

The most striking thing when looking ahead into July and August is the number of consultations underway. MEUG is looking at up to 12 submissions and cross-submissions due in the next 5 or so weeks:

- The Electricity Authority's (EA) consultation on minor amendments to Transmission Pricing Methodology (TPM), due 19 July
- Commerce Commission's EDB Input Methodologies review, due 19 July with cross-sub due 9 August
- The EA's consultation on ensuring an orderly thermal transition, due 25 July
- The EA's review of forecasting provisions for intermittent generators in the spot market, due 26 July
- Commerce Commission's Transpower Input Methodology review, due 26 July, cross-sub due early August
- The Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet's (DPMC) consultation on critical infrastructure resilience, due 8 August
- The EA's issues paper on targeted reform of distribution pricing, due 9 August
- The Ministry for the Environment's (MfE) review of the Emissions Trading Scheme, due 11 August
- MfE's consultation on redesigning ETS permanent forest category, due 11 August
- Commerce Commission's consultation on Transpower's net-zero grid pathway application, due date TBC.

This list does not include MBIE's omnibus consultation, which is expected to be released in the next week or two, on the gas transition plan, electricity market measures, the hydrogen transition plan, and offshore wind. Each one of these topics would normally be a standalone consultation in its own right.

One concern with the number of consultations is the possible quality of submissions, and therefore the quality of information obtained on which decisions will be made. This is particularly the case on the consumer-side of the sector. Consumer voices who engage in these issues are already few in number and outweighed by the number supply-side and distribution voices. Consumer groups also tend to have much less resource (MEUG has one employee, for example), and so are much more impacted by such a concentration of submissions due in a short period of time.

A second, related, issue is participation. When MEUG faces such a concentration of consultations there is always consideration of what consultations we simply do not submit on due to time and resource constraints. When our regulatory systems are legislatively designed to promote the long-term interests of consumers, but regulators make it difficult for consumers to participate and therefore be heard, there is a risk regulators' perspective of the interests of consumers begins to diverge over time from what consumers actually want or value.

Key dates

What's on	Who	When	Notes for members
Webinars: Enhancing the resilience of Aotearoa New Zealand's critical infrastructure	DPMC	3 – 27 July	The Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) has released a discussion document on enhancing the resilience of Aotearoa New Zealand's critical infrastructure. It will be running public sessions on this document during July.
Webinar: Consultation on ETS review	Ministry for the Environment	11 July	Webinar for the Emissions Intensive Trade Exposed, and Transport sectors.
Matariki	All	14 July	Public holiday for New Zealand
Submission: Amendments to correct minor TPM issues	Electricity Authority	19 July	The Authority is seeking further consultation on proposed TPM correction amendments. The focus is on Issue 5 – more flexibility in the calculation of regional net private benefits .
Submission: Draft IMs decision paper – EDBs / GPBs	Commerce Commission	19 July	Commission is seeking feedback on its review of the Input Methodologies that govern electricity distribution businesses (EDBs), gas pipeline businesses (GPBs) and airports. Several amendments have been proposed to aid the sector with decarbonisation and increased electrification.
Training: Energy Link online training	Open	20 / 26 July	Next round of training on nodal pricing of electricity and hedging electricity online courses
Event: Consumer reference panel	ENA	25 July	Consumer panel established by Electricity Networks Aotearoa. MEUG Executive Director attending.
Event: Energy Trader Forum	Freeman media	25 July	The next Energy Trader Forum will be held up in Auckland. Topics include supporting the power system through winter 2023, and a Q&A with the CCC.
Submission: Ensuring an orderly thermal transition	Electricity Authority	25 July	Consultation to understand the potential risks surrounding thermal generation retirement in Aotearoa.
Event: Energy and Resources sector election panel	Energy sector	26 July	Energy sector event, with Minister of Energy & Resources and political spokespeople from NZ First, Green Party, TOP, ACT and National. Supported by MEUG.
Submission: Review of forecasting provisions for intermittent generators in the spot market	Electricity Authority	26 July	Consultation that seeks feedback on proposed solutions to improve the accuracy of intermittent generation forecasts.
Monthly meeting: MEUG Executive Council meeting	MEUG	26 July	Hon James Shaw, Minister for Climate Change, will be the guest speaker. Presentations also from Mercury and 2 Degrees on state of wholesale and retail electricity market.
Submission: Draft IMs decision paper – Transpower	Commerce Commission	26 July	Commission is seeking feedback on its review of the Input Methodologies that govern Transpower. Several amendments have been proposed to aid Transpower with decarbonisation and increased electrification facing the sector.
Commencement date: National Policy Statement (NPS) and National Environmental Standards (NES) for Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Industrial Process	Ministry for the Environment	27 July	The NPS and NES for Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Industrial Process Heat have been publicly notified in the New Zealand Gazette and come into effect on 27 July. These documents provide nationally consistent policies, rules, and requirements for reducing GHG emissions from industries using process heat and prohibit discharges of GHG from new low to medium temperature coal boilers immediately and from existing coal boilers after 2037.
Submission: Call for evidence on emission reduction targets and emissions budgets	Climate Change Commission	31 July	The CCC is calling for evidence to support its work on Aotearoa New Zealand's emissions reduction targets and emissions budgets. The CCC are running this call for evidence now as they build their evidence base to inform their analysis and draft advice. The final advice is due to be delivered to the Minister of Climate Change by 31 December 2024.