

Contact Energy Limited (**Contact**) is one of New Zealand's largest energy generators and retailers seeking to build a better, cleaner and more sustainable Aotearoa New Zealand. As at 30 June 2025, Contact had over 600,000 customer connections with electricity, gas, broadband and mobile plans and operated 12 power stations across New Zealand, using geothermal, hydro and thermal energy to generate electricity.

Our focus on sustainability and commitment to invest in sustainable assets and outcomes is reflected in this Sustainable Finance Framework (**Framework**). The Framework outlines how we intend to issue and manage new and existing loans, bonds and derivatives (**Sustainable Financial Instruments**) to fund sustainable assets and projects and contribute towards achieving our sustainability goals.

Contents

Contact and Sustainability	3
Sustainability Governance	8
Sustainable Finance Framework	10
Further Information	18



Our Strategy: Contact26

Our strategy to lead New Zealand's decarbonisation





Grow demand

We're **growing demand** for New Zealand's renewable electricity in a range of ways.



Grow renewable development

We're developing new, renewable electricity generation as the market evolves.



Decarbonise our portfolio

We're decarbonising our portfolio of generation assets (and the New Zealand electricity market) via an orderly transition to renewable generation (managing the balance between continued security of supply, minimal emissions and affordability).



Create outstanding customer experiences

We're creating outstanding customer **experiences** as we build New Zealand's leading energy and services brand to meet more of our customers' needs.

This will be underpinned by three key enablers:



Environmental, Social. Governánce (ESG)

• Create long-term value through our strong performance across a broad set of environmental, social and governance factors.



Transformative ways of working (TWoW)

- Use technology to modernise our operating model
- Increase employee engagement to attract and retain talent.



Operational excellence

- Use innovation to continue to improve business efficiency
- Prudent management of stay-in-business capital expenditure to deliver value
- Capture economies of scale and further digitise our business.

Grow Renewable Development and Decarbonise our Portfolio





We're expanding flexible renewable generation to meet rising demand as Aotearoa New Zealand transitions away from fossil fuels, decarbonising our portfolio and the wider electricity market through an orderly shift that balances reliability, low emissions and affordability.

At Contact, sustainability means making every decision, every action, count for the long run. It means using Our Tikanga to make the best decisions for today and tomorrow. Decisions our kids would be proud of. It's about making sure we look after their future, New Zealand's future.

There is strong appetite from both the market and Government for new renewables to be built and to displace thermal generation which makes the economics for our developments increasingly compelling.

Renewable, reliable energy, responsibly delivered

To play our part in the energy transition, we must be prepared to address the challenges ahead with ambition and pragmatism. In the past four years we have committed to projects which together will see more than \$2 billion invested to build the critical infrastructure New Zealand needs.

In 2024, we opened two new geothermal power stations which, alongside our existing geothermal and hydro power stations mean that our generation is now more than 85% renewable¹. Due to supply constraints, Contact extended the operational life of our Taranaki Combined Cycle (TCC) plant through to the end of winter 2025 – a reminder to us that progress may not always follow linear trajectories. In 2026 we expect 98% of our electricity generation to be from renewable sources.

Our 2035 net zero goal remains firm – backed by substantial investments, proven expertise and a commitment to remaining responsive to our external operating environment. While we do maintain thermal generation options at this stage for when the market needs extra energy, we've got New Zealand's only gas storage facility to cover dry years and peak demand needs and a 100MW grid-scale battery being installed at Glenbrook-Ohurua.

We are also working with some of the best in the world on a pipeline of potential developments in geothermal, wind and solar including a Joint Venture with Lightsource BP. We see an important role for wind and solar in meeting long term demand for renewable electricity, alongside geothermal and hydro, and our strategy is to be a leading provider in meeting that demand.

As we work through the options for new renewable energy developments, we continue to work closely with iwi, hapū and local communities, and we are sensitive to the impacts of our operations on land, waterways and biodiversity.

