

Release

Stock exchange listings: NZX (MEL) ASX (MEZ)

Meridian Energy monthly operating report for July 2020

21 August 2020

Attached is Meridian Energy Limited's monthly operating report for the month of July 2020.

Highlights this month include:

- In the month to 13 August 2020, national hydro storage decreased from 75% to 70% of historical average
- South Island storage sat at 73% of average and North Island storage at 57% of average on 13 August 2020
- Meridian's July 2020 monthly total inflows were 108% of historical average
- Meridian's Waitaki catchment storage at the end of July 2020 was 64% of historical average
- Storage in Meridian's Waiau catchment was below average at the end of July 2020
- National electricity demand in July 2020 was 2.5% higher than the same month last year
- Temperatures in July 2020 were around average or above across the country. Rainfall was above average in Northland and Otago/Southland, while it was comparatively dry elsewhere
- Meridian made calls under the Genesis swaption during July 2020
- New Zealand Aluminium Smelter's average load during July 2020 was 561MW
- Meridian's New Zealand retail sales volumes in July 2020 were 14.2% higher than July 2019
- Compared to July 2019, Meridian saw increased sales in all segments: residential (+12.7%), small medium business (+16.9%) agricultural (+11.2%), large business (+20.8%) and corporate (+13.4%)

ENDS

Neal Barclay

Chief Executive

Meridian Energy Limited

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MONTHLY OPERATING REPORT

JULY 2020



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JULY HIGHLIGHTS

In the month to 13 August 2020, national hydro storage decreased from 75% to 70% of historical average

South Island storage sat at 73% of average and North Island storage at 57% of average on 13 August 2020

Meridian's July 2020 monthly total inflows were 108% of historical average

Meridian's Waitaki catchment storage at the end of July 2020 was 64% of historical average

Storage in Meridian's Waiau catchment was below average at the end of July 2020

National electricity demand in July 2020 was 2.5% higher than the same month last year

Temperatures in July 2020 were around average or above across the country. Rainfall was above average in Northland and Otago/Southland, while it was comparatively dry elsewhere

Meridian made calls under the Genesis swaption during July 2020

New Zealand Aluminium Smelter's average load during July 2020 was 561MW

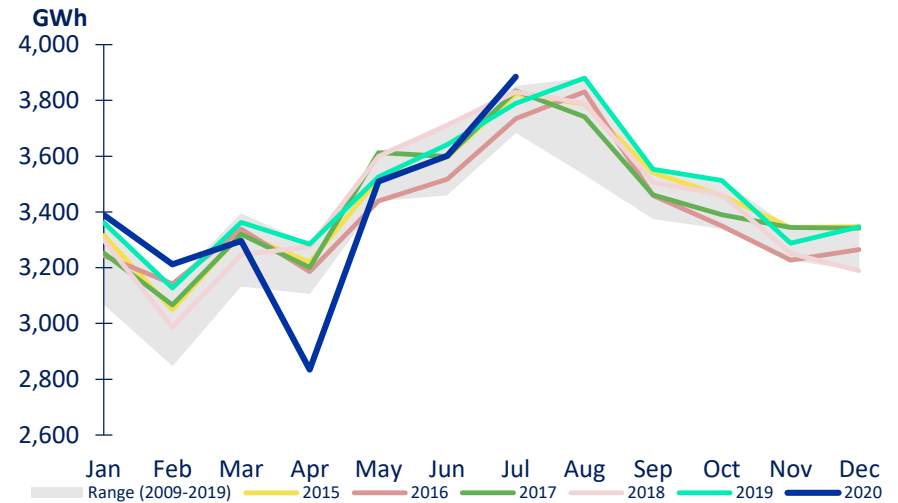
Meridian's New Zealand retail sales volumes in July 2020 were 14.2% higher than July 2019

Compared to July 2019, Meridian saw increased sales in all segments: residential (+12.7%), small medium business (+16.9%) agricultural (+11.2%), large business (+20.8%) and corporate (+13.4%)

MARKET DATA

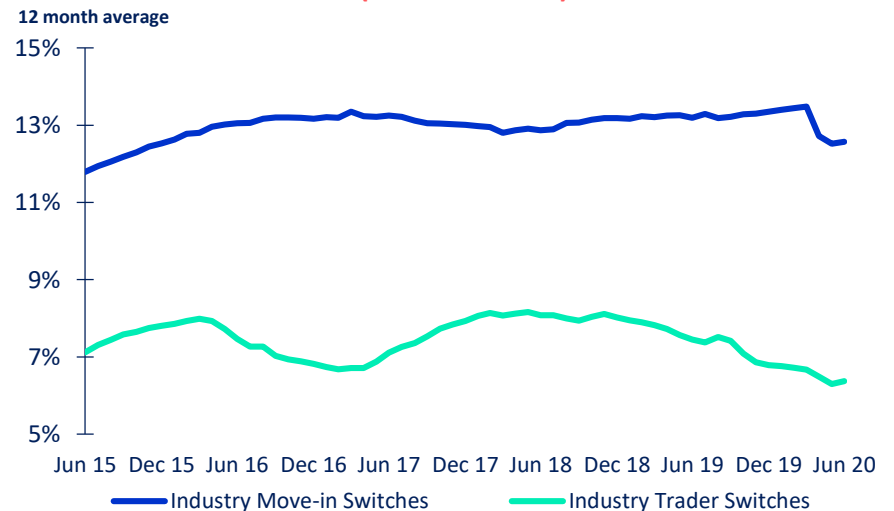
- National electricity demand in July 2020 was 2.5% higher than the same month last year
- Temperatures in July 2020 were around average or above across the country. Rainfall was above average in Northland and Otago/Southland, while it was comparatively dry elsewhere
- Demand in the last 12 months was flat compared to the preceding 12 months
- New Zealand Aluminium Smelter's average load during July 2020 was 561MW
- 12-month average switching rate of customers changing retailers but not moving ("trader" switch) was 6.4% at the end of June 2020
- 12-month average switching rate of customers moving and changing retailers ("move-in" switch) was 12.6% at the end of June 2020

