



## Independent Assurance Report

### **To the Directors of Alpine Energy Limited and to the Commerce Commission on the disclosure information for the disclosure year ended 31 March 2018 as required by the Electricity Distribution Information Disclosure Determination 2012 (consolidated in 2015)**

Alpine Energy Limited (“the Company”) is required to disclose certain information under the Electricity Distribution Information Disclosure Determination 2012 (consolidated in 2015) (the Determination) and to procure an assurance report by an independent auditor in terms of section 2.8.1 of the Determination and section 2.8.6 and 2.8.7 of the Electricity Distribution Information Disclosure Determination 2012 (consolidated 6 July 2023) (the Current Determination).

The Auditor-General is the auditor of the Company.

The Auditor-General has appointed me, Elizabeth Adriana (Adri) Smit, using the staff and resources of PricewaterhouseCoopers, to undertake a reasonable assurance engagement, on his behalf, on whether the information prepared by the Company for the disclosure year ended 31 March 2018 (the Disclosure Information) complies, in all material respects, with the Determination.

The Disclosure Information that falls within the scope of the assurance engagement is:

- Schedules 1 to 4, 5a to 5g, 6a and 6b, 7, 10 and 14 (limited to the explanatory notes in boxes 1 to 12) of the Determination; and
- the disclosures of errors in previously disclosed information (refer to box 16 of Schedule 14 and the Appendix B).

### **Qualified Opinion**

In our opinion, except for the possible effects of the matter described in the Basis for Qualified Opinion section of our report, in all material respects:

- as far as appears from an examination of them, proper records to enable the complete and accurate compilation of the Disclosure Information have been kept by the Company;
- as far as appears from the examination, the information used in the preparation of the Disclosure Information has been properly extracted from the Company’s accounting and other records and has been sourced, where appropriate, from the Company’s financial and non-financial systems; and
- the Disclosure Information complies, in all material respects, with the Determination.

### **Basis for Qualified opinion**

As described in Box 14 of Schedule 14, there are inherent limitations in the ability of the Company to collect and record the network reliability information specifically the interconnection points (‘ICP’s’) affected by an interruption and the duration of the interruption used in calculating the amounts required to be disclosed in the Schedules 10(i) to 10(iv). Consequently, there is no independent evidence available to support the completeness and accuracy of recorded faults, and control over the completeness and accuracy of interconnection point (‘ICP’) data included in the SAIDI and SAIFI calculations was limited throughout the year.

There are no practical audit procedures that we could adopt to independently confirm that all the faults and ICP data were properly recorded for the purposes of inclusion in the amounts relating to quality measures set out in Schedules 10(i) to 10(iv).

Because of the potential effect of these limitations, we are unable to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence to confirm the completeness and accuracy of the data that forms the basis of the compilation of Schedules 10(i) to 10(iv).



We conducted our engagement in accordance with the Standard on Assurance Engagements (SAE) 3100 (Revised) *Assurance Engagements on Compliance*, issued by the New Zealand Auditing and Assurance Standards Board. An engagement conducted in accordance with SAE 3100 (Revised) requires that we comply with the International Standard on Assurance Engagements (New Zealand) 3000 (Revised) *Assurance Engagements Other Than Audits or Reviews of Historical Financial Information*.

We have obtained sufficient recorded evidence and explanations that we required to provide a basis for our qualified opinion.

#### **Emphasis of Matter - Amendment to previously disclosed information**

As described in Box 16 of Schedule 14, in preparing the 2023 Disclosure Information, the Company identified material errors in the previously disclosed Disclosure Information. In line with clause 2.12.1 of the Electricity Distribution Information Disclosure Determination 2012 (consolidated 6 July 2023) (the Current Determination), the Company has restated the 2018 Disclosure Information to correct the material prior period error including revising the indirectly affected data and statements.

Without further modifying our opinion, we draw attention to;

- the fact that this assurance report replaces the assurance report dated 23 August 2018; and
- Box 16 of Schedule 14 and Appendix B: Impact of restatements which outlines the errors identified and how the correction of these errors impacts the 2018 Disclosure Information.