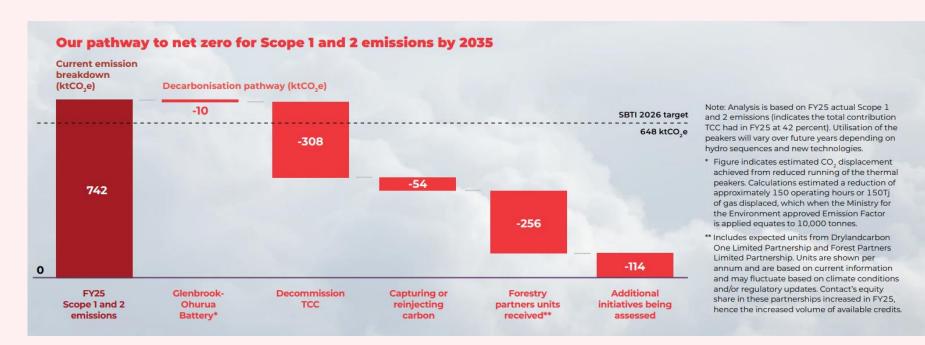
Climate Change and Our 2035 Net Zero Goal

We remain committed to achieving net zero emissions from energy generation by 2035 – an ambitious target that remains achievable through multiple strategies.

Climate change position

- We know that climate change is a real global challenge that will have significant impacts on our communities, our economy and our environment so we're committed to taking real steps to address it.
- We believe that human activity is accelerating climate change so we are putting our energy where it matters by focusing on reducing our own emissions while supporting our customers and other sectors to reduce theirs.
- We recognise that energy resilience is what matters most to our customers so, in leading New Zealand to a decarbonised energy system, we will maintain affordable, sustainable and reliable access to energy for our customers.
- We appreciate that the transition to a low carbon economy is a challenge for everyone and will take considerable effort and time, so we're in it for the long haul.

Our Pathway to net zero for Scope 1 and 2 emissions by 2035





Governance Matters

Good corporate governance protects the interests of all stakeholders and enhances short-term and long-term value.

Our People

Contact's board of directors (**Board**) has ultimate oversight and governance of the sustainability strategy, which is developed, owned and executed by the executive team. The executive team is responsible for overseeing the implementation of the sustainability strategy, reviewing performance and reporting back to the Board on key matters.

The Sustainable Finance Committee (**SFC**) is made up of senior Treasury, Financial Accounting, Sustainability and Investor Relations team members and will support the Board with oversight of Sustainable Finance.

Governance for Sustainable Finance

The SFC is responsible for reviewing and providing a recommendation to the Board prior to issuance of Sustainable Finance. The SFC will meet at least two times per year, and as otherwise necessary, and will be responsible for compliance with the reporting and assurance requirements of this Framework and the applicable market standards (Market Standards)², as they evolve over time.

Green Debt Instruments

For Green Debt Instruments, the SFC will have oversight of Contact's reporting obligations and the allocation of an amount equal to the net proceeds to Green Assets under this Framework.

Sustainability-Linked Instruments

The SFC will have oversight of Contact's performance against the sustainability performance targets (**Targets**) which are derived from Key Performance Indicators (**KPIs**) that define how Contact will achieve its sustainability strategy and represent a material improvement in the KPI, beyond "business as usual".

² The market standards are the voluntary sustainable finance principles and guidelines issued by the International Capital Market Association (**ICMA**), the Asia-Pacific Loan Market Association (**ISDA**) and the Loan Syndications and Trading Association (**ISTA**) as they may evolve over time (together, the **Market Standards**).



Sustainable Finance Framework

At Contact Energy, our sustainability strategy is fully embedded across the business, influencing every decision and outcome, including financial. To reflect this, in 2017 Contact established its Green Borrowing Programme – the first such CBI certification completed by a New Zealand issuer and the first green certification of an entire debt programme globally.

Today, all of Contact's Debt is either Green labelled or Sustainability-Linked. This demonstrates finance's commitment to Contact's decarbonisation journey through the use of proceeds against a green asset pool or sustainability performance targets influencing our cost of funds.

Recent Updates

In 2022, Contact has expanded on this Green Borrowing Programme, establishing a Sustainable Finance Framework where Contact may issue or manage Sustainable Financial Instruments (such as bonds, convertible bonds, loans and/or derivatives) in accordance with the applicable Market Standards.

In 2023, Contact undertook a Hydropower Sustainability Assessment and achieved CBI certification across its Hydro Asset Pool. This recognised our Clutha catchments as best practice from various sustainability key metrics and unlocked \$1.8b NZD of Green Debt headroom².

In 2025, Contact has updated its Framework to remain aligned with the latest market practices and investor expectations.

