

9 July 2026

Ben Woodham
Commerce Commission
44 The Terrace
Wellington, 6140

By email: infrastructure.regulation@comcom.govt.nz

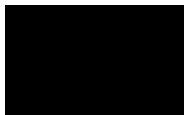
Horizon Energy Distribution Limited (Horizon Networks) submission on Reconsideration of DPP4 default price-quality path for Horizon Networks – Ōpōtiki foreseeable large project

1. Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Commerce Commission's (Commission) draft decision on *Reconsideration of DPP4 default price-quality path for Horizon Networks – Ōpōtiki foreseeable large project*.
2. Horizon Networks is a trust-owned Electricity Distribution Business serving approximately 25,500 homes and businesses in the eastern Bay of Plenty region. As a trust-owned EDB, we have a strong consumer focus and seek to benefit both our Shareholder Trust Horizon and the communities we serve.

Horizon Networks supports the draft decision to approve the Ōpōtiki reopener application in full

3. Horizon Networks supports the Commission's draft decision to approve Horizon Networks' reopener application in full, including to accept \$14.269 million of commissioned assets for the Ōpōtiki project, and amend Horizon Networks DPP4 price path by an additional \$4.944 million across DY28, DY29 and DY30.
4. The Ōpōtiki project is a targeted and necessary investment that addresses growth-driven voltage constraints in the Ōpōtiki region. The project supports the continued delivery of electricity distribution services at a quality that reflects consumer needs, while enabling current and future demand to be met in a prudent and efficient way.
5. Horizon Networks agrees with the findings set out in the draft decision paper, including that the application meets the reopener criteria, the investment is prudent and the estimated monthly consumer bill impact is \$2.85 per ICP.
6. The \$2.85 per ICP per month estimate is consistent with the range for the Ōpōtiki sub-transmission upgrade communicated through our "Powering the Eastern Bay" engagement with stakeholders and consumers as part of our 10-year network plan. Further information on this engagement is available on our [website](#).
7. While the cost impact to consumers is an important consideration, our engagement indicates this is not the primary concern for many stakeholders, who are instead focused on the long-term future of the region. Stakeholders, including councils, iwi, and businesses recognised that targeted network investment, such as the Ōpōtiki reopener, is needed to support the economic growth and development of the region, as well as to maintain a resilient, secure, and reliable network.
8. Horizon Networks considers the draft decision reflects a prudent and efficient response to demonstrated growth-driven network constraints in the Ōpōtiki region. The project is the right investment at the right time. Horizon Networks supports the Commission finalising the draft decision without amendment.

Yours Sincerely



Jonathon Staite
Regulatory Manager

HORIZON ENERGY DISTRIBUTION LIMITED