NATIONAL DEMAND



Source: Electricity Authority (reconciled demand)

MARKET ICP SWITCHING (ALL RETAILERS)

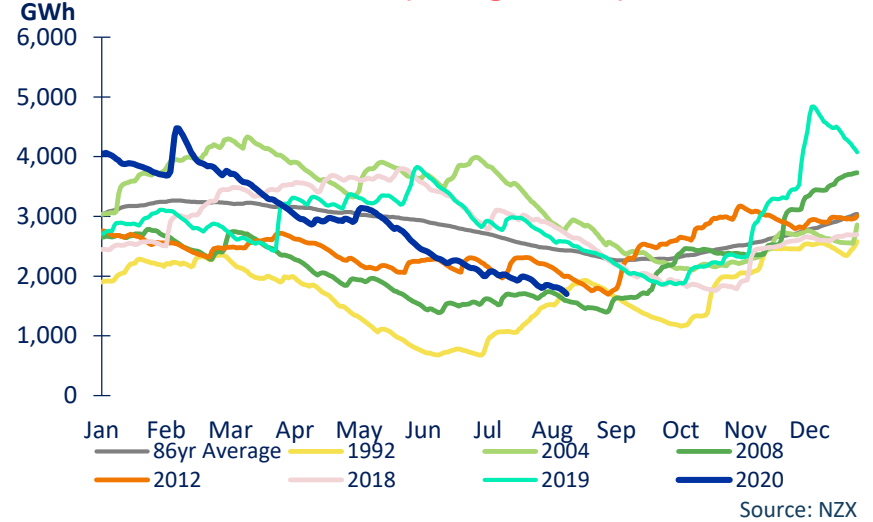


Source: Electricity Authority

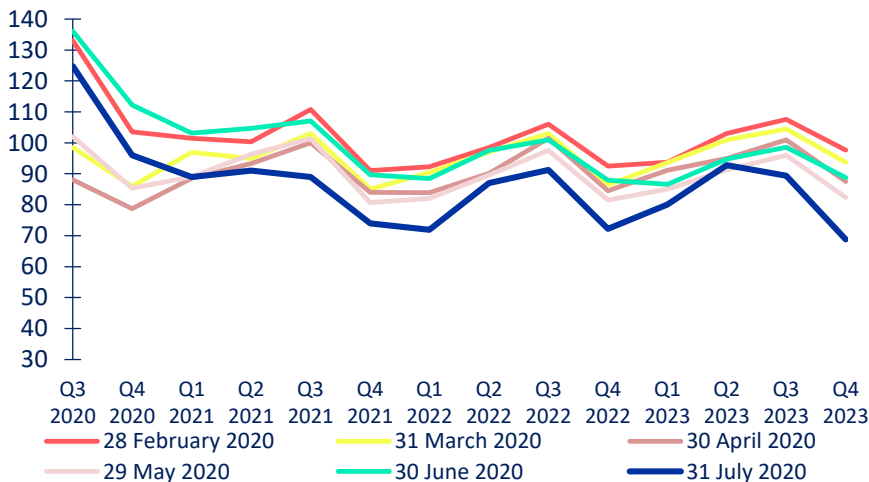
MARKET DATA

- July 2020 saw decreases in ASX prices
- National storage decreased from 75% of average on 20 July 2020 to 70% of average on 13 August 2020
- South Island storage decreased to 73% of historical average on 13 August 2020. North Island storage decreased to 57% of average

NATIONAL HYDRO STORAGE (13 August 2020)

