

Counties Power Consumer Trust



Annual Report

For the year ended

31 March 2021

Counties Power Consumer Trust

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Counties Power Consumer Trust

Directory

Nature of Business	<p>The Trustees have 100 % ownership of Counties Power Limited. The shares of the company are held in Trust for the users of the Company Lines network – the beneficiaries (aka consumers) of the Trust.</p> <p>The Counties Power Trust was constituted on 17 May 1993 by a Trust Deed dated 10 May 1993. By a Deed of Resettlement, dated 14 September 1995, all the assets of the Counties Power Trust were resettled on the Trustees of the Counties Power Consumer Trust.</p>	
Trustees	Mr C P Rupp - Chair	JP, Post Grad Dip Sc
	Mrs A D Eyes	M Com, Dip Mgt, CA, CMA
	Mr P S Beston	
	Mr D W Thomson	
	Mr D M Spratt	Dip Mgt, MBA
Secretary	Norman Foote	B Com, CA
Contact Address	<p>Physical: Suite 6, 23 Hall Street, PUKEKOHE Postal: P O Box 580, PUKEKOHE 2340 Telephone: 09 238 3780</p>	
Solicitors	Simpson Grierson, AUCKLAND	
Bankers	ANZ, PAKAKURA ASB, PUKEKOHE BNZ, PUKEKOHE	
Auditors	RSM Hayes Audit, AUCKLAND	

Counties Power Consumer Trust

Chair Report

For the year ended 31st of March 2021

To the Beneficiaries (Connected Consumers) of Counties Power Limited:

It is my privilege, again this year, to present this report on behalf of the Trustees of Counties Power Consumer Trust for the year ended 31 March 2021.

Trustees

The five elected Trustees continue to hold 100% of the shares of Counties Power Limited, (the Company), in trust for the present and future Consumers served by the company's lines network, who are the only beneficiaries.

Formal Meetings

During the year there were 23 scheduled meetings held: 12 Trustee meetings, the Company's AGM (July), the Trust's AGM (September), meetings with Company Directors (May, June & November) as well as strategy meetings (July, Nov, Jan, Mar). There was 100% attendance by Trustees at all meetings.

In addition to the formal meetings held, the Chair, Secretary and one or more Trustees and/or Directors held other meetings and had discussions on numerous occasions to give attention to particular matters.

The Trust gratefully acknowledges that Company chairman, Vern Dark, other Directors and Management have been readily available for consultation.

Professional Development

- The Trust is a member of Energy Trusts of New Zealand, www.etnz.org.nz the national organization for energy trusts, who provide support and guidelines to promote the best outcomes for the people and regions the trusts serve. Four Trustees attended the annual conference in November to share knowledge and to hear from key stakeholders involved in the energy sector.
- Downstream Conference is the energy sector's annual strategic forum, and this was attended by Mr Spratt and myself.

The Annual Report is an appropriate vehicle to re-state the foundation of the Trust. Beneficiaries of the Trust are, in generalised terms, those persons who have premises connected to the Counties Power Network. More specifically, a beneficiary of the Trust is a person (which includes individuals, corporations, partnerships, joint ventures, associations, trusts, organisations, government departments and local authorities) who:

at any appropriate date designated by the Trustees from time to time are named in the records of the Company and/or any Electricity Supply Business as persons whose premises are connected to the Company's lines network within the District and who are liable (whether alone or jointly or with any other person) for payments to any Electricity Supply Business for electricity conveyed in relation to those lines... ;

Between them, the Trustees hold 100% of shares in Counties Power Limited in trust. Under this form of ownership only the Trustees can sell the shares. The advantage to you as a connected consumer is that the company is directed and managed so that you might receive the benefits.

Compare this with a private ownership structure (as occurs with some lines network companies in New Zealand) whereby the companies are managed so as to maximise profits for their owners, who frequently are from outside the region or even overseas.

Trust ownership of our network company therefore ensures the economic benefits remain in our area.

Counties Power Consumer Trust

Chair Report

For the year ended 31st of March 2021

Trustees' Functions

As the holders of all the shares in Counties Power Limited, Trustees have an important role:-

1. The Trustees appoint the Directors of Counties Power Limited;
2. The Trustees monitor the performance of the Company;
3. The Trustees participate in the direction of the Company by commenting on the annual Statement of Corporate Intent as it is developed. They also review (and report) on the performance of the Company against the previous years' Statements of Corporate Intent;
4. The Trustees are required by law to act as diligent shareholders. This duty includes being fully aware of the strategic long-term likely value of the Company to its consumers. Taking this into account, Trustees exercise their voting powers in respect of any matters proposed by the Company which affect either the level of the shareholding or which propose modifications of the rights of the shareholders.