Continuous Improvement

As the Market Standards and global sustainable finance markets continue to develop, so too will Contact's approach to sustainable finance. Contact may subsequently update this Framework, to ensure it remains in line with market best practice and the Market Standards, as they evolve from time to time.

For the ongoing enhancement of Contact's Framework, we welcome feedback and input from stakeholders. Contact information is outlined on slide 18.

Contact may choose to align its Sustainable Debt with the ICMA Climate Transition Finance Handbook⁹ to support its emission reduction goals and climate transition strategy.

2 The Green Debt headroom is Green Assets less Green Debt

Classification: PROTECTED

Sustainable Finance Framework

SUSTAINABLE FINANCIAL INSTRUMENT	USE OF PROCEEDS	ASSETS/ ACTIVITIES	APPLICABLE MARKET STANDARD
Green Debt Instruments			
• Green Loans • Green Bonds	Proceeds-based: Net proceeds must be allocated by Contact exclusively for Green Assets.	Environmental	Green Bond Principles ³ (GBP) Green Loan Principles ⁴ (GLP) Climate Bonds Standard ⁵ (CBS)
Sustainability-Linked Instruments			
 Sustainability-Linked Loans Sustainability-Linked Bonds Sustainability-Linked Derivatives 	Performance-based: Proceeds can be used for general corporate purposes. The cost of the Sustainability-Linked instrument is linked to Contact's achievement of material Target(s).	N/A	Sustainability-Linked Loan Principles ⁶ (SLLP) Sustainability-Linked Bond Principles ⁷ (SLBP) Sustainability-Linked Derivatives: KPI Guidelines ⁸
Sustainability-Linked Green Debt Inst	truments		
Sustainability-Linked Green LoanSustainability-Linked Green Bond	Proceeds and performance-based: Combines both a Sustainability-Linked and Green Debt Instrument structure. The cost of borrowing the funds is linked to Contacts achievement of material Target(s) and net proceeds are allocated exclusively to Green Assets.	Environmental	Green Loan Principles Sustainability-Linked Loan Principles Green Bond Principles Sustainability-Linked Bond Principles

³ ICMA Green Bond Principles 2025 (GBP)

⁴ APLMA Green Loan Principles 2025 (GLP)

⁵ Climate Bonds Standard (CBS), including the Climate Bonds Initiative (CBI) sector specific criteria. Contact will align to the CBS that is applicable at the time of issuance (currently Version 4.3).

⁶ APLMA Sustainability-Linked Loan Principles 2025 (SLLP)

⁷ ICMA Sustainability-Linked Bond Principles 2024 (SLBP)

⁸ ISDA Sustainability-Linked Derivatives: KPI Guidelines (SLDG)

⁹ ICMA Climate Transition Finance Handbook 2023 (Handbook)

Green Debt Instruments

In alignment with the Market Standards, Contact will adopt the following four core components as set out in this Framework, as well as key recommendation with regards to external review:

- 1. Use of Proceeds
- 2. Process for Project Evaluation and Selection
- 3. Management of Proceeds
- 4. Reporting

Use of Proceeds

Contact will use an amount equal to the net proceeds from the Green Debt Instruments to finance or refinance environmental assets and/ or activities that are Green Assets (as defined below).

Green Assets may include projects and/or assets owned by Contact, Contact's subsidiaries or partners and include the funding of capex, opex or other related expenditure for the Green Assets. Where projects are jointly funded between Contact and another party, funding from the Green Debt Instruments will only be applied to Contact's share of the Green Asset.

Assets and capex shall qualify for refinancing without having to apply a look-back period, while opex and R&D will qualify with a maximum three year lookback period. Contact will endeavour to fully allocate an amount equal to the net proceeds within two years from the issuance of each Green Debt Instrument. However, some assets that are long-term buildout may require longer allocation periods.

Green Assets will meet the eligibility criteria set out on the next page and will comply with one or more of the Green Bond Principles, Green Loan Principles, or the Climate Bonds Standard (as applicable) and contribute towards meeting the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

At its discretion, Contact may elect to seek CBI certification for future Green Bonds under the Framework.

Contact's Green Borrowing Programme has been structured to include a dedicated pool of eligible geothermal, wind and hydropower assets under both the CBS and GBP/GLP, as well as a separate pool of hydropower assets solely aligned to the GBP/GLP.

