Waikato Affordable Energy Webinar Series

June-November 2026

Wellbeing Waikato
TOIORA O WAIKATO

Research.
Knowledge.
Storytelling.

To View This Webinar On Line, Click on the Image Below

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Storytelling.

Harvey Brookes
Executive Director
Wellbeing Waikato

Reflections: Ernie Newman,
Independent Competition Expert
and Commentator

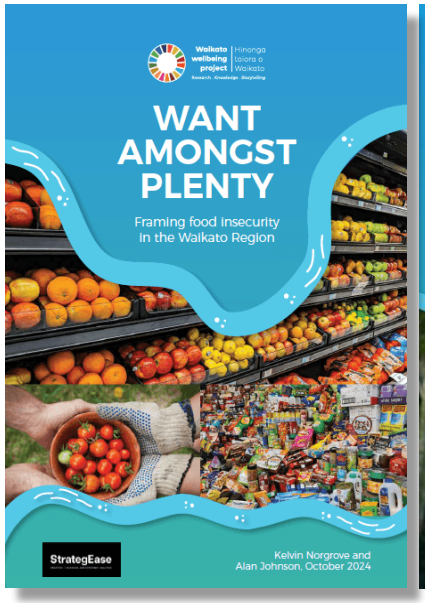
Wellbeing Waikato
TOIORA O WAIKATO

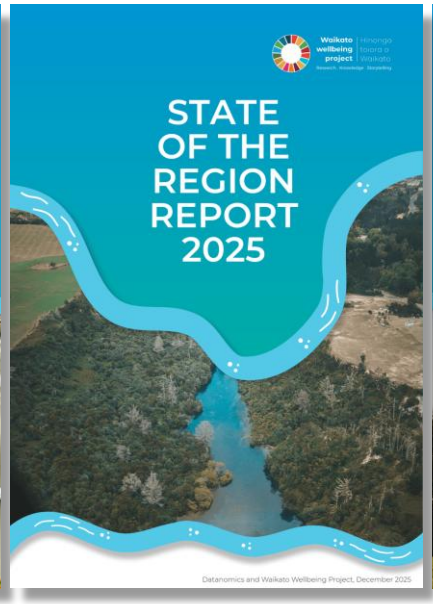
Wellbeing Waikato

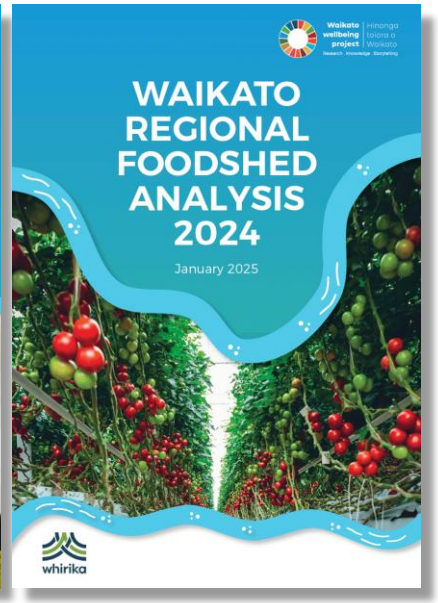
Wellbeing Waikato
TOIORA O WAIKATO
Research. Knowledge. Storytelling.

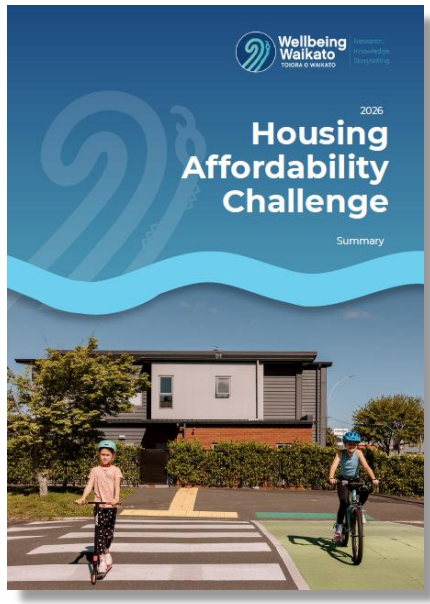
Independent Charitable Trust focused on:

- Regional intelligence about what's most important to households and whanau
- Identifying emerging risks early
- Surfacing underlying drivers, not just symptoms
- Convening government, iwi, councils, community organisations and the private sector around decision-useful insights.



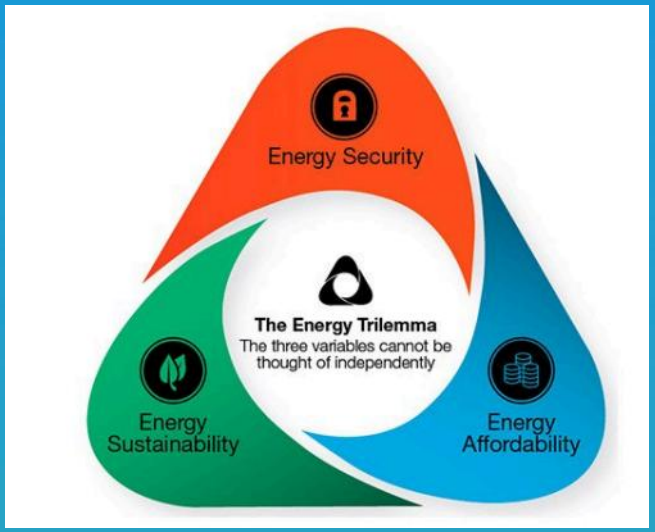






Energy systems need to be:

- Affordable
- Reliable
- Sustainable



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4 Big Questions

1. How does the electricity system actually work—and why is it designed this way?
2. What drives power prices, and how could they be made more affordable?
3. How does energy affordability affect household and community wellbeing?
4. What would a better system look like—and how do we get there?

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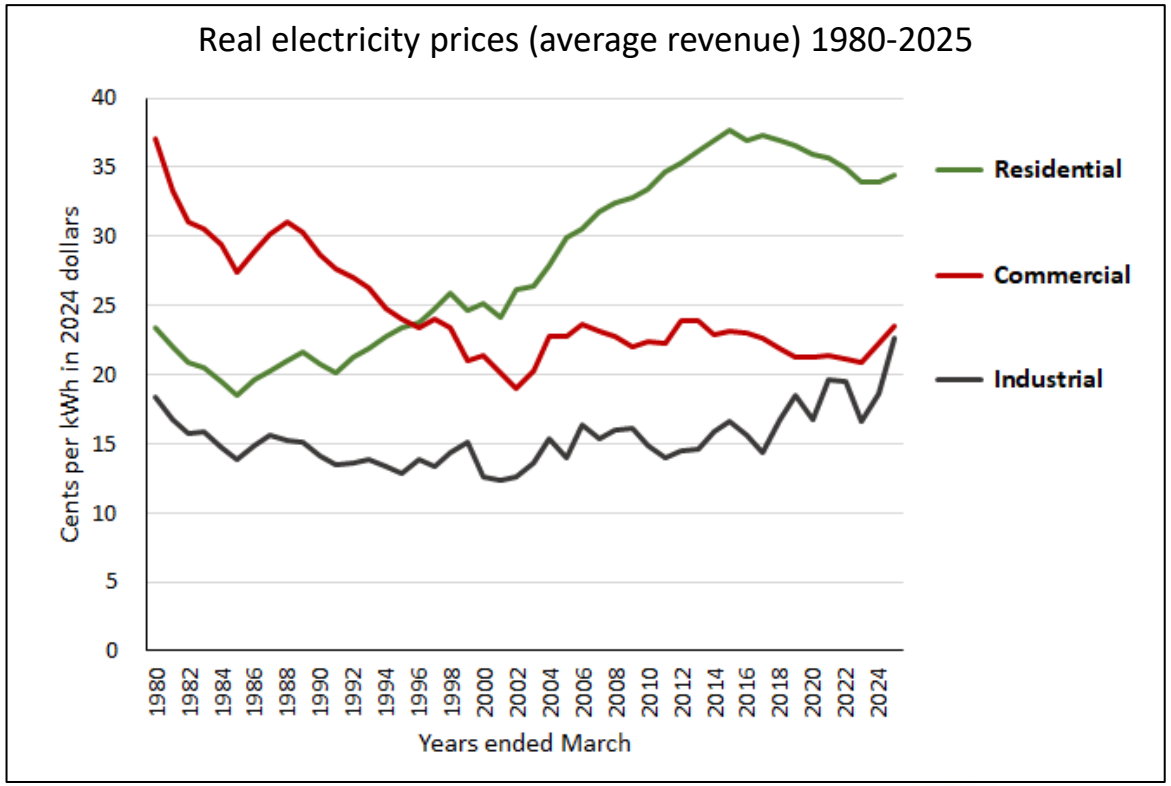

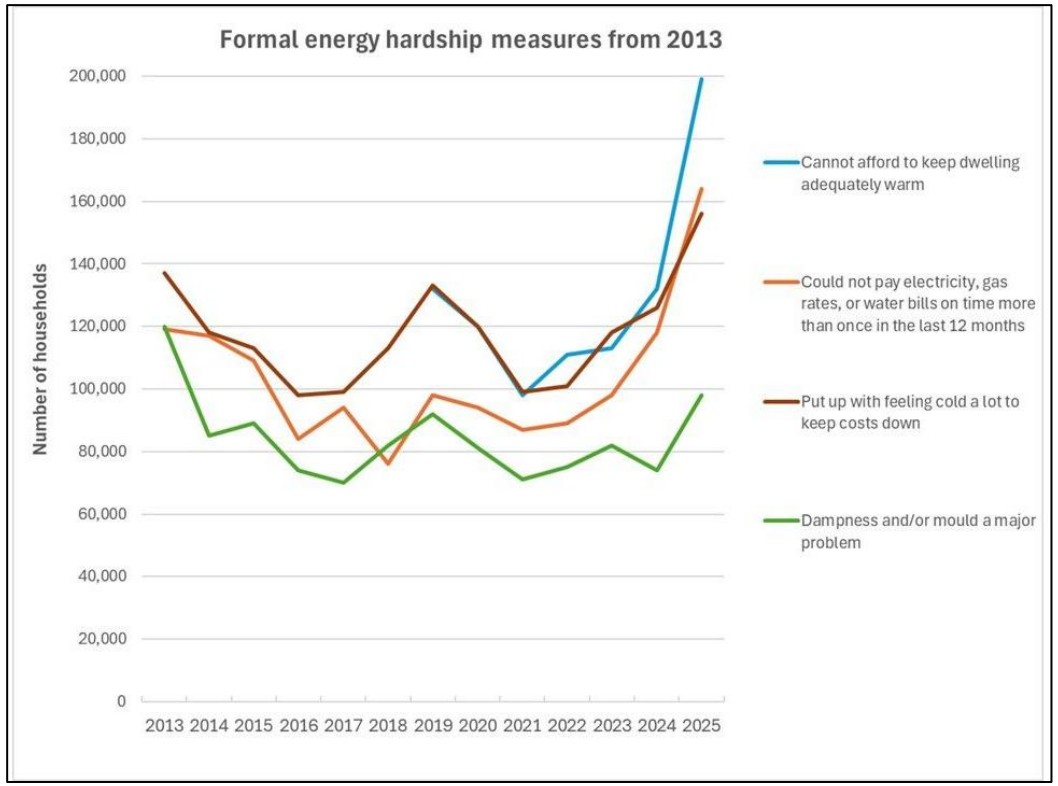

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ELECTORATE FINDER OUR TE

National to back ch
resilient power

25 JUNE 2026

SIMEON BROWN CHRIS BISHOP SIMON WATTS

Electricity Affordability: Lessons from History

Jonathan Kay
Independent Energy Expert
Lone Wolf Enterprises Ltd

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Research.
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Storytelling.