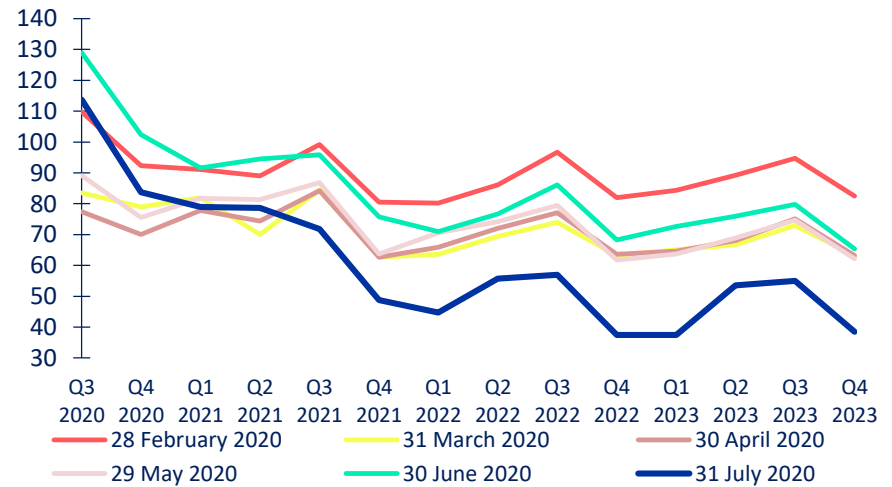


OTAHUHU ASX FUTURES SETTLEMENT PRICE
\$/MWh



Source: ASX

BENMORE ASX FUTURES SETTLEMENT PRICE
\$/MWh

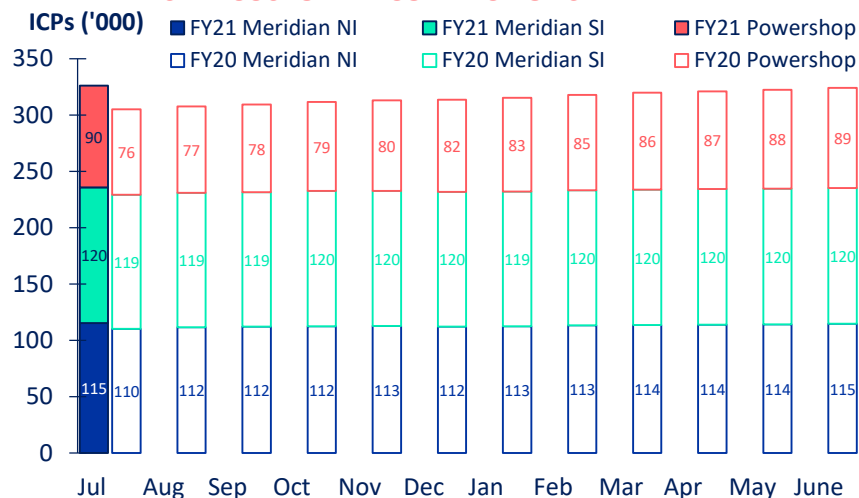


Source: ASX

NEW ZEALAND RETAIL

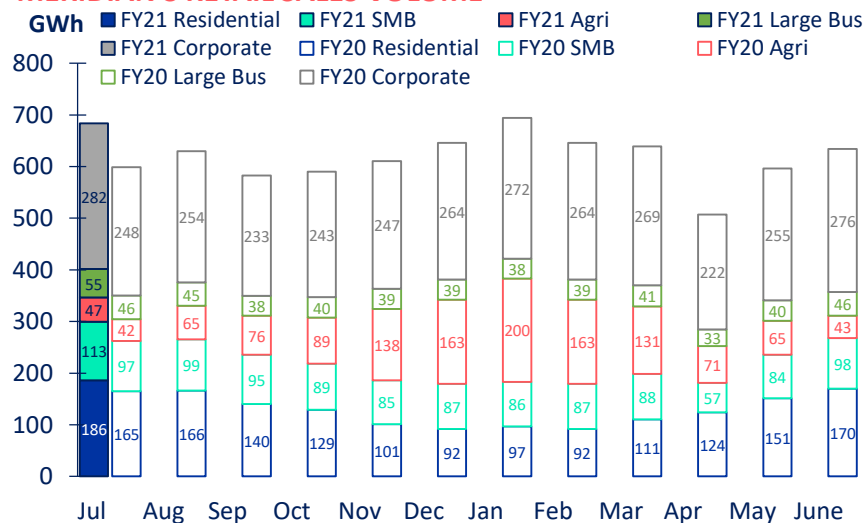
- Meridian's New Zealand customer connection numbers rose 0.6% during July 2020
- Retail sales volumes in July 2020 were 14.2% higher than July 2019
- Compared to July 2019, Meridian saw increased sales in all segments: residential (+12.7%), small medium business (+16.9%) agricultural (+11.2%), large business (+20.8%) and corporate (+13.4%)

