

Future Operation of NZ Power System (consultation document)

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To:EA – Future Security and Resilience <fsr@ea.govt.nz>

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Hi - I don't anticipate a response from this but I'll put a few short words down anyway in the hope that they might get passed on.

The EA can carry on with these tick-box consultation exercises and electricity market tweaks forever if that's the intent.

However, the key text in the consultation document is:

"New Zealand has identified a key challenge of an increasingly renewable electricity system will be meeting demand during dry years, when hydro generation is lower than normal. Pumped hydro and other potential long-duration storage technologies are being investigated through the NZ Battery project"

I suspect by now the EA appreciates (at least in private) that the only realistic path to a stable massively renewable electricity system must include the Lake Onslow pumped storage scheme. The NZ Battery project has been terminated by Simeon Brown and we now must waste at least three years before evaluations restart with the demise of the present government.

For the sake of the nation, the EA should consider now taking up the task of commissioning Onslow scheme evaluations from where NZ Battery left off, so there will at least be something ready for the next government to look at. Much of the more expensive aspects on the Onslow initial studies have already been done. There remains a detailed business case evaluation which might take some time, but should be achievable for a few million dollars. A start has already been made in the Kelly report commissioned by Simon Upton.

Best wishes

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