

### Annual Conference 2017

decision power



Greg Sise, Energy Link Ltd

### Demand – what I said last year



MBIE consumption data for end users

### **Demand – what actually happened**



MBIE consumption data for end users, plus estimate for 2016

### **Demand Growth Returns Falters**



# Supply – what I'm saying this year



#### 2023: -80 MW without any change in demand

### Demand to 2015



#### **MBIE consumption data for end users**

### **Residential Demand Drivers**

Occupied households => Population

 Electricity prices => demand becoming more "elastic"

• Weak signal from average temperature

# **Commercial & Primary Demand Drivers**

- NZ GDP
  Population plus per capita economic activity
- Household income for Primary (???)
- Moderate signal from average temperature (Primary)
- Gas prices

# Industrial Demand Drivers (excl Tiwai)

### • NZ GDP

Population plus per capita economic activity;

### OR

➢ Population plus US GDP i.e. world markets

### Weaker correlations, sectors differ in drivers, harder to call

## **Demand Summary excl Tiwai**



- Lots of positives due to rising population and GDP
- BUT negatives as demand elasticity rises over time
- Climate change could go either way
- Uncertainty over industrial sectors

### **Tiwai Smelter**

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- NZD aluminium prices up 21% on last March
- Up 37% on the low of March 2014
- Will the smelter restart pot line #4?
  ➢ 60 − 65 MW additional demand (526 − 570 GWh)

### Supply Paradox: Renewable vs Thermal



### **Carbon Pricing**



Carbon subsidies for electricity will go by 2019
 ➢ 50% last year, now 33%, 17% in 2018, 0% in 2019

### **Gas Price with Carbon**



Wholesale price includes electricity generation, Methanex and a couple of other large industrials

- \$6/GJ reported by Contact Energy for the last 6 months
- Carbon subsidies removed by 2019
- Carbon price just over \$17 per tonne (optimistic?)

### What About Gas?



- No significant new fields discovered since 2005
- We allow for development wells extending existing fields
- Gas price increases

## **Implications for Renewable Sector**

- Market participants tend to build at a rate that gives a positive return on investment
- Evidence that wind farms and smaller renewable generators are turning off when prices are low
- But will **consumers** "rush" to solar?
  - Demand elasticity will increase over time with access to technology and experience, demand response programs
  - A lot depends on if & when PV and batteries become fully competitive with grid-scale

# **Implications for Thermal Sector**

- Rankine units are an attractive option
  - sunk costs they're already there!
  - > coal stockpile gives security for long dry periods
  - but they won't last forever

- Thermal sector consolidating to those who have the best fuel strategies
  - Close stations that don't run enough (TCC?)
  - Flexible operation (peakers)
  - access to gas at competitive prices (Genesis, Nova)

### **Supply Paradox**



### **Uncertainty & Competition => Innovation**



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