

# FINANCIAL RESULTS.

YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

**VINCE HAWKSWORTH**  
Chief Executive

17 August 2021

**WILLIAM MEEK**  
Chief Financial Officer



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# HIGHLIGHTS

## **\$463m EBITDAF**

Down \$27m<sup>1</sup> versus FY2020 reflecting lower generation on fourth-lowest inflows<sup>2</sup> and Kawerau outage with high spot prices

## **CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT**

Thriving today through our focus on continuous improvement to work smarter, faster and better

## **HIGH SPOT PRICES**

Elevated due to fuel constraints with hydro generation limited by low inflows and gas deliverability reduced by issues at major gas producers

## **PLATFORM FOR GROWTH**

Adding five wind farms and development options through Tilt Renewables NZ assets and bringing together New Zealand's largest multi-utility business through Trustpower retail transaction

## **17.0cps TOTAL ORDINARY DIVIDEND**

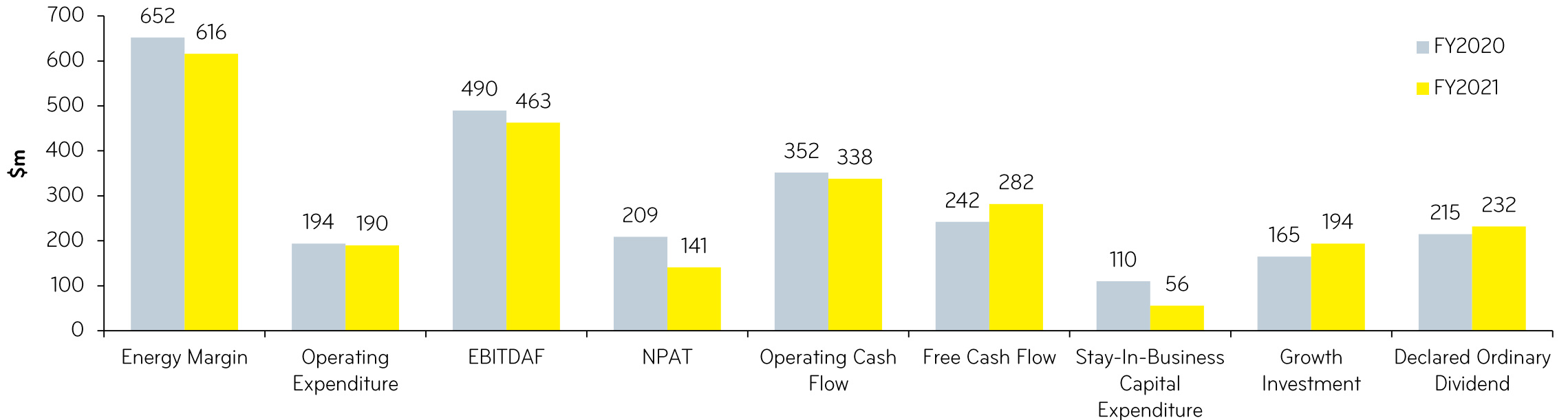
Increase of 7.6% versus FY2020; the 13th consecutive year of ordinary dividend growth

## **FY2022 GUIDANCE**

Lifting to \$590m due to contributions from Tilt Renewables, Turitea wind farm and continuous improvement initiatives



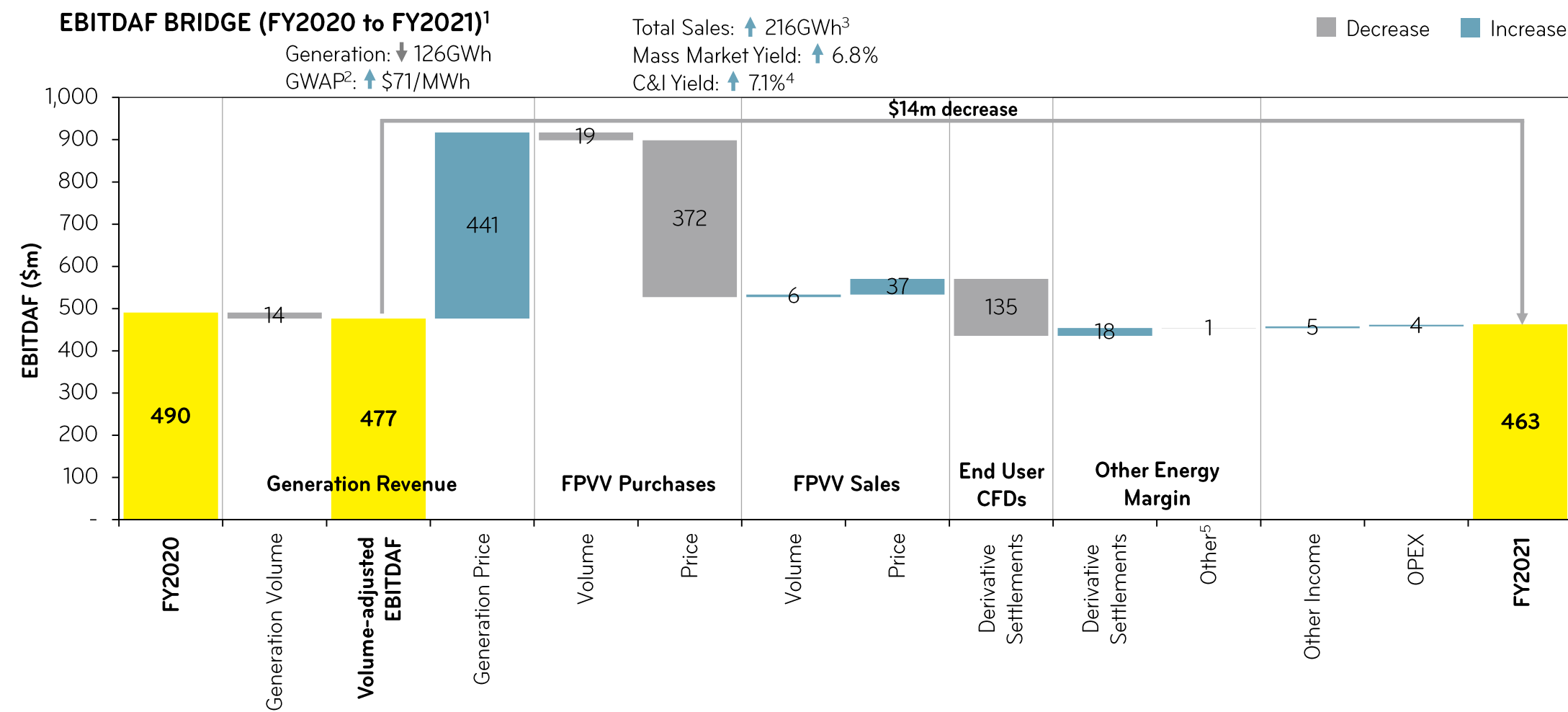
# FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE<sup>1</sup>



- > EBITDAF and NPAT down versus FY2020 reflecting 126GWh generation decrease due to low hydro inflows and Kawerau outage with elevated spot prices
- > Stay-In-Business capital expenditure down with deferred activity in FY2021; Growth Investment up due to investment in Turitea wind farm, Rotokawa upgrade, EnergySource Minerals and NOW Broadband
- > Operating Expenditure flat versus FY2020
- > Free Cash Flow higher as lower earnings offset by reduced stay-in-business capital expenditure



# SHORT EXPOSURE FROM LOW INFLOWS AND OUTAGE AMPLIFIED BY HIGH PRICES



<sup>1</sup> Figures do not add up exactly due to rounding  
<sup>2</sup> Generation-Weighted Average Price received for hydro and geothermal generation  
<sup>3</sup> Includes both physical and financial sales  
<sup>4</sup> Includes Fixed Price Variable Volume (FPVV) sales and End User Contracts for Differences (CFDs)  
<sup>5</sup> Includes ancillary services & gas purchases and sales



# KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

(versus previous yearly periods / 12-monthly rolling unless indicated)

CUSTOMER		Mercury brand trader churn 6.1% <sup>1</sup>		Net promoter score 10.4 <sup>2</sup>		Brand Strength 65% <sup>3</sup>	
PARTNERSHIPS		CCC final advice continues to heavily support electrification		Continued engagement with NZ Battery Project		Signed two relationship agreements with iwi	
KAITIAKITANGA		Portfolio LWAP/GWAP 1.01		Turitea delayed, commissioning under way		Gross Generation Emissions Intensity 35kg CO <sub>2</sub> e/MWh <sup>4</sup>	
PEOPLE		Zero high severity health and safety incidents		Employee Engagement 65% <sup>5</sup>		73% of our people say they are encouraged to be innovative	
COMMERCIAL		Annual Total Shareholder Return 45.4%		17.0cps total ordinary dividend, 13 <sup>th</sup> consecutive year of growth		>1,100GWh wind generation acquired from Tilt Renewables	

