



Panel discussion: More power to you: The energy industry perspective

- “The single biggest challenge facing the energy sector at the moment is ensuring security of supply, both now and in the future. Under a reformed RMA, energy suppliers will find it easier to get approval for new generation projects through Priority Consenting legislation.”
 - Consumer view:
 - Competitive energy prices and line/energy security and reliability are equally important to consumers.
Debatable what the risks are for NZ security and reliability.
More important is whether prices are competitive.
 - Anecdotal reports that RMA has been a barrier, or at least increased costs and timing to build infrastructure ... therefore welcome Parliament considering changes.



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- “Ensuring a balance of renewable initiatives with thermal generation”
 - Consumer view: Let the market decide generation mix with appropriate policy for market failures (eg externalities).
 - “What opportunities will streamlined legislation give the energy industry in terms of future projects?”
 - Consumer view: RMA changes important; but more important are changes that may arise from Ministerial Review, EC Market Design, Winter 2008 Review, CC Part 2 inquiry, improving SOE performance and implementing climate change policies.
 - “Is what is best for the generator best for the user? How do we align these two sets of needs?”
 - Consumer view: Not when suppliers (energy and line) have a very high level of market power ... in that case carefully designed regulatory intervention can be justified.
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