



For personal use only

To	Company Announcements Office	Facsimile	1300 135 638
Company	ASX Limited	Date	21 May 2012
From	Helen Hardy	Pages	10
Subject	MONTHLY OPERATIONAL DATA FOR THE MONTH ENDED 30 APRIL 2012		

Attached herewith is a copy of an announcement released to the NZX by Contact Energy today.

Origin Energy holds 52.99% of quoted ordinary shares in Contact Energy Limited.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Helen Hardy".

Helen Hardy
Company Secretary

02 8345 5023 - helen.hardy@originenergy.com.au



Monthly Operational Data

For the month ended 30 April 2012

April 2012

Highlights for April 2012



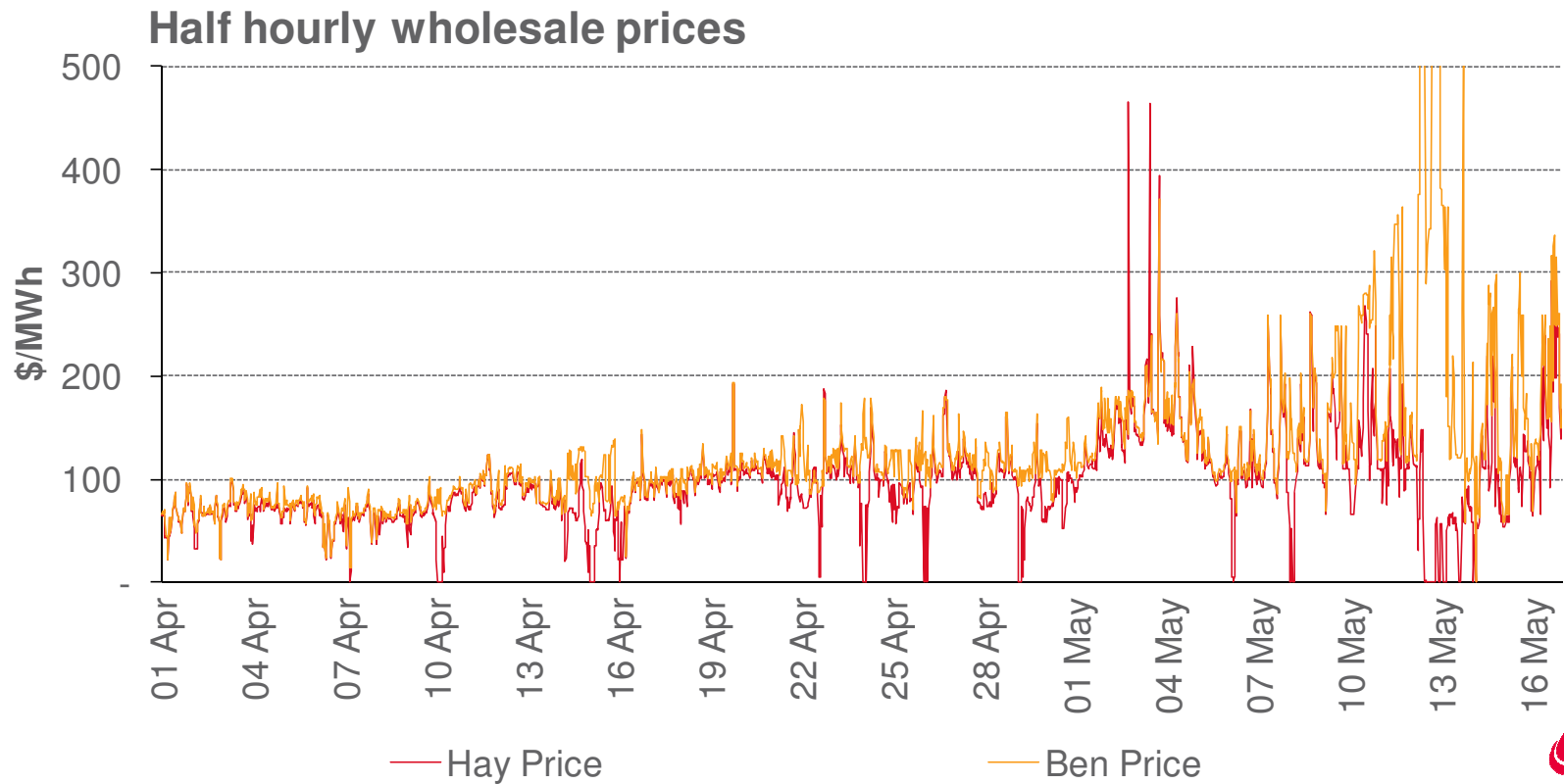
- **Hydro storage as at 30 April: South Island below mean - 69% of mean, North Island above mean - 128% of mean (p4)**
- **Average Haywards wholesale price for April 2012: \$82/MWh (p3)**
- **Otahuhu futures settlement wholesale price for 2nd quarter 2012 (ASX) (p4):**
 - As at 16 May: \$101/MWh
 - as at 30 April: \$101/MWh
 - as at 30 March: \$109/MWh
- **Benmore futures settlement wholesale price for 2nd quarter 2012 (ASX) (p4):**
 - As at 16 May: \$154/MWh
 - as at 30 April: \$124/MWh
 - as at 30 March: \$120/MWh