Electricity Affordability

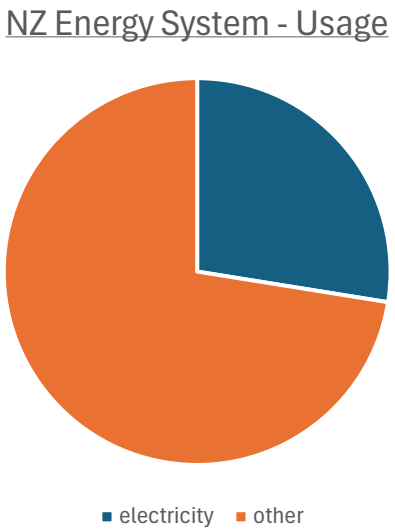
(lessons from history)

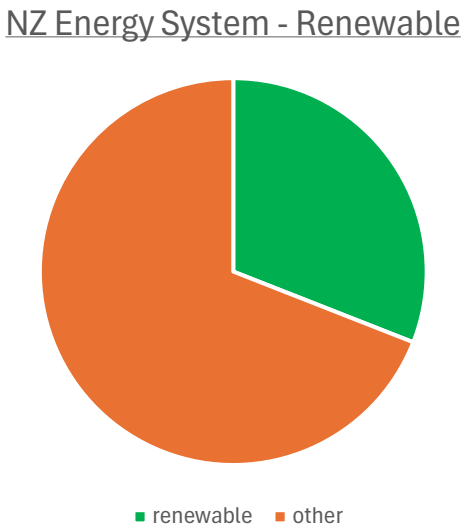
Jonathan Kay

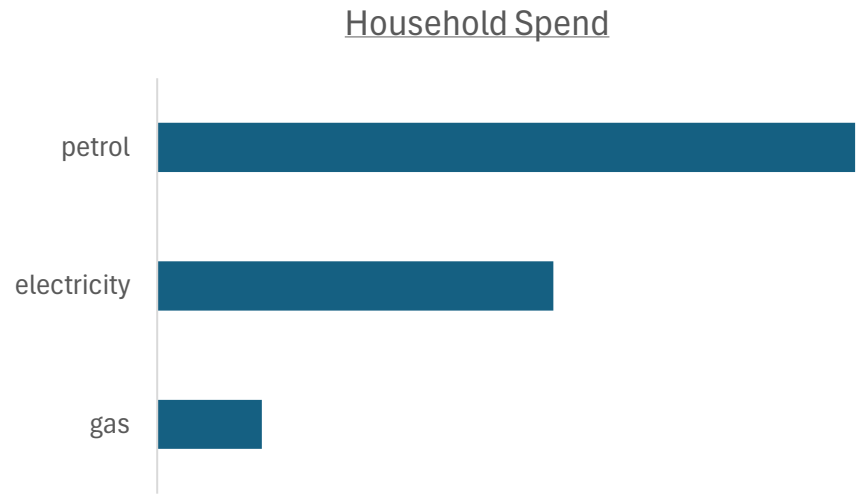
July 2026

Lone Wolf Enterprises Limited

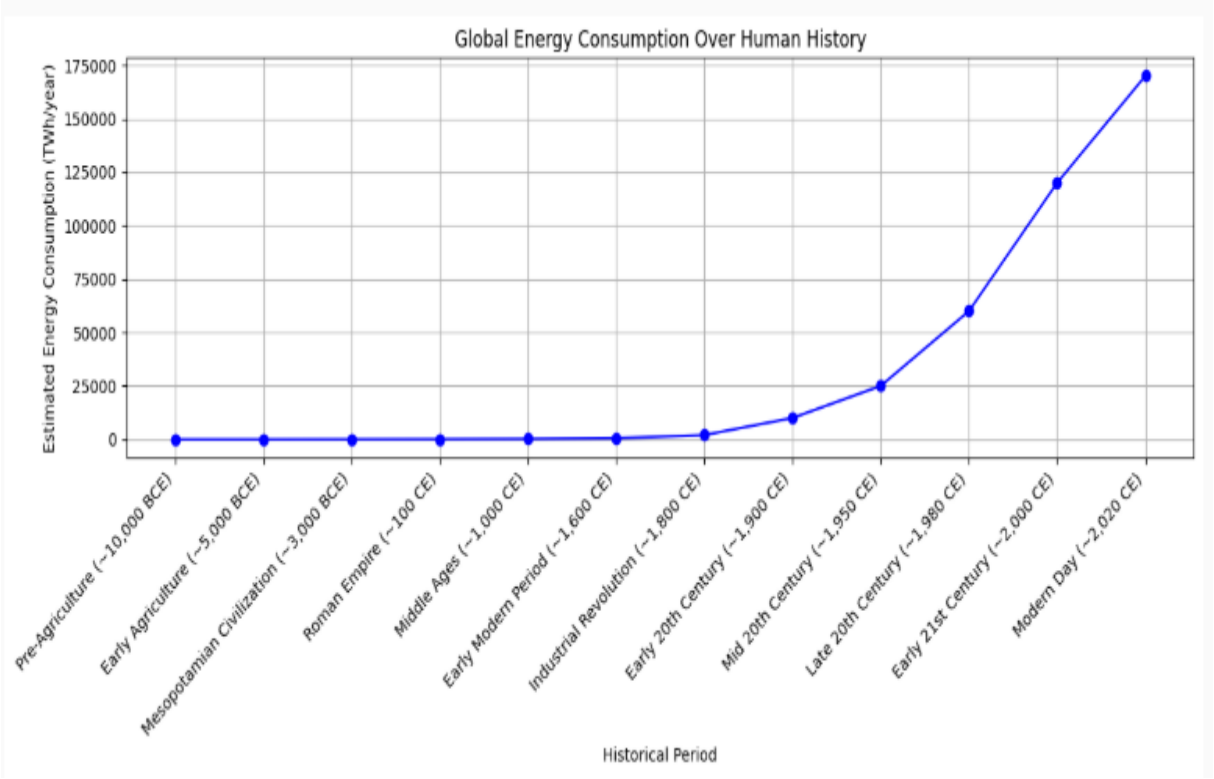
Electricity or energy?







Energy drives prosperity



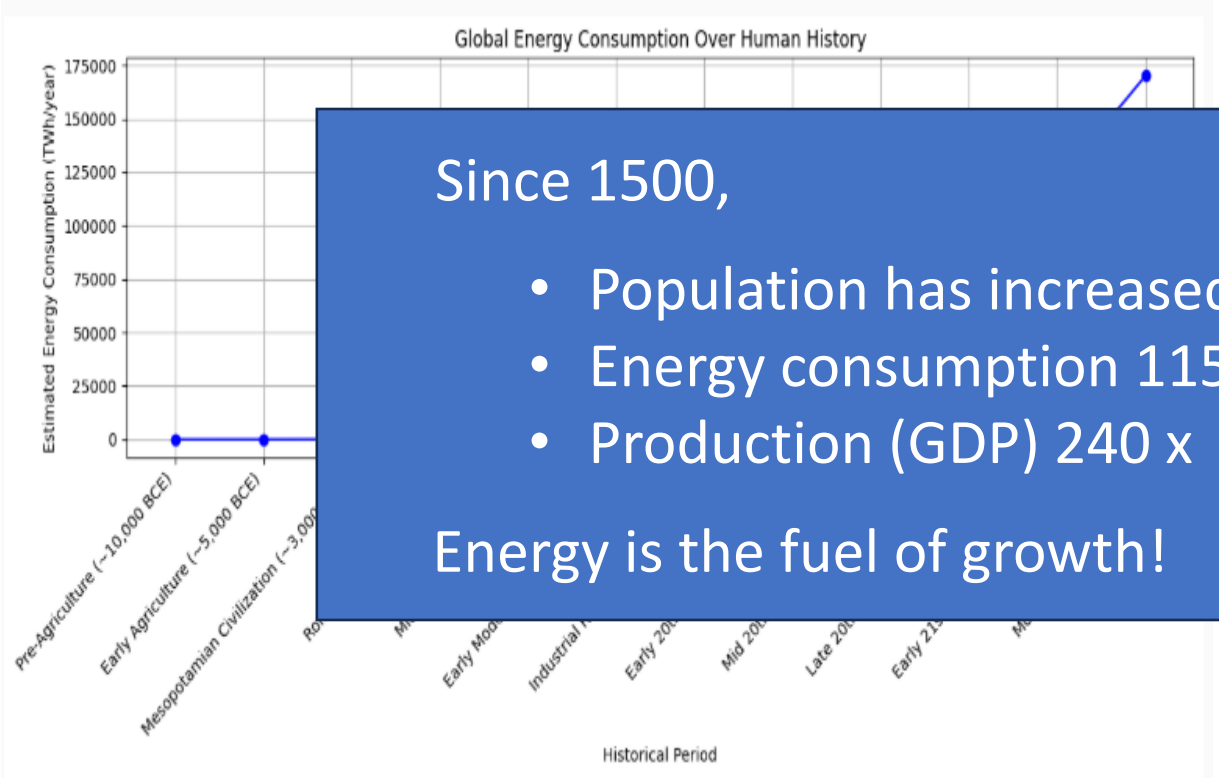
Pre-agriculture (10,000BC)
firewood and human labour

Middle ages
windmills and water wheels

Industrial revolution
steam engine (coal)

20th century
internal combustion engine/electricity and the jet engine (fossil fuel and renewables)

Energy drives prosperity



Since 1500,

- Population has increased 14 x
- Energy consumption 115 x
- Production (GDP) 240 x

Energy is the fuel of growth!

