



To	Company Announcements Office	Facsimile	1300 135 638
Company	ASX Limited	Date	23 April 2015
From	Helen Hardy	Pages	8
Subject	CEN Monthly Operational Data March 2015		

Attached herewith is a copy of an announcement released to the NZX by Contact Energy today.

Origin Energy holds 53.09% of quoted ordinary shares in Contact Energy Limited.

Regards

Helen Hardy  
Company Secretary

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## **Monthly Operational Data**

**For the month ended 31 March 2015**



# Highlights for March 2015

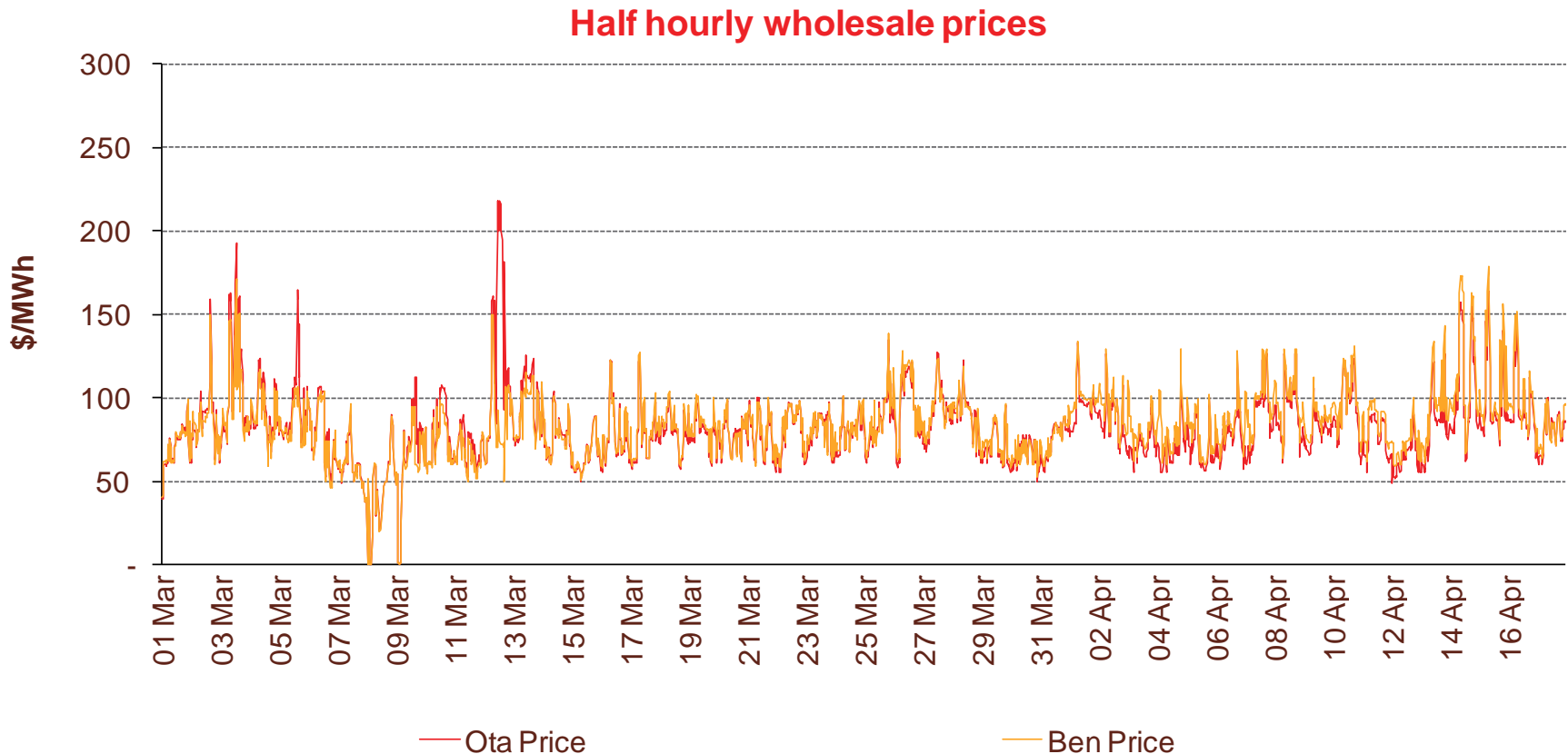
- **Hydro storage as at 31 March: South Island 65% of mean, North Island 83% of mean (p4)**
- **Average Otahuhu wholesale price for March 2015: \$80/MWh (p3)**
- **Otahuhu futures settlement wholesale price for 2nd quarter 2015 (ASX) (p4):**
  - As at 17 April: \$89/MWh
  - As at 31 March: \$89/MWh
  - As at 28 February: \$82/MWh
- **Contact was successful in the independent determination process to recover \$7.7 million relating to the extended outage at the Te Mihi power station. Liquidated damages have been included in the March 2015 cost of energy.**