Examples of the Trustees acting as diligent shareholders include:-

- At intervals of no more than 10 years, prepare a report considering options for the future ownership of the shares;
 - Make decisions on merger proposals;
 - Decide upon any Company recommendations to alter the capital structure of the Company;
 - Review and monitor the performance of Counties Power Limited on a quarterly basis.
5. The Trustees attend to the management of Trust affairs through monthly meetings and the engagement of a qualified Trust Secretary as primary adviser; and
 6. The Trustees must prudently seek out independent qualified advice in regard of major issues.

In exercising these powers, the Trustees are required by law to hold the interests of the consumers paramount over the interests of other parties.

The Trustees have no power, no authority and no discretion to participate in the management of the Company, but require accountability from the Board who collectively is responsible for Governance of the Company.

Performance Measures of Counties Power Limited

Under section 44 of the Energy Companies Act 1992, the Company is required to report its performance against targets set out in the Statement of Corporate Intent.

The Company, with the support of Trustees, granted discounts of \$12.5 million (including GST) in the calendar year just passed. (The previous year saw \$12.1 million returned to consumers). Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Company responded by granting 50% of the discount in June 2020 and 50% in December 2020 to ease the financial burden felt by Consumers. These discounts reduced connected consumers' electricity bills in June 2020 and December 2020. The growth in the Franklin area has seen a further increase in the number of consumers to approximately 44,514 as at 31st March 2021. (2020: 43,485) with the result that each connection averaged approximately \$280 in discounts received (2020: \$279).

It is considered that discounts are the most cost effective means of providing returns to the beneficiaries. Beneficiaries may wish to take notice that such discounts can only be provided whilst the shares of the company remain in Trust ownership. If the Trust is ever wound up or its shareholding is diluted, a new form of ownership would be established and such distributions would cease.

The financial performance of Counties Power Ltd and the Counties Power Consumer Trust for the year ended 31 March 2021 is set out in the accompanying consolidated financial statements.

The Trust congratulates the Company for their excellent bottom-line results which meant no electricity line price increases for the seventh year in-a-row!

Counties Power Consumer Trust

Chair Report

For the year ended 31st of March 2021

Strategic Considerations

The Trustees regularly canvas issues of strategic importance to the long term future of the Trust. This includes wide ranging discussion with the Company Directors. Biannual Trustee/Director workshops are held to discuss long term Company plans mindful of economic, political and regulatory issues, as well as technical advances potentially impacting the Company and/or Trust ownership.

Each month the Chair and CE of the Company meet with the Trust Chair and another Trustee, to review and discuss key aspects of the Company's performance.

The Management team, led by Ms Judy Nicholl, has added great value to the Company this past year. Trustees congratulate Management and the Board of the Company, led by Vern Dark, for their success.

In 2019, your Trustees entered into negotiations for the Trust, in conjunction with the Company, to purchase a property adjoining our existing property at 17 Nelson Street, Pukekohe. The property was acquired on an extended payments basis, with settlement taking place on 30 June 2021. Trustees can advise, that a deposit total of \$1,344,915 had been paid as at 31st March 2021 towards settlement on 30th June 2021 for the Trust's share of \$5,132,600 of the total amount paid for the property of \$7,632,600. The Trust executed a loan arrangement with the company for \$1,132,600 to finalise the purchase of the land. The Trustees believe that this strategic acquisition will provide future returns for the Trust in the form of rental income, as well as significant benefits to wholly owned subsidiary, Counties Power Limited.

Emerging technologies – solar, battery storage, electric vehicles, smart meters and smart grids – will revolutionise the electricity industry. The unknowns are how quickly these technologies will reach critical mass from a commercial perspective and how they will combine. These factors, coupled with the unprecedented consumer growth occurring in the Counties Power supply area, makes the Franklin area probably the most exciting and challenging in the country from an electricity distribution perspective.

This growth and development continues to place increasing demands on the electricity distribution side of the business and Trustees are fully aware that this is core business and will be continuing to ensure that consumers' interests are looked after and protected.

As in past years, the Trust takes an active interest in considering broader industry and ownership issues including through the forum of the Energy Trusts of New Zealand (ETNZ).

Trust Finances

The audited separate Financial Statements of Counties Power Consumer Trust can be obtained from the Trust Secretary, PO Box 580, Pukekohe. They are also available on the Trust's web site: www.countiespowertrust.org.nz

The Trust operated its affairs with income of \$455k against budget of \$454k. Expenses were, in total \$395k compared with budget \$379k were mainly the result of an increase in professional fees. Overall the Trust reported a surplus of \$59,816 for the year ended 31st March 2021 compared with a budgeted surplus of \$74,597.

