

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE DIRECTORS OF NELSON ELECTRICITY LIMITED AND TO THE COMMERCE COMMISSION

The Auditor-General is the auditor of Nelson Electricity Limited (the 'Company'). The Auditor-General has appointed me, Paul Bryden, using the staff and resources of Deloitte, to provide an opinion, on her behalf, on whether Schedules 1 to 4, 5a to 5g, 6a and 6b, 7, the SAIDI and SAIFI information disclosed in Schedule 10 and the explanatory notes in boxes 1 to 12 in Schedule 14 ('the Disclosure Information') for the disclosure year ended 31 March 2015, have been prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the Electricity Distribution Disclosure Information Determination 2012 (consolidated in 2015) (the 'Determination').

Directors' responsibility for the Disclosure Information

The directors of the Company are responsible for preparation of the Disclosure Information in accordance with the Determination, and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the Disclosure Information that is free from material misstatement.

Auditor's responsibility for the Disclosure Information

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on whether the Disclosure Information has been prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the Determination.

Basis of 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* issued by the External Reporting Board and the Standard on Assurance Engagements 3100: *Compliance Engagements* issued by the External Reporting Board.

These standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform our audit to provide reasonable assurance (which is also referred to as 'audit' assurance) about whether the Disclosure Information has been prepared in all material respects in accordance with the Determination.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the Disclosure Information. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the Disclosure Information, whether due to fraud or error or non-compliance with the Determination. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the Company's preparation of the Disclosure Information in order to design audit 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.

An audit also involves evaluating:

- the appropriateness of assumptions used and whether they have been consistently applied; and
- the reasonableness of the significant judgements made by the directors of the Company.

Use of this report

This independent auditor's report has been prepared for the directors of the Company and for the Commerce Commission for the purpose of providing those parties with independent audit assurance about whether the Disclosure Information has been prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the 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.

Scope and inherent limitations

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit 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 nor do we guarantee complete accuracy of the Disclosure Information. Also we did not evaluate the security and controls over the electronic publication of the Disclosure Information.

The opinion expressed in this independent auditor's report has been formed on the above basis.

Independence and quality control

When carrying out the engagement we followed the independence and other ethical requirements of the Auditor-General, which incorporate the Professional and Ethical Standard 1 (Revised): Code of Ethics for Assurance Practitioners issued by the New Zealand Auditing and Assurance Standards Board, which is founded on fundamental principles of integrity, objectivity, professional competence and due care, confidentiality and professional behaviour.

The Auditor-General, and her employees, and Deloitte 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.

The firm applies AG PES3: Auditor General's Statement on Quality Control, which incorporate Professional and Ethical Standard 3 (Amended): Quality Control for Firms that Perform Audits and Reviews of Financial Statements, and Other Assurance Engagements issued by the New Zealand Auditing and Assurance Standards Board, and accordingly maintains a comprehensive system of quality control including documented policies and procedures regarding compliance with ethical requirements, professional standards and applicable legal and regulatory requirements.

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;
- 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; and
- The Company has complied with the Determination, in all material respects, in preparing the Disclosure Information.

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



Paul Bryden
Deloitte
On behalf of the Auditor-General
Christchurch, New Zealand
24 August 2015