

## INDEPENDENT ASSURANCE REPORT

### TO THE DIRECTORS OF NELSON ELECTRICITY LIMITED AND TO THE COMMERCE COMMISSION ON THE DISCLOSURE INFORMATION FOR THE DISCLOSURE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

#### AS REQUIRED BY THE ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION INFORMATION DISCLOSURE DETERMINATION 2012 (CONSOLIDATED 6 JULY 2023)

Nelson Electricity Limited (the company) is required to disclose certain information under the Electricity Distribution Information Disclosure Determination 2012 (consolidated 6 July 2023) (the Determination) and to procure an assurance report by an independent auditor in terms of section 2.8.1 of the Determination.

The Auditor-General is the auditor of the company.

The Auditor-General has appointed me, Nicole Dring, using the staff and resources of Deloitte Limited, to undertake a reasonable assurance engagement, on his behalf, on whether the information prepared by the company for the disclosure year ended 31 March 2023 (the Disclosure Information) complies, in all material respects, with the Determination.

The Disclosure Information that falls within the scope of the assurance engagement are:

- Schedules 1 to 4, 5a to 5g, 6a and 6b, 7, 10 and 14 (limited to the explanatory notes in boxes 1 to 11) of the Determination.
- Clause 2.3.6 of the Determination and clauses 2.2.11(1)(g) and 2.2.11(5) of the Electricity Distribution Services Input Methodologies Determination 2012 (consolidated 20 May 2020) (the IM Determination), in respect of the basis for valuation of related party transactions (the Related Party Transaction Information).

This assurance report should be read in conjunction with the Commerce Commission's Information Disclosure exemption, issued to all electricity distribution businesses on 9 June 2023 under clause 2.11.1 of the Determination. The Commerce Commission granted an exemption from the requirement that the assurance report, in respect of the information in Schedule 10 of the Determination, must take into account any issues arising out of the company's recording of SAIDI, SAIFI, and number of interruptions due to successive interruptions.

#### Opinion

In our opinion, in all material respects:

- as far as appears from an examination, 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, sourced from the company's financial and non-financial systems;
- the Disclosure Information complies, in all material respects, with the Determination; and
- the basis for valuation of related party transactions complies with the Determination and the IM Determination.

#### Basis for opinion

We conducted our engagement in accordance with the Standard on Assurance Engagements (SAE) 3100 (Revised) *Compliance Engagements* ("SAE 3100 (Revised)"), issued by the New Zealand Auditing and Assurance Standards Board. An engagement conducted in accordance with SAE 3100 (Revised) requires that we comply with the International Standard on Assurance Engagements (New Zealand) 3000 (Revised) *Assurance Engagements Other Than Audits or Reviews of Historical Financial Information*.

We have obtained sufficient recorded evidence and explanations that we required to provide a basis for our opinion.

#### Key Assurance Matters

Key assurance matters are those matters that, in our professional judgement, required significant attention when carrying out the assurance engagement during the current disclosure year. These matters were addressed in the context of our compliance engagement, and in forming our opinion. We do not provide a separate opinion on these matters.

Key Assurance Matter	How our procedures addressed the key assurance matter
<p>Accuracy and completeness of the number and duration of electricity outages</p> <p>The Information Disclosure Determination defines certain quality measure in relation to the number of interruptions, faults, and causes of faults. These quality measures are expressed in the form of SAIDI and SAIFI values.</p> <p>The Company uses Supervisory Control &amp; Data Acquisition (SCADA) to automatically log outages in the faults database. However, there are still manual processes in place to ensure that all outages are correctly recorded. In particular, manual processes are used for identifying outages and for recording the duration of outages in some locations.</p> <p>When outages occur in these locations the Company is often dependent on customers advising it of the outage. The means by which the advice from customers is recorded by the Company could result in inaccuracies in the reported Disclosure Information.</p> <p>Data from SCADA is then ultimately stored in Milsoft, and it is from this system that the Raw Data report is generated.</p> <p>Accuracy is a key audit matter because information on the frequency and duration of outages is an important measure about the reliability of electricity supply.</p> <p>Completeness is a key audit matter because the fault data is handled manually.</p> <p>The Company has disclosed the SAIDI and SAIFI values on the same basis as the prior year.</p>	<p>We have obtained an understanding of the Company’s methods by which electricity outages and their duration are recorded.</p> <p>Our procedures to assess the adequacy of the Company’s methods to identify and record electricity outages and their duration included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• testing the design and implementation of the key control related to the recording and review of outage data;</li> <li>• testing a sample of outage events from the Raw Data report used to prepare the schedules to ensure the metrics surrounding the events such as start time, number of customers affected and end time were consistent with the fault log sheet and responding technicians records;</li> <li>• assessing the reasonableness of why certain events have not been recorded as an outage events;</li> <li>• testing a sample of outage sheets prepared by network engineers and independent call centre to ensure the outage event has been accurately recorded in the Raw Data report and to ensure this report is complete;</li> <li>• Confirming whether major storm and outage events recorded in the media were appropriately recorded in the Raw Data report;</li> <li>• Testing a sample of outage events to ensure the classification of the type of event is reasonable;</li> <li>• Performing analytical procedures on the outage data, including analysing actual outages compared with prior year outages;</li> <li>• Recalculating normalised SAIDI and SAIFI using the predetermined boundary limits; and</li> <li>• Reviewing the disclosure in Schedule 14 in respect of the treatment of successive interruptions.</li> </ul>

