

Election 2026 policy snapshot | Energy

							
The shape of New Zealand's energy future							
An energy strategy for NZ?	Supports the development of an energy strategy .	No policy identified.	No policy identified.	Supports the development of a National Electrification Plan .	Will establish a National Independence Energy Plan run by a taskforce made up of iwi, sector groups and workforce.	Will deliver a National Energy Strategy .	Will work across parties to lock in a 25-year Energy Strategy to target 30GW total capacity by 2050.
LNG import facility	Will not proceed with an LNG import terminal . Instead, would develop a gas prioritisation plan .	Current Government has instructed MBIE to progress discussions with a preferred provider for LNG import facility services; decision to be made after the election. No further policy identified.	Current Government has instructed MBIE to progress discussions with a preferred provider for LNG import facility services; decision to be made after the election. Would remove barriers to commercially funded LNG import infrastructure as insurance, while prioritising rebuilding domestic gas supply.	Will cancel the LNG import terminal .	No policy identified.	Current Government has instructed MBIE to progress discussions with a preferred provider for LNG import facility services; decision to be made after the election. No further policy identified.	Opposes the LNG terminal - says it locks New Zealand into long-term reliance on imported LNG and exposure to volatile international prices.
Other energy security and firming initiatives	No specific policy but has expressed interest in a centralised firming agency .	Will require standardised backup power contract and regular auctions; require the Electricity Authority to publish independent assessments of NZ's back-up generation needs and data providing greater transparency of the backup market.	No policy identified.	Will establish Crown entity Kiwipower to invest in new renewable generation, especially renewable firming capacity. Kiwipower will also contract firming capacity and make it available to independent generators, retailers and users at fair prices.	No policy identified.	No policy identified.	The main source of grid stability will come from overbuilding renewables .

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The shape of New Zealand's energy future (continued)							
Support for new large scale renewable generation and infrastructure	No policy identified.	Will implement RMA replacement, with more enabling rules for new renewable generation built in as standard , without every project needing to use Fast-track. Will unlock new energy development zones via private investment in transmission.	Will open transmission to private investment .	Will establish Kiwipower to invest in new renewable generation, especially renewable firming capacity (see above).	No policy identified.	Will establish a Special Economic Zone at Marsden Point focused on energy generation/distribution and maritime activities. Will guarantee long-term, fixed-price contracts for new-build generation and guarantee that power is first to be used.	Will establish a capacity investment scheme (based on the Australian model). With initial tender rounds restricted to new entrant generators.
Data centre energy requirements	Will require data centres to secure their own renewable energy , pay for their connection costs, reduce electricity during peak periods, and use water efficiently. Read more on Labour's AI policy here .	Will require new large-scale data centres to bring their own new, firmed power , applying an additionality test so that data centre load is always matched by new generation sufficient to cover it.	No policy identified.	Will implement a one year pause on new AI data centres to allow intentional regulation to be developed. New AI facilities would need to provide new renewable generation to cover energy use.	No policy identified.	No policy identified.	No policy identified.
The future of fossil fuels	Would reinstate the oil and gas exploration ban . Would make "pragmatic" decision about whether to allow existing permits to go ahead. Would redirect the Gas Security of Supply fund to SolarSaver (see below).	No new policy identified (current Government reversed oil and gas ban during term).	Keep onshore/offshore exploration open and establish statutory right to compensation where Crown withdraws or materially changes permit rights; enable underground gas storage and reliable thermal generation. Let businesses choose their fuel, including gas and coal, while the ETS deals with emissions.	Would reinstate the oil and gas exploration ban and revoke any permits granted . Will reallocate \$200m for "fossil fuel companies" to community energy projects.	Would reinstate the oil and gas exploration ban . Will support businesses, farms, transport and industry to move away from fossil fuels where renewable energy and electrification is viable.	Will invest \$1b into a "National Subsurface Development Survey" to identify and create one national dataset across energy, geothermal and CO ₂ storage sites, and create framework to develop sites and extract resources.	Would not oppose reinstatement of the oil and gas exploration ban . Would end Gas Security Fund. Will establish a fully funded mandate to Councils to electrify urban public transport by 2030 and an Industry Energy Resilience Fund (from ETS auction proceeds) to help industry electrify.

