

Chairman's Annual Report  
August 2009

It is my pleasure to report on another year of satisfactory operation of the Trust, which holds all of the shares of Westpower Ltd. and the associated companies.

Trustees appoint the directors and monitor their performance. We also carefully examine the Company's Statement of Corporate Intent and suggest changes which we think are in the best interests of consumers.

Following the change in government, that took place in 2008, the Trust arranged to meet with our new Westland Representative Mr Chris Auchinvole and discussed with him our concerns. We urged him to put pressure on the government to take steps that would force energy suppliers to provide cheaper electricity to our region. The Trust informed Mr Auchinvole that we could see no justification for the much higher unit price being charged for electricity here, than in other comparable regions in the country. It is obvious to the Trust that the efforts of previous administrations to bring competition to the supply of power is having no effect here.

The Trust has also been in communication with Gerry Brownlee, the new Energy Minister and welcome his attempts to overcome problems in the industry and to simplify its administration.

The acknowledgement by the Commerce Commission, that companies like ours, who are totally owned by consumers who elect trustees to safeguard their interests can be exempt from expensive monitoring, was a welcome change.

Several years ago, the Trust employed a researcher to begin compiling a history of electricity supply in the region. This has proved to be a massive task. The interviews with many former and present people, involved in the long history, supplying power to the region has now been completed and I am pleased to report that the book prepared by our historian Cheryl Riley, is now in the printer's hands. When it goes on sale shortly, we are confident that it will be well received.

Staff of the company are at present engaged in the construction of an additional high voltage line from Reefton to Greymouth. The completion of this project will add additional security of supply to the region. The Trust is very grateful to our directors and management for their efforts, which eventually gained approval for this line.

Trustees are very supportive of our company in their efforts to move back into hydro generation. At the present time, no firm decisions have been made in relation to the proposed Amethyst hydro station but this and other proposals are being evaluated..

The continued success story of Westpower Ltd. and the subsidiary companies is witness to the laudable performance of the directors, management and staff. On behalf of consumers, I sincerely thank them for their work.

Members of the Trust are always available to meet with individuals and groups to explain our role and report on our efforts to make sure that a secure supply of electricity is available at an acceptable price. We also maintain a web site at [www.wcept.org.nz/](http://www.wcept.org.nz/) for the same purpose.

Early in 2010 an election will be held as required by our Trust Deed. The three trustees to retire by rotation are Ian Hustwick, David Robinson and Frank Wall. The retiring trustees are all eligible to submit their names for possible re-election.

Trustees in office at present are as follows

Chairman	Dom O'Sullivan M.N.Z.M.
Deputy Chairman	David Robinson J.P.
Trustees	Ian Hustwick Maureen Pugh Kevin Brown Q.S.M. Frank Wall

Dom O'Sullivan  
Chairman.