Pre-agriculture (10,000BC)
firewood and human labour

water wheels

ution
coal)

ustion engine/electricity
gine (fossil fuel and

AFFORDABILITY

Can a household afford to pay for the energy they need without experiencing financial strain?

A cost problem

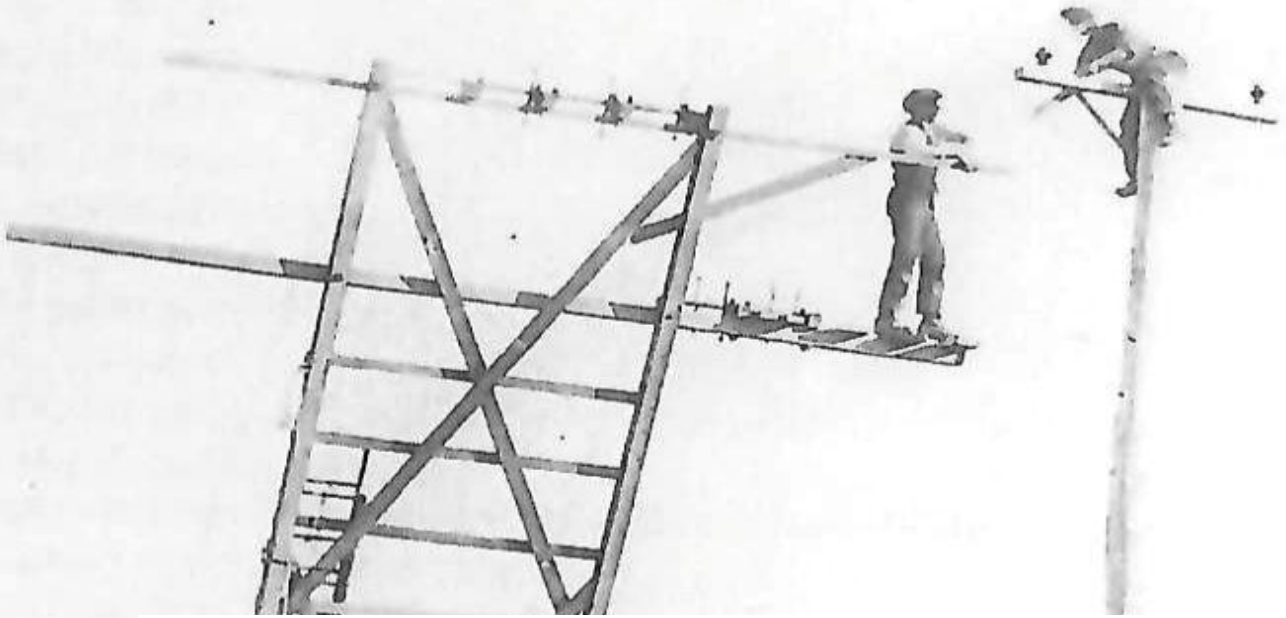
HARDSHIP

Can a household access adequate energy to maintain a safe, warm, healthy home? It's goes beyond cost pressure to deprivation

A wellbeing problem

History

(power to the people)



History

(power to the people)

Pioneers – Bullendale/Reefton/Manapouri/HVDC link (and more)

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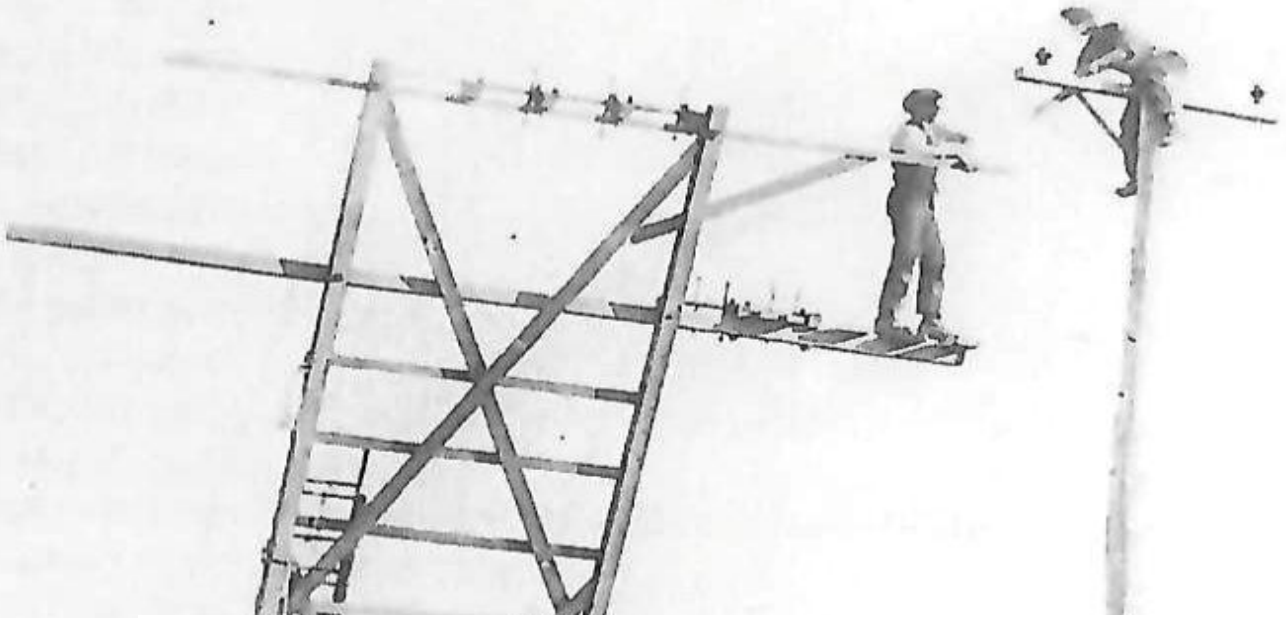
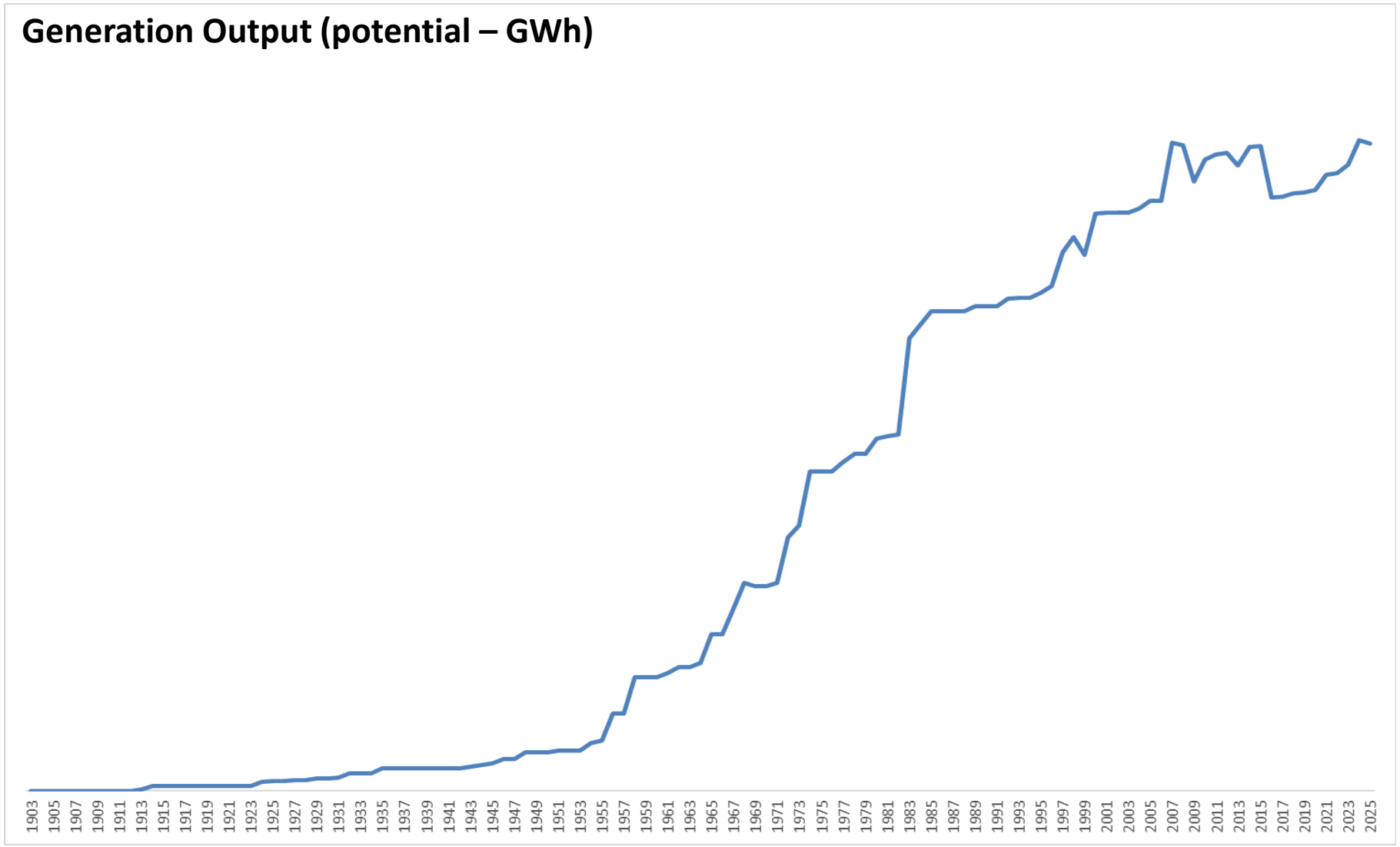


Pioneers – Bullendale/Reefton/Manapouri/HVDC link (and more)

Selfless – Power boards, RERC

History

(build it and they will come)



