

The History of Network Tasman Electricity Distribution

- 1908 Robert Ellis wires up his farmhouse for electric lighting and power.
- 1909 Public Works Act passes, requiring all power suppliers to be licensed.
- 1911 Robert Ellis obtains first license to supply power to Brightwater.
- 1918 Robert Ellis' flourmill and electricity supply business leased to a syndicate comprising E Higgins, E McPherson and W Newth.
- 1921 Motueka Borough Council suction gas plant begins to supply electric power.
- 1922 Murchison Country Council's six-mile hydro station opened.
- 1923 Nelson city's steam-powered powerhouse on Wakefield Quay commissioned.
- 1924 The Waimea Electric Supply and Manufacturing Co Ltd formed, involving Kohatu farmer Robert Ellis and other directors.
- 1925 First meeting of the Golden Bay Electric Power Board.
- 1929
- Golden Bay hydroelectric station (Pupu) commissioned.
 - First meeting of the new Waimea Electric Power Board.
- 1933 Waimea Electric Power Board takes over Waimea Electricity Supply and Manufacturing Co undertaking.
- 1934
- Brooklyn hydroelectric station opened.
 - Waimea Electric Power Board takes over Motueka Borough Council electricity undertaking.
- 1935 The Australian Hume Co begins development of Cobb Valley power scheme.
- 1940 Government takes over development of Cobb scheme.
- 1944 Cobb Valley power scheme commissioned.
- 1946 Waimea become first power board in New Zealand to be granted a license for radio-telephone communication between offices and vehicles.
- 1951 Hydroelectric generation begins at Maruia Falls.
- 1954
- Major extension to Cobb scheme completed.
 - Water heater, street lighting and off-peak rhythmic power control introduced.
- 1958 Nelson region connected to nation grid via Kikiwa link.
- 1960 Stoke subdivision becomes first in board area to be reticulated with underground cables.
- 1962 Waimea Electric Power Board connect 10,000th customer.
- 1963 Murchison County Council's electricity undertaking merges with Waimea Electric Power Board.
- 1976
- Waimea Electric Power holds final meeting prior to amalgamation with the
 - Golden Bay Electric Power Board to become the Tasman Electric Power Board.

- 1981 Pupu hydro scheme closed after 53 year supply, later restored as historical site.
- 1983 New administration building opened in Richmond.
- 1985 Baigent Forest Industries' Eves Valley sawmill and Nelson Pine Industries MDF plant and substations commissioned.
- 1986 Last election of Tasman Electric Power Board members.
- 1988 Tasman Electric Power Board launches its new name Tasman Energy.
- 1990 Government appoints directors to power authorities and municipal electricity departments.
- 1991 Company restructures and adopts energy-efficiency measures to meet challenges in the new deregulated environment.
- 1992
- Energy Companies Act passes, requiring the establishment of public companies to run electricity distribution operation.
 - Previously-elected board members become interim trustees.
 - Heylen Research Centre independent poll of Tasman Energy shows clear preference for customer trust ownership.
- 1993
- Elected Tasman Electric Power Trust members take office.
 - Quantum hot water heating system launched.
 - Vesting date for transfer of Tasman Electric Power Board business into Tasman Energy and Tasman Energy Appliances formed.
 - Tasman Energy Limited was incorporated as a public company under the Companies Act 1955 and the Energy Companies Act 1992.
- 1994
- Tasman Energy Appliances Limited's new Stoke store opens.
 - Tasman Energy sends all customers' first sales discount vouchers.
 - Tasman Electrical Limited contracting company launched.
 - First Tasman Energy annual meeting.
- 1995 The Energia energy efficiency advice and education centre opened by Energy Minister, The Hon Doug Kidd.
- 1996 Tasman Energy ownership review commences in accordance with the trust deed and the directors recommend merger with Marlborough Electric.
- 1997
- Tasman Energy ranked among the top power companies in New Zealand.
 - New 3MVA substation was completed in Brightwater.
 - Land was purchased at Atawhai for proposed 15MVA substation.
 - Tasman Energy International established as an international consultancy business, based in Sarawak, Malaysia.
- 1998
- Tasman Energy reorganized into separate distribution and energy retailing businesses, pre-empting government restructuring.
 - All billing and customer telephone inquiry services were contracted to a joint venture servicing company, which also services Electra, based in Horowhenua.
 - 60% of Tasman Electrical Limited was sold to MainPower New Zealand Limited.
 - Tasman Energy owned a 50% stake with Marlborough Electric Limited in Nelson Electricity Limited, the owner of Nelson city's electricity distribution assets.
 - Founders Park substation was completed. Takaka substation upgrade completed.

- Government legislation was passed which required the company to split the ownership of its electricity retailing and electricity distribution business.
 - Tasman Energy Limited chose to retain ownership of the distribution business, renaming it Network Tasman Limited and sold the retailing business to Contact Energy Limited.
 - As a condition of the sale of the energy business, Contact was required to price freeze local line charges and electricity tariffs on Network Tasman's network until December 2001.
 - Sales (line charge) discounts increased.

- 2000
 - Live line maintenance work was introduced to reduce the number and duration of network shutdowns.
 - New underground 33kV feeder cable installed on Marsden Road, Stoke.
 - Network Tasman's top 10 ranking in the independent analysis of line company performance by Ernst & Young.
 - Sale of the 40% share in Tasman Electrical to MainPower. Line charge discounts increased.

- 2001
 - Network Tasman ranked 2nd by Ernst & Young, out of NZ's 30 electricity distribution companies.
 - Commissioning of the \$3.6 million Stoke bulk supply point upgrade, a project between Network Tasman and Transpower NZ.
 - Disposal of the historic six-mile generation assets and the land in Murchison to the Department of Conservation to ensure continued public access to the site.
 - Continuation of yearly line charge discounts to consumers.

- 2002
 - Network Tasman's line charge, prior to the crediting of line discounts, was the sixth lowest (out of 44) in the country.
 - Line discounts credited to consumers was \$4.4 million.
 - First stage of the \$2.2 million upgrade of the Annesbrook substation was completed. Upgrade of the SCADA Master Station, which enables Network Tasman to restore power more quickly and efficiently following fault outages and improve network-monitoring capability.
 - United Gooder Limited were awarded the power system maintenance contract commencing 1 October 2002.

- 2003
 - Network Tasman implements electronic workflow software.
 - Kerr's Hill 22kV cable installation commissioned. \$3 million dividend paid to the Network Tasman Trust.
 - Commencement of upgrade of 11kV switchboard at Songer Street substation.
 - Environmental Consultants Limited were commissioned to survey all trees within potential interference distance of powerlines.

- 2004
 - Network connected increased by 672 from 32,663 in 2003 to 33,335 in 2004 – an increase of 2.1%.
 - The cable installation project between Kikiwa and Jensen Bridge over Kerr's Hill was completed and lived in during the financial year.
 - Replacement of the Songer Street substation switchboard and an upgrade to the Annesbrook substation transformer.
 - Completion of the installation of 11kV feeder cables from the Songer Street substation, and completion of 33kV cables for a proposed new substation near Mapua.
 - The company's Asset Management Plan identified \$62.4 million in capital enhancement projects over the following 10 years, with \$20 million in expenditure for the next two financial periods.
 - Total electricity distributed through the network increased from 699 GWh in 2003 to 701 GWh in 2004 – a moderate increase of 0.3%.
 - Stage 1 of the fibre-optic communication network was completed.