<sup>1</sup> Normalised for the exit of an agreement with Fonterra Farm Source

<sup>2</sup> Index ranging from -100 to 100 measuring the willingness of customers within target segments to recommend Mercury, 3-monthly rolling average

<sup>3</sup> Weighted average of five drivers of brand emotional equity, 3-monthly rolling average to April 2021 (latest available period)

<sup>4</sup> For CY2020 (trendline shows FY17-20 and CY20) as reporting basis changed to calendar years to align with the New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme, includes Scope 1 emissions only

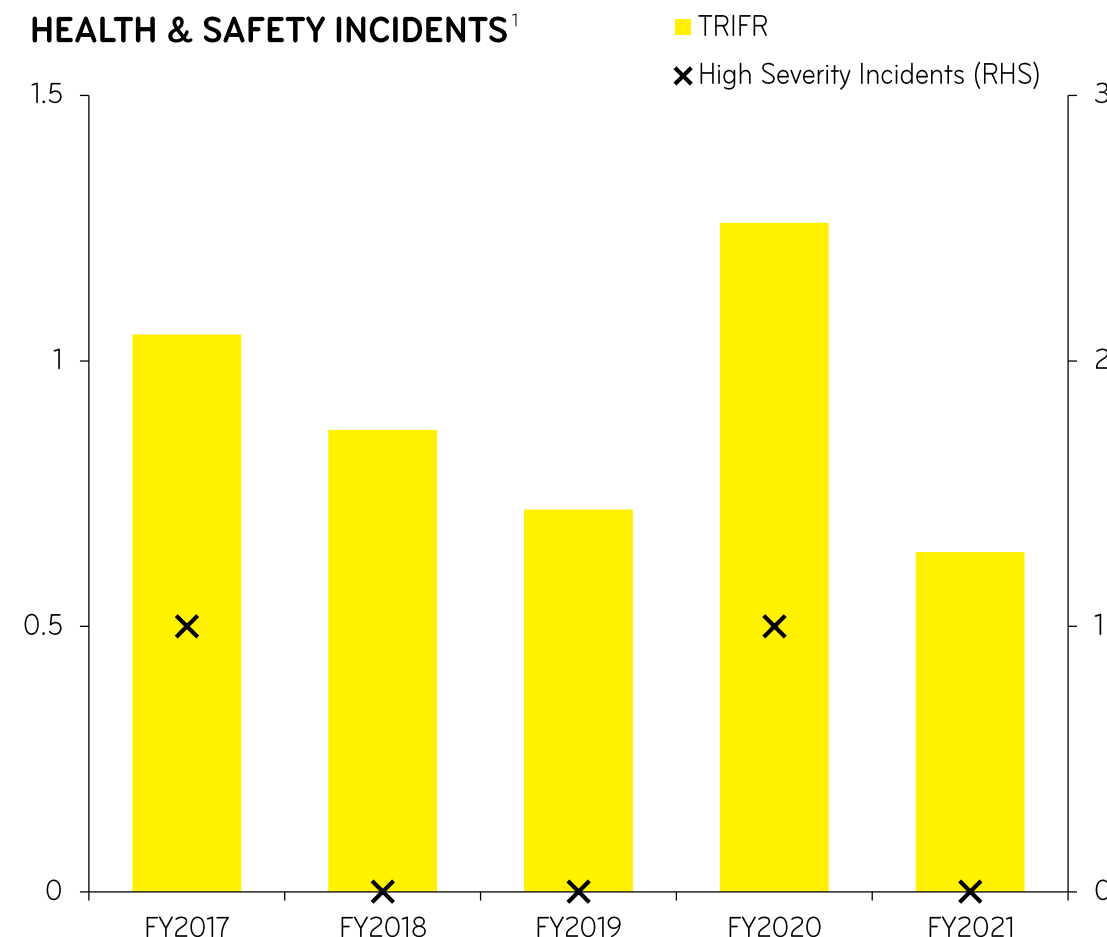
<sup>5</sup> From CultureAmp survey introduced 2019



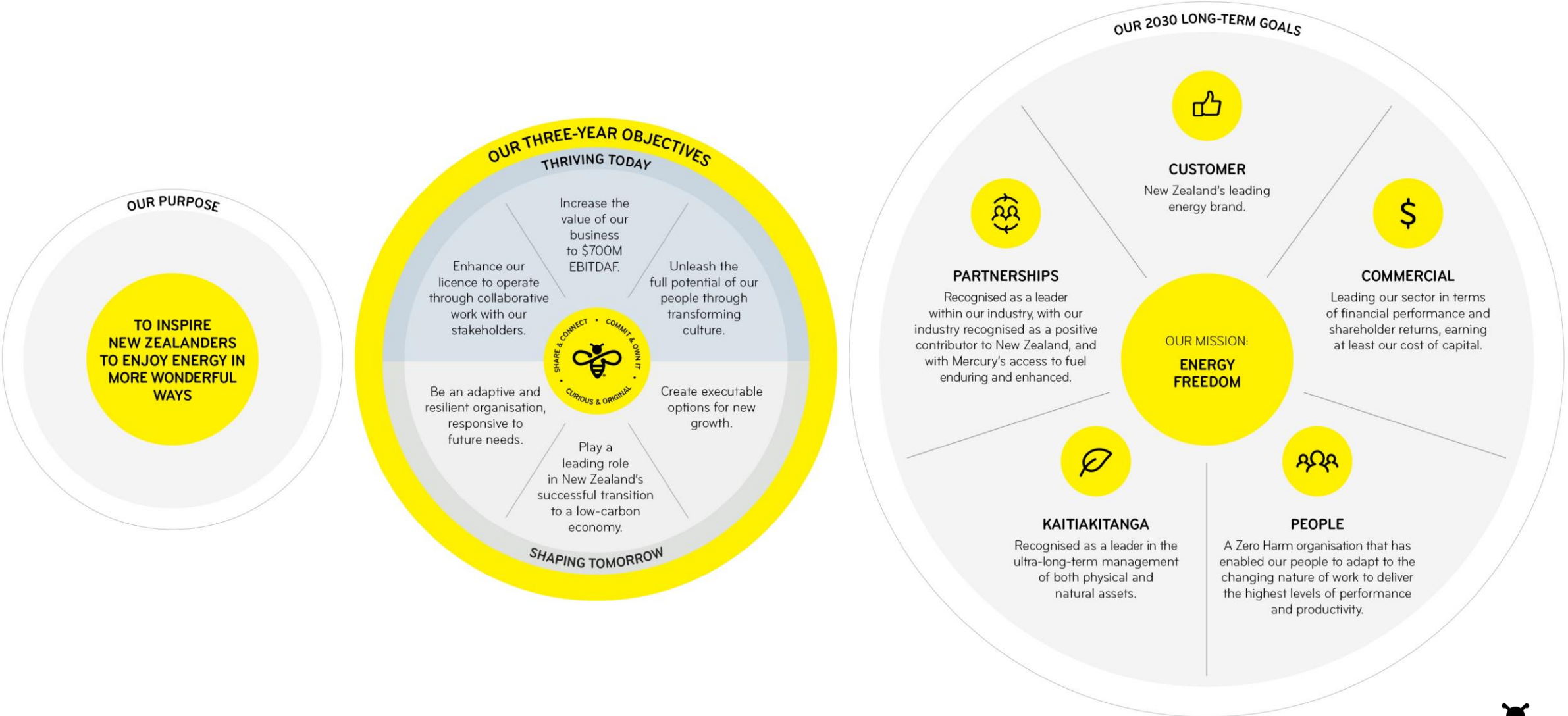
# FOCUS ON HEALTH & SAFETY

- > Zero high severity Health & Safety incidents in FY2021
  - > Decreased from one incident in FY2020
  
- > TRIFR decreased from 1.26 in FY2020 to 0.64 despite a 10% increase in on-site hours worked in FY2021
  - > Number of reportable injuries decreased from 14 in FY2020 to 8 in FY2021
  
- > Identified human factors as an important part of safety performance and process safety management
  - > Completed independent audit in this area concentrating on improvements in processes, controls and systems relevant to the prevention of major incident events
  
- > Continued focus on Health & Safety seen through increased safety observations and near-miss reporting in 2H-FY2021