Eligibility Criteria

The eligibility criteria have been informed by (and/or aligned with) international standards and best practice, including but not limited to the applicable CBS Sector Eligibility Criteria, the EU Taxonomy, the Australian Sustainable Finance Taxonomy and other relevant regional green taxonomies.

ELIGIBLE CATEGORIES (GBP/ GLP)	ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA	SDG ALIGNMENT
Renewable Energy	Investments in assets and activities related to the construction, transmission, maintenance, operation and/or expansion of renewable energy generation projects. This includes but is not limited to: • Geothermal energy including: • Geothermal electricity generation facilities with direct emissions of less than 100g CO2/kWh. • Hydropower energy including: • Run of river; • Small-scale hydropower schemes (<15MW capacity); • Natural lake system hydropower projects that do not significantly alter an ecosystem; or • Schemes with power density of greater than 5W/m2 ¹⁰ . • Solar energy including: • Onshore solar electricity generation; • Onshore solar thermal facilities; or • Transmission infrastructure wholly dedicated to supporting solar generation/thermal activity. • Wind energy including: • Onshore wind generation facilities; • Transmission infrastructure wholly dedicated to supporting wind generation facilities; or • Manufacturing facilities dedicated for wind energy equipment.	7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY 13 CLIMATE ACTION
Energy Efficiency	 Investments in assets and activities that contribute to a reduction in energy consumption. This includes but is not limited to: Energy storage (including batteries); or Energy efficiency processes, appliances, products and technology. 	7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY
Clean Transportation	 Investments in low carbon transportation assets, systems and/or infrastructure. This includes but is not limited to: Electric vehicles and supporting infrastructure and systems; or Hybrid vehicles that meet an emissions intensity threshold of 50g CO2 per passenger-km travelled. 	11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

Excluded Categories

Contact is committed to not knowingly using the proceeds of its Green Debt to finance or refinance projects and assets included in the following exclusionary criteria:

- Thermal generation assets; or
- Geothermal generation assets where the emissions intensity is greater than 100gCO2/kWh (as at the time of the Framework, this includes Ohaaki geothermal generation plant).

Process for Evaluation and Selection

The SFC will manage the Green Asset selection in line with this Framework and Contact's established governance arrangements.

The SFC will assess each proposed asset or project against the following factors:

- alignment to Contact's sustainability goals;
- compliance with the Market Standards (as applicable);
- conformance with the eligibility criteria as described in the Green Debt Instruments section;
- contribution towards meeting the SDGs, as well as potential environmental outcomes arising from the Green Assets;
- assessment of any social and environmental risks from the Green Assets (see subsection below);
- Contact's own professional judgement and discretion and sustainability knowledge; and
- conformance with any other applicable principles, standards and tools (such as the EU Taxonomy and CBS for CBI Certified Green Bonds).

The SFC will meet on an annual basis or as required earlier to ensure continued adherence of Eligible Assets against the Eligibility Criteria.

Green Assets may be replenished if underlying Green Assets are sold or disposed of, nongreen assets are removed, or additional Green Assets are identified and funded.

Identification and Mitigation of Environmental and Social Risks

Contact has put in place a strong evaluation and selection process, that leverages its existing sustainability framework, to ensure the mitigation of potential environmental and social risks associated with the Eliqible Green Assets.

We follow the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) resource consent process to avoid, minimise, remedy, or offset our impact. We also complete an Assessment of Environmental Effects (AEE) which helps us to identify and evaluate the potential environmental impacts of proposed projects. More information can be found in our Environment and Social Impact Assessments overview and reports are available on request from relevant local and regional councils.

Management of Proceeds

Contact will track the receipt of Green Debt proceeds via its internal information systems to ensure that all Green Debt Instruments and Green Assets under the Framework are appropriately identified.

In addition, to ensure appropriate earmarking for the purpose of internal monitoring and external reporting of proceeds, Contact will establish a register that contains:

- all Green Debt Instruments under the Framework: and
- all Green Assets and their book value for existing assets and project cost for assets not yet commissioned.

Treasury will include confirmation of compliance of the Green Ratio¹¹ being at least 1.0 times in its monthly reporting to the Board.

From time to time, Contact may be in a position where surplus funds arise (e.g. where total Green Debt Instruments issued under the Framework exceed the total value of the Green Assets). This may occur, for example, when a prefunding transaction settles ahead of a capital market maturity. Any proceeds temporarily unallocated will not finance any projects and assets listed in the Excluded Categories in the Framework.