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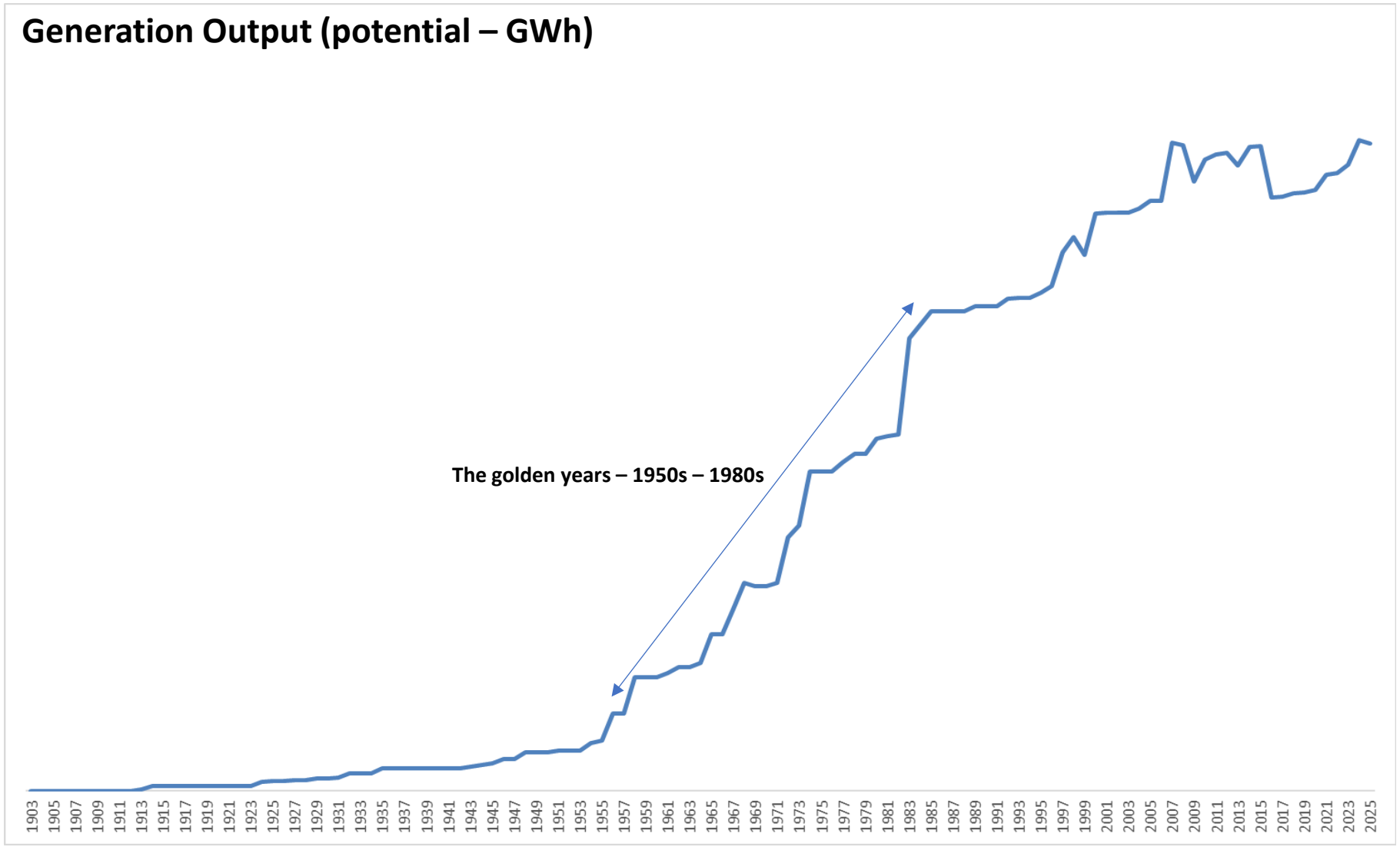

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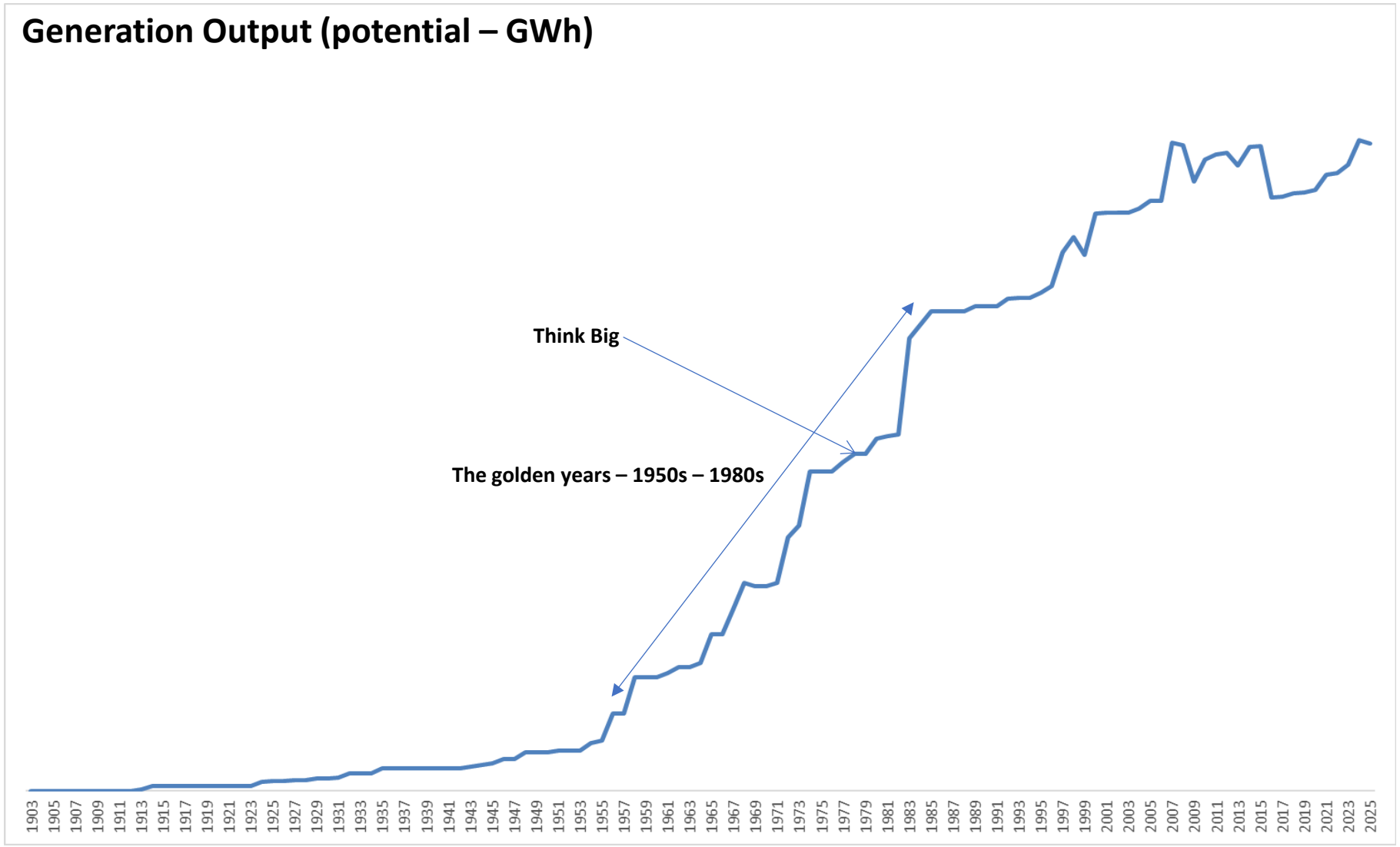

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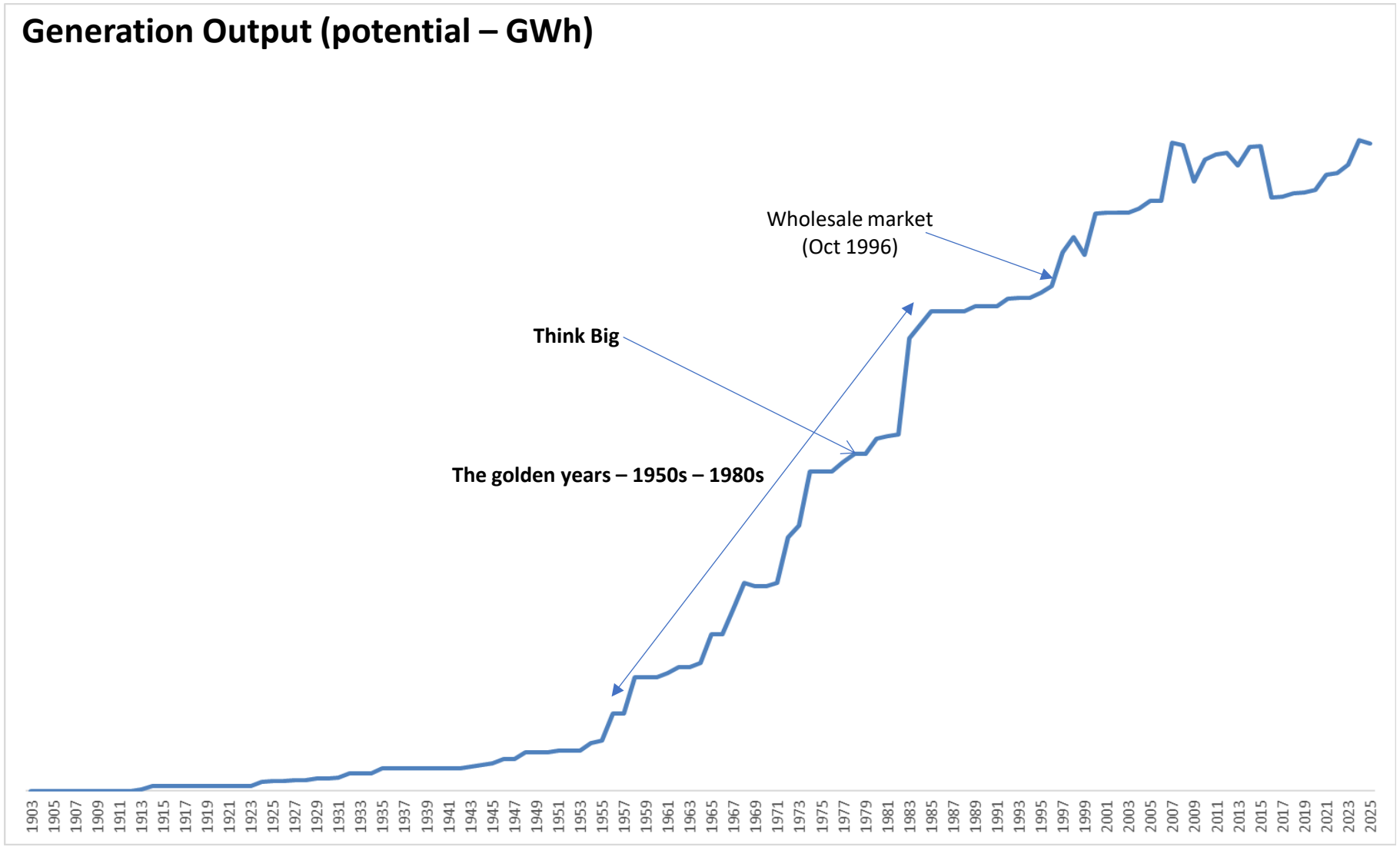