## HEALTH & SAFETY INCIDENTS<sup>1</sup>



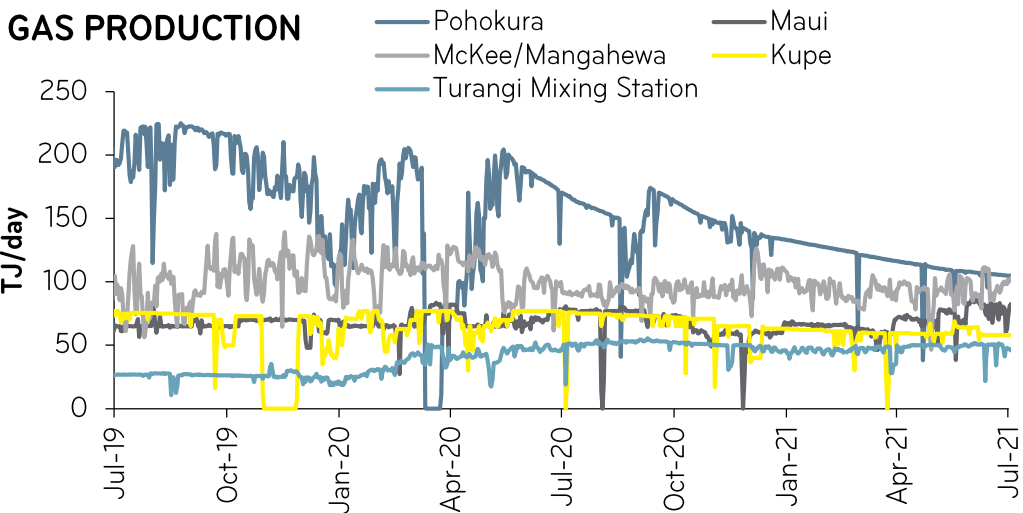
# REFRESHED STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK



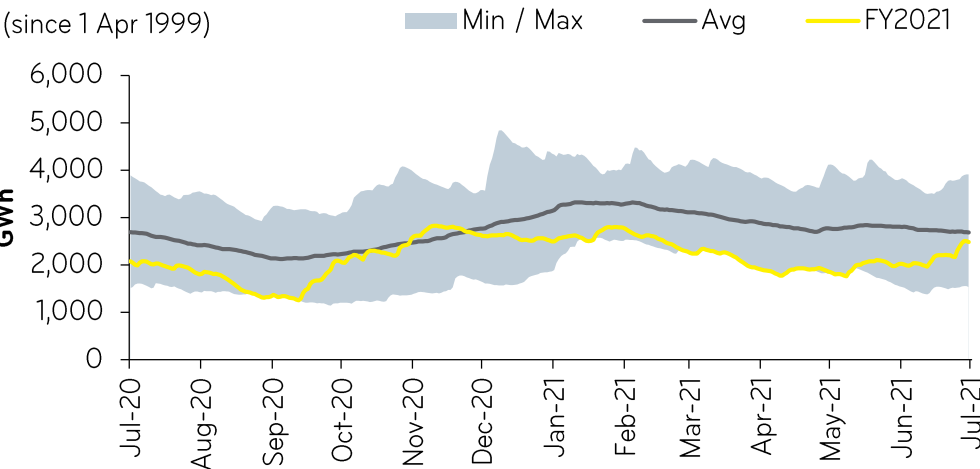


# SPOT PRICES REFLECT REDUCED FUEL AVAILABILITY & HIGHER COSTS

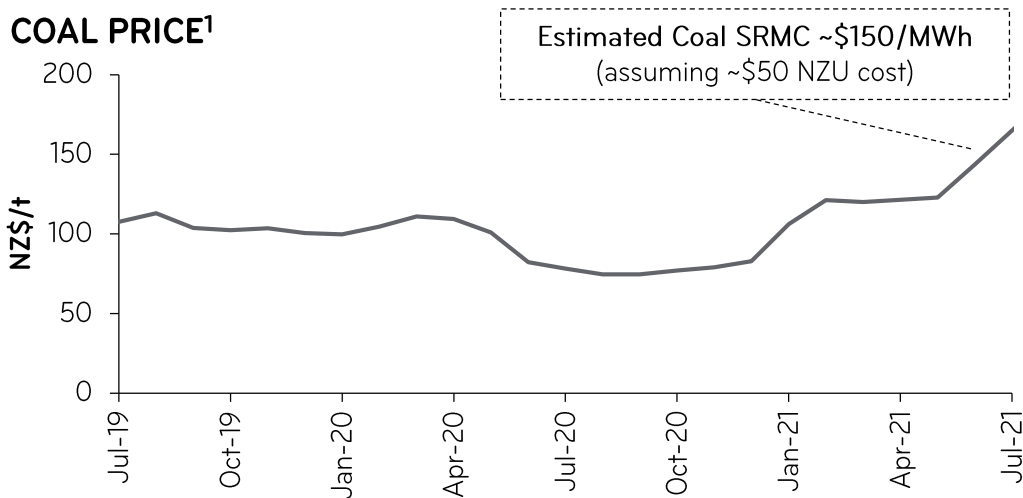
**GAS PRODUCTION**



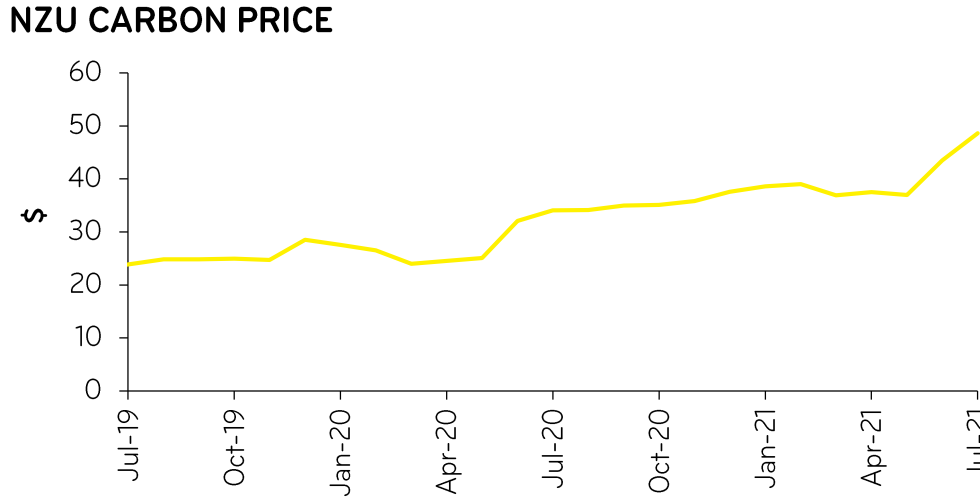
**NATIONAL HYDRO STORAGE**



**COAL PRICE<sup>1</sup>**



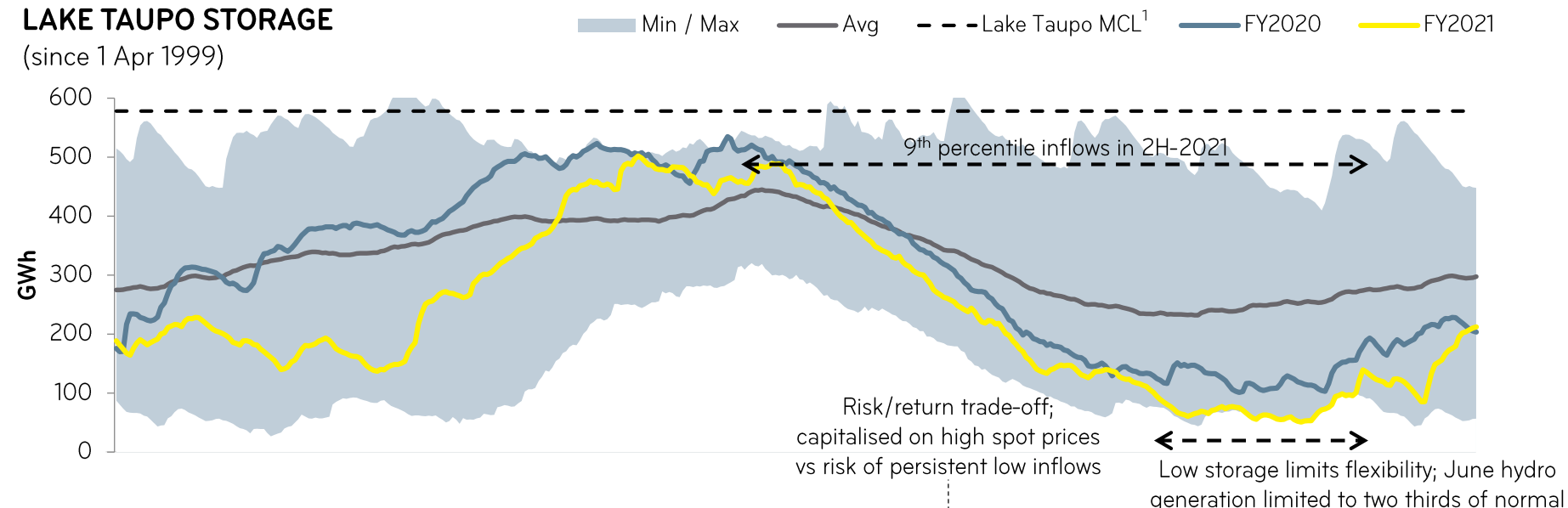
**NZU CARBON PRICE**



# FLEXIBILITY IMPACTED AS HIGH SPOT PRICES INCENTIVISE EARLY USE OF STORAGE

## LAKE TAUPO STORAGE

(since 1 Apr 1999)