Reporting

Contact recognises the importance investors place on transparency and disclosure relating to Green Debt Instruments and accordingly, intends to make the following information available on our website:

DISCLOSURE ITEM	TIMING
Framework	Upon establishment of the Framework and as amended from time to time.
External Review	Pre-Issuance: Sought prior to the first issuance of a Green Debt Instrument under this Framework (and when the Framework is amended or if an issuance requires it).
	Post-Issuance: Sought annually following issuance of a Green Debt Instrument (or at a frequency deemed necessary by Contact).
CBI Certification	Upon establishment or update of the Green Borrowing Programme, and upon completion of any subsequent certification process.
Annual Update Report	Published semi-annually or annually for all outstanding Green Debt Instruments.

Contact intends to disclose Annual Update Reports on an annual basis until full allocation of an amount equal to the net proceeds of any Green Debt Instruments and in the event of any material changes. The update report will include the following information:

Allocation Reporting

The Allocation Report will contain at least the following details:

- Net proceeds of outstanding Green Debt Instrument(s) and Green Ratio;
- Breakdown of allocation by project category and location / geography;
- Subject to confidentiality considerations, a list of the Green Assets financed through Contact's Green Debt Instrument(s);
- Proportional allocation of proceeds between existing projects (refinancing) and new projects; and
- Remaining balance of unallocated proceeds, if any.

Impact Reporting

Contact will endeavour to follow the impact reporting guidelines detailed in the Market Standards. Subject to confidentiality and availability of information, this may include qualitative and/or quantitative reporting of the environmental impacts of the Green Assets. Contact intends to align, on a best effort basis, the reporting with ICMA's Harmonized Framework for Impact Reporting¹². At a minimum, Contact will report the following per Green Assets - annual generation (GWh), annual emissions (tCO2-e), emissions intensity (gCO2e/kWh). Some further potential environmental reporting metrics may be included such as:

CATEGORY	ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTING METRIC EXAMPLES
Renewable Energy	Amount of renewable energy capacity generated (MWh); Annual GHG emissions reduced/avoided (tCO2e); Additional capacity of renewable energy plants constructed or rehabilitated (MW)
Energy Efficiency	Amount of energy saved (% and MWh); Annual GHG emissions reduced/avoided (tCO2e)
Clean Transportation	Annual GHG emissions reduced/avoided (tCO2e); Number of electric vehicles acquired; Number of charging stations installed

Contact also discloses its performance in respect of emissions and climate related issues in its Annual and/or Integrated Reports using the guidelines recommended by the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures.

Eligibility Reporting (CBI Certified Green Bonds)

Confirmation that the Green Assets meet the relevant eligibility criteria, including in this Framework and the Market Standards, and information on the sustainability performance of the Green Assets. This includes compliance with the CBS criteria (<100gCO2e/kWh) for geothermal assets.

External Review

Second Party Opinion "SPO"

Contact has appointed DNV to provide a Second Party Opinion on the Sustainable Finance Framework, to confirm alignment with the CBS, GBP and GLP. The Second Party Opinion is available on our website in the <u>Sustainable Finance section</u>.

Post-Issuance External Verification on Reporting

Contact will request on an annual basis, starting one year after issuance and until full allocation, an external verification on its allocation report by an independent third party.

CBI Certification

Contact has achieved a programmatic certification from CBI, providing a more streamlined certification process and has an Assurance Opinion confirming that the Green Borrowing Programme / Framework was developed in alignment with the CBS. Post-issuance of CBI Certified Green Bonds, Contact will continue to obtain external review on an annual basis (or as deemed necessary) to confirm that the Framework and Green Assets align to the CBS.

Important Notice

For the avoidance of doubt, and unless otherwise specified in relation to specific Green Debt Instruments, if Contact fails to comply with the Framework, fails to satisfy the applicable Market Standards, fails to allocate the proceeds in the manner described in the Framework or undertakes non-eligible projects outside of the Framework, then in relation to its Green Debt Instruments:

- this does not constitute an event of default, event of review, or any other breach in relation to any Green Debt Instruments; and
- there is no requirement for Contact to repay the Green Debt Instruments as a result of this non-compliance and neither investors nor Contact have any right to early repayment as a result of this non-compliance.