Wholesale Electricity Prices

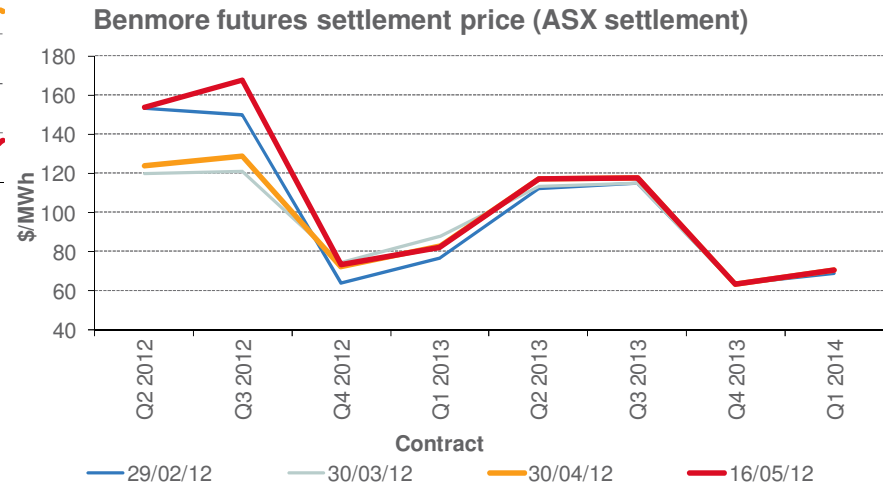
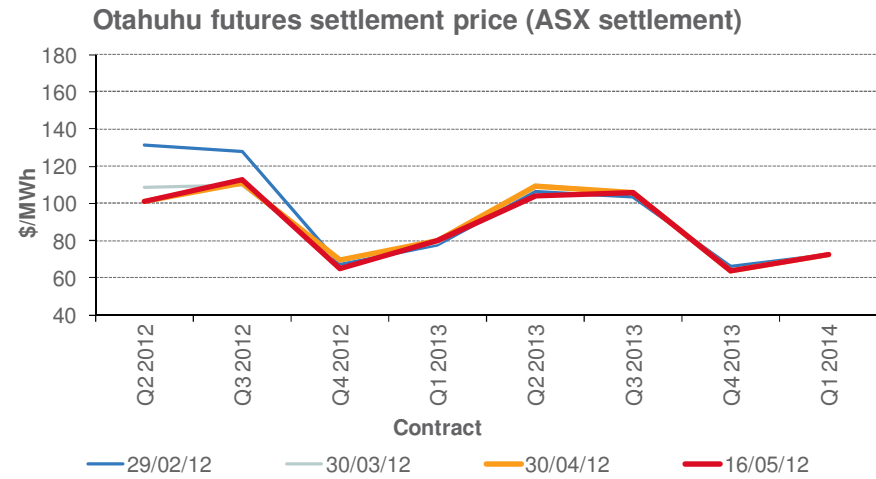
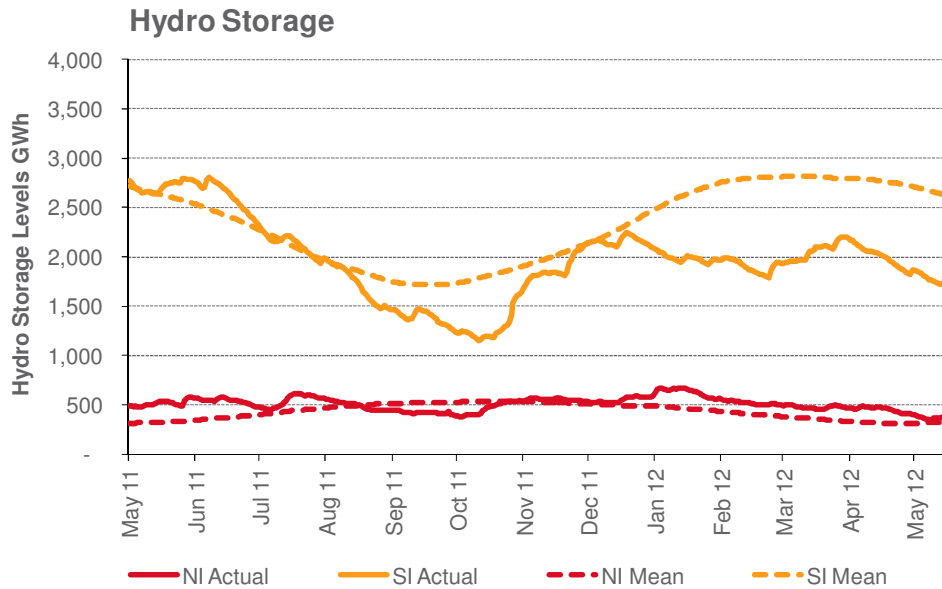


