte Limited, to provide an opinion, on his behalf, on:

- whether the information required to be disclosed in accordance with the Electricity Distribution Information Disclosure Determination 2012 ('the Information Disclosure Determination') for the disclosure year ended 31 March 2019, has been prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the Information Disclosure Determination.

The disclosure information required to be reported by the Company, and audited by the Auditor-General, under the Information Disclosure Determination, is in schedules 1 to 4, 5a to 5g, 6a and 6b, 7, the disclosure in schedule 5b that shows the connection between the Company and the related parties with which it has had related party transactions in the disclosure year, and the explanatory notes in boxes 1 to 11 in Schedule 14 ('the Disclosure Information').

- whether the Company's basis for valuation of related party transactions ('the Related Party Transaction Information') for the disclosure year ended 31 March 2019, has been prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with clause 2.3.6 of the Information Disclosure Determination, and clauses 2.2.11(1)(g) and 2.2.11(5) of the Electricity Distribution Services Input Methodologies Determination 2012 ('the Input Methodologies Determination').

Opinion

In our opinion:

- as far as appears from an examination of them, proper records to enable the complete and accurate compilation of the Disclosure Information have been kept by the Company;
- as far as appears from an examination, the information used in the preparation of the Disclosure Information has been properly extracted from the Company's accounting and other records and has been sourced, where appropriate, from the Company's financial and non-financial systems;
- the Disclosure Information complies, in all material respects, with the Information Disclosure Determination; and
- the Related Party Transaction Information complies, in all material respects, with the Information Disclosure Determination and the Input Methodologies Determination.

In forming our opinion, we have obtained sufficient recorded evidence and all the information and explanations we have required.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our engagement in accordance with the International Standard on Assurance Engagements (New Zealand) 3000 (Revised): *Assurance Engagements Other Than Audits or Reviews of Historical Financial Information* and the Standard on Assurance Engagements 3100 (Revised): *Compliance Engagements* issued by the New Zealand Auditing and Assurance Standards Board. Copies of these standards are available on the External Reporting Board's website.

These standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform our assurance engagement to provide reasonable assurance about whether the Disclosure Information has been prepared, in all material respects, with the Information Disclosure Determination, and about whether the Related Party Transaction Information has been prepared, in all material respects, with the Information Disclosure Determination and the Input Methodologies Determination. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance.

We have performed procedures to obtain evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the Disclosure Information, and the basis of valuation in the Related Party Transaction Information. The procedures selected depend on our judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the Disclosure Information and the Related Party Transaction Information, whether due to fraud, error or non-compliance with the Information Disclosure Determination or the Input Methodologies Determination. In making those risk assessments, we considered internal control relevant to the

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Company's preparation of the Disclosure Information and the Related Party Transaction Information in order to design procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control.

Scope and inherent limitations

Because of the inherent limitations of a reasonable assurance engagement, and the test basis of the procedures performed, it is possible that fraud, error or non-compliance may occur and not be detected.

We did not examine every transaction, adjustment or event underlying the Disclosure Information or the Related Party Transaction Information, nor do we guarantee complete accuracy of the Disclosure Information or the Related Party Transaction Information. Also we did not evaluate the security and controls over the electronic publication of the Disclosure Information or the Related Party Transaction Information.

The opinion expressed in this independent assurance report has been formed on the above basis.

Key Audit Matters

We have determined that there are no key audit matters to communicate in our report.

Directors' responsibility for the preparation of the Disclosure Information and Related Party Transaction Information

The directors of the Company are responsible for:

- the preparation of the Disclosure Information in accordance with the Information Disclosure Determination, and
- the Related Party Transaction Information in accordance with the Information Disclosure Determination and the Input Methodologies Determination,

and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the Disclosure Information and the Related Party Transaction Information that are free from material misstatement.

Our responsibility for the audit of the Disclosure Information and the Related Party Transaction Information

Our responsibility is to express an opinion that provides reasonable assurance on whether:

- the Disclosure Information has been prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the Information Disclosure Determination; and
- the Related Party Transaction Information has been prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the Information Disclosure Determination and the Input Methodologies Determination.

Independence and quality control

When carrying out the engagement, we complied with:

- the Auditor-General's independence and other ethical requirements, which incorporate the independence and ethical requirements of Professional and Ethical Standard 1 (Revised) issued by the New Zealand Auditing and Assurance Standards Board;
- the independence requirements specified in the Information Disclosure Determination; and
- the Auditor-General's quality control requirements, which incorporate the quality control requirements of Professional and Ethical Standard 3 (Amended) issued by the New Zealand Auditing and Assurance Standards Board.

The Auditor-General, and his employees, and Deloitte Limited, and its partners and employees, may deal with the Company on normal terms within the ordinary course of trading activities of the Company. Other than any dealings on normal terms within the ordinary course of business, this engagement, and the annual audit of the Company's financial statements, we have no relationship with or interests in the Company.



Use of this report

This independent assurance report has been prepared solely for the directors of the Company and for the Commerce Commission for the purpose of providing those parties with reasonable assurance about whether the Disclosure Information has been prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the Information Disclosure Determination and whether the Related Party Transaction Information has been prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the Information Disclosure Determination and the Input Methodologies Determination. We disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report to any person other than the directors of the Company or the Commerce Commission, or for any other purpose than that for which it was prepared.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael Wilkes".

Michael Wilkes
Deloitte Limited
On behalf of the Auditor-General
Christchurch, New Zealand
23 August 2019