Month End	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Hydro Generation - Delta to Average <sup>2</sup> (GWh)		-31	-36	-75	-107	-54	69	2	-3	18	-15	-61	-108
Waikato Inflows - Delta to Average <sup>3</sup> (GWh)		-64	-104	-74	-74	60	11	-34	-83	-49	-39	-114	-68
Taupo Storage - Delta to Average <sup>2</sup> (GWh)	-82	-94	-145	-101	-33	109	21	-17	-81	-120	-147	-186	-145
Spot Price - Otahuhu (\$/MWh)		\$153	\$118	\$138	\$129	\$104	\$119	\$137	\$238	\$247	\$269	\$295	\$266
Futures Price (M-3 <sup>4</sup> ) Otahuhu (\$/MWh)		\$96	\$108	\$123	\$105	\$122	\$109	\$110	\$126	\$144	\$173	\$239	\$284

Exposure to prevailing wholesale prices as opportune hedging limited due to high price expectations (average Buy CFD price for Q4-FY2021 was \$210/MWh)

Source: NZXHydro, WITS, ASX

- >50GWh above average
- >50GWh below average
- Above \$100/MWh
- Above \$200/MWh

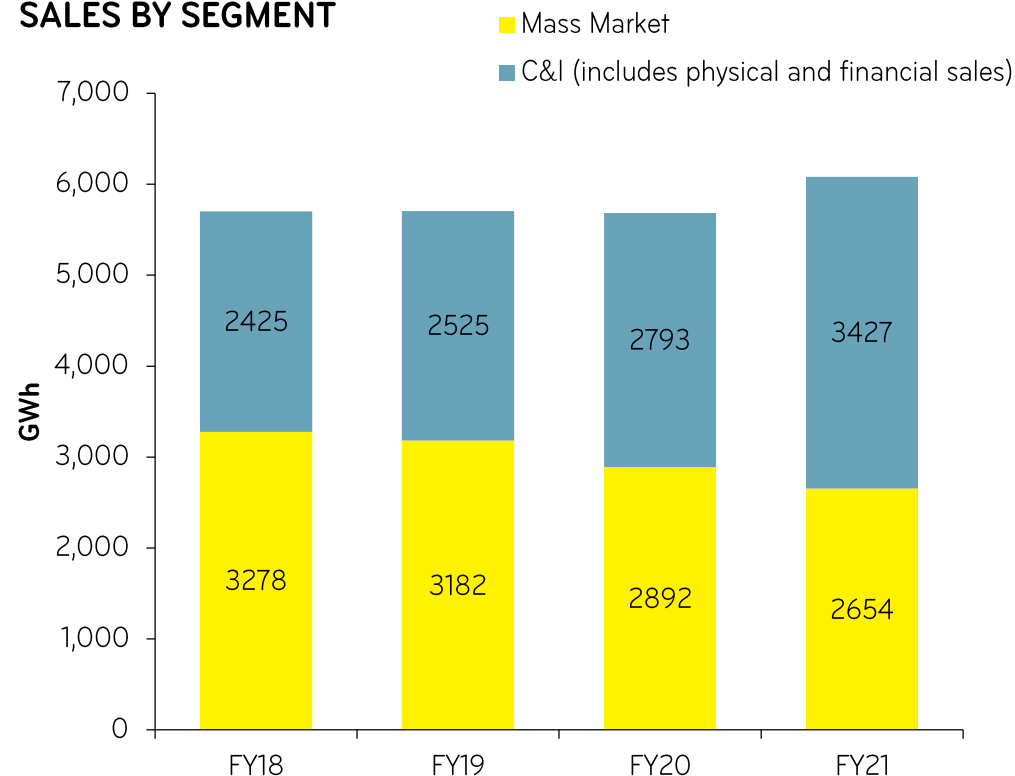
<sup>1</sup> Maximum Control Level  
<sup>3</sup> Monthly average since July 1927

<sup>2</sup> Monthly average since July 1999  
<sup>4</sup> Closing price 3 months prior