MERIDIAN'S NZ CUSTOMER CONNECTIONS



Source: Meridian

MERIDIAN'S RETAIL SALES VOLUME*



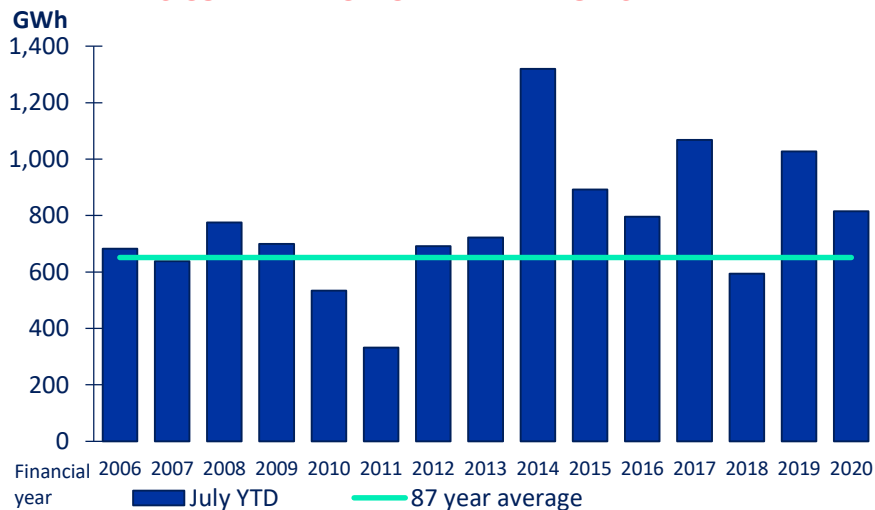
Source: Meridian

*excludes volumes sold to New Zealand Aluminium Smelters and CFDs

NEW ZEALAND STORAGE

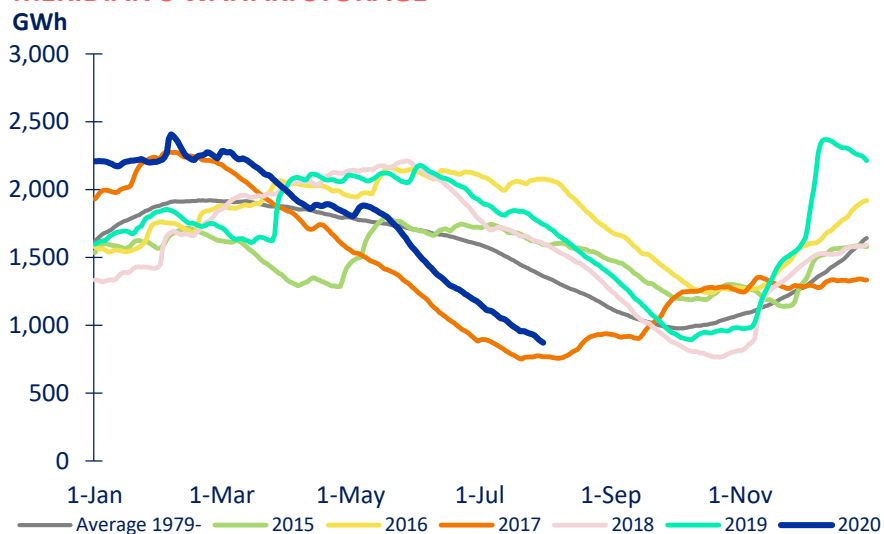
- July 2020 monthly inflows were 108% of historical average
- Meridian's Waitaki catchment storage moved from 1,173GWh to 871GWh during July 2020
- Waitaki storage at the end of July 2020 was 64% of historical average and 50% lower than the same time last year
- Storage in Meridian's Waiau catchment was also below average at the end of July 2020

MERIDIAN'S COMBINED CATCHMENT INFLOWS



Source: Meridian

MERIDIAN'S WAITAKI STORAGE

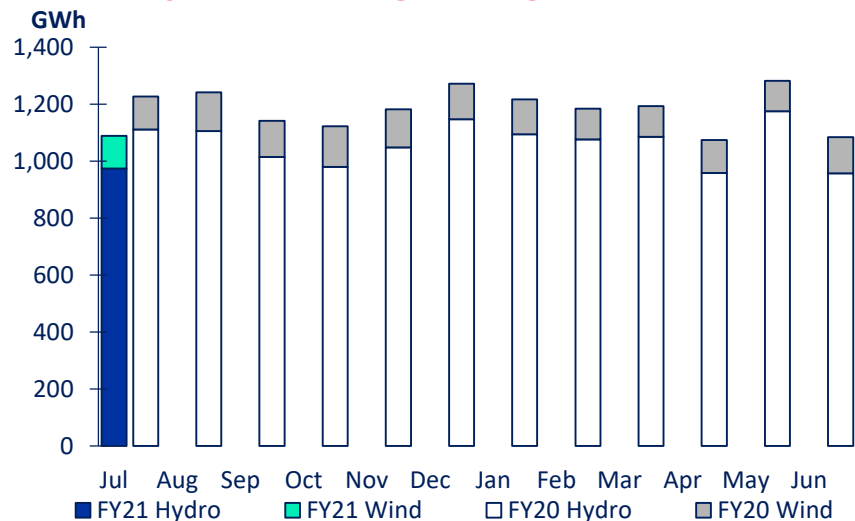


Source: Meridian

NEW ZEALAND GENERATION

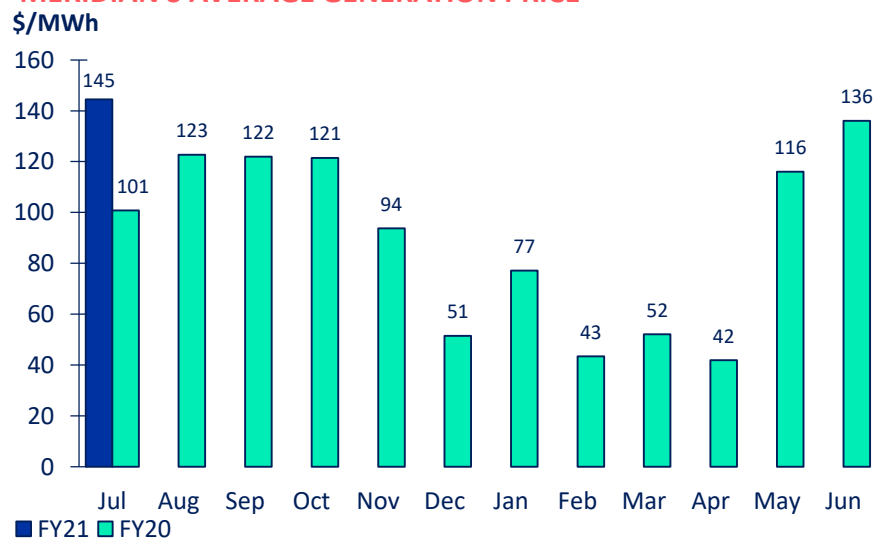
- Meridian's New Zealand generation in July 2020 was 11.2% lower than the same month last year, reflecting lower hydro and lower wind generation
- The average price Meridian received for its generation in July 2020 was 43.4% higher than the same month last year
- The average price Meridian paid to supply customers in July 2020 was 48.1% higher than the same month last year