#### **Directors' responsibilities**

The Directors of the Company are responsible in accordance with the Determination for the preparation of the Disclosure Information.

In accordance with clauses 2.9.3 and 2.9.4 of the Current Determination, the Directors of the Company are responsible for ensuring the disclosed error has been corrected and subsequently correctly reflected in the revised Disclosure Information, including the indirectly affected data and statements within the Disclosure Information.

The Directors of the Company are also responsible for the identification of risks that may threaten compliance with the schedules and clauses identified above and controls which will mitigate those risks and monitor ongoing compliance.

#### **Auditor's responsibilities**

Our responsibilities in terms of clauses 2.8.1(1)(b)(vi) and (vii) and 2.8.1(1)(c) of the Determination are to express an opinion on whether:

- as far as appears from an examination, the information used in the preparation of the audited Disclosure Information has been properly extracted from the Company's accounting and other records, sourced from its financial and non-financial systems;
- as far as appears from an examination, proper records to enable the complete and accurate compilation of the audited Disclosure Information required by the Determination have been kept by the Company and, if not, the records not so kept;
- the Company complied, in all material respects, with the Determination in preparing the audited Disclosure Information

Our responsibilities in terms of clauses 2.8.6 and 2.8.7 of the Current Determination are to:

- reissue an assurance report on the Disclosure Information disclosed under clause 2.12.1 of the Current Determination to the standard of the assurance requirements under the Determination; and
- in reissuing the assurance report, consider whether the disclosed error has been corrected and subsequently correctly reflected in the revised indirectly affected data and statements within the Disclosure Information.

To meet these responsibilities, we planned and performed procedures in accordance with SAE 3100 (Revised), to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the Company has complied, in all material respects, with the Disclosure Information required to be audited by the Determination.



An assurance engagement to report on the Company's compliance with the Determination involves performing procedures to obtain evidence about the compliance activity and controls implemented to meet the requirements. The procedures selected depend on our judgement, including the identification and assessment of the risks of material non-compliance with the requirements.

#### **Inherent limitations**

Because of the inherent limitations of an assurance engagement, together with the internal control structure, it is possible that fraud, error or non-compliance with the Determination may occur and not be detected. A reasonable assurance engagement throughout the disclosure year does not provide assurance on whether compliance with the Determination will continue in the future.

#### **Restricted use**

This report has been prepared for use by the Directors of the Company and the Commerce Commission in accordance with clause 2.8.1(1)(a) of the Determination and is provided solely for the purpose of establishing whether the compliance requirements have been met. We disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report to any person other than the Directors of the Company and the Commerce Commission, or for any other purpose than that for which it was prepared.

#### **Independence and quality control**

We complied with the Auditor-General's:

- independence and other ethical requirements, which incorporate the independence and ethical requirements of Professional and Ethical Standard 1 issued by the New Zealand Auditing and Assurance Standards Board; and
- quality control requirements, which incorporate the quality control requirements of Professional and Ethical Standard 3 (Amended) issued by the New Zealand Auditing and Assurance Standards Board.

For the year ended 31 March 2022 and subsequently, a Director of the Company is a member of the Auditor-General's Audit and Risk Committee. The Auditor-General's Audit and Risk Committee is regulated by a Charter that specifies that it should not assume any management functions. There are appropriate safeguards in place to reduce any threat to auditor independence, as the member of the Auditor-General's Audit and Risk Committee has no involvement in, or influence over audits and assurance engagements provided to the Company.

The Auditor-General, and his employees, and PricewaterhouseCoopers and its partners and employees may deal with the Company on normal terms within the ordinary course of trading activities of the Company. Other than any dealings on normal terms within the ordinary course of trading activities of the Company, assurance services performed within our role as auditor for the Company on the annual financial statements and performance information and regulatory compliance engagements under the requirements of the Commerce Act 1986, regulatory advisory services, tax compliance services for an associate of the Group and provision of a benchmark publication, we have no relationship with, or interests in, the Company.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adri Smit', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and includes a large, sweeping loop on the left side.

Elizabeth Adriana (Adri) Smit  
PricewaterhouseCoopers  
On behalf of the Auditor-General  
Christchurch, New Zealand  
30 November 2023