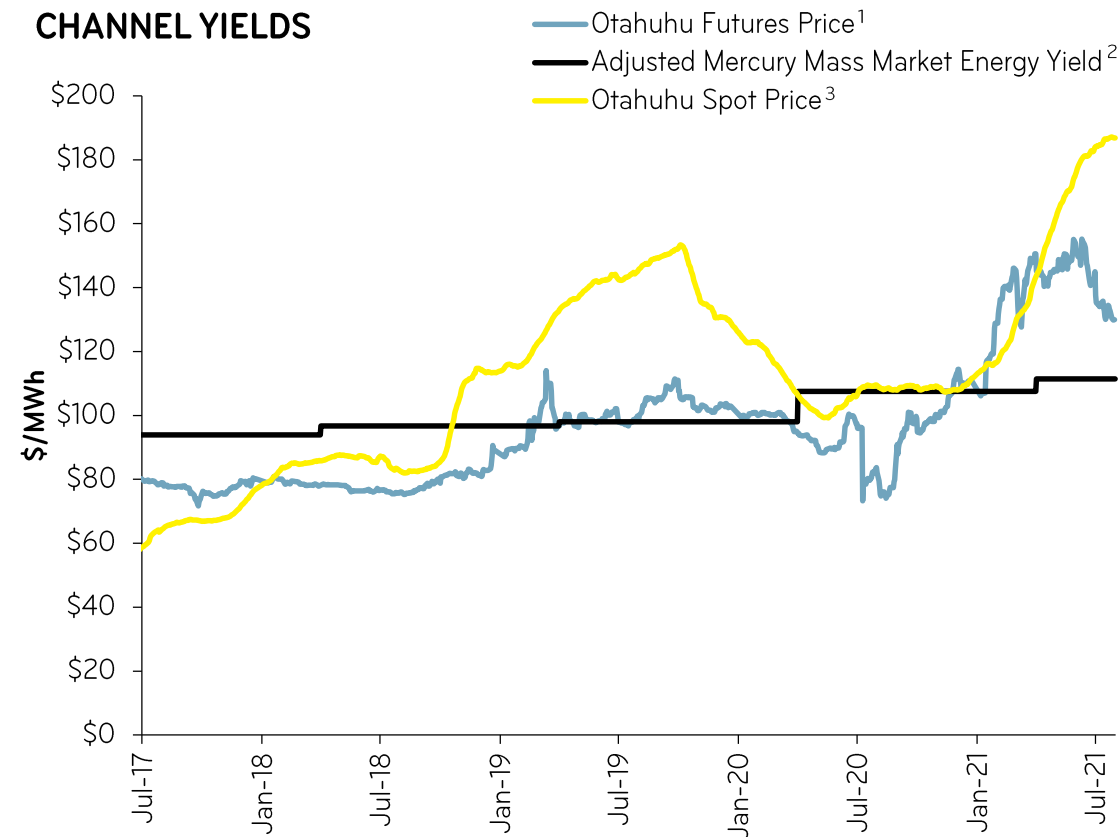


# LIFT IN SALES ADDS TO SHORT-TERM PAIN FOR LONGER-TERM GAIN

**SALES BY SEGMENT**



**CHANNEL YIELDS**



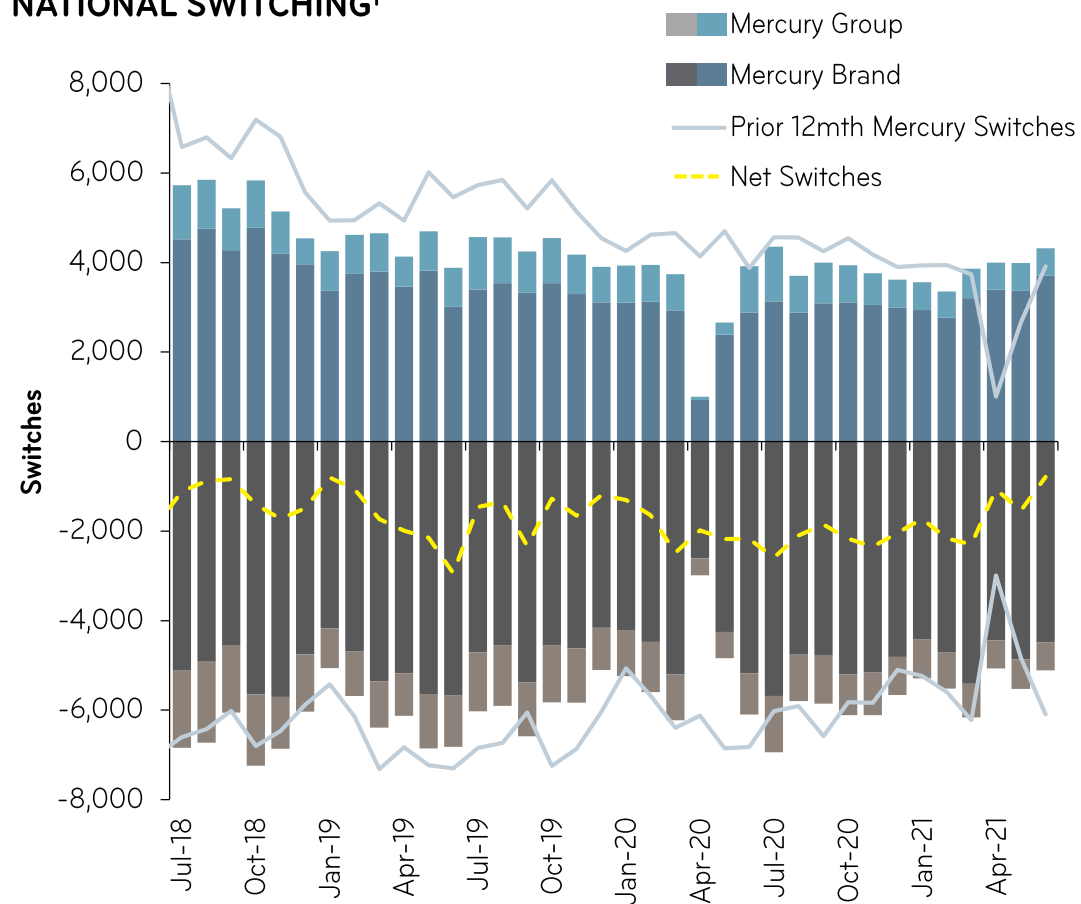
- > C&I sales position increased in FY2021 as Mercury continued to engage with customers seeking re-contracting
  - > Sales locked in at historically high futures prices, but short-term out of the money against the prevailing spot price
- > Elevated wholesale prices continue to pressure retail margins



# ELEVATED WHOLESALE PRICES PRESSURE RETAIL MARGINS

- > Retail market remains highly competitive despite low retail margins
  - > National annual churn remains above 20%
- > Mercury remains focussed on customer value in the high price environment
  - > Electricity customers declined through FY21 by 20k to 328k as acquisition activity reduced
  - > Success of tactics reflected in lift in reported sales yields in all segments
- > Increased acquisitions/decreased retentions seen in Q4-FY2021 due to 'Move with Mercury' campaign

**NATIONAL SWITCHING<sup>1</sup>**



# KAWERAU OUTAGE, NORSKE SKOG EXIT AND CARBON TRANSACTIONS

- > Kawerau station suffered an unplanned outage from 7 June to 20 July
  - > Local power supply loss led to loss of lubrication oil to generator and steam turbine resulting in equipment damage
- > Availability of critical spares and the quick and safe work of the Kawerau team allowed a timely return to service
  - > Actions taken to prevent reoccurrence of faults of this nature in future
  - > Insurance settlements under discussion with insurers
- > Mercury negotiated early exit of foundation hedge with Norske Skog Tasman (NST) mill closure
  - > CFD sales down 375GWh in FY2022 and 517GWh in FY2023
- > Mercury chose to exercise the ETS fixed price option for CY2020 emissions credits surrender requirements
  - > Total cost of ~\$8m<sup>1</sup> in FY2021 (at \$35/unit versus current price of ~\$50/unit)
- > Purchased 0.7m emissions credits through Government auctions
  - > Emissions credits inventory of 2.2m<sup>2</sup> units at end of FY2021



# TURITEA DELAYED BUT COMMISSIONING UNDER WAY

## Turitea North

- > 27 turbines erected at Turitea North
  - > Commissioning of wind farm commenced
- > Expected FY2022 EBITDAF contribution of \$35m
- > EPC contract includes standard liquidated damages provisions

## Turitea South

- > Significant delays from contract dates; expecting completion of southern turbines in mid CY2023
  - > Working with contractors to find resolution and bring this date forward
- > Turitea total spend of \$335m as at end of FY2021 with \$151m in FY2021
  - > Total project cost forecast at \$464m<sup>1</sup>, in line with guidance



Turbines at Turitea



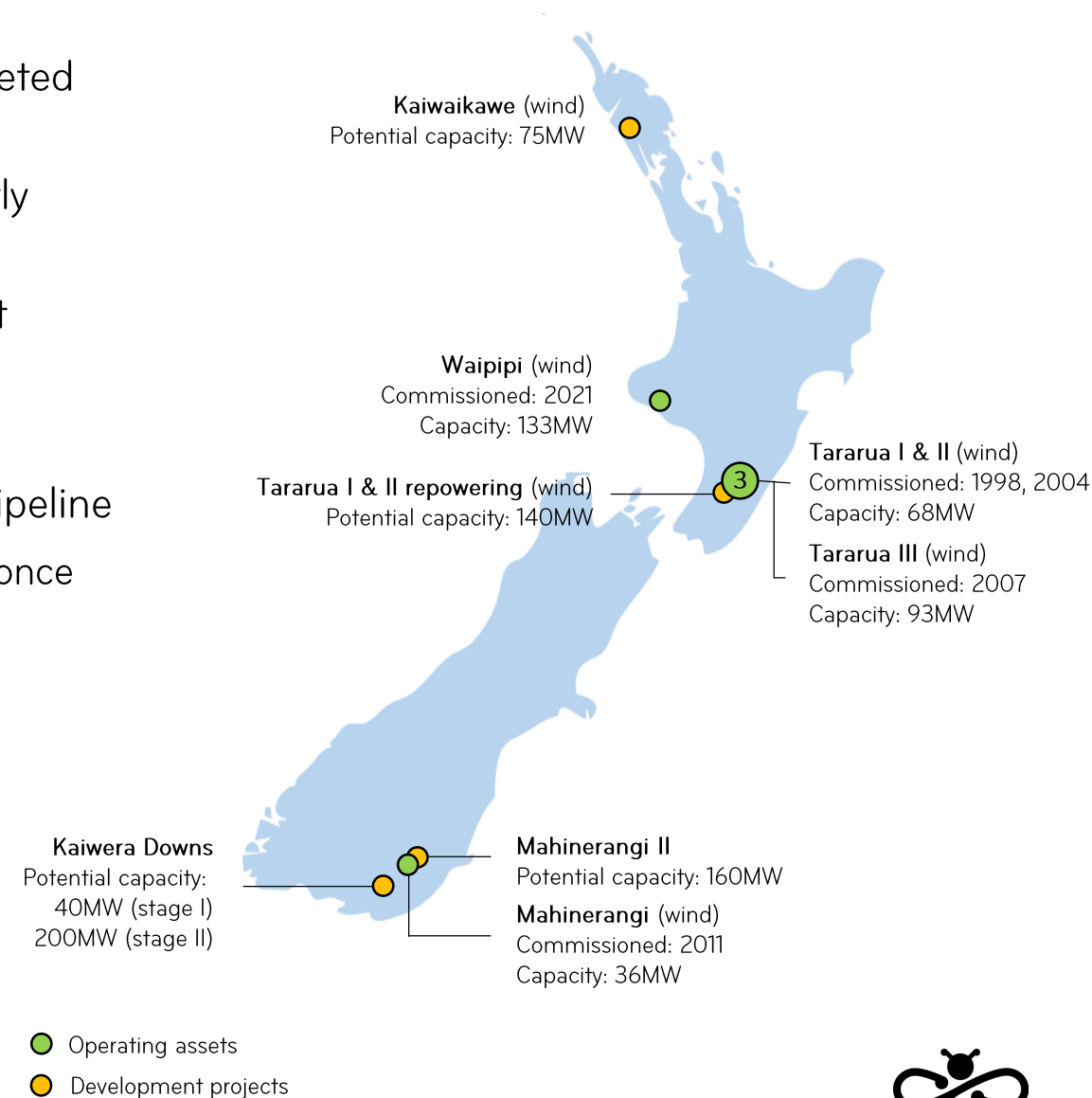
Access road construction





# TILT RENEWABLES ASSETS BOOST WIND PORTFOLIO

- > Acquisition of Tilt Renewables' New Zealand operations completed on 3 August
- > Initial bid announced in March at \$7.80 per share, subsequently increased to \$8.10 per share in April
- > Funded through sale of Mercury's 19.9% Tilt shareholding (cost \$144m, sold for \$608m<sup>2</sup>) and additional net debt of \$189m
- > Adds over 1,100GWh of wind generation and a development pipeline
  - > Will make Mercury one of New Zealand's largest wind generators once Turitea northern section is commissioned
- > Expected net FY2022 EBITDAF uplift of \$30m<sup>1</sup>
- > Kaiwaikawe (formerly Omamari) offtake PPA signed with Genesis