**Directors’ responsibilities**

The directors of the company are responsible in accordance with the Determination for:

- the preparation of the Disclosure Information; and
- the Related Party Transaction Information.

The directors of the company are also responsible for the identification of risks that may threaten compliance with the schedules and clauses identified above and controls which will mitigate those risks and monitor ongoing compliance.

**Auditor’s responsibilities**

Our responsibilities in terms of clauses 2.8.1(1)(b)(vi) and (vii), 2.8.1(1)(c) and 2.8.1(1)(d) are to express an opinion on whether:

- as far as appears from an examination, the information used in the preparation of the audited Disclosure Information has been properly extracted from the company’s accounting and other records, sourced from its financial and non-financial systems;

- as far as appears from an examination, proper records to enable the complete and accurate compilation of the audited Disclosure Information required by the Determination have been kept by the company and, if not, the records not so kept;
- the company complied, in all material respects, with the Determination in preparing the audited Disclosure Information; and
- the company's basis for valuation of related party transactions in the disclosure year has complied, in all material respects, with clause 2.3.6 of the Determination and clauses 2.2.11(1)(g) and 2.2.11(5) of the IM Determination.

To meet these responsibilities, we planned and performed procedures in accordance with SAE 3100 (Revised), to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the company has complied, in all material respects, with the Disclosure Information (which includes the Related Party Transaction Information) required to be audited by the Determination.

An assurance engagement to report on the company's compliance with the Determination involves performing procedures to obtain evidence about the compliance activity and controls implemented to meet the requirements. The procedures selected depend on our judgement, including the identification and assessment of the risks of material non-compliance with the requirements.

### **Inherent limitations**

Because of the inherent limitations of an assurance engagement, together with the internal control structure, it is possible that fraud, error or non-compliance with the Determination may occur and not be detected.

A reasonable assurance engagement throughout the disclosure year does not provide assurance on whether compliance with the Determination will continue in the future.

### **Restricted use**

This report has been prepared for use by the directors of the company and the Commerce Commission in accordance with clause 2.8.1(1)(a) of the Determination and is provided solely for the purpose of establishing whether the compliance requirements have been met. We disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report to any person other than the directors of the company and the Commerce Commission, or for any other purpose than that for which it was prepared.

### **Independence and quality control**

We complied with the Auditor-General's:

- independence and other ethical requirements, which incorporate the requirements of Professional and Ethical Standard 1 *International Code of Ethics for Assurance Practitioners (including International Independence Standards) (New Zealand)* (PES 1) issued by the New Zealand Auditing and Assurance Standards Board; and
- quality management requirements, which incorporate Professional and Ethical Standard 3 *Quality Management for Firms that perform Audits or Reviews of Financial Statements, or Other Assurance or Related Services Engagements* (PES 3) issued by the New Zealand Auditing and Assurance Standards Board. PES 3 requires our firm to design, implement and operate a system of quality management including policies or procedures regarding compliance with ethical requirements, professional standards and applicable legal and regulatory requirements.

The Auditor-General, and his employees, 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 trading activities of the company, this engagement, the assurance engagement on the Default Price-Quality Path and the annual audit of the company's financial statements and performance information, we have no relationship with, or interests in, the company.

*Deloitte Limited*

Nicole Dring  
Deloitte Limited  
On behalf of the Auditor-General  
Christchurch, New Zealand  
21 August 2023