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facebook.com/EnergyMixNZ
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Energy Skills

Our programme to develop the skills needed by the energy industry.

[energyskills.co.nz](https://www.energyskills.co.nz)
facebook.com/EnergySkillsAssociation.nz

EnergyMix

Our educational website explaining energy issues to the general public.

[energymix.co.nz](https://www.energymix.co.nz)

Energy Voices

Our educational social media campaign raising awareness on the importance of natural gas and a balanced energy system.

[energyvoices.nz](https://www.energyvoices.nz)
facebook.com/energyvoices
twitter.com/nzenenergyvoices

Our members



Powering a better
New Zealand together



Year in Review

2023

This time last year we noted that 2022 had been a big year on the global stage, domestically, and for Energy Resources Aotearoa as an organisation. We could not have predicted that things would become even more geopolitically fraught, that inflation would stay stubbornly high, or that we would see three prime ministers lead the country over the course of the next 12 months.

The cost of living has continued to bite as Kiwis look to cut nice-to-haves so they can afford essentials such as food, rents, mortgages, and energy. Inflation and interest rates have remained persistently high over the past 12 months, which has led to belt tightening and a media climate of increasing scrutiny on the suppliers of essential products and services – including energy.

Russia's ongoing invasion of Ukraine has created enduring geopolitical instability and led to higher international commodity prices, such as oil, natural gas, and LNG. Concerns have been further exacerbated after tensions flared in the Middle East.

Domestically, New Zealand politics was rocked when in January Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern announced that she would be stepping down from the role. In the first few months of the Chris Hipkins-led administration, he announced a bonfire of contentious policies that has been promoted under his predecessor – including items such as the biofuels mandate.

Despite the initial shift in focus, voters were not convinced that the change in direction was sufficient. At the ballot box in November, they opted for change and soundly rejected the first majority Government in the MMP era. The incoming Government has signalled that they will reverse the oil and gas

exploration ban, ditch the Lake Onslow proposal, and shelve some of the aspirational targets announced by the previous Government that stifled much-needed investment.

We look forward to building on our existing relationships and policy development efforts through collaboration with the new Government as it shapes up its energy work programme. We are heartened by early indications that the sector can expect a 'back to basics' approach – something we have long advocated for.

Throughout the past year there was a swathe of large-scale consultations affecting the energy sector, with the most recent being documents to inform Hon Dr Megan Woods' long-awaited New Zealand Energy Strategy. The scale of consultations was much larger than we experienced last year, and resulted in our team making 32 written submissions in 2023 compared to 15 in 2022.

But we have not merely been reacting to events. As an organisation, we have helped shape and lead the conversation with the release of several pivotal reports, including Castalia's *2035/2050 Vision for Gas*, Energy Link's *The Role of Gas in Electricity and Industry*, and our first update on the Energy Resources Sector Net Zero Accord, *Powering our low-emissions future*.

As our influence and output has continued to grow, so too has our membership. This year we were proud to welcome Horizon Oil, Aotearoa Energy, and 8 Rivers as new members of Energy Resources Aotearoa.

It is a pleasure for me to present to you this overview of our small team's achievement over the past 12 months. As you will see within this document, our size belies the significant influence we are having and will continue to have with your support on New Zealand's energy conversation.

John Carnegie
Chief Executive

Influence

We have continued to speak with clarity and consistency of voice with stakeholders, officials, and the Government to ensure that the voice of the energy sector is heard.

Those efforts have paid off, and we have been thrilled to see other organisations across the energy sector pick up our messages on the sustained role of natural gas through and beyond the transition to net zero.

This has led to a growing understanding from stakeholders and the media about the need to use New Zealand's domestic energy resources to maintain our energy security, assist our increasingly renewable electricity sector, and encourage ongoing electrification.

The previous Government's ambitious legislative and policy programme, including the New Zealand Energy Strategy, meant that our team was kept busy throughout the year. This resulted in us producing more than double the number of submissions as we had in 2022.

32

Submissions

More than double the number we submitted last year

3

Reports released

2035/2050 Vision for Gas
The Role of Gas in Electricity and Industry
Powering our low-emissions future

129

Media articles

6

Television interviews

6

Commentary notes

11

Radio interviews

2

Podcast interviews

7

Select Committee appearances

19

Press releases



Collaborate

Collaboration with like-minded organisations helps us engage with broader audiences and build alliances to effect positive change.

This year our collaboration efforts were best exemplified by the All of Energy and Resources Election Panel. In conjunction with seven other organisations from across the energy and resources sectors we convened a discussion of energy and resources spokespeople, including the then-Minister, to learn more about their priorities for the sector ahead of the General Election. The timing of this event in late July helped ensure that energy issues took a prominent role during the election campaign.

Following this successful event, we reconvened the industry organisations to publish an open letter to Members of Parliament with 10 priority areas that the organisations from across the energy and resources sector agreed were important to the industry.

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Events

Samantha McCulloch (APPEA) briefing, public policy panel, IGU Secretary General briefing, End of Year panel, All of Energy and Resources pre-election panel

4

University career days

Educate

New Zealand's energy sector is proud to have a well-educated and highly skilled workforce that underpins its performance and reliability.

These skilled and sought-after individuals will be key to helping New Zealand's future energy sector continue to provide affordable, reliable, and sustainable energy for Kiwis now and in the years to come.

Our commitment to this ethos saw us facilitate six internship placements across our member companies this year, helping to cultivate the skilled individuals we will need to power New Zealand's energy sector into the future. We were delighted to re-invigorate the Process Operations Training Programme with a new tutor and programme which was delivered at WITT and within industry. The now extremely popular and well-attended Taranaki Primary Schools Science & Engineering Fair was held in November this year and attracted more than 220 talented young students, new sponsors, and new schools.

A new initiative, Women In Energy was born in 2023 with us leading several workshops to facilitate greater diversity for our sector. This initiative was launched at the May Energy Resources Taranaki Forum and has a strong following.

6

Interns placed into work with energy companies

220

Students attended the science and engineering fair



Excellence

Our team has been working hard this year to keep members up to date with Government policy, leverage their expertise and perspectives in our submissions, and deliver thought-provoking events that shape the energy agenda.

This year we were proud to have welcomed three new members to our team as our organisation continues to expand, evolve, and grow.

3

New members

8 Rivers, Aotearoa Energy, Horizon Oil

3

Energy Resources Taranaki Forum

Two in-person and one online