# TRUSTPOWER RETAIL ACQUISITION

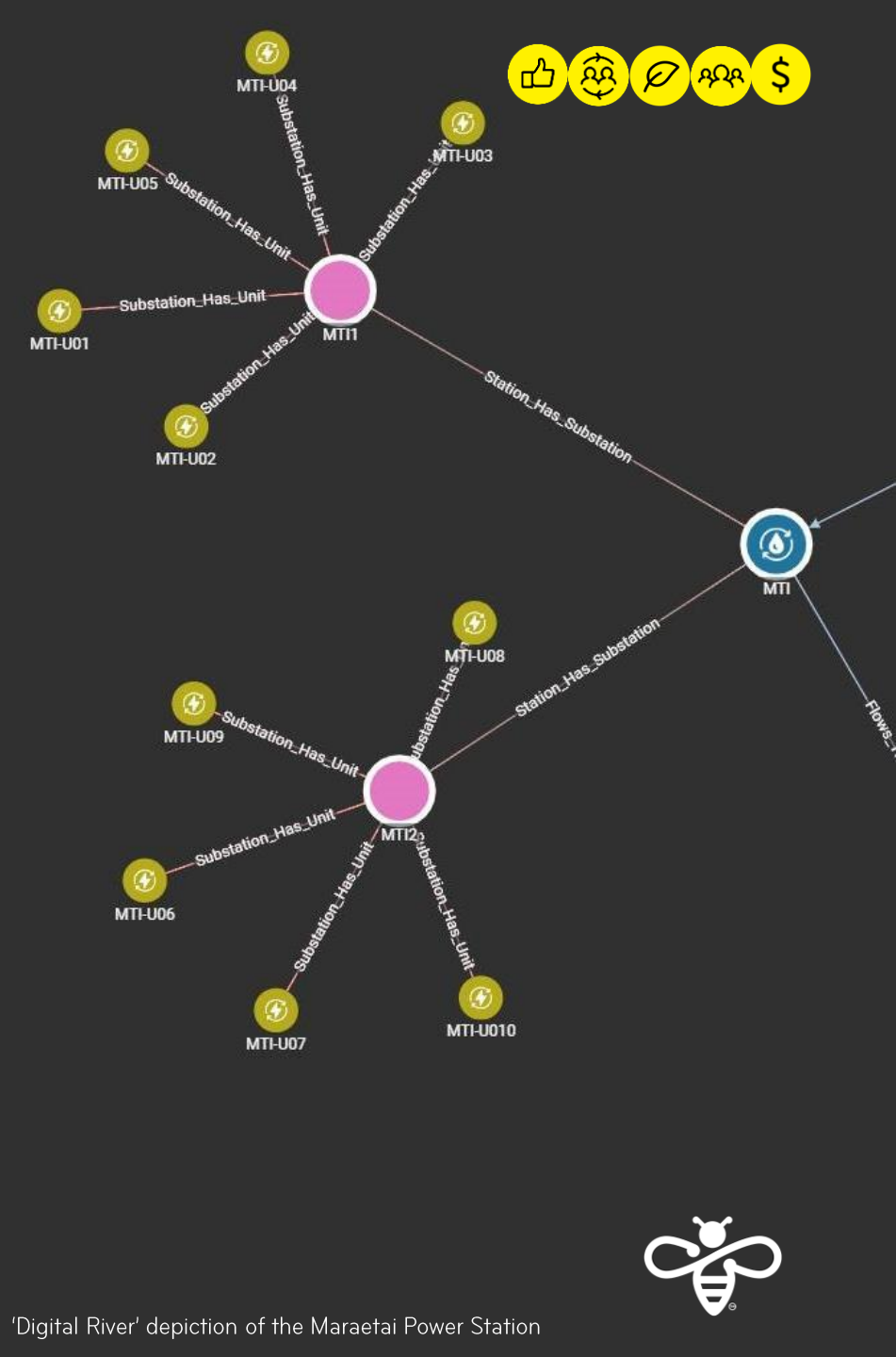
- > Trustpower retail acquisition announced in June which, if approved, would make Mercury the largest electricity multi-product retailer
- > \$441m<sup>1</sup> transaction price reflects:
  - > Trustpower's retail business
  - > 10-year electricity supply hedge agreement (CFD)
  - > ISP network
  - > Restructured Tauranga Energy Consumer Trust (TECT) rebate arrangements
- > Settlement following Commerce Commission approval, implementation of the TECT Deed restructure and Trustpower shareholder approval
- > Forecast cost synergies of ~\$35m<sup>2</sup> per annum after transition
  - > Expected transition costs of ~\$50m<sup>3</sup> over 3 years
- > Full-year EBITDAF contribution of \$50m, offset by \$30m transition costs in Year 1





# A CULTURE OF CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

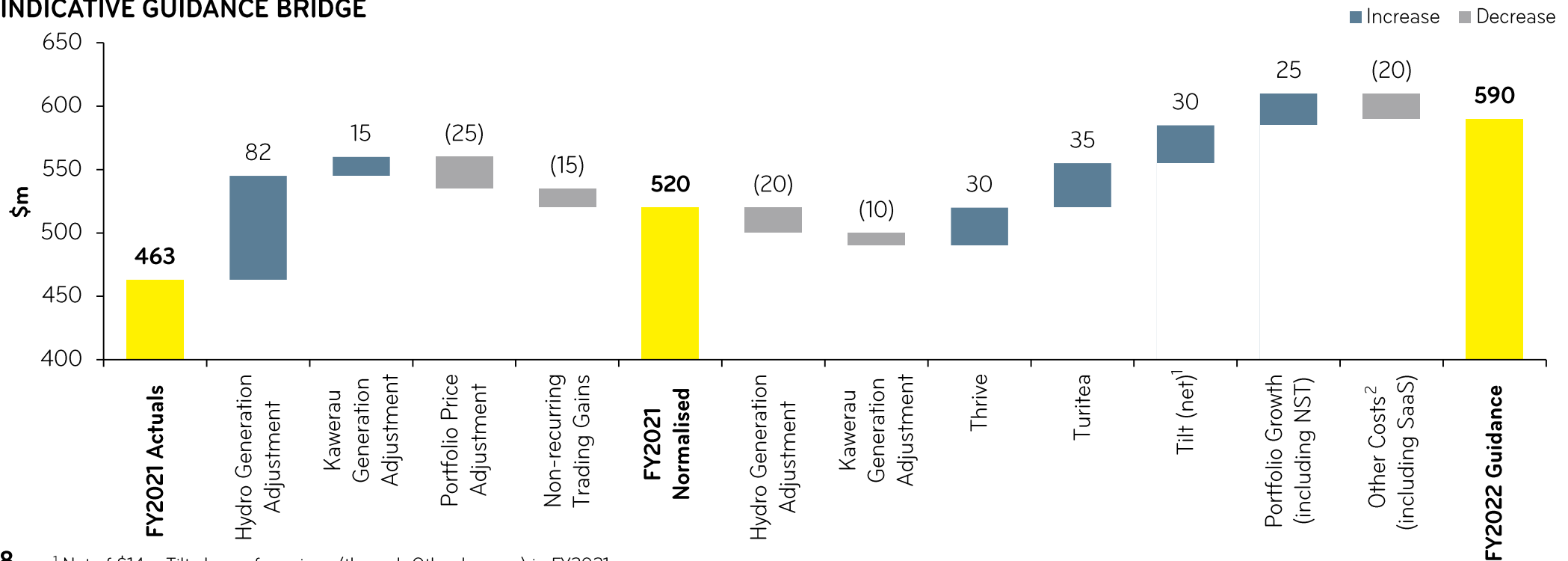
- > Mercury is reinvigorating its focus on continuous improvement to work smarter, faster and better, and set us up to thrive in the future
- > Examples of the initiatives currently being pursued are:
  - > 'Digital River' – better use of data and technology to inform dispatch decisions across our hydro stations
  - > Maraetai tail water lowering – an example of the critical interrogation of operating restrictions across our assets
  - > Whakapuāwai – our culture change programme designed to help Mercury evolve and thrive
  - > Strategic framework and quarterly planning – a refresh of our strategy and planning frameworks to maintain cadence and alignment
  - > Derivatives trading – leveraging our strengths with increased scope to trade electricity and other related products (e.g. carbon)
  - > Manual meter reads – reviewing our sourcing and procurement activities
  - > Class 3 outage review – an example of optimising our asset maintenance activities for time, cost and quality
- > Targeting \$30m of sustainable benefit beginning in FY2022
  - > FY2022 split approximately one third opex, two thirds revenue



