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THE NZ ELECTRICITY MARKET: TEETERING ON THE EDGE OF TRANSFORMATION?



In a sleepy corner of the South Pacific





It's just clearing supply and demand?



- Forecast demand
- Generators make capacity available at a price that reflects their willingness to generate

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• Clear the market!

Electricity markets are the most "designed" market in the world

- A vital, ubiquitous service for society with few substitutes (heat)
- Need almost absolute assurance that supply and demand balances in real time
- If it doesn't, blackouts occur
- Historically (and today) storage isn't economic
- The consumers have been disengaged (technology limitations, but also
- The "transportation" problem is driven by hard physical laws

An enormous, complex optimisation problem with extremely little room for error

New Zealand – globally isolated, with a weather-driven system in the Roaring 40s...with a world leading market design

It's just clearing supply and demand



- Market is "cleared" every half hour (solved 5 minutes).
- At ~250 locations to optimise transmission losses and recognising transmission limitations.
- Simultaneously optimising supply of electricity with two types of standby reserves.
- Produces market clearing prices at every location, for three products





Questions

- What sorts of long-term decisions are emerging from this market?
- How will it handle increasing renewables?
- What about the changes on the demand side?



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Reliable growth....



Demand 2007-2016



And we built...



Demand + Investment



Wholesale market



Then we un-built



Demand + Investment + Decommissioning



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Can the market handle a low-emissions electricity sector?



How do we know if we have adequate energy resources?



Resource Adequacy is the ability to reliably meet demand at every point in time.

- 1. The system must have enough <u>reliable</u> capacity to meet the system peak
- 2. The system must have enough available fuel (wind, rain, geo fluids, coal, gas etc) to meet total demand over any period (area under the curve)...and under different fuel scenarios

"Intermittent" Renewables – Wind and Solar



NZ hydro – an unfortunate correlation



Hydro uncertainty



Managing between years



- The concept of "shifting" power through time (flexibility) is relevant to every system
- But in a hydro dominated system happens over long periods
- Currently done through fuel contracts + storage
- With a high renewables future, flexibility will be the "coin of the realm"

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Switching and new retailers



National Switching Statistics



Technology – Disruption?



Don't forget about efficiency - the quiet competitor



Or even just....







A new dynamic?



- Meeting this demand used to be about competition between large generation investments
- Now it's also about competing with customer investments: efficiency, 'irrational' distributed generation, behaviour change.
- BUT we could also see the electrification of process heat, transport

It's just clearing supply and demand



- So how does the new consumer participate in a half hourly market?
- How do we coordinate (optimise) the flexibility and uncertainty of distributed energy resources?



QUESTIONS?