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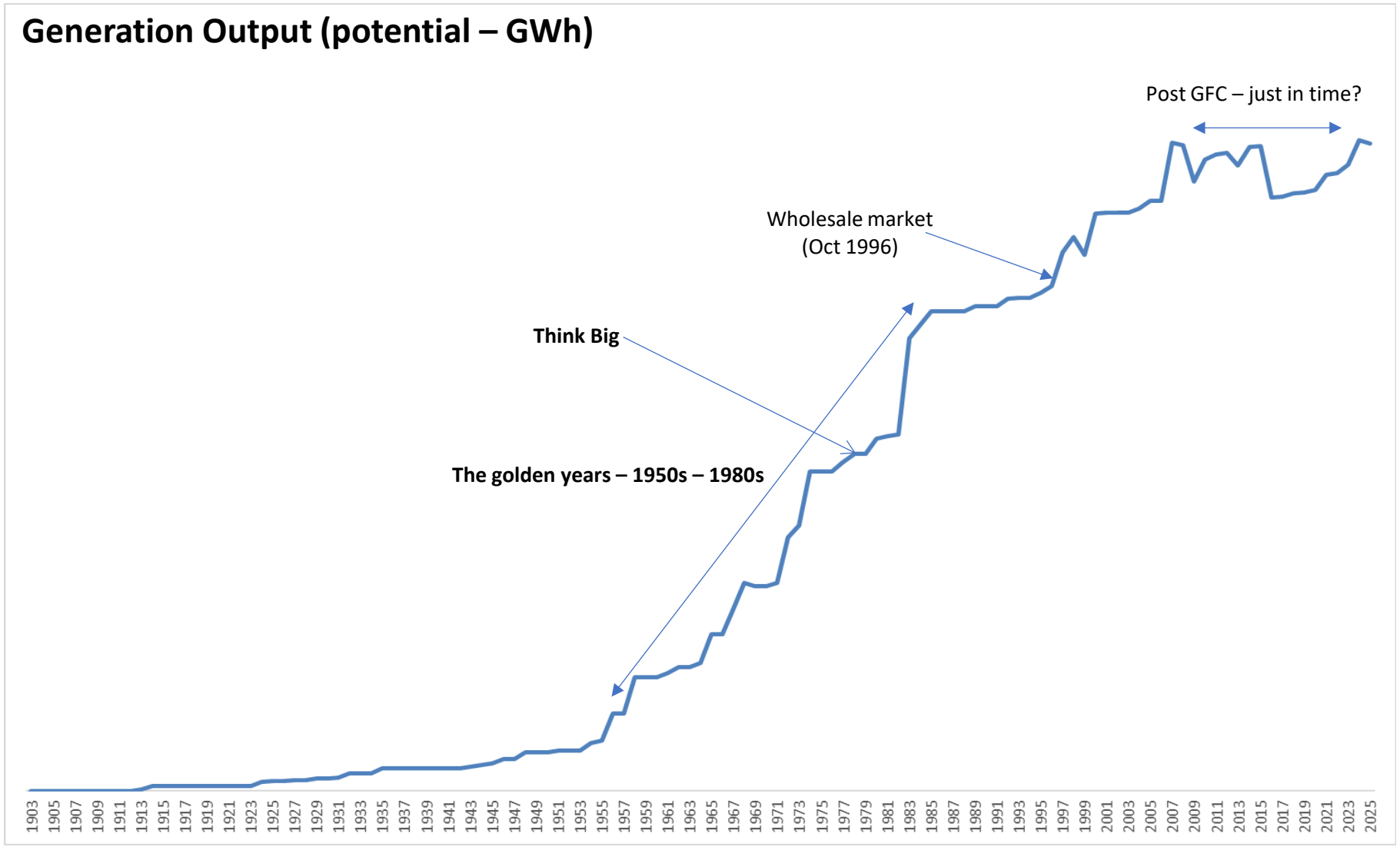
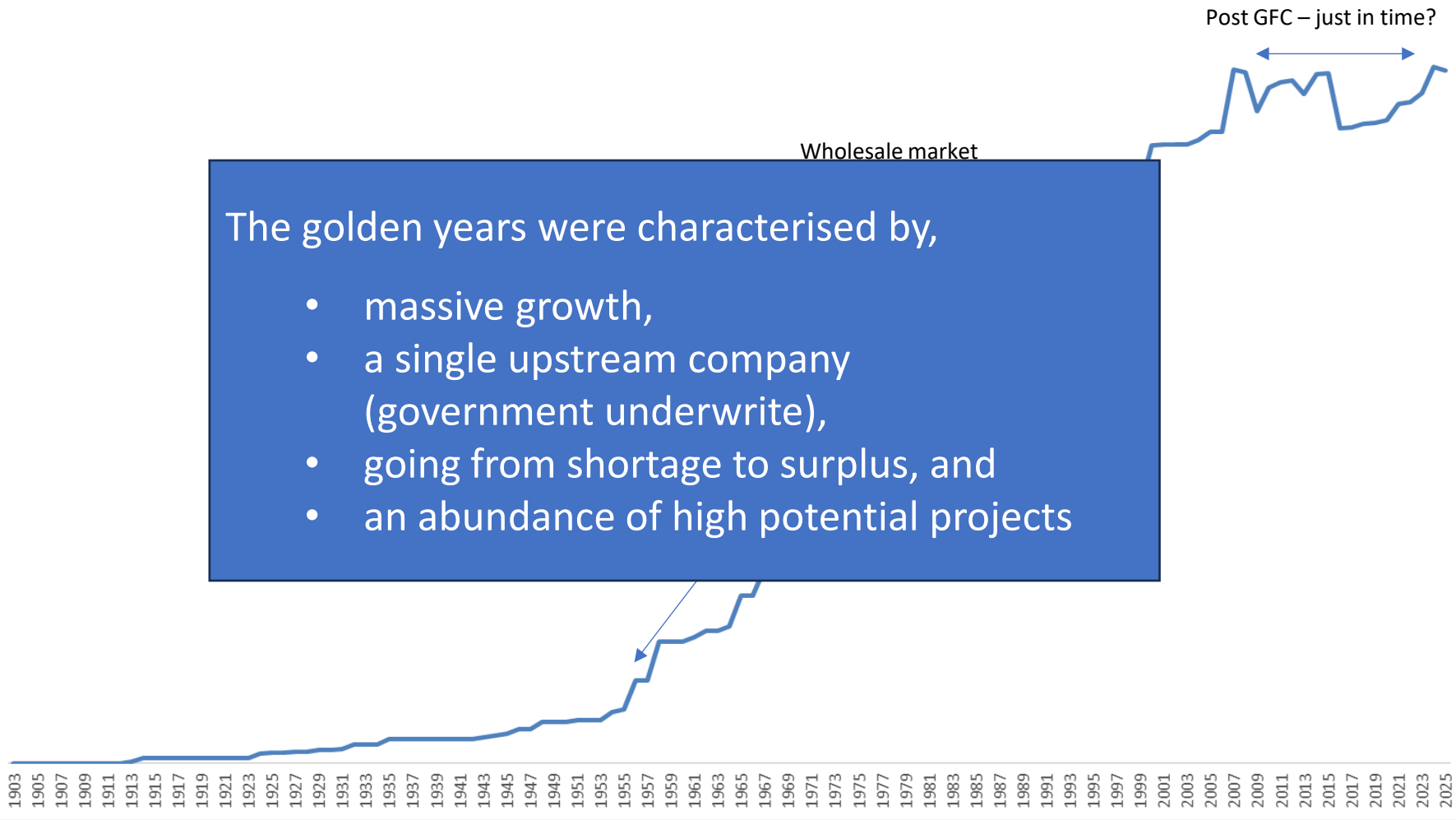


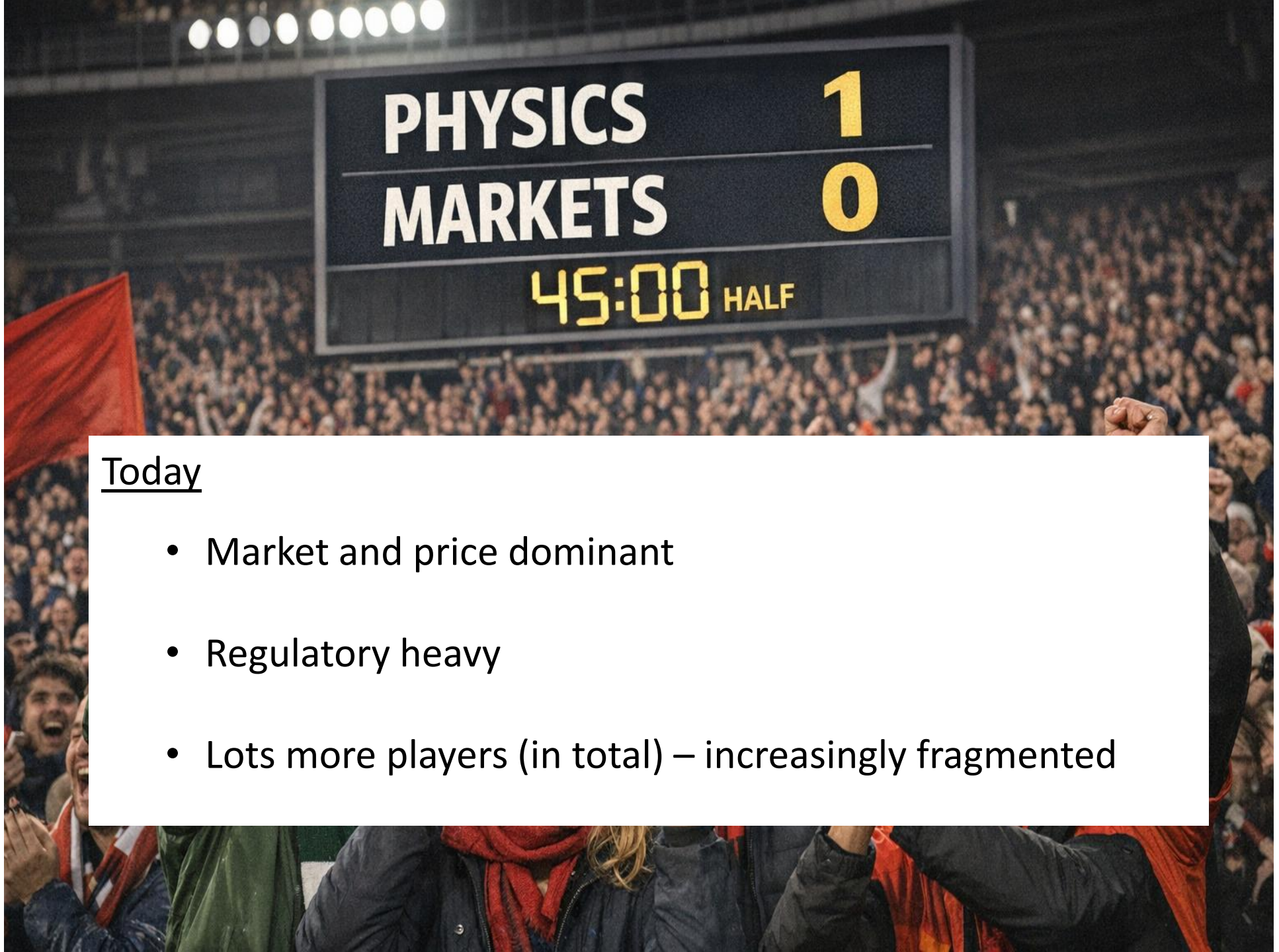
History

(build it and they will come)