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Energy market structure and regulation							
Gentailer split	Open to considering structural separation but has not adopted it as policy.	Has said that gentailer split risks instability and may not bring overall benefits. Has identified the need for strong regulation to enforce competition.	Rules out gentailer split but will put competition and fair access first and strengthen enforcement where electricity companies misuse market power.	Supports a split in principle (lodged a Member's Bill in 2024) but has said it would not be wise to split the gentailers at the same time as rolling out Kiwipower due to the "structural upheaval" it would bring.	No policy identified.	Supports splitting the gentailers into separate generation and retail businesses.	Does not support the structural separation of the gentailers. Will ringfence the dividends the Government receives from its ownership in the gentailers to fund its energy initiatives.
EDB consolidation	No policy identified.	Current Government rejected consolidation . No separate policy identified.	Current Government rejected consolidation . No separate policy identified.	No policy identified.	No policy identified.	Current Government rejected consolidation . No separate policy identified.	Would consolidate the 29 EDBs into 6-8 larger groupings to give them scale and capital to invest in their infrastructure.
Regulatory powers	Will ban price gouging on essential goods and services, including energy, giving the Commerce Commission power to investigate dominant companies' pricing and take them to court.	Will write affordability into law as a core objective of the Electricity Authority, alongside its existing competition, reliability and efficiency objectives.	Would coordinate approvals across the environmental regulator, New Zealand Petroleum and Minerals, Maritime New Zealand and conservation agencies, using shared evidence and timetables while preserving each regulator's statutory role.	Would increase the Commerce Commission's powers and prohibit excessive pricing by electricity and fuel companies.	Would strengthen the powers of the Commerce Commission and Electricity Authority to investigate excessive pricing and profits , strengthen competition and protect consumers.	No policy identified.	Would merge key energy functions of different regulatory bodies into one modern energy regulator, and one Ministry of Energy .

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Efficient and affordable grid and networks							
Private investment in transmission	No policy identified.	Would allow private businesses to help build transmission and connect and operate alongside Transpower's grid. Amend legislation and transmission pricing methodology to support this.	Would establish a clear pathway for private parties to finance, build, own and operate new transmission connected to the national grid, subject to common standards.	No policy identified.	No policy identified.	No policy identified.	No policy identified.
Connection process	No policy identified.	Would allow households and businesses to choose an accredited contractor for connection work, instead of the network's own provider, and require lines companies to approve residential and small business solar connection applications within two working days.	Would allow qualified providers to compete to deliver customer-funded connection work faster and cheaper.	No policy identified.	No policy identified.	No policy identified.	No policy identified.
Cost recovery	No policy identified.	Would review Part 4 of the Commerce Act, which regulates how much revenue lines companies can recover , with changes intended to be made ahead of the next price reset.	Would require material network reinforcement projects (transmission or distribution lines) to demonstrate that credible alternatives (e.g., batteries, demand response, flexible connections, local generation and other smarter grid technology) have been properly tested before their costs can be recovered from consumers.	No policy identified.	No policy identified.	No policy identified.	Would reform the revenue rules for distributors, as well as Transpower, for grid upgrades and grid investment.