The consequence of non-compliance with the obligation on Contact to allocate the proceeds in the manner described in the Framework or to comply with the Framework or the Market Standards on an ongoing basis is that Green Debt Instruments may cease to be labelled as 'green', in which case investors may consider that the Green Debt Instruments no longer align with their intentions or requirements and may (as applicable) have increased difficulty in finding interested buyers or obtaining an acceptable price for their Green Debt Instruments. Contact will disclose if a Green Debt Instrument ceases to be labelled, including within its Annual Update Report.

Sustainability-Linked Instruments

Sustainability-Linked Instruments link the issuer's cost of financing to its performance against material sustainability KPIs and Targets and if issued or managed by Contact, will be in accordance with the Sustainability-Linked Loan Principles (SLLPs), the ISDA Sustainability-Linked Derivatives KPI Guidelines (SLDG), or the Sustainability-Linked Bond Principles (SLBPs) (as applicable).

When issuing or managing any Sustainability-Linked Instruments, Contact will communicate how the instrument, the KPIs and the Targets are material to Contact and aligned with its sustainability strategy.

Key Performance Indicators

Contact will establish measurable and quantifiable sustainability KPIs, that are relevant, core and material¹³ to the business and of high strategic significance to Contact's current and future operations. When issuing or managing any Sustainability-Linked Instruments, Contact is likely to select one of more of the following KPIs:

Environmental

- Reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, as aligned to or exceeds, the SBTiverified science-based trajectory
- Increase in renewable energy generation
- Improvement in water efficiency
- Preserve or restore biodiversity

Social and Governance

- Improvement in community wellbeing
- Improvement in diversity and inclusion
- Improvement in the health, safety and wellbeing of employees

Environmental & Social

 Improved performance in environmental, social and governance (ESG) assessments, as measured by S&P Global Corporate Sustainability Assessment (CSA)

Sustainability Performance Targets

To incentivise performance against the KPIs, Contact will select one or more timebound Targets that are consistent with Contact's sustainability strategy and represent a material improvement in the KPI, beyond a "business as usual" trajectory.

Targets will be set at the inception of each new issuance of a Sustainability-Linked Instrument, and with reference to a minimum of three years of Contact's historical performance, peer performance and scientific data.

Verification

To provide stakeholders with certainty that Contact's Sustainability-Linked Instruments are structured and reported in alignment to the SLLP, SLDG or SLBP (as relevant), Contact will seek external review of the following:

- **Prior to issuance**: Limited assurance (or a second party opinion) that the Sustainability-Linked Instrument aligns to the SLLP/SLDG/SLBP, with such assessment covering the materiality of the selected KPIs, nature of the Targets, credibility of Contact's strategy to achieve the Targets, and verification of baseline performance (as applicable).
- **Post issuance:** Ongoing assurance or verification (at least annually, and at a date relevant for assessing the Target performance) on Contact's performance against the Targets for each KPI. This may cover any material change to the KPI methodology or Target calibration.

These reviews will be made publicly available for Sustainability-Linked Bonds and will be made available to lenders at a minimum for Sustainability-Linked Loans and Derivatives.

Instrument Characteristics

Any Sustainability-Linked Instruments Contact may issue or manage will have a financial or structural characteristic that changes dependent on whether Contact achieves one or more Targets. This may include penalty and/or discount incentives (depending on the transaction), will be commensurate and meaningful relative to Contact's original bond or loan structure, and will reflect market practice. The magnitude of the pricing adjustment as well as the effective trigger event date(s) will be clearly detailed in the relevant documentation for each transaction.

Disclosure and Reporting

Contact is committed to transparency and will disclose and report on its Sustainability-Linked Instruments as follows:

- For Sustainability-Linked Loans and Derivatives, Contact and the arranging banks will agree on the appropriate reporting parameters and the schedule for disclosing information (this will most likely be annual).
- For Sustainability-Linked Bonds, Contact will undertake annual public reporting with regards to the issuance and sustainability performance against the Targets. This reporting will be available on Contact's website. Contact will disclose at issuance the reporting that will be provided, including its location, frequency, scope and assurance commitments.

Further Information

Further information on Contact's approach to sustainability can be found on our <u>website</u> or in our <u>annual report</u>.

CONTACTS:

Treasury@contactenegy.co.nz

PO Box 10742, The Terrace, Wellington, 6143

T: (04) 499 4001