Generation Output (potential – GWh)



PHYSICS 1
MARKETS 0
45:00 HALF



Today

- Market and price dominant
- Regulatory heavy
- Lots more players (in total) – increasingly fragmented

Pricing – pies and produce

Networks

- Lines pricing is allocative – so if a customer get a better price another customer pays more
- Costs are largely fixed and the bulk relate to investments already made (sunk cost recovery)

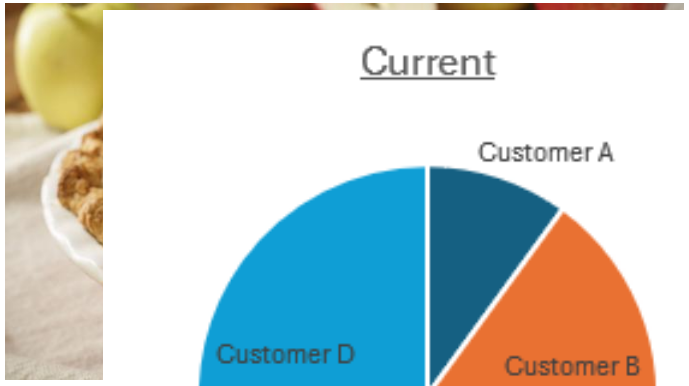
Generation (production)

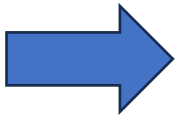
- Market is about sending price signals to encourage new generation (and to signal risk)
- All about marginal costs (short-run and long-run)

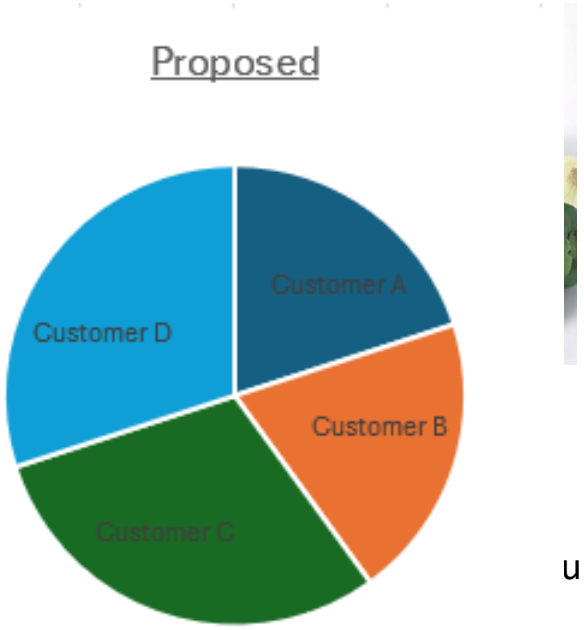
Pricing – pies and produce

Networks

Generation (production)







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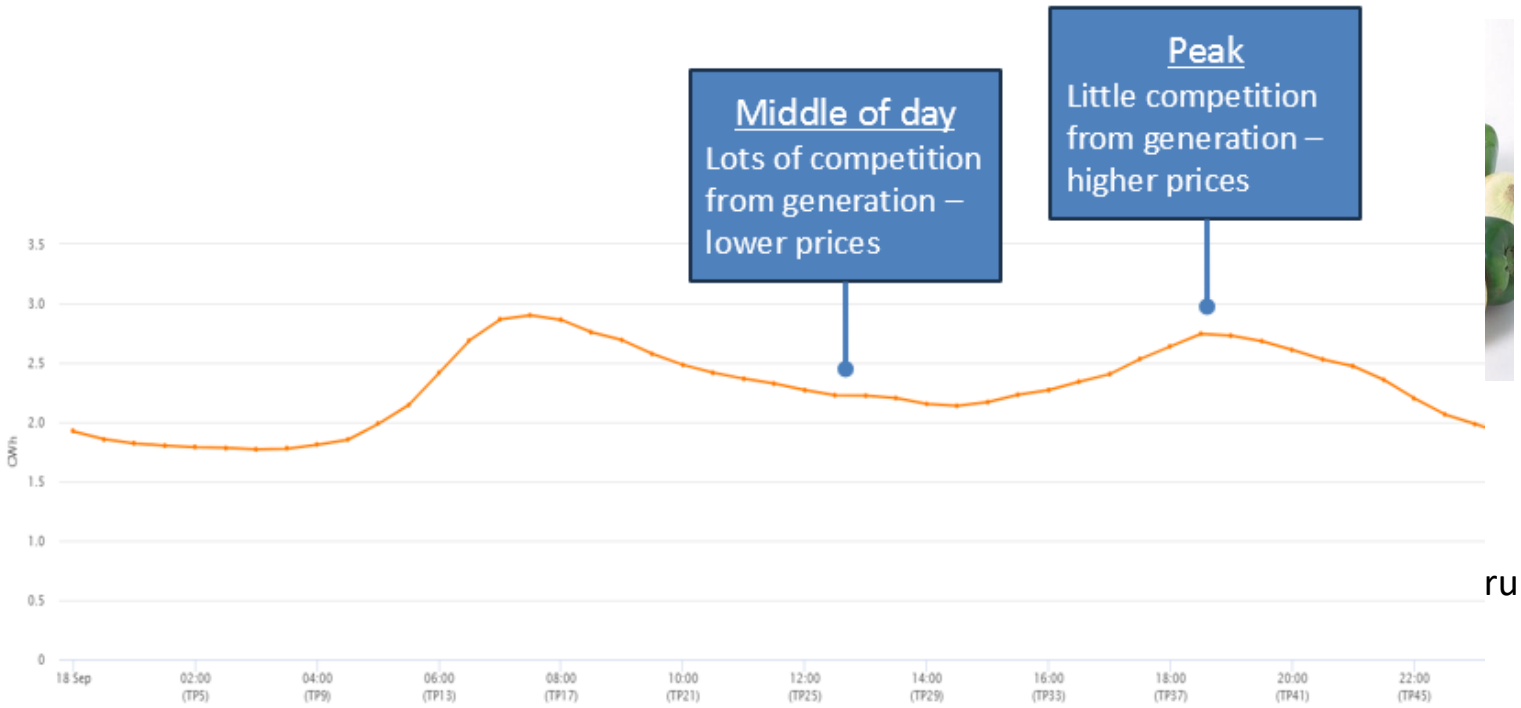
Pricing – pies and produce

- 

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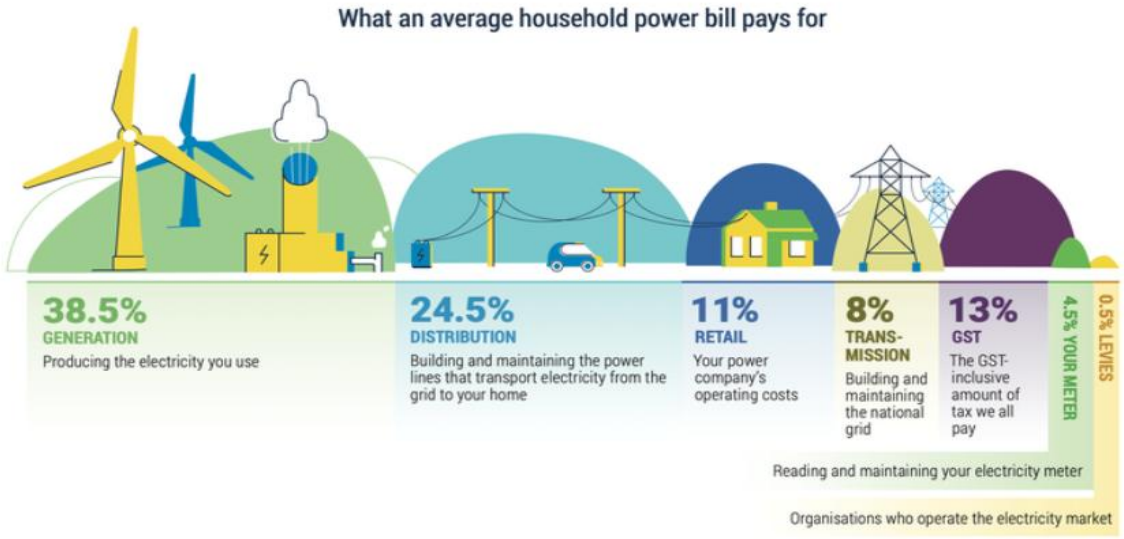
The solar dilemma



<u>Household saving from solar PV system $2,370</u>

That saving includes lines and transmission charges
(that will now fall on someone else)

Beware the average

rooftop solar 11c/kWh

wholesale market noon price for last summer 4.9c/kWh

The future

- Doubling the size of the electricity system (which will be highly renewable).
- Displacing imported refined fossil fuels with clean homegrown renewable electricity (improving energy security and sustainability)
- Leaning into the challenges of finding good projects, sustained inflationary pressure and intermittency.

The future

- Doubling the size of the electricity system (which will be highly renewable).
- Displacing imported refined fossil fuels with clean homegrown renewable electricity (improving energy security and sustainability)
- Leaning into the challenges of finding good projects, sustained inflationary pressure and intermittency.

Electricity prices will rise <u>but</u> energy costs will fall

Driving to a better future

Two car household with an electric Hyundai Kona (2022) and a petrol Hyundai Tucson (2019).

12.9kWh/100km	8.2l/100km
23.72c/kWh (incl. GST)[1]	$2.50/l (incl. GST)[2]
$76/1000km RUC (+admin fee)	
$10.66/100km	$20.50/100km

For 20,000km per annum driving my saving is $1,968

1 – based on my current pricing from Meridian.

