



MAJOR ELECTRICITY  
USERS' GROUP

18<sup>th</sup> March 2015

Alison Andrew  
Chief Executive  
Transpower New Zealand Limited

Simon Mackenzie  
Group Chief Executive  
Vector Limited

William Cairns  
Chairman  
Auckland Energy Consumer Trust

By email

Dear Alison, Simon and William

**Penrose substation fire and outage event October 2014: Request for information**

Many consumers including constituents of each of our organisations were materially affected by the fire at the Penrose substation on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2014 and subsequent unplanned power outages. We have an interest in understanding causes of the event in order to ensure that lessons are learned to avoid similar events in any other parts of the transmission and distribution network and also if appropriate due accountability and remediation of harm caused. Our objectives align with the 85,000 customers initially affected on the morning of the event and 20,000 customers that were without power for at least a day.

We look forward to reading the Electricity Authority report due to the Minister of Energy and Resources by end of April and published, pursuant to s18 (5) of the Electricity Industry Act 2010, by end of May 2015. That report may only be an interim report given the response to a question at Vector's half yearly meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> February that the joint Transpower and Vector technical report may not be completed until second quarter of this year. Delays in finalising the report may reflect unforeseen technical or other complexities. We trust Transpower and Vector will complete the joint technical report expeditiously given the very high level of public interest. One aspect of the joint Transpower and Vector technical report that is unclear to us is whether it will be public? Hence this letter requests Transpower and Vector agree that the report of the independent experts (terms of reference announced on 8<sup>th</sup> October and details of the three experts announced 10<sup>th</sup> October 2014) will be made public as soon as possible.

In various statements by Vector and the Auckland Energy Consumer Trust (AECT) reference is made to independent expert reports on Vector assets prior to the event. For example the AECT media release of 7<sup>th</sup> October 2014 notes the Trust "Take a proactive role in ensuring security of supply for our customers and require Vector to provide an expert report on the state of the lines annually which, amongst other things, includes assessment of security risks." Those reports could not be found on the AECT web site. Can the AECT provide those reports to MEUG or preferably publish those so all interested parties can view?

Yours sincerely



Sue Chetwin  
Chief Executive  
Consumer NZ

Kim Campbell  
Chief Executive  
EMA

Ralph Matthes  
Executive Director  
Major Electricity Users' Group

Copied to:

Hon Simon Bridges, Minister of Energy and Resources

Hon Paul Goldsmith, Minister of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

Carl Hansen, Chief Executive, Electricity Authority

Dr John Hamill, General Manager Regulation, Commerce Commission

Judi Jones, Electricity and Gas Complaints Commissioner, Office of the Electricity and Gas Complaints Commissioner