The Trustees have assessed that whilst the Covid-19 pandemic caused widespread inconvenience, there has been no significant impact on the Trust's ability to meet its obligations.

Directors of Counties Power Limited

The Directors of Counties Power Limited at 31 March 2021 were Messrs Vern Dark (Chair), Hamish Stevens (Deputy Chair), David Tompkins, Keith Watson and Ben Iosefa. In July & August 2020 Ms Barbara Elliston and Mr Doug Troon retired as Directors. The Trustees would like to thank and acknowledge their contributions during the years they were directors of the Company. The Trustees in July 2020 appointed two experienced Directors – Messrs Keith Watson and Ben Iosefa to the Company board.

Counties Power Consumer Trust

Chair Report

For the year ended 31st of March 2021

Trustees of the Counties Power Consumer Trust

As at 31 March 2021, the Trustees of Counties Power Consumer Trust were Mrs Christine Rupp (Chair) and Messrs Alan Eyes, Phil Beston, Don Thomson and David Spratt. Under the terms of the Trust Deed, the longest serving Trustee must retire after six years and be joined by one other. Should more nominations be received than vacancies, an election will be held.

An election is held every two years and an election was held on 7th August 2021. Mr David Spratt, a Trustee since 2017, decided not to seek re-election and will retire at the end of this year's annual meeting. We wish David every success and thank him for his contribution for the past 4 years. Mrs Rupp (Chair) stood down by rotation but was re-nominated to stand. This created two positions on the Trust with five nominations being received on closing date of 15 June 2021. The result of the election was declared on 7th August, and I was re-elected, and we welcome Mr Mike Marr to the Trust as at the close of this year's annual meeting.

Information for Consumers

Information is available to view and download from the Trust's website: countiespowertrust.org.nz and there were approximately 795 page views by users in the Auckland region from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021. The following documents and reports are available on the Trust's website.

1. Trust Deed
2. Beneficiary Guidelines for access to information
3. 10-yearly Ownership review
4. Statement of Corporate Intent
5. The Trust's separate financial statements
6. The Consolidated financial statements

The Trust wishes to promote the value of Consumer ownership and to engage with it's Consumers. Since February 2021 the Trust has provided news highlights of it's recent activities that either affect or benefit Consumers, with regular news articles in local papers and online community forums. The Trust will continue to seek engagement with it's Consumers in a variety of ways, including collaborative opportunities with the Company.

With the exception of Consumer connection, discount or election enquiries, there have otherwise been no requests made by beneficiaries for information during the year.

Amendments to the Trust Deed

There have been no alterations to the Trust Deed in the year ended 31 March 2021.

Conclusion

Your Trustees will continue to monitor the investment in Counties Power Limited.

The mutual objectives we share with the Chairman and Directors of the Company will continue, as we strive for the best outcomes for consumers of Counties Power Limited.

The major asset of the Trust, Counties Power Limited, has been governed by the Directors and managed by its executive. Thanks are accorded them and the staff who carry out the day to day functions of the business. In particular, I pay tribute to Mr Vern Dark for his contribution to the Company as Chairman.

I thank my fellow Trustees for their contributions to the various matters considered during the year regarding the Trust. My thanks also to the Trust Secretary, Norman Foote, ably assisted by Sheena O'Flaherty whose experience and diligence have been an outstanding asset to the Trust. Mr Foote is retiring at the end of this year's annual meeting. Sheena O'Flaherty will take up the role as Trust Secretary under the umbrella company Red Office in Pukekohe.



Christine Rupp

Chair

20th of August 2021

Counties Power Consumer Trust

Trustees' Statement

For the year ended 31st of March 2021

TRUSTEES' STATEMENT

For the year ended 31 March 2021

Scheduled Trustee Meetings and Attendance

	Formal Meetings Held	Attendance
Alan Eyes	23	23
Phil Beston	23	23
Christine Rupp	23	23
Don Thomson	23	23
David Spratt	23	23

Professional Development

	Professional Development Meetings Attended
Alan Eyes	3
Phil Beston	3
Christine Rupp	11
Don Thomson	3
David Spratt	5

Remuneration

Trustees' total remuneration received during the year

	31 March 2021 \$	31 March 2020 \$
C P Rupp (Chair)	42,050	40,682
A D Eyes	22,580	23,996
P S Beston	22,860	23,716
D W Thomson	22,860	23,966
D M Spratt	23,420	26,616

Employees

The Trust is not an employer. Secretarial services are provided by Red Office Ltd who are engaged to carry out the administrative tasks of the Trust on an 'as required' basis.