2 – based on MBIE fuel monitoring data March 2026 pre Iran conflict

Driving to a better future

Two car household with an electric Hyundai Kona (2022) and a petrol Hyundai Tucson (2019).

Electrifying the light vehicle fleet will save New Zealanders over $5 billion per year! (each and every year)

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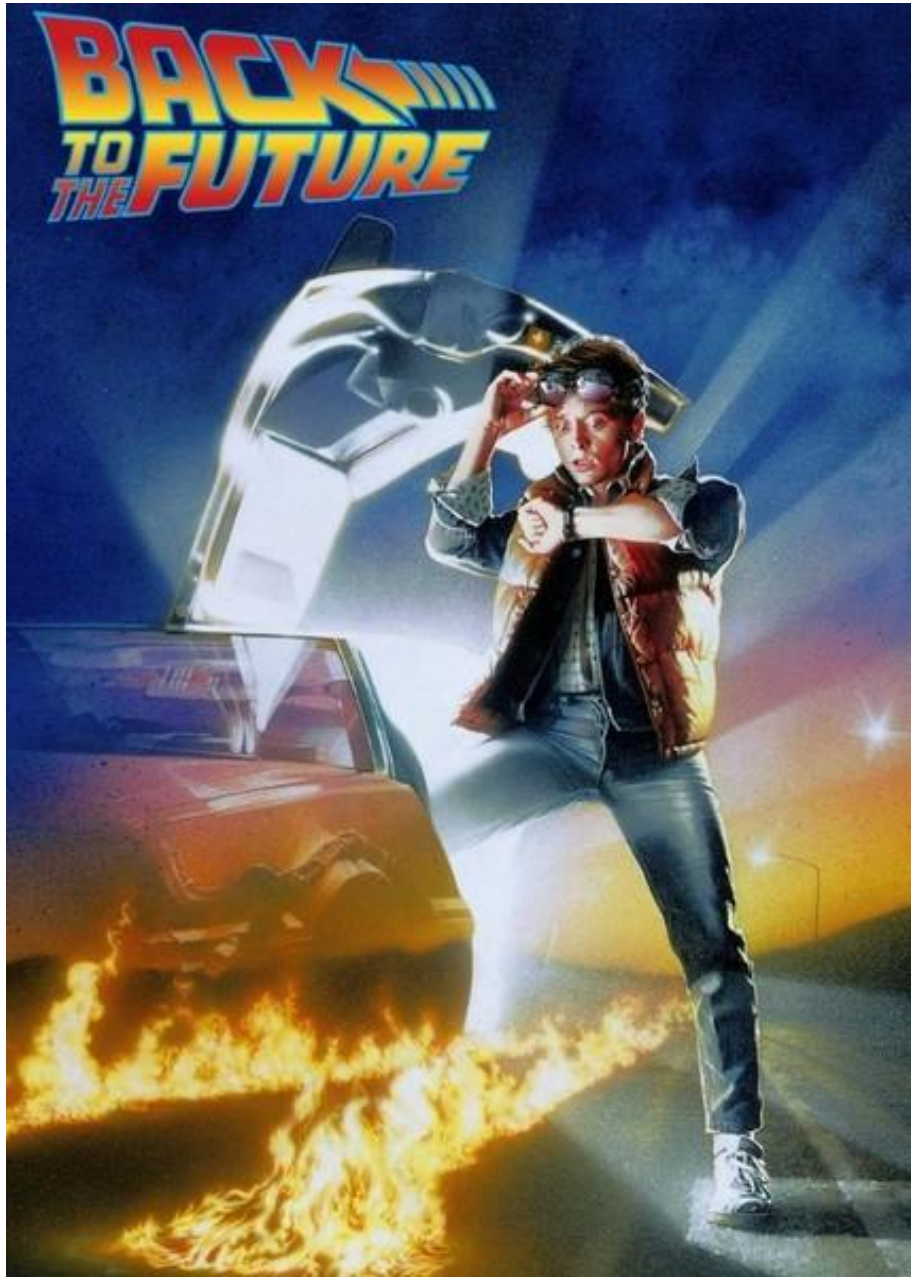
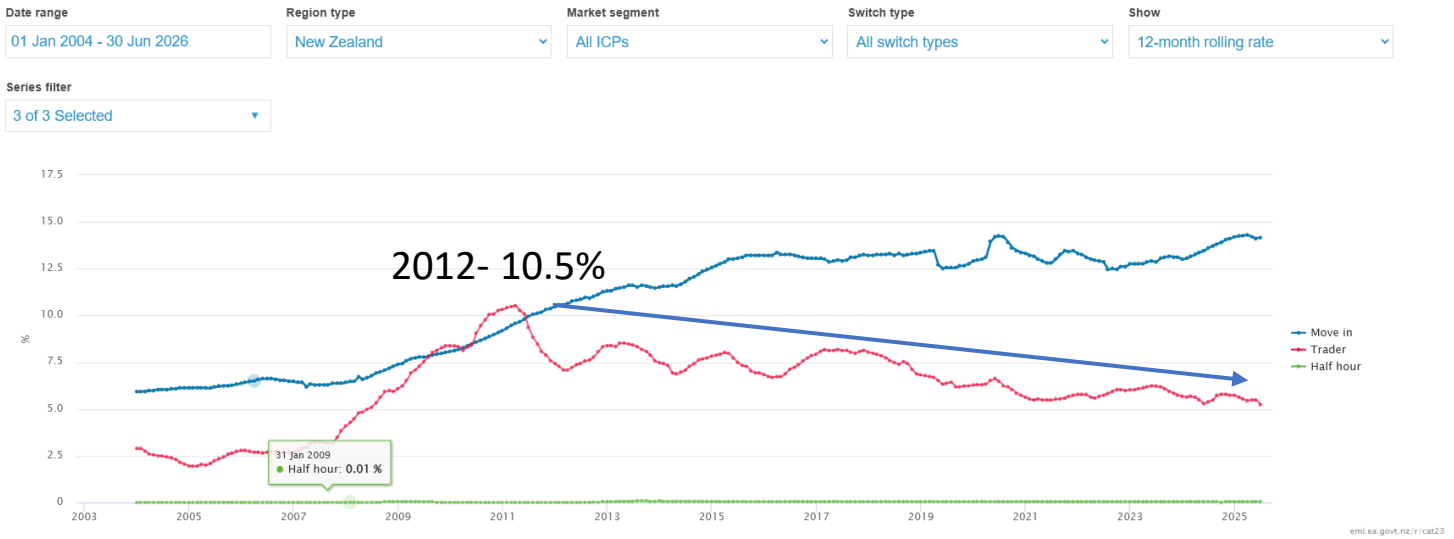


What can we do about it?

What can we do?

1. Improve switching (get the best deal)

NOW



Ave. Saving if all Customers Moved to Best Price Plan	Difference Between Incumbent and Cheapest Price Plan
$170	$417

Waipa Networks

What can we do?

NOW

2. Leverage the discounts (where possible)

Energy Trusts pay their customers over $300m pa. in discounts and dividends

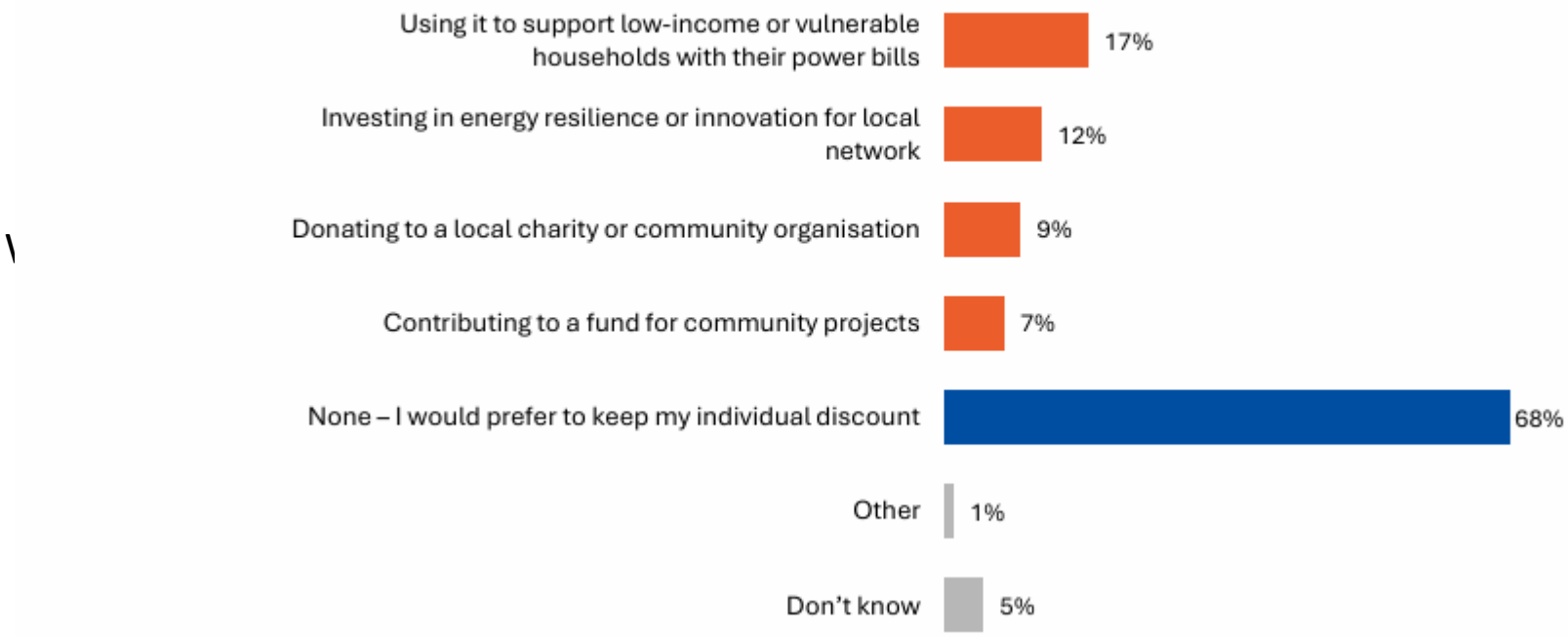
What if this could be redistributed via customer choice?

What can we do?

