To the respondent

Questions to be asked during the interview will be provided to you one (1) week before the date of the interview, so that you have the opportunity to consider the questions and their implications.

Introduction

In the wake of the recent election, it is of interest to assess policies that were proposed, and the conversations had about them by politicians, advisors, academics, and industry players. This is to both better understand the particular policy, and to better understand the intellectual framework within which policies have been proposed and debated.

One of the key policies debated in the 2014 election was the NZ Power policy proposed by the Labour and Green parties. The policy sought to significantly restructure the format of the New Zealand electricity sector in a way that is counter to the trend in reform the sector has seen over the last decade. Now that the election is over, we can better assess this policy, and the debate surrounding it, and the way the media have portrayed it. From this case study, we can assess the state of political and academic debate concerning the sector, to better inform future policy development.

Questions:

1. Drivers
   a. What do you consider to have been the key drivers of reform of the electricity sector in the past 15 years?

   b. Who do you think has been largely responsible for the reforms?

   c. What are your views on the role of (marginal) pricing in the sector? Specifically:
      i. Relationship to capacity to pay;
      ii. Incentives for future investment;
      iii. Any other aspects.

2. General reform process:
a. How likely do you think it is that future substantive electricity market reform will be pursued by the government post-election? (1 very unlikely; to 10 very likely).

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

☐ Do not know

b. What shape do you think any reforms will take?

c. What particular goals do you think will be pursued?

d. Considering past drivers of reform, who do you think will have influence in these reforms?

3. Discussion of NZ Power:

a. What do you believe to be the key drivers behind NZ Power?

b. How successful in articulating the goals and policies of NZ Power have its proponents been? 1 = very unsuccessful; to 10 = very successful.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

☐ Do not know

c. What goals do you think the proponents of the policy have been seeking to achieve?

d. How do you think the media have reported the debate on these goals?

e. Do you perceive there to have been an imbalance or bias in the reporting, and to the extent you do, to which side has this bias been tilted? 1 = Biased against the NZ Power proposal; to 5 = balanced; to 10 = biased towards the proposal.
f. How well do you think the media have interrogated the claims made by the proponents/opponents of the policy? 1 = very unsuccessfully; to 10 = very successfully – both parties to be marked.

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4. Need for reform, and NZ Power

a. What do you think the NZ Power policy would actually achieve?

b. How important do you consider the need for reform of the sector to be? 1 = very unimportant; 10 = very important.

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c. Considering your answer to the last question (i.): how appropriate do you consider NZ Power to be in achieving reform within the sector? 1 = highly inappropriate; to 10 = very appropriate.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

☐ Do not know

d. Who do you think can actually influence the direction of policy within the New Zealand Electricity Sector?

e. Do you have any additional comments on the state of debate within the sector?