

## **Strategic Review – Government Briefing Pack**



Discussion Document - Working Draft

1 May 2020

#### **OVERVIEW**

## Refining NZ will work collaboratively with government stakeholders throughout the Strategic Review process



### Context

- Refining NZ is undertaking a Strategic Review to determine the optimal business model and capital structure for its assets that aims to maximise "through the cycle" returns to shareholders and deliver secure, competitive fuel supply for New Zealand
- All options are under consideration, including all options to make a significant improvement in the competitiveness of refining operations in New Zealand and the alternative of converting to an import terminal model. But there is no status quo option.
- Refining NZ has critical infrastructure in the New Zealand fuel supply chain today and its assets, skills and capabilities have the potential to play a key role in the transition to a lower carbon economy

#### **Process**

- The Strategic Review has been planned in 3 phases. The current "Assess" Phase 1 is focused on identifying and assessing the available options. This phase is planned to run through to June 2020.
- As part of Phase 1, we are seeking input from a broad range of stakeholders, in particular customers and Government, to ensure our Board is able to consider the views and perspectives of all stakeholders as it makes the decision on which option(s) are preferred options to take forward.

#### Timeline 2020 March April May July September October **November** December Phase 1 Phase 2 Phase 3 **Prepare** Assess the options Build detailed plans for preferred option(s) Implement

Timing TBD

#### Why is Refining NZ undertaking a Strategic Review?

## STRATEGIC REVIEW RATIONALE



The current processing agreements were entered into in 1995, however since this date there have been significant changes in the nature of the New Zealand fuel supply market

Refining NZ has invested to expand processing capacity and capability, reduce emissions and maintain facilities, but these investments have not delivered an acceptable return over the last 10 years

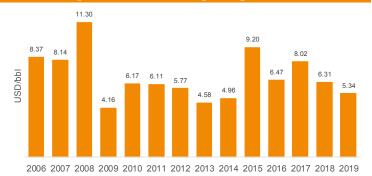
Significant new supply has come online in China, Korea, Singapore and India, and these larger integrated refining facilities in low cost economies are producing large volumes of low cost product putting significant downward pressure on regional margins

Low margins have been compounded by significant increases in the market price of electricity and gas in New Zealand, meaning that at the fee floor in the processing agreements Refining NZ does not cover its cash costs

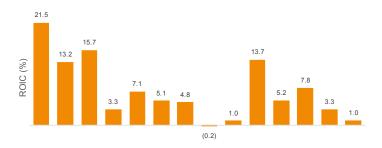
While COVID-19 is impacting operations in the short term, Refining NZ believes that the market conditions that have necessitated the review are structural

Refining NZ will work with its major customers and stakeholders to consider all options to provide a secure, competitive fuel supply to New Zealand now and into a lower carbon future

## Refining NZ Gross Refining Margin, 2006-2019



## Refining NZ Return on Invested Capital, 2006-2019<sup>1</sup>



2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019

1) 2006 was the first year for full adoption of NZ IFRS, comparing returns on capital in earlier years would be misleading

## **OPTIONS UNDER REVIEW**

**Strategic** 

Review

options



As the independent operator of multi-user fuel infrastructure in New Zealand, we plan to consult broadly with stakeholders, including Government and customers, on the options under consideration

#### Continue current refinery model

 Improvements within the current refining operating model as a toll refinery (e.g. Right sizing production)

#### Alter refinery operating model

 Adjustments to the processing agreements, distribution arrangements (e.g. Merchant refinery)

### Separate refining and infrastructure assets

 Changes to structure and funding profile e.g. entities with different risk profiles and returns

### Convert to an import terminal

- Conversion from refining to terminal operations under new commercial arrangements
- Note there may also be other options that emerge

#### **Future Growth opportunities**

- The Strategic review will evaluate growth potential under different operating models.
   This will include an evaluation of New Zealand's fuel distribution network
- Opportunities may exist for RNZ as the independent operator of shared infrastructure, to improve the resilience and performance of New Zealand's fuel supply chain
- Refining NZ also has options to progress its Maranga Ra solar farm project. RNZ is today the largest producer of hydrogen in New Zealand. Longer term, RNZ's facilities, skills and capabilities have potential to be used to produce green hydrogen.