MERIDIAN'S NEW ZEALAND GENERATION



Source: Meridian

MERIDIAN'S AVERAGE GENERATION PRICE*



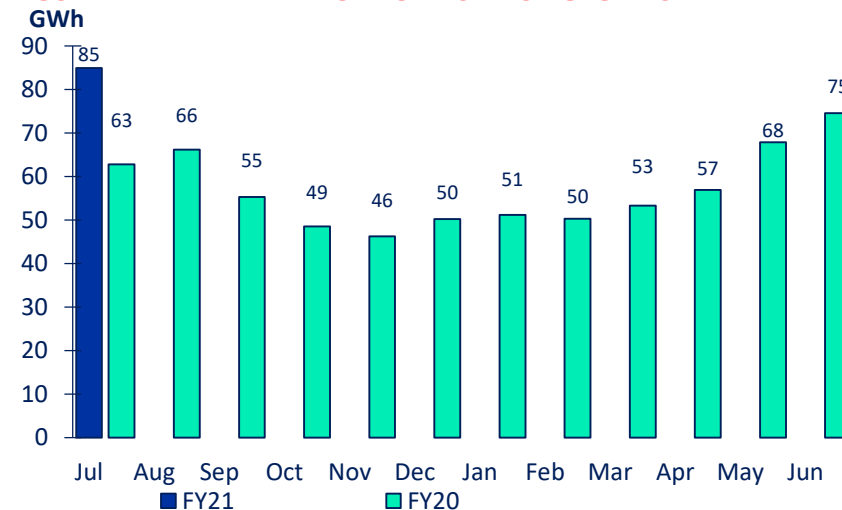
Source: Meridian

*price received for Meridian's physical generation

AUSTRALIAN RETAIL

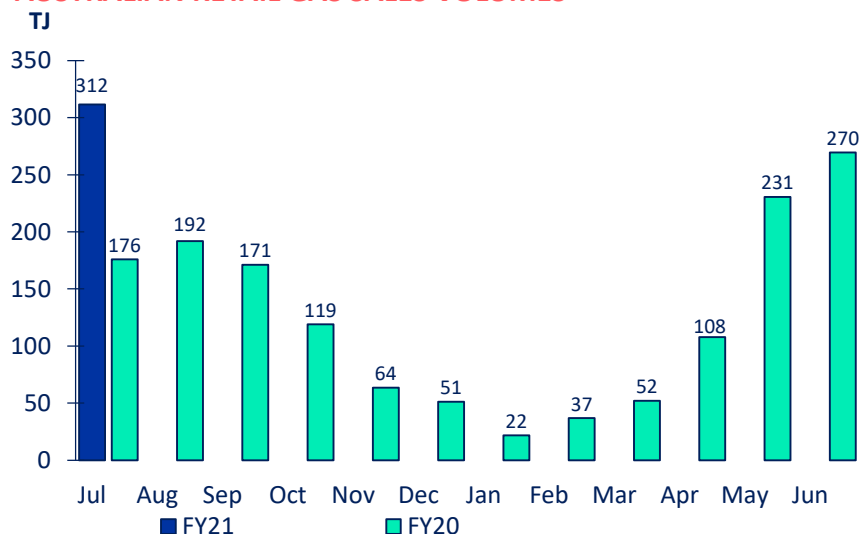
- Australian retail electricity sales volumes in July 2020 were 35.3% higher than the same month last year
- Powershop Australia electricity customer connection numbers rose 0.4% during July 2020
- Gas customer connection numbers rose 1.8% during July 2020, with total sales in the month of 312TJ

AUSTRALIAN RETAIL ELECTRICITY SALES VOLUMES



Source: Meridian

AUSTRALIAN RETAIL GAS SALES VOLUMES

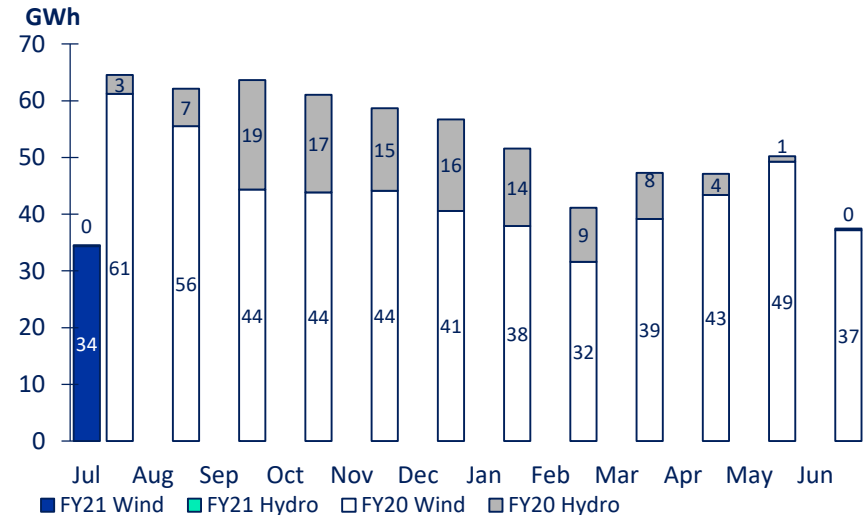


Source: Meridian
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AUSTRALIAN GENERATION

- Meridian’s Australian generation in July 2020 was 46.5% lower than the same month last year, reflecting lower wind generation and lower hydro generation
- July 2020 saw a marked increase in electricity demand with NEM consumption increasing (versus the prior corresponding period) for the first time since the pandemic began
- July 2020 average wholesale prices were 30% lower than the same month last year

MERIDIAN'S AUSTRALIAN GENERATION



Source: Meridian

	JULY 2020 MONTH	JULY 2019 MONTH	JUNE 2020 MONTH	MAY 2020 MONTH
New Zealand sales				
Residential sales volume (GWh)	186	165	170	151
Small medium business sales volume (GWh)	113	97	98	85
Agricultural sales volume (GWh)	47	42	43	65
Large business sales volume (GWh)	55	46	46	40
Corporate and industrial sales volume (GWh)	282	249	277	255
Retail contracted sales volume (GWh)	683	599	634	596
Average retail contracted sales price ¹ (\$NZ/MWh)	\$120.4	\$113.6	\$116.5	\$106.8
NZAS sales volume (GWh)	426	463	412	426
Financial contract sales volumes ² (GWh)	188	150	280	318
Avg. wholesale & financial contracts sales price ³ (\$NZ/MWh)	\$82.0	\$69.9	\$67.4	\$65.4
Retail customer supply volumes (GWh)	704	645	661	624
Cost to supply retail customers (\$NZ/MWh)	\$165.1	\$110.4	\$132.2	\$132.3
Cost to supply wholesale customers (\$NZ/MWh)	\$143.8	\$97.9	\$144.3	\$113.4
Cost of financial contracts (\$NZ/MWh)	\$143.7	\$101.9	\$130.6	\$98.9
Total New Zealand customer connections ⁴	326,148	304,993	324,253	322,448