# FY2022 GUIDANCE

- > FY2022 EBITDAF guidance of \$590m on 3,900GWh of hydro generation, subject to hydrological volatility, wholesale market conditions and any material adverse events, significant one-off expenses or other unforeseeable circumstances
  - > Excludes any contribution from Trustpower retail acquisition, Kawerau insurance proceeds and Turitea liquidated damages
- > FY2022 ordinary dividend guidance 20.0cps (up 17.6% on FY2021)
- > FY2022 stay-in-business capital expenditure guidance of \$70m

## INDICATIVE GUIDANCE BRIDGE



<sup>1</sup> Net of \$14m Tilt share of earnings (through Other Income) in FY2021

<sup>2</sup> Other Costs increasing in FY2022 due to software-as-a-service costs (~\$10m) and inflationary pressures, e.g. insurance. This will be partially offset by Thrive savings (displayed separately)



# Q&A







## NON-GAAP MEASURES

- > Energy Margin is sales from electricity generation and sales to customers and derivatives, less energy costs, line charges, other direct costs of sales, and third-party metering
- > Operating Expenditure represents employee compensation and benefits, maintenance expenses and other expenses
- > EBITDAF (or Operating Earnings) is earnings before net interest expense, tax expense, depreciation, amortisation, change in the fair value of financial instruments, gain on sale and impairments
- > Underlying Earnings After Tax is profit for the year after removing one-off and/or infrequently occurring events (exceeding \$10 million of profit before tax, which represents material items), impairments, any change in the fair value of derivative financial instruments and gain on sale, all net of tax expense
- > Free Cash Flow is net cash from operating activities less stay-in-business capital expenditure
- > Stay-In-Business Capital Expenditure is the capital expenditure incurred by the company to maintain its assets in good working order
- > Growth Investment is expenditure incurred by the company to create new assets and revenue

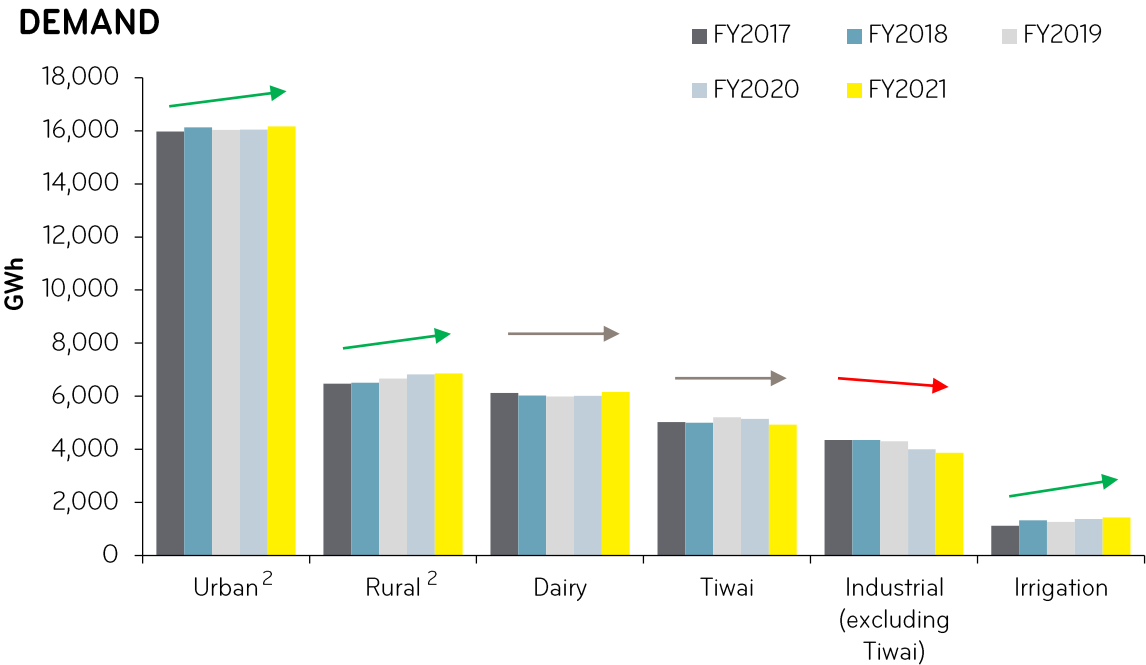


# DEMAND LIFTS FOLLOWING LOCKDOWN AFFECTED PERIOD

- > National demand up 1.0%<sup>1</sup> versus FY2020 which was affected by the COVID-19 lockdown
- > Urban and rural sector demand lifted as activity returned to normal levels
- > Industrial demand decreased as production remained below FY2020 levels
  - > Industrial load may fall by a further ~450GWh in FY22-23 due to closures/changes at Norske Skog and the Marsden Point Refinery
  - > Tiwai Pt smelter benefiting from lift in aluminium prices from ~\$2,500/T to ~\$3,400/T over FY2021

FY2021 NORMALISED DEMAND GROWTH BY SECTOR

Sector	GWh	Sector %Δ	Total %Δ
Urban <sup>1</sup>	+243	1.5%	0.6%
Rural <sup>1</sup>	+76	1.1%	0.2%
Dairy processing	+156	2.6%	0.4%
Irrigation	+55	4.0%	0.1%
Industrial	-171	(1.9)%	(0.4)%
Other	+28	0.1%	0.1%
Total	387		1.0%





# MERCURY'S COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE



## 100% renewable generation

- > Three low-cost complementary fuel sources in baseload geothermal and peaking hydro with wind added



## Superior asset location

- > North Island generation located near major load centres; rain-fed hydro catchment inflows aligned with winter peak demand



## Substantial peaking capacity

- > The Waikato hydro system is the largest group of peaking stations in the North Island able to firm intermittent renewables



## High performance teams

- > Dynamic company culture built on the understanding that our people, working together and in alignment, set us apart



