

Reforms for NZ electricity Regulation

New Zealand Energy Minister Gerry Brownlee is considering a Ministerial Working Party to reshape the regulatory functions of the country's electricity industry. In a speech to the National Energy Conference, Brownlee identified disentangling regulatory functions as a way to speed up investment on electricity transmission assets. The Minister intends to engage officials and other interested parties in sorting out the duplication and complexity in the regulations and their implementation. "The recent power failures in Auckland were a timely reminder that for security of supply and the economic good of the country we have to make progress on electricity infrastructure investment," he says. Brownlee anticipates that Ministers will have issues to address once the Commerce Commission investigation into market powers has been released.

Source: essa news Issue 8, 2 March 2009