	JULY 2020 MONTH	JULY 2019 MONTH	JUNE 2020 MONTH	MAY 2020 MONTH
New Zealand generation				
Hydro generation volumes (GWh)	975	1,111	958	1,176
Wind generation volumes (GWh)	114	116	126	106
Total generation volumes (GWh)	1,089	1,227	1,084	1,282
Average generation price ⁵ (\$NZ/MWh)	\$144.5	\$100.7	\$152.7	\$116.0

New Zealand hedging				
Hedging volume ⁶ (GWh)	318	145	317	218
Hedging costs (\$NZ/MWh)	\$109.3	\$65.0	\$87.6	\$70.1
Hedging spot revenue average price (\$NZ/MWh)	\$133.4	\$104.4	\$134.9	\$101.9
Future contract close outs (\$NZ m)	-\$1.6	-\$0.3	-\$2.3	-\$4.3

	JULY 2020 MONTH	JULY 2019 MONTH	JUNE 2020 MONTH	MAY 2020 MONTH
Australian contracted sales				
Retail contracted electricity sales volume (GWh)	85	63	75	68
Average electricity contracted sales price ¹ (\$A/MWh)	\$142.7	\$149.8	\$147.6	\$146.5
Retail contracted gas sales volume (TJ)	312	176	270	231
Average gas contracted sales price ¹ (\$A/GJ)	\$14.7	\$13.9	\$12.5	\$15.4
Financial contract sales volumes ² (GWh)	26	54	22	19
Financial contracted sales average price (\$A/MWh)	\$67.6	\$83.3	\$59.8	\$69.5
Cost to supply electricity customers (\$A/MWh)	\$79.5	\$105.5	\$78.1	\$67.5
Cost to supply gas customers (\$A/GJ)	\$10.1	\$11.8	\$11.6	\$11.2
Cost of financial contracts (\$A/MWh)	\$56.7	\$86.9	\$42.3	\$39.8
Powershop electricity customer connections ⁷	136,696	111,373	136,202	135,628
Powershop gas customer connections ⁸	38,544	24,096	37,878	36,955

	JULY 2020 MONTH	JULY 2019 MONTH	JUNE 2020 MONTH	MAY 2020 MONTH
Australian generation				
Wind generation volumes (GWh)	34	61	37	49
Average wind generation price ⁵ (\$A/MWh)	\$90.3	\$115.7	\$79.2	\$61.4
Hydro generation volumes (GWh)	0	3	0	1
Average hydro generation price ⁵ (\$A/MWh)	-	\$81.0	\$58.5	\$39.9
PPA generation received (GWh)	27	35	28	32
Average PPA generation price [net of costs] (\$A/MWh)	-\$1.6	\$22.9	-\$9.1	-\$13.1
Australian hedging				
Hedging volume ⁶ (GWh)	35	36	37	40
Hedging costs (\$A/MWh)	\$48.4	\$87.3	\$80.6	\$49.6
Hedging spot revenue average price (\$A/MWh)	\$18.6	\$99.6	\$55.0	\$42.9
Future contract close outs (\$A M)	-\$0.2	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.7

	JULY 2020 MONTH	JULY 2019 MONTH	JUNE 2020 MONTH	MAY 2020 MONTH
Meridian Group				
Employee and Operating Costs ¹ (\$m)	21	20	31	19
Stay in Business Capital Expenditure (\$m)	3	4	6	3
Investment Capital Expenditure (\$m)	7	1	3	1
Total Capital Expenditure (\$m)	10	5	9	4

¹excludes electricity metering expenses, now reclassified into gross margin

Footnotes

- Contracted sales volumes and volume weighted average price received from contracted customers less distribution costs
- Derivatives sold excluding the sell-side of virtual asset swaps
- Average price of both NZAS sales volume and derivative sales volumes
- Meridian Retail and Powershop New Zealand installation control points (ICPs), excluding vacants
- Volume weighted average price received for Meridian's physical generation
- Over the counter and ASX contract volumes excluding the buy-side of virtual asset swaps
- Financially responsible market participants, excluding vacants
- Meter installation registration numbers

FY21 OPERATING INFORMATION

	Jul 2020	Aug 2020	Sep 2020	Oct 2020	Nov 2020	Dec 2020	Jan 2021	Feb 2021	Mar 2021	Apr 2021	May 2021	Jun 2021
New Zealand contracted sales												
Residential sales volume (GWh)	186											
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Retail customer supply volumes (GWh)	704											
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Cost of financial contracts (\$NZ/MWh)	\$143.7											
Total New Zealand customer connections	326,148											
New Zealand generation												
Hydro generation volume (GWh)	975											
Wind generation volume (GWh)	114											
Total generation volume (GWh)	1,089											
Average generation price (\$NZ/MWh)	\$144.5											
New Zealand hedging												
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Future contract close outs (\$NZm)	-1.6											
Australia contracted sales												
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Financial contracted sales average price (\$A/MWh)	\$67.6											
Cost to supply electricity customers (\$A/MWh)	\$79.5											
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Powershop electricity customer connections ⁷	136,696											
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Australia generation												
Wind generation volume (GWh)	34											
Average wind generation price (\$A/MWh)	\$90.3											
Hydro generation volume (GWh)	0											
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PPA generation received (GWh)	27											
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Australia hedging												
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Hedging costs (\$A/MWh)	\$48.4											
Hedging spot revenue average price (\$A/MWh)	\$18.6											
Future contract close outs (\$A M)	-\$0.2											
Meridian Group												
Employee and Operating Costs (\$NZ m)	21											
Stay in Business Capital Expenditure (\$NZ m)	3											
Investment Capital Expenditure (\$NZ m)	7											
Total Capital Expenditure (\$NZ m)	10											

