

INDEPENDENT ASSURANCE 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 the information disclosed in schedules 1 to 4, 5a to 5g, 6a and 6b, 7, the system average interruption duration index ('SAIDI') and system average interruption frequency index ('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 2016, have been prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the Electricity Distribution Information Disclosure 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.

Our 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. 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 in accordance with the Determination.

We have performed procedures to obtain evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the Disclosure Information. The procedures selected depend on our 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, we considered internal control relevant to the company's preparation of the Disclosure 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.

We also evaluated:

- 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 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 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 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 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 assurance report has been formed on the above basis.

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; and
- 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.

We also complied with the independence requirements specified in the Determination.

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

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; and
- The Disclosure Information has been prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the Determination.

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
22 August 2016