# Wholesale electricity prices

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March 2015

- The average price at Otahuhu (North Island) for March 2015 was \$80/MWh while the average price at Benmore (South Island) was \$79/MWh.

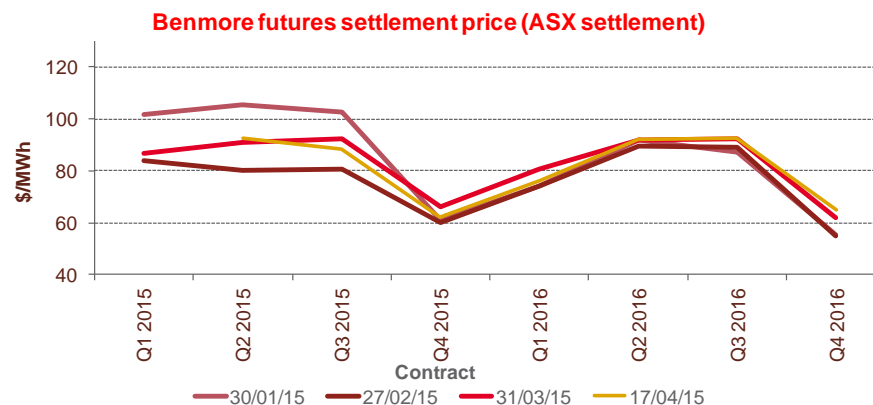
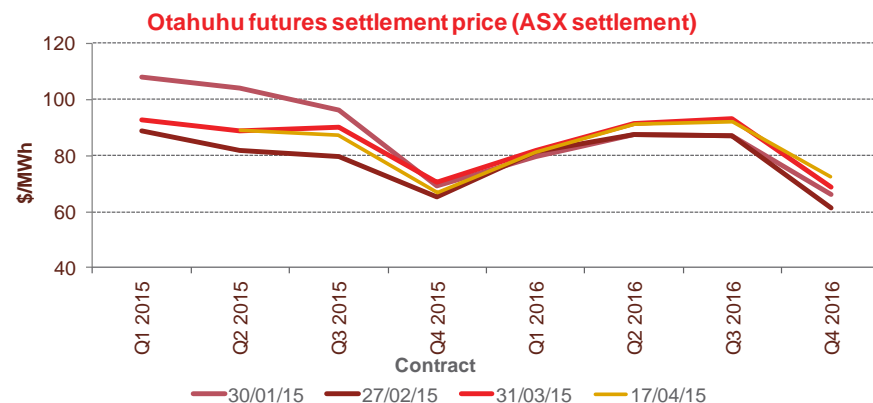
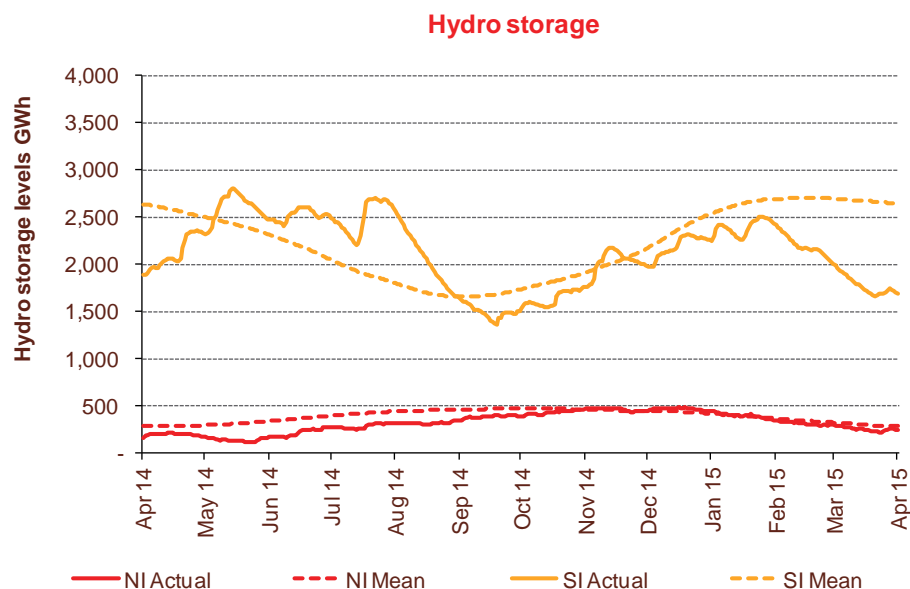