FY20 OPERATING INFORMATION

	Jul 2019	Aug 2019	Sep 2019	Oct 2019	Nov 2019	Dec 2019	Jan 2020	Feb 2020	Mar 2020	Apr 2020	May 2020	Jun 2020
New Zealand contracted sales												
Residential sales volume (GWh)	165	166	140	129	101	98	97	92	111	124	151	170
Small medium business sales volume (GWh)	97	99	95	89	85	81	86	87	88	57	85	98
Agricultural sales volume (GWh)	42	65	76	89	138	181	200	163	131	71	65	43
Large business sales volume (GWh)	46	45	38	40	39	40	38	39	41	33	40	46
Corporate and industrial sales volume (GWh)	249	254	233	243	247	248	272	264	269	222	255	277
Retail contracted sales volume (GWh)	599	630	583	590	610	650	694	646	639	507	596	634
Average retail contracted sales price (\$NZ/MWh)	\$113.5	\$115.4	\$109.5	\$102.7	\$99.8	\$100.0	\$103.3	\$109.5	\$108.3	\$109.2	\$106.8	\$116.5
NZAS sales volume (GWh)	463	463	447	463	448	463	463	433	463	416	426	412
Financial contract sales volumes (GWh)	150	176	148	129	135	164	170	283	354	222	318	280
Average wholesale & financial contracts sales price (\$NZ/MWh)	\$69.9	\$70.9	\$68.4	\$67.0	\$65.3	\$62.3	\$66.5	\$68.7	\$66.7	\$64.8	\$65.4	\$67.4
Retail customer supply volumes (GWh)	645	662	581	623	650	669	733	682	666	537	624	661
Cost to supply retail customers (\$NZ/MWh)	\$110.4	\$135.6	\$129.3	\$130.2	\$112.7	\$57.1	\$95.1	\$67.9	\$67.4	\$50.1	\$132.3	\$132.2
Cost to supply wholesale customers (\$NZ/MWh)	\$97.9	\$120.5	\$126.1	\$118.7	\$89.6	\$45.4	\$76.8	\$36.6	\$44.7	\$43.4	\$113.4	\$144.3
Cost of financial contracts (\$NZ/MWh)	\$101.9	\$118.2	\$120.5	\$112.6	\$92.8	\$81.6	\$86.7	\$47.0	\$45.7	\$52.1	\$98.9	\$130.6
Total New Zealand customer connections	304,993	307,798	309,372	311,694	313,150	313,599	315,225	317,784	319,778	321,051	322,448	324,253
New Zealand generation												
Hydro generation volume (GWh)	1,111	1,106	1,015	980	1,049	1,147	1,095	1,077	1,085	959	1,176	958
Wind generation volume (GWh)	116	135	126	143	133	125	122	108	109	116	106	126
Total generation volume (GWh)	1,227	1,241	1,141	1,123	1,182	1,272	1,217	1,185	1,194	1,075	1,282	1,084
Average generation price (\$NZ/MWh)	\$100.7	\$122.7	\$121.9	\$121.4	\$93.7	\$51.4	\$77.1	\$43.4	\$52.1	\$41.9	\$116.0	\$152.7
New Zealand hedging												
Hedging volume (GWh)	145	139	132	145	148	182	296	342	428	239	218	317
Hedging costs (\$NZ/MWh)	\$65.0	\$63.2	\$62.2	\$64.4	\$67.3	\$64.4	\$96.1	\$100.7	\$106.4	\$77.4	\$70.1	\$87.6
Hedging spot revenue average price (\$NZ/MWh)	\$104.4	\$130.5	\$124.0	\$122.6	\$104.1	\$63.1	\$100.0	\$75.1	\$59.8	\$51.5	\$101.9	\$134.9
Future contract close outs (\$NZm)	-0.3	-0.6	-1.4	-1.5	-0.2	-0.9	-0.2	-0.2	-0.1	-2.0	-4.3	-2.3
Australia contracted sales												
Retail contracted electricity sales volume (GWh)	63	66	55	49	46	50	51	50	53	57	68	75
Average electricity contracted sales price ¹ (\$A/MWh)	\$149.8	\$147.0	\$131.2	\$168.0	\$174.0	\$161.1	\$130.0	\$150.4	\$142.0	\$121.1	\$146.5	\$147.6
Retail contracted gas sales volume (TJ)	176	192	171	119	64	51	22	37	52	108	231	270
Average gas contracted sales price ¹ (\$A/GJ)	\$13.9	\$14.0	\$13.4	\$13.8	\$18.9	\$20.0	\$33.4	\$22.2	\$18.7	\$12.5	\$15.4	\$12.5
Financial contract sales volumes ² (GWh)	54	43	60	65	63	68	46	43	46	7	19	22
Financial contracted sales average price (\$A/MWh)	\$83.3	\$86.1	\$90.1	\$80.1	\$80.1	\$79.2	\$122.0	\$122.0	\$122.0	\$176.6	\$69.5	\$59.8
Cost to supply electricity customers (\$A/MWh)	\$105.5	\$126.4	\$118.0	\$119.9	\$89.2	\$82.2	\$257.6	\$111.9	\$53.6	\$56.8	\$67.5	\$78.1
Cost to supply gas customers (\$A/GJ)	\$11.8	\$11.4	\$9.8	\$8.6	\$14.0	\$9.9	\$41.1	\$20.4	\$13.6	\$13.4	\$11.2	\$11.6
Cost of financial contracts (\$A/MWh)	\$86.9	\$101.0	\$103.6	\$100.1	\$68.3	\$58.2	\$138.8	\$52.2	\$45.8	\$87.4	\$39.8	\$42.3
Powershop electricity customer connections ⁷	111,373	112,995	115,099	118,721	121,575	124,668	127,847	131,647	134,399	135,205	135,628	136,202
Powershop gas customer connections ⁸	24,096	25,240	26,529	27,858	29,182	30,465	32,387	33,428	35,392	36,077	36,955	37,878
Australia generation												
Wind generation volume (GWh)	61	56	44	44	44	41	38	32	39	43	49	37
Average wind generation price (\$A/MWh)	\$115.7	\$124.7	\$127.3	\$125.5	\$110.3	\$101.9	\$225.9	\$474.6	\$77.8	\$54.2	\$61.4	\$79.2
Hydro generation volume (GWh)	3	7	19	17	15	16	14	9	8	4	1	0
Average hydro generation price (\$A/MWh)	\$81.0	\$104.0	\$99.2	\$99.4	\$66.9	\$64.4	\$153.1	\$56.4	\$43.8	\$39.1	\$39.9	\$58.5
PPA generation received (GWh)	35	34	30	31	30	29	29	28	30	30	32	28
Average PPA generation price [net of costs] (\$A/MWh)	\$22.9	\$30.3	\$38.4	\$45.2	\$16.5	\$7.8	\$59.5	\$1.4	-\$8.9	-\$14.5	-\$13.1	-\$9.1
Australia hedging												
Hedging volume (GWh)	36	39	36	50	48	50	39	43	42	36	40	37
Hedging costs (\$A/MWh)	\$87.3	\$98.6	\$107.3	\$95.5	\$89.9	\$89.9	-\$23.1	\$197.7	\$185.1	\$79.3	-\$49.6	\$80.6
Hedging spot revenue average price (\$A/MWh)	\$99.6	\$105.4	\$111.4	\$107.7	\$72.3	\$58.6	\$130.3	\$58.6	\$43.5	\$41.7	\$42.9	\$55.0
Future contract close outs (\$A M)	\$0.0	\$0.2	-\$0.1	\$0.0	\$0.7	-\$0.1	\$0.0	\$0.5	-\$0.1	\$0.8	\$0.7	\$0.0
Meridian Group												
Employee and Operating Costs (\$NZ m)	21	21	22	22	22	19	19	21	21	20	19	31
Stay in Business Capital Expenditure (\$NZ m)	4	3	4	4	4	4	3	3	4	3	3	6
Investment Capital Expenditure (\$NZ m)	1	2	2	1	2	1	1	2	2	1	1	3
Total Capital Expenditure (\$NZ m)	5	5	6	5	6	5	4	5	6	4	4	9

