

David Hunt - Director



David has led a range of consulting assignments for government agencies and companies in the electricity and gas sectors.

His experience includes analysis and development of new generation projects, establishment of new retail operations, analysis of fuel procurement options, evaluation of merger and acquisition opportunities, and analysis of regulatory issues, including competition law, environmental and consumer issues.

He was formerly an independent director of Synergy, an energy retailer in Western Australia serving approximately 900,000 electricity and gas customers.

Before joining Concept, David held a number of senior executive roles within the energy sector, most recently as Chief Executive of Contact Energy Limited, the second largest company on the NZ Stock Exchange. David has also worked in the Australian energy market.

Prior to his involvement with energy businesses, David held a number of senior roles with the NZ Government, including Energy Policy Manager at the NZ Treasury, and Economic Advisor to the Minister of Finance.

Examples of consulting experience

- Advised a market participant on the business implications of different transmission investments and transmission pricing methodologies
- Advised a regulatory body on wholesale electricity market design issues
- Analysed residential customer switching behaviour for a regulatory body
- Analysed the economic position of major gas users for a market participant
- Analysed factors which impede competition in the retail electricity market for a regulator
- Analysed the costs of providing fuel flexibility through different sources for a market participant
- Prepared a comparison of wholesale electricity contract prices with new entry costs for a regulatory body
- Prepared a forecast of energy demand by selected major industrial users
- Prepared projections of future gas capacity margins
- Provided advice to an energy retailer on commercial issues
- Provided expert evidence for RMA hearings on proposed generation projects
- Reviewed measures of energy affordability among residential electricity customers
- Provided strategy advice to an energy services business

Experience prior to joining Concept

David has held a number of senior roles within the energy industry and before that with the NZ Government.

2005 – 2006 Chief Executive, Contact Energy Limited

- Managed business with market capitalisation of \$4 billion, with activities spanning electricity generation, retailing and gas operations
- Led effort to develop geothermal and wind options
- Oversaw initiatives to create a platform to allow for the importation of natural gas, if required, either in the form of LNG or CNG
- Oversaw initiatives to improve retail operating efficiency and customer service

2005 Executive General Manager, Corporate Development, Origin Energy

- Managed strategic planning, investor relations, communications, and regulatory interfaces for the company
- Led team evaluating a range of acquisition initiatives in Australia/NZ
- Oversaw Origin's participation in the refinancing of the SEAGas transmission pipeline

2000 – 2004 General Manager, Corporate Development, Contact Energy

- Managed strategic planning, investor relations, communications, human resources and regulatory activities for the company
- Led analysis on range of strategy and growth initiatives
- Extensive experience liaising with institutional shareholders and capital markets

1996 – 1999 Strategy & Planning Manager, Contact Energy

- Overall project manager for Contact's entry into energy retailing via combination of acquisitions and organic growth
- Oversaw completion of major cogeneration project
- Key role in team that managed Contact's Initial Public Offering and 40% trade sale
- Extensive experience in business re-engineering

1986 – 1996 Variety of Government Roles including Manager, Energy Policy at NZ Treasury and Economic Advisor to Minister of Finance

- Provided advice on a wide range of energy policy issues covering market design, competition issues and structural reforms
- Provided advice on range of micro-economic issues, focused especially on trade issues
- Represented New Zealand at meetings of international bodies (OECD and UN) on specific economic issues

Education and appointments

BA Hons (First Class) (Economics)
BA (Statistics)

Chief Executive Officer, Contact New Zealand Ltd (2005 – 2006)
Director, Contact Australia Pty Ltd (2000 - 2004)
Director, Contact Operations Australia Pty Ltd (2000 - 2004)
Director, Red Energy Limited (2004)
Partnership Representative, SEAGas Holdings Pty Limited (2005)
Member, Governance Working Group (2000-2003)
Trustee, Institute for the Study of Competition and Regulation (1998 - 2004)
Director, Synergy, Western Australia (2007 - 2010)

Contact details

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