# Storage levels and wholesale electricity prices

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March 2015

- At 31 March, South Island storage was 65% of mean (28 February: 80%) and North Island storage was 83% of mean (28 February: 91%)
- As at 17 April 2015, storage was:
  - South Island: 64% of mean
  - North Island: 84% of mean

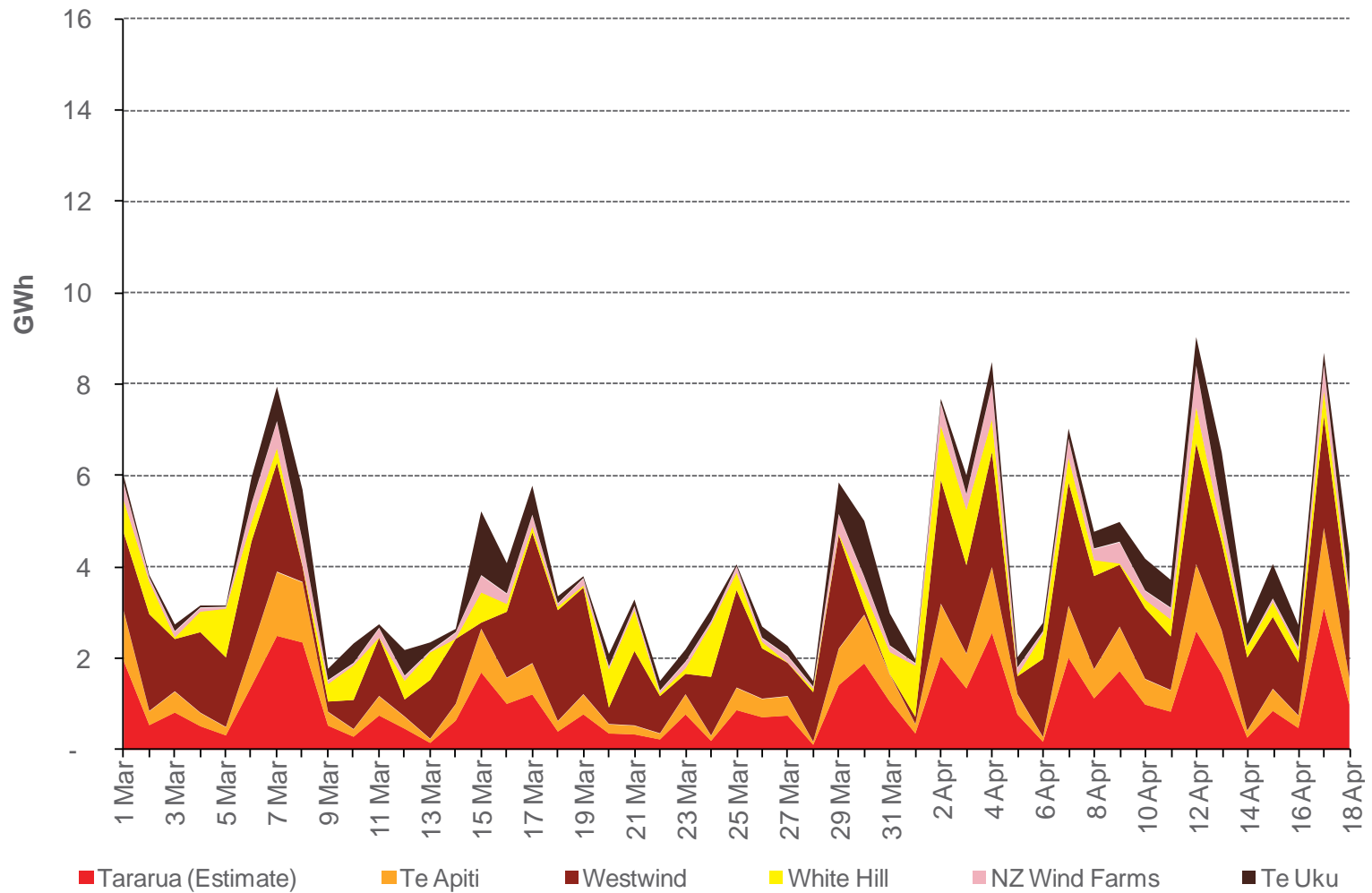


# Wind generation

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March 2015

Daily wind generation (SCADA)



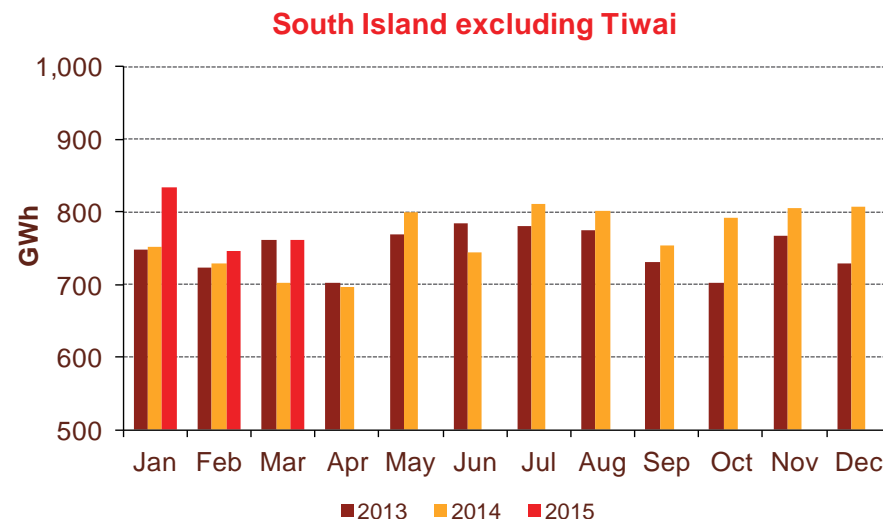
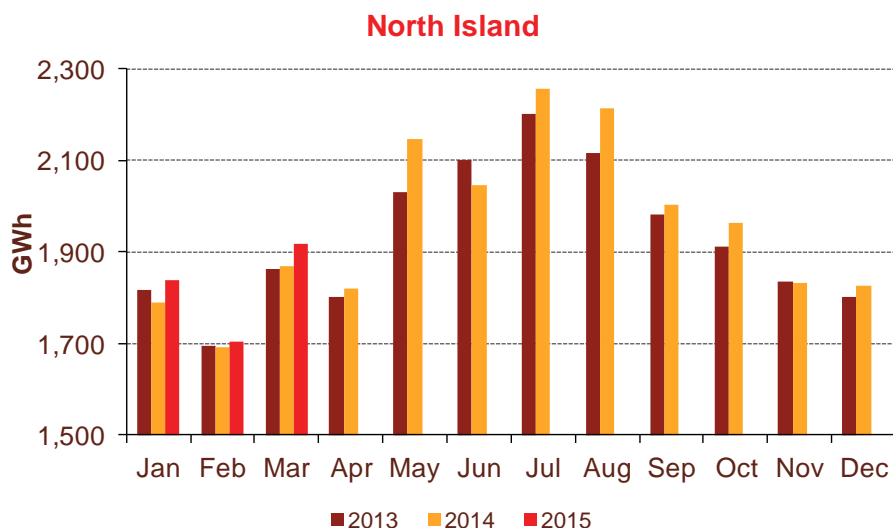
# Monthly demand comparison