- The average price at Haywards (North Island) for the month of April 2012 was \$82/MWh while the average price at Benmore (South Island) was \$96/MWh.
- The average Haywards price from 1 May to 16 May 2012 was \$124/MWh. The average Benmore price over this period was \$179/MWh.



Storage levels and wholesale electricity prices

- At 30 April 2012, South Island storage was 69% of mean (31 March: 78%) and North Island storage was 128% of mean (31 March : 140%)
- As at 17 May, storage was:
 - South Island: 66% of mean
 - North Island: 128% of mean

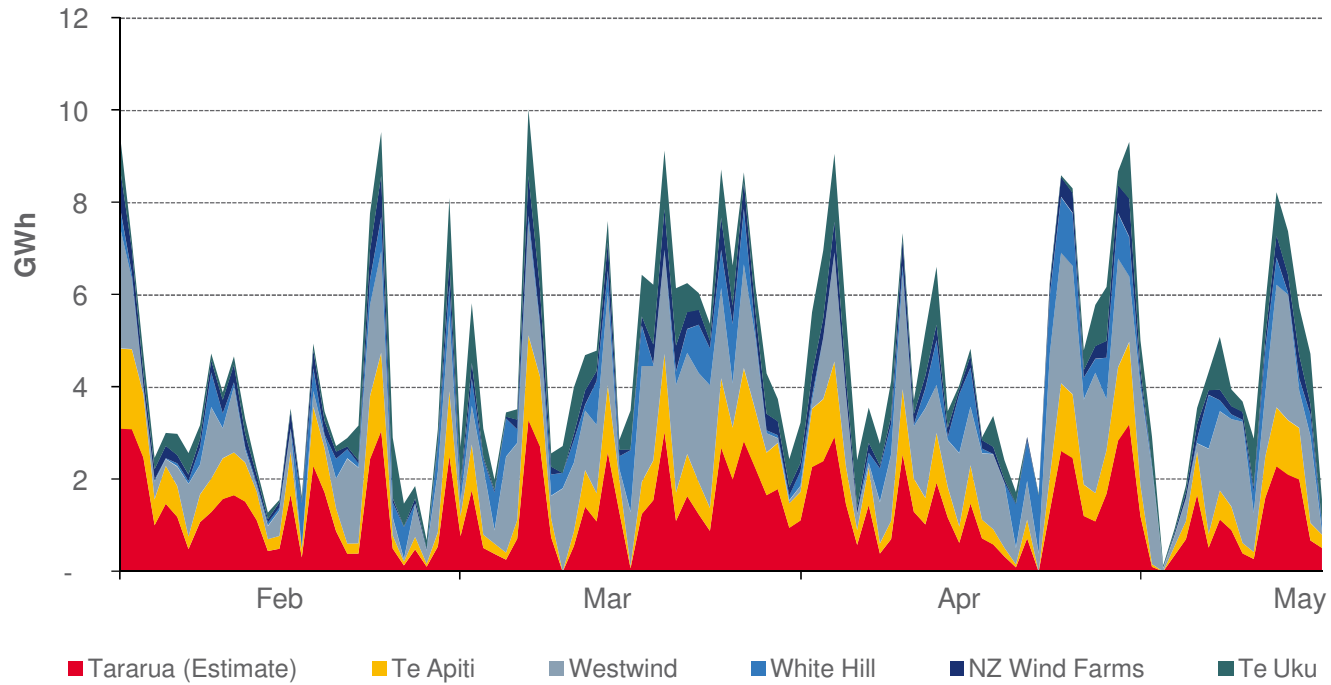


Wind generation

For personal use only



Daily wind generation (SCADA)