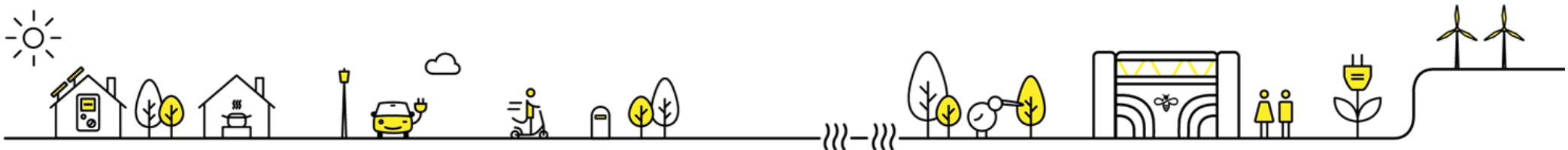
## Track record of customer engagement

- > Brand capital built through customer-led innovation and rewarding loyalty



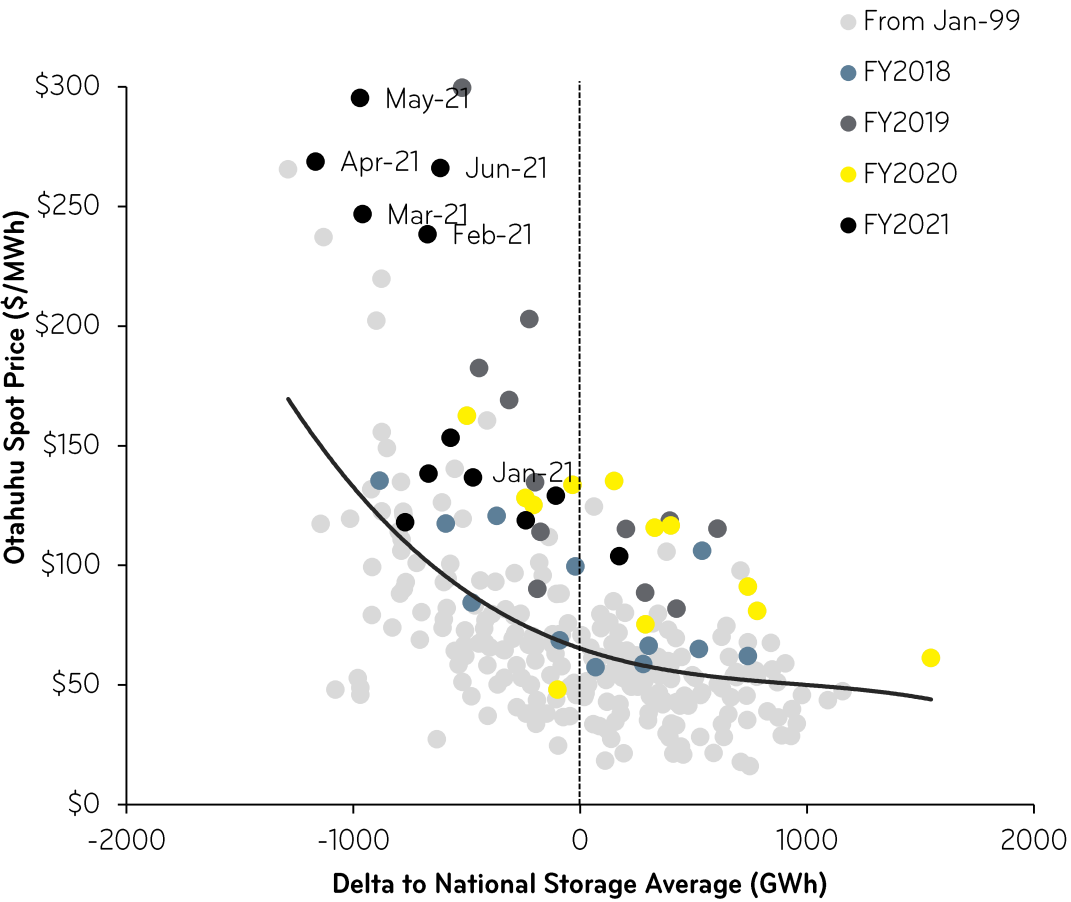
## Long-term commercial partnerships

- > With Maori landowners and other key stakeholders

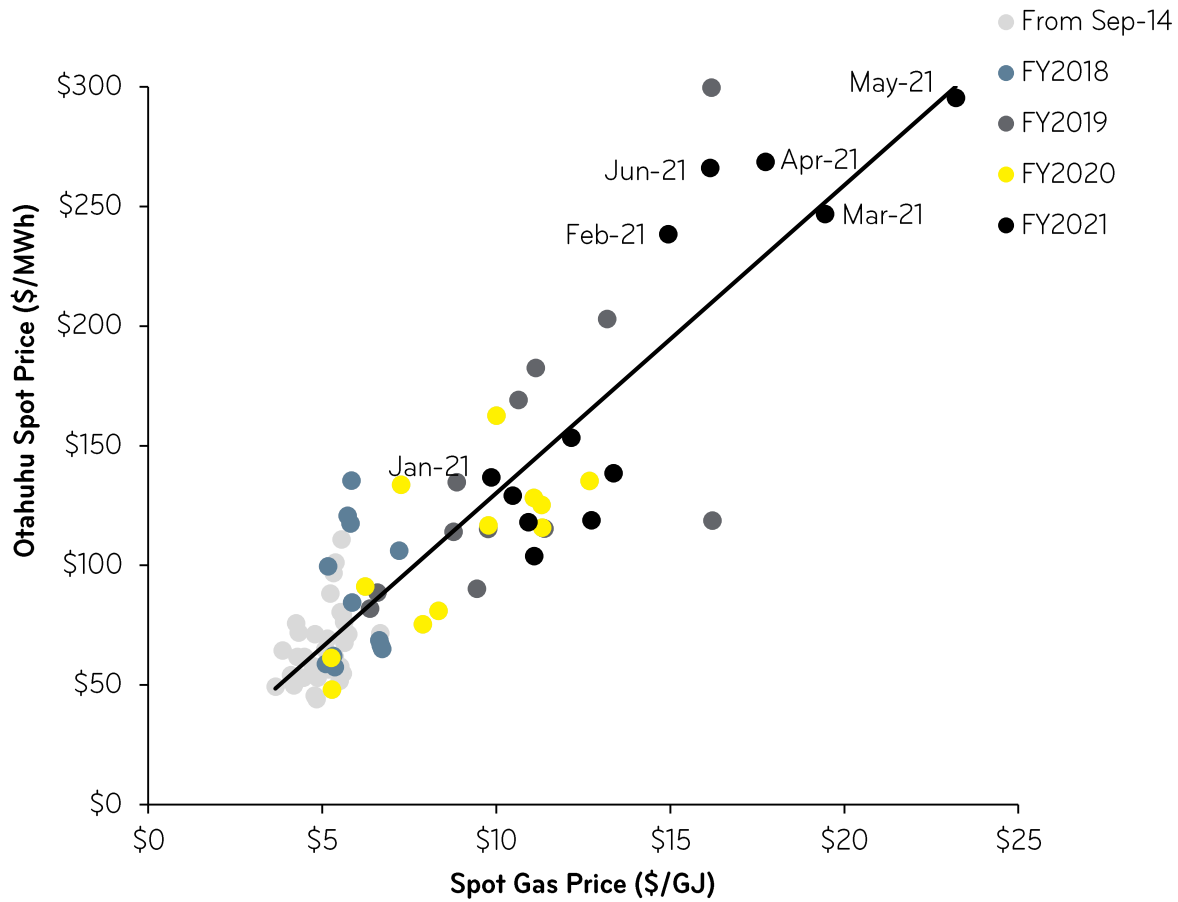


# ELECTRICITY SPOT PRICE REFLECTS GAS AVAILABILITY AND HYDROLOGY

HYDRO STORAGE VS. SPOT ELECTRICITY PRICE



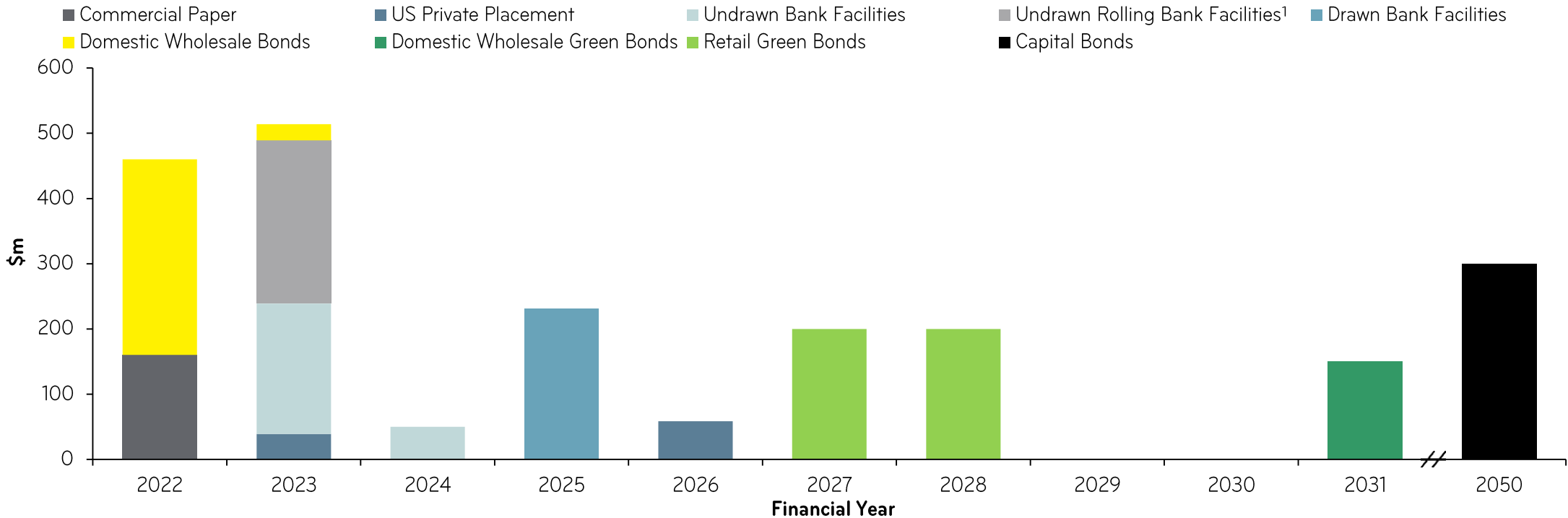
SPOT GAS VS. SPOT ELECTRICITY PRICE





# DIVERSIFIED FUNDING PROFILE

## DEBT MATURITIES AS AT 12 AUGUST 2021



- > Diversified funding sources: commercial paper, bank facilities, domestic wholesale bonds, USPP and capital bonds
- > \$200m senior retail green bond (MCY040) and \$50m wholesale green bond issued in H2 FY2021 to refinance \$300m Floating Rate Notes maturity in September 2021
- > Consideration being given to refinancing of \$230m Waipipi project debt assumed by acquisition of Tilt Renewables' New Zealand assets



## FINANCIAL DERIVATIVES

	12 months ended 30 June 2021	12 months ended 30 June 2020
<b>Energy Margin contribution (\$m)</b>		
Sell CFDs	(286)	(59)
Buy CFDs	106	22
Other Financial Derivatives	44	17
<b>Total Energy Margin contribution</b>	<b>(136)</b>	<b>(19)</b>





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