NOW

2. Leverage the discounts (where possible)

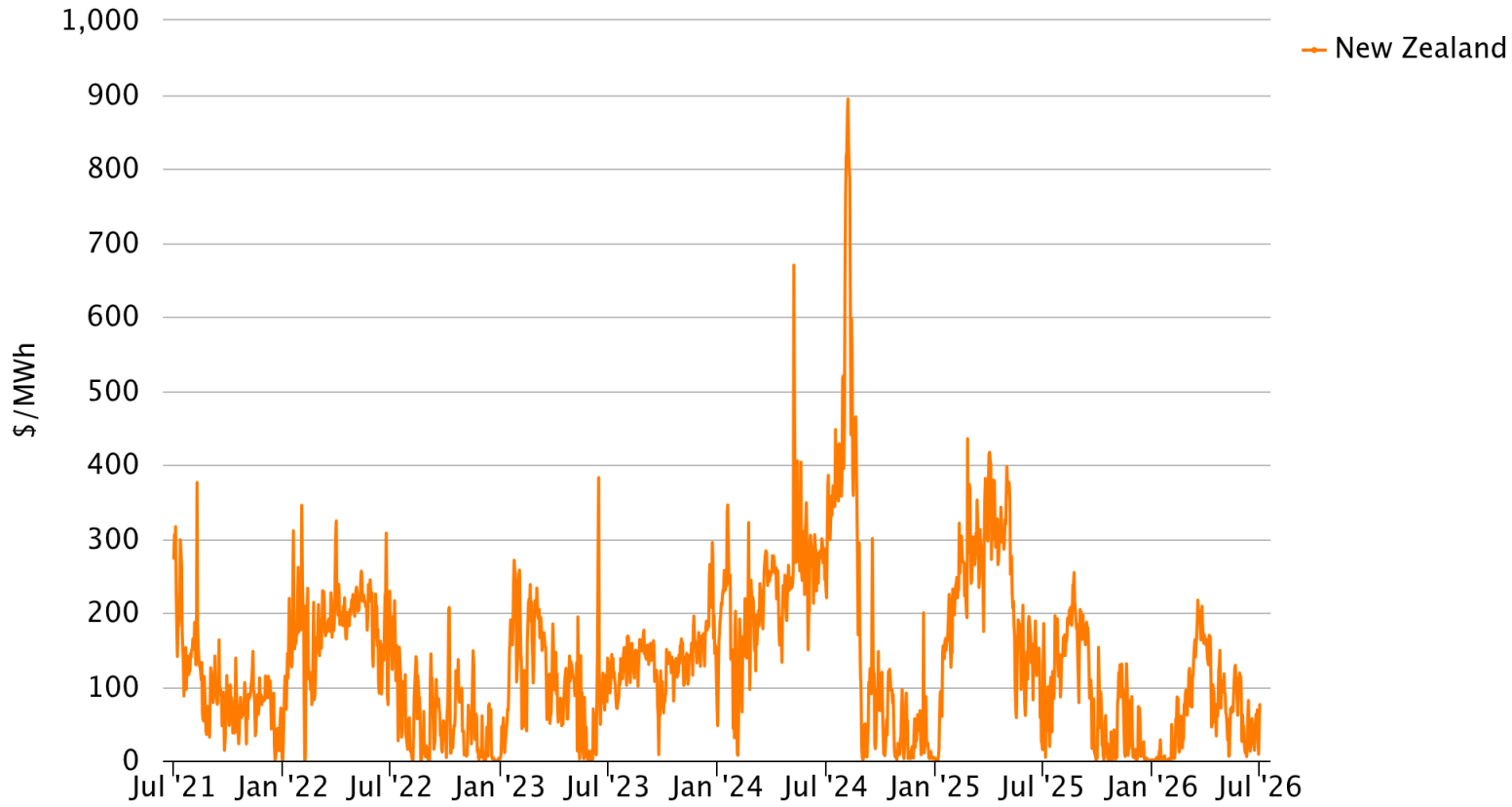
***Customer support for alternative uses of the discount**



What can we do?

NOW

3. Shift to focus on price stability (not purity)

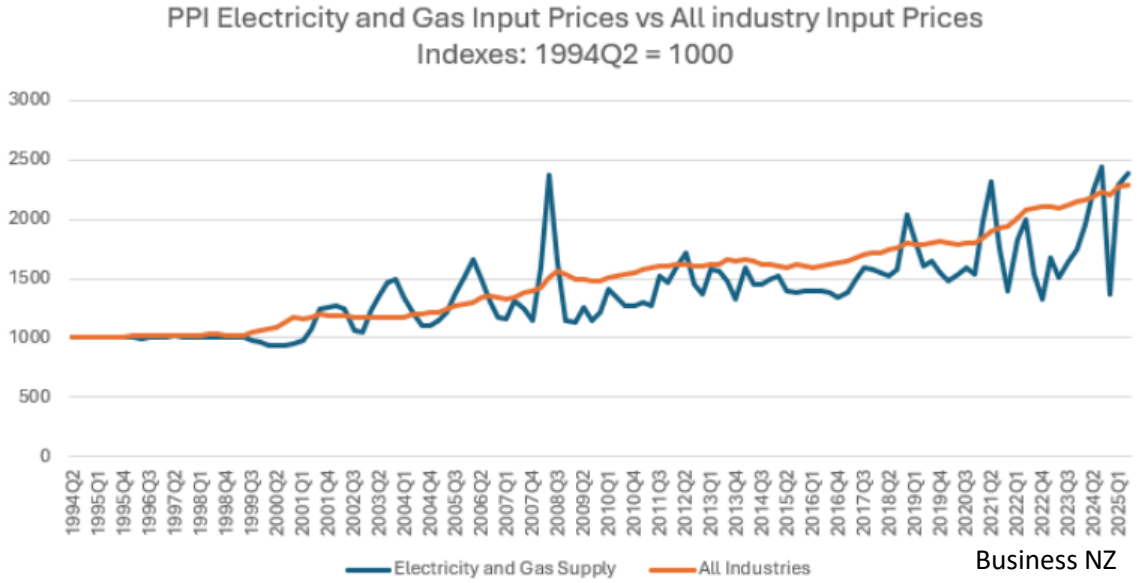


emi.ea.govt.nz/r/vnkxq

What can we do?

3. Shift to focus on price stability (not purity)

NOW



Business NZ

Regulatory period	Dates	WACC used for reset
DPP1	1 Apr 2010 to 31 Mar 2015	8.13%
DPP2	1 Apr 2015 to 31 Mar 2020	7.19%
DPP3	1 Apr 2020 to 31 Mar 2025	4.57% govt
DPP4	1 Apr 2025 to 31 Mar 2030	7.10% (often rounded to 7.1%) govt +1

What can we do?

4. Develop a better funding model

Future

5. Stimulate growth and share some of the value created (RERC 2)

6. Learn how to market clean energy

Selfish

concerned excessively or exclusively with oneself, seeking one's own advantage, pleasure or well-being without regard for others.

Oxford Dictionary

Selfish

concerned excessively or exclusively with oneself, seeking one's own advantage, pleasure or well-being without regard for others.

Oxford Dictionary

Selfless

concerned more with the needs and wishes of others than with one's own

Oxford Dictionary

Q&A

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The Affordable Energy Webinar Series

June-November 2026

Manu Barrett
CEO, Solar Sense Ltd
5 August, 11am

Use same link as this webinar to join back in.

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Upcoming Speakers:

• Quilae Wong	The Opportunity Party	19 August
• Simon Bridges	Ak Chamber of Commerce	2 September
• Rob Johnson, Ezra Hirawani	Nau Mai Ra	16 September
• John Campbell	Our Energy	23 September
• Kelli Pike	GoEco	30 September
• Gareth Cartwright	Community Energy	14 October
• David Wilson	NZ First	28 October
• Blair Dickie	Waikato Regional Council	4 November

...and more

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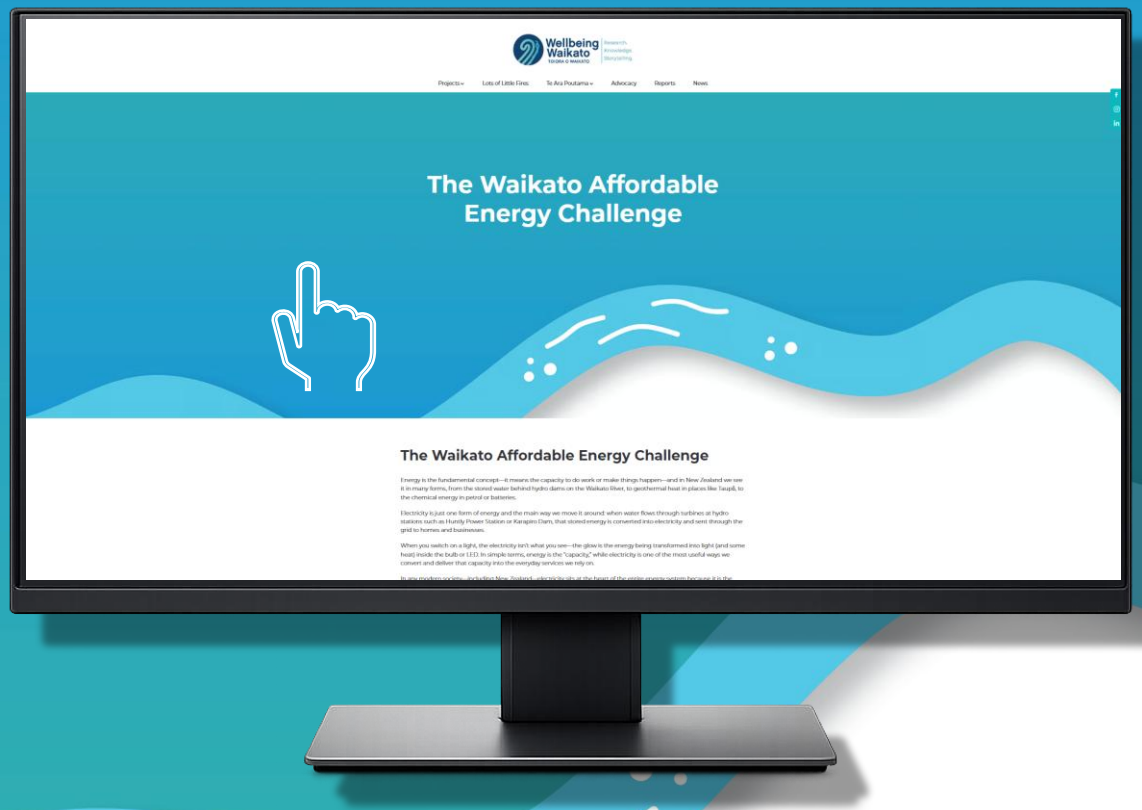
Go to our Website to See all Presentations and Slides from the Series:



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Thank you!

www.wellbeingwaikato.org.nz

harvey@wellbeingwaikato.org.nz
021 913 418

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