Monthly demand comparison

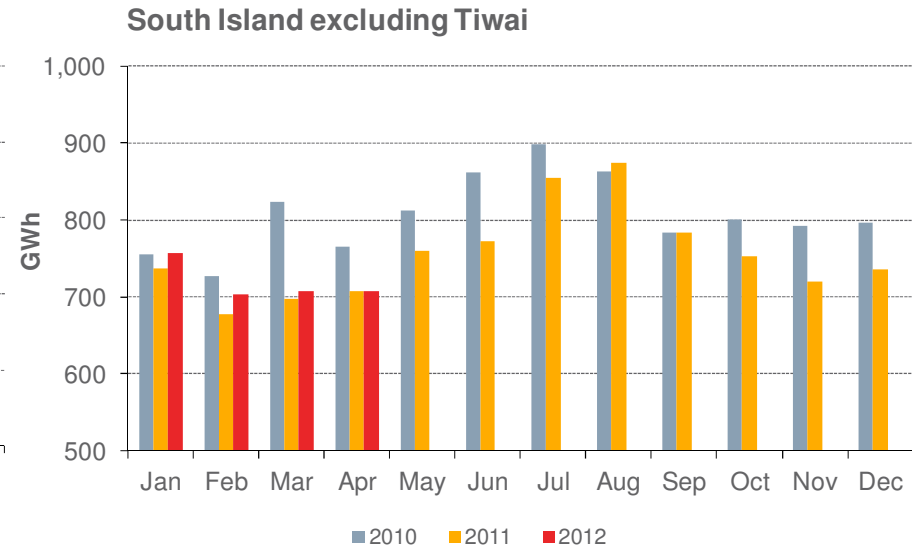
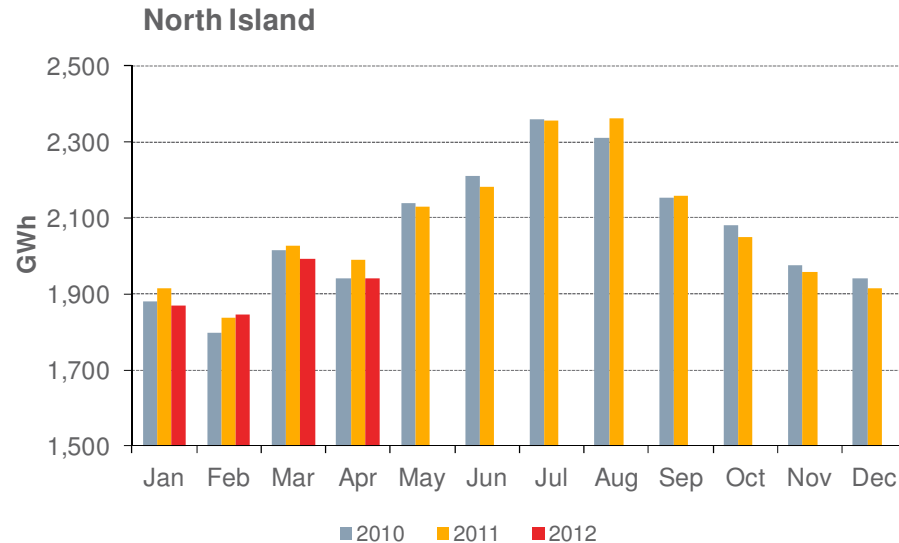


NIWA's National Climate Summary for April 2012 reports:

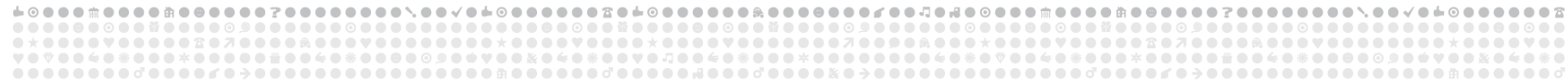
- The New Zealand national average temperature in April was 13.7°C (0.3°C above the 1971-2000 April average).