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March 2015

- NIWA's national climate summary for March 2015 reports:
  - The New Zealand national average temperature in March was 16.7°C (0.9°C above the 1981-2010 average)

Demand	March demand GWh			Growth rate % p.a.		12 months to date GWh			Growth rate % p.a.	
	2015	2014	2013	1 year	2 year	2015	2014	2013	1 year	2 year
North Island	1,916	1,869	1,862	2.5%	1.4%	23,568	23,131	23,727	1.9%	(0.3%)
South Island excluding Tiwai	762	703	761	8.4%	0.0%	9,353	8,925	9,031	4.8%	1.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,678</b>	<b>2,572</b>	<b>2,624</b>	<b>4.1%</b>	<b>1.0%</b>	<b>32,921</b>	<b>32,056</b>	<b>32,758</b>	<b>2.7%</b>	<b>0.2%</b>



# Contact Netback, Cost of Energy and LPG Data

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March 2015

Data		Measure	The month ended March 2015	The month ended March 2014	The month ended February 2015	Nine months ended March 2015	Nine months ended March 2014
Netback	Mass market electricity sales	GWh	282	293	239	2,865	2,848
	Commercial & industrial electricity sales	GWh	412	403	370	3,422	3,448
	Retail gas sales	GWh	32	35	29	453	450
	Steam sales	GWh	57	58	58	552	533
	Total retail sales	GWh	784	789	696	7,291	7,279
	Average electricity sales price	\$/MWh	170.64	177.12	167.95	176.87	177.00
	Electricity direct pass through costs	\$/MWh	(68.47)	(63.57)	(70.85)	(73.69)	(68.70)
	Electricity and gas cost to serve	\$/MWh	(14.67)	(11.49)	(16.16)	(13.02)	(11.60)
	Netback	\$/MWh	81.94	94.67	75.67	82.28	87.90
	Electricity line losses	%	7%	3%	5%	6%	4%
	Retail gas sales	PJ	0.1	0.1	0.1	1.5	1.7
	Electricity customer numbers <sup>1</sup>	#	433,000	441,500	433,000		
	Gas customer numbers <sup>1</sup>	#	61,500	63,500	61,000		
Cost of energy	Thermal generation	GWh	306	402	106	1,676	2,163
	Geothermal generation	GWh	254	197	229	2,256	1,647
	Hydro generation	GWh	248	219	317	3,057	3,047
	Spot market generation	GWh	809	818	651	6,988	6,857
	Spot electricity purchases	GWh	740	706	632	6,579	6,442
	CfD sales	GWh	36	36	(29)	27	(133)
	GWAP	\$/MWh	80.49	122.49	90.43	73.38	63.83
	LWAP	\$/MWh	(84.69)	(127.71)	(97.23)	(79.13)	(69.89)
	LWAP/GWAP	%	105%	104%	108%	108%	110%
	Gas used in internal generation	PJ	2.6	3.4	1.3	15.9	19.4
	Wholesale gas sales	PJ	0.1	0.2	0.2	1.8	2.0
	Gas storage net movement	PJ	(0.1)	(0.5)	(0.2)	(0.5)	0.9
	Unit generation cost	\$/MWh	(41.20)	(52.74)	(35.98)	(38.25)	(42.30)
	Cost of energy	\$/MWh	(30.30)	(40.79)	(36.41)	(36.00)	(40.31)
	LPG	LPG sales	tonnes	5,897	6,095	5,678	54,844
LPG customer numbers (includes franchises) <sup>1</sup>		#	69,000	66,500	68,500		

<sup>1</sup> Data has been rounded to the nearest 500 and reflects numbers as at month end.