GLOSSARY

Hedging volumes	buy-side electricity derivatives excluding the buy-side of virtual asset swaps
Average generation price	the volume weighted average price received for Meridian’s physical generation
Average retail contracted sales price	volume weighted average electricity price received from retail customers, less distribution costs
Average wholesale contracted sales price	volume weighted average electricity price received from wholesale customers (including NZAS) and financial contracts
Combined catchment inflows	combined water inflows into Meridian’s Waitaki and Waiau hydro storage lakes
Cost of hedges	volume weighted average price Meridian pays for derivatives acquired
Cost to supply contracted sales	volume weighted average price Meridian pays to supply contracted customer sales and financial contracts
Contracts for Difference (CFDs)	an agreement between parties to pay the difference between the wholesale electricity price and an agreed fixed price for a specified volume of electricity. CFDs do not result in the physical supply of electricity
Customer connections (NZ)	number of installation control points, excluding vacants
FRMP	financially responsible market participant
GWh	gigawatt hour. Enough electricity for 125 average New Zealand households for one year
Historic average inflows	the historic average combined water inflows into Meridian’s Waitaki and Waiau hydro storage lakes over the last 85 years
Historic average storage	the historic average level of storage in Meridian’s Waitaki catchment since 1979
HVDC	high voltage direct current link between the North and South Islands of New Zealand
ICP	New Zealand installation control points, excluding vacants
ICP switching	the number of installation control points changing retailer supplier in New Zealand, recorded in the month the switch was initiated
MWh	megawatt hour. Enough electricity for one average New Zealand household for 46 days
National demand	Electricity Authority’s reconciled grid demand www.emi.ea.govt.nz
NEM	Australia’s national energy market, comprising Queensland, New South Wales (including the Australian Capital Territory), Victoria, South Australia, and Tasmania
NZAS	New Zealand Aluminium Smelters Limited
Retail sales volumes	contract sales volumes to retail customers, including both non half hourly and half hourly metered customers
Financial contract sales	sell-side electricity derivatives excluding the sell-side of virtual asset swaps
TJ	Terajoules
Virtual Asset Swaps (VAS)	CFDs Meridian has with Genesis Energy and Mercury New Zealand. They do not result in the physical supply of electricity