

5 February 2026

Firstlight Network Limited
42 Connett Road West
New Plymouth 4312
New Zealand

By e-mail only: [REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED],

Conditional exemption from Asset Management Plan disclosure requirement under the Electricity Distribution Information Disclosure Determination 2012

1. In response to your letter dated 25 November 2025 on behalf of Firstlight Network Limited (**Firstlight**),¹ the Commerce Commission (the **Commission**) grants Firstlight a conditional exemption from the asset management plan (**AMP**) disclosure requirement under clause 2.6.1 of the *Electricity Distribution Information Disclosure Determination 2012*, as amended, (the **ID Determination**) for disclosure year (**DY**) 2026.²
2. This exemption is granted on the following conditions:³
 - 2.1. **before 1 April 2026**, Firstlight must instead publicly disclose an 'AMP update'; and
 - 2.2. **before 1 April 2027**, Firstlight must publicly disclose a 'full AMP' instead of an 'AMP update' for the forecast period beginning 1 April 2027.
3. The legal framework, relevant context and rationale for exemption are detailed below in the Appendix.

¹ Firstlight Network Limited, *Exemption from the requirement to disclose a full Asset Management Plan (AMP) in 2026 and request to submit an AMP update in place of a full AMP*, dated 25 November 2025

² Commerce Commission, *Electricity Distribution Information Disclosure Determination 2012* [2012] NZCC 22 (1 October 2012), as amended. The latest amendment determination can be found [here](#) on our website.

³ See the legal framework in the Appendix for the meaning of 'full AMP' and 'AMP update' via clause references for the relevant ID Determination requirements.

4. A copy of this exemption letter will be published on the Commission's website.
5. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Rhys Williams at infrastructure.regulation@comcom.govt.nz.

Nāku iti noa, nā



Nathan Strong
Commissioner

Appendix: Legal Framework and Exemption Rationale

Legal framework

- A1. Under Part 4 of the Commerce Act 1986 (the **Act**), all electricity lines services are subject to information disclosure (**ID**) regulation.⁴ Under the ID Determination requirements, as suppliers of electricity distribution services, electricity distribution businesses (**EDBs**) must publicly disclose an AMP (also sometimes referred to within the sector as ‘full AMP’) before the start of each disclosure year.⁵
- A2. In certain disclosure years relative to the **DPP regulatory period**, EDBs may elect to publicly disclose an ‘AMP update’⁶ (instead of a ‘full AMP’) where the EDB has previously publicly disclosed a ‘full AMP’ under clause 2.6.1.⁷ Table 1 below shows the years during DPP4 in which an EDB must disclose a full AMP (as opposed to disclosing an AMP update):⁸

Table 1: AMP disclosure for EDBs due before following dates⁹

DPP4				
2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
1-Apr-25	1-Apr-26	1-Apr-27	1-Apr-28	1-Apr-29

	= option to provide an AMP update
	= a full AMP is mandatory

- A3. Clause 2.11.1(1) of the ID Determination allows the Commission to, by written notice to an EDB, grant an exemption to that EDB from any requirement of the ID Determination, for a period and on such terms and conditions as the Commission specifies in that notice. Furthermore, clause 2.11.1(2) gives the Commission the power to amend or revoke any such exemption.

Exemption request

- A4. Firstlight requested a conditional exemption that would allow it to publish an AMP update in 2026 (by 31 March 2026) on the basis that a full AMP in 2026 would have limited value for stakeholders.

⁴ Commerce Act 1986, section 54F

⁵ ID Determination, clause 2.6.1

⁶ ID Determination, clauses 1.4.3 and 2.6.5

⁷ ID Determination, clauses 2.6.3 and 2.6.4

⁸ ‘DPP4’ is the defined ‘DPP regulatory period’ of 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2030. See [Electricity Distribution Services Default Price-Quality Path Determination 2025 \[2024\] NZCC 28](#) (20 Nov 2024), clause 4.2

⁹ Table 1 can be found within the ‘EDB Full AMP timing’ tab of the ‘EDB ID Due Dates calendar – 19 June 2025’ published on our website.

- A5. Firstlight has entered into a conditional sale and purchase agreement with Powerco (another EDB) in relation to Firstlight's electricity distribution business, and expects that Powerco will undertake a comprehensive review of the current asset management framework and form its own strategy and vision for the network.¹⁰ Firstlight considers that completing a full AMP prior to Powerco assuming ownership is an inefficient use of resources, and states that these resources would be spent focusing on other regulatory matters (network reliability improvements).

Conditional exemption granted

- A6. Under clause 2.11.1(1) of the ID Determination, the Commission grants Firstlight an exemption from the requirement to disclose an AMP under clauses 2.6.1 of the ID Determination DY 2026 only, on the two conditions detailed in paragraphs 2.1 and 2.2 of this notice.
- A7. We consider it is reasonable to grant this conditional exemption because a combination of an AMP update in 2026 and a full AMP in 2027 will allow interested persons to continue be able to assess whether the s 52A purpose of the Act is being met.
- A8. Given the future focus of an AMP, we agree that the cost of the existing owner of Firstlight preparing a full AMP before the sale to Powerco (if the transaction was to proceed) will outweigh the benefit to stakeholders due to Powerco implementing its own future direction.
- A9. Firstlight has the option to elect to publicly disclose an AMP update instead of a full AMP because the existing owner of Firstlight has previously publicly disclosed a full AMP¹¹ under clause 2.6.1.¹²
- A10. To provide comfort to stakeholders that information would not be materially lost if the sale to Powerco ultimately does not occur, Firstlight is required to produce a full AMP in 2027 regardless of its ownership position. We considered whether to make the sale of Firstlight a condition of this exemption. However, we recognise that this is likely to be a period of uncertainty for Firstlight, including the exact timing of the sale, and adding further conditions to this exemption may make it unnecessarily complex.
- A11. While we consider that resourcing alone is not a valid reason for exemption, consistent with Firstlight's application, we expect that this exemption from preparing a full AMP will lead to more efficient resourcing of Firstlight staff to other matters.

¹⁰ Firstlight Network, *Firstlight Network sale agreement reached with Powerco*, dated 8 October 2025. A link to Firstlight's press release can be found here: <https://firstlightnetwork.co.nz/tell-me-about/firstlight-network/network-news/firstlight-network-sale-agreement-reached-with-powerco>

¹¹ <https://firstlightnetwork.co.nz/assets/Documents/Firstlight-Network-AMP-2023.pdf>

¹² ID Determination, clause 2.6.4