Demand	12 months to date			Growth rate		April demand			Growth rate	
	GWh			% p.a.		GWh			% p.a.	
	2012	2011	2010	1 year	2 year	2012	2011	2010	1 year	2 year
North Island	24,759	24,932	24,509	(0.7%)	0.5%	1,941	1,990	1,941	(2.5%)	(0.0%)
South Island excluding Tiwai	9,129	9,428	9,628	(3.2%)	(2.6%)	707	707	765	(0.0%)	(3.8%)
Total	33,887	34,360	34,137	(1.4%)	(0.4%)	2,648	2,698	2,706	(1.9%)	(1.1%)

Source: SCADA data



Contact Generation and Retail Data



Data	Measure	The month ended 30 April 2012	The month ended 30 April 2011	The month ended 31 March 2012	Ten months ended 30 April 2012	Ten months ended 30 April 2011	
Generation*	Thermal generation	GWh	439	233	487	3,782	3,109
	Geothermal generation	GWh	207	196	207	1,984	1,909
	Hydro generation	GWh	210	278	249	2,436	3,256
	Swaption	GWh	14	64	31	483	339
	Embedded generation	GWh	-	3	1	6	31
	Total generation	GWh	870	774	975	8,691	8,644
	Gas used in internal generation	PJ	3.5	1.8	3.7	30.7	25.4
	Gas paid & not taken	PJ	-	-	-	-	2.0
	GWAP ¹	\$/MWh	80.41	53.01	83.62	84.33	51.67
	LWAP ²	\$/MWh	86.21	59.86	87.28	89.42	57.98
	LWAP/GWAP	%	107%	113%	104%	106%	112%
Other	Total electricity purchases (incl. Fonterra)	GWh	667	698	688	7,163	7,112
	Retail gas sales	PJ	0.2	0.2	0.1	2.0	2.2
	Wholesale gas sales	PJ	0.2	0.1	0.2	2.1	7.0
	LPG sales	tonnes	5,067	4,827	4,140	52,677	53,685

* HVDC Rental rebates are accounted for in "Other Generation Revenue" which is not included in the statistical data in this table

¹ This is the price received by Contact for its generation. It excludes contracts for differences.

² This price excludes contracts for differences.



Electricity Segment Data



Data		Measure	The month ended 30 April 2012	The month ended 30 April 2011	The month ended 31 March 2012	Ten months ended 30 April 2012	Ten months ended 30 April 2011
Exposed Generation	Unhedged generation volume	GWh	128	76	49	974	1,140
	Unit generation operating cost ¹	\$/MWh	14.47	55.65	40.52	41.95	38.20
	Exposed GWAP ²	\$/MWh	74.64	54.81	81.61	91.81	64.89
Hedged Generation	Hedged generation volume	GWh	741	697	926	7,716	7,503
	Retail volume	GWh	684	704	712	7,232	7,180
	CfD sales	GWh	57	6	214	484	323
	Expected line losses	%	5.2%	4.7%	5.1%	5.2%	4.9%
	Unit generation operating cost ¹	\$/MWh	53.62	47.99	52.71	54.44	52.05
	Haywards energy transfer price	\$/MWh	88.21	88.21	88.21	88.21	88.21
	Haywards - Hedged GWAP ² differential	\$/MWh	0.55	2.92	4.77	0.66	3.18
	Renewable generation	%	56%	68%	49%	57%	69%
	Thermal generation	%	44%	32%	51%	43%	31%
Retail	Retail electricity sales	GWh	649	671	676	6,859	6,831
	Average Electricity sales price	\$/MWh	176.50	173.52	166.39	167.64	165.62
	Haywards energy purchase price	\$/MWh	88.21	88.21	88.21	88.21	88.21
	Network costs ³	\$/MWh	59.96	59.17	59.32	60.44	59.21
	Cost to serve	\$/MWh	14.65	16.12	14.57	14.60	14.50
	Actual line losses	%	2.7%	3.9%	1.7%	4.3%	4.0%
	LWAP ⁴ - Haywards differential	\$/MWh	4.26	4.12	(1.22)	5.38	5.15
	Retail margin	%	7%	5%	6%	1%	1%

¹ April includes the one-off financial impact of the finalisation of actual carbon units to be submitted in May 12 in respect of the CY11 obligation

² This is the price received by Contact for its generation. It excludes contracts for differences.

³ Network costs include HVAC rental rebates that arise from the difference between nodal pricing of purchases and generation.

⁴ This price excludes contracts for differences.

Customer Numbers



	As at 30 April 2012	As at 30 April 2011	As at 31 March 2012
Electricity customer numbers	443,000	457,500	444,000
Gas customer numbers	61,500	61,000	61,500
LPG customer numbers (includes franchises)	61,000	59,000	60,500

Data has been rounded to the nearest 500