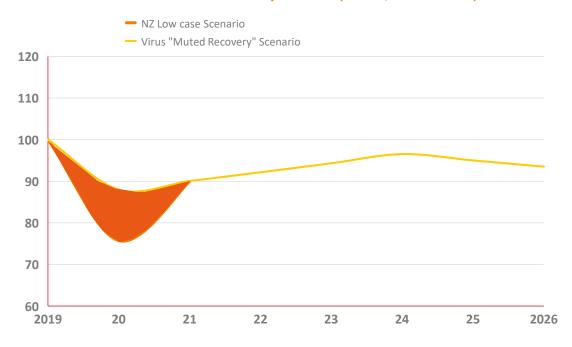
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## CONTEXT - WEAK DEMAND OUTLOOK

## Transport fuel demand outlooks for 2020 and 2021 remain highly uncertain



### NZ Demand Scenarios for transport fuel (Index, 2019 = 100)<sup>1</sup>



- Refining NZ is using a range of demand scenarios for 2020 2026
- These include the impacts of COVID-19 on short- and medium-term demand, ranging from a -12% to -25% 2020 impact (noting Q1 supply was largely pre-COVID impacts), but with the potential for lower downside scenarios as the broader economic impact of the COVID restrictions unfold
- As part of Phase 1, we are aligning demand forecasts for individual product types by different locations with customers
- RNZ is currently able to operate cash neutral at the fee floor in the processing agreements. However this is made possible by deferring all non-essential activity to 2021 and is not sustainable.
- As a high fixed cost facility, the refinery needs a high level of utilization to be viable.

<sup>1.</sup> Includes Petrol, Diesel and Jet fuel demand. Scenarios based on data available to 1st week of April 2020 – given COVID-19 uncertainty, assumptions subject to further change

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2026

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## **CONTEXT - GROSS REFINING MARGINS**

2010 11

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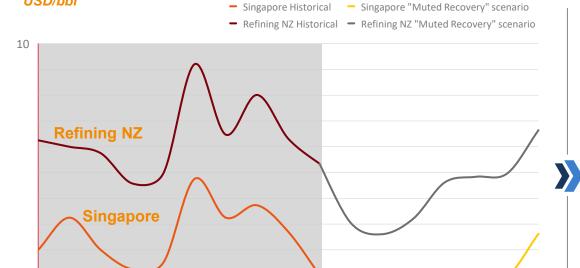
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1. Based on Publicly reported data, using FOB Singapore vs Dubai crude. Forecasts use RNZ's view of the product yields, derived from IEA

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- Singapore complex margins have been on a declining trend since 2015, driven by emerging Chinese exports and new East Asian capacity additions outpacing lackluster demand growth
- Under the "muted virus recovery" scenario, margins may continue declining until 2021 as pent-up supply backlogs and slow demand growth offsets crude price increases
  - s 9(2)(b)(ii) and s 9(2)(ba)(i)
- Overall, RNZ margins are likely to remain under pressure over the outlook period, a result of greater than required regional refinery capacity amidst weak demand growth

## **CONTEXT - IMPROVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES**





Currently, our view is that the refinery is not able to earn its cost of capital through the cycle due to the changes in the underlying cost of operations and regional competitive conditions combined with the structure of the existing processing agreements

A fundamental change in the competitiveness of refining operations and the economics of Refining NZ's business model is required

## **Immediate opportunities**

## Crude slate and yield

**Energy cost** 

Lower cash break-even

- Opportunities for improvement include
  - Optimisation of crude scheduling and diet
  - Sourcing lower cost energy
  - Advanced process controls to maximise higher value product yield and optimise energy consumption
  - Reduce maintenance costs through efficiencies and process alignment
  - Optimisation of turnaround cycles and duration
  - Adjusting total product volumes and mix
- This will be compared to alternative models e.g. an import terminal

## **Examples of opportunities to support New Zealand's transition to a lower carbon economy**

#### Solar energy

Progress Maranga Ra solar farm project

## Hydrogen production

- New Zealand's largest producer of hydrogenpotential for green hydrogen
- Expectation is that hydrogen will be a key component of the future energy mix
- Provides unique capabilities for future transition to lower carbon fuels

#### **Bio fuels**

- Critical alternative for aviation and heavy trucking
- Access to land, water and renewable energy

# MATTERS FOR GOVERNMENT INPUT

## We are seeking the views of Government stakeholders on the following matters





The strategic importance to New Zealand of maintaining refining capacity in New Zealand

How the refinery today contributes to New Zealand's IEA obligation to hold oil stocks and what impact transition to an import model with product storage could have

Any potential changes in Government policy for fuel supply chain resilience requirements, as identified in the Pipeline Inquiry – or related to independent control of NZ's fuel infrastructure

Options for RNZ to access lower cost electricity and gas, including lower distribution charges



What should RNZ assume about longer term EITE allocations under the ETS

How RNZ's assets, skills and personnel capabilities may play a role in the New Zealand Government's planned transition to a lower carbon fuels future

Any other considerations the Government wishes to provide as input to the strategic review

We are seeking initial Government input on these matters by end of May so it can be considered prior to our planned NZX market update in June this year.

We are available to meet with MBIE and other Government officials as required.

Briefings will also be offered to relevant Ministers and MPs through the review.