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The role of households and businesses in our energy future							
Consent for household generation (e.g., rooftop solar and batteries), including renters rights	Would fix regulation so renters can use plug-in solar panels; enable eligible renters to access the kick-start subsidy.	Would permit small-scale renewables , including rooftop solar (without consent), small-scale on-farm ground-mounted solar and small-scale battery storage (subject to standard rules). Enable plug-in solar for renters.	No policy identified.	Would progress regulation to establish a renters' right to solar and legalisation of 'plug in' solar.	No policy identified.	No policy identified.	No policy identified.
Loans and financial assistance for generation and electrification	Would establish SolarSaver : two Government-backed, long-term, low interest finance options repaid from savings on power bills (lines company loan or ratepayer assistance scheme) to cover solar, batteries and other home electrification. A kickstart of up to \$3k for low and middle income households. Free advice from EECA re solar/batteries.	Would establish the Home Energy Fund to provide loans for household solar through a financing platform jointly owned by central government and participating councils. The fund would offer low-interest, long-term loans, repaid through rates, to support residential solar, batteries and insulation, heat pumps, and other investments in residential electrification.	No policy identified.	Would establish government backed loan scheme to enable zero-interest clean energy loans to install solar and/or batteries and make energy efficiency upgrades. Would expand Warmer Kiwi Homes to make more low-income homes warm, dry and energy efficient.	Would introduce long-term, low-cost and zero interest finance to be delivered through an expanded rates assistance scheme. Will support access to solar and batteries, energy-efficient appliances, heating and hot water, home electrification and EV charging.	No policy identified.	Would adopt low-interest electrification loans as part of a ratepayer assistance scheme. Will re-fund and double Warmer Kiwi Homes to support solar and appliance electrification for low-income households. Will provide accelerated depreciation and fringe benefit tax exemptions for business electric vehicles .
Households and businesses exporting power to the grid	Fair time of use rates when homes export power to the grid . This means that instead of receiving a flat rate all day, the power companies will pay rates depending on the time of day.	Would allow households and businesses to sell excess power generated from solar or batteries to any retailer or buyer of their choice, rather than only their current supplier.	Would allow homes to sell the power they make , choose their buyer and export more electricity. Enable direct energy sharing through businesses and community energy schemes.	Would regulate to ensure that households and businesses with rooftop solar receive a fair price for the electricity they export to the grid .	Would establish a fair-value framework for distributed generation, battery storage and grid services so households and communities are properly paid for energy and services supplied back to the system.	Would allow homes that generate power to sell it back to the grid at the same price that homes pay for it.	No policy identified.

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The role of the workforce, community, iwi in our energy future							
Community, rural and iwi energy ownership	Would set up a \$30m community battery fund enabling sharing. Councils, iwi, community trusts, charities and lines companies can all apply with the government covering half of each project up to \$200k per project.	Will cut red tape for small-scale on-farm ground-mounted solar, small-scale battery storage and small run-of-river micro-hydro for on-site use.	No policy identified.	Will invest \$200m in community-owned renewable energy . Funding will be open to locally-led projects e.g., schools, marae, libraries etc. To be funded by reallocating subsidies for fossil fuel companies. Will scale up solar for public housing , including mandated rooftop solar installation and energy efficient appliances for new or renovated public homes where appropriate. Will invest \$80m into renewable energy for Māori housing .	Will establish a \$1b energy sovereignty fund to build Māori and community ownership of the energy system. The fund will use grants, concessional finance, guarantees, equity investment and co-investment to enable whānau, hapū, iwi, marae, Māori landowners and communities to acquire permanent ownership stakes in productive energy assets. Will support farms and rural communities to become energy producers through on-farm generation, energy storage, rural charging and distributed energy .	No policy identified.	Would establish two funds to support local community initiatives: (1) A community engagement fund to support activities where communities work with electricity distributors to ensure local initiatives are accommodated and supported within the wider electricity grid; (2) A community-owned generation and storage fund where government will co-invest in small-scale initiatives.
Energy workforce development	Will set aside \$4m to grow the solar workforce . This includes funding the Tertiary Education Commission to work with industry on apprenticeships, workplace training, re-skilling initiatives, and micro-credentials.	No policy identified.	No policy identified.	No policy identified.	Will build a Māori energy workforce and industry . Crown-funded energy investment will support Māori procurement, apprenticeships and workforce development.	No policy identified.	No policy identified.