Trustee Insurance

The Trust Deed indemnifies its Trustees and Officers against any losses or liabilities which arise out of their normal duties as Trustees and Officers, unless the loss or liability relates to dishonesty or breach of trust. To manage this risk, the Trust carries Trustee Liability Insurance.

Counties Power Consumer Trust

Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income

For the year ended 31st of March 2021

	Notes	2021 \$'000		2020 \$'000	
		Group	Parent	Group	Parent
Gross Revenue from continuing operations	5	135,883	-	132,065	-
Less Consumer Discounts	5	(10,860)	-	(10,560)	-
Net revenue from continuing operations		<u>125,023</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>121,505</u>	<u>-</u>
Other income and gains	6	299	456	353	497
Expenses, excluding finance costs	7	(99,319)	(394)	(101,148)	(488)
Impairment Costs	14			(8,000)	-
Finance costs	7	(3,485)	(2)	(2,677)	(11)
Net Profit before income tax	8b	<u>22,518</u>	<u>60</u>	<u>10,033</u>	<u>(2)</u>
Income tax credit/(expense)	8a,b	(6,536)	-	(4,658)	-
Net Profit for the year after income tax		<u>15,982</u>	<u>60</u>	<u>5,375</u>	<u>(2)</u>
Net profit for the year is attributable to:					
Owners of Counties Power Consumer Trust		15,560	60	5,024	(2)
Non-controlling interest		422	-	351	-
Net profit for the year		<u>15,982</u>	<u>60</u>	<u>5,375</u>	<u>(2)</u>
Items that may be subsequently reclassified to profit:					
Cash flow hedges – net of tax	19	317	-	(326)	-
Items that will not be reclassified to profit:					
Loss on the revaluation of the distribution system	12,19	(6,000)	-	(5,076)	
Deferred tax on revaluation of distribution system	13	1,680	-	1,421	-
Gain on the revaluation of land and buildings	12	1,526	-	4,605	
Deferred tax on revaluation of land and buildings	13	-		(15)	
Items that will not be reclassified to profit		<u>(2,794)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>935</u>	<u>-</u>
Total comprehensive income for the year		<u>13,505</u>	<u>60</u>	<u>5,984</u>	<u>(2)</u>
Total comprehensive income for the year is attributable to:					
Owners of Counties Power Consumer Trust		13,083	60	5,633	(2)
Non-controlling interest		422	-	351	-
Total comprehensive income for the year		<u>13,505</u>	<u>60</u>	<u>5,984</u>	<u>(2)</u>

The above consolidated statement of comprehensive income should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Counties Power Consumer Trust

Consolidated Statement of Changes in Equity

For the year ended 31st of March 2021

	Notes	2021 \$'000		2020 \$'000	
		Group	Parent	Group	Parent
Opening balance as at 1 April		\$256,146	35,000	\$250,662	35,002
Profit for the year		15,560	60	5,024	(2)
Revaluation of the distribution system (net of tax)		(4,320)	-	(3,655)	-
Revaluation of the land and buildings (net of tax)		1,526	-	4,590	-
Other comprehensive income		317	-	(326)	-
Total comprehensive income		13,083	60	5,633	(2)
Transactions with owners in their capacity as owners:					
Put option arrangement	2(v)		-	(500)	-
Non-controlling interest:					
Profit attributable to NCI		422	-	351	-
Closing balance as at 31 March		\$ 269,651	\$ 35,060	\$ 256,146	\$ 35,000

The above consolidated statement of changes in equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Counties Power Consumer Trust
Consolidated Statement of Financial Position
As at 31st of March 2021

	Notes	2021 \$'000		2020 \$'000	
		Group	Parent	Group	Parent
ASSETS					
Current assets					
Cash and cash equivalents	9	1,321	597	2,486	203
Short Term Investments		2,325	2,325	3,286	3,286
Receivables & Prepayments	10	18,352	12	14,926	52
Inventories	11	3,961	-	5,439	-
Deposit Paid	29	1,345	1,345	1,000	672
Total current assets		27,304	4,279	27,137	4,213
Non-current assets					
Property, plant and equipment	12	392,710	7	359,929	6
Intangible assets	14	32,151	1	32,845	2
Right of use assets	28	11,721	22	13,886	40
Investment in Subsidiary		-	30,797	-	30,797
Total non-current assets		436,582	30,827	406,660	30,845
Total assets		463,886	35,106	433,797	35,058
LIABILITIES					
Current liabilities					
Borrowings	17	15,200	-	894	-
Trade and other Payables	15	22,446	33	17,135	29
Current Tax Payable		138	-	755	-
Employee benefits	16	3,838	-	3,288	-
Lease liability	28	2,010	13	2,822	16
Deferred Income	4 (ii)	1,339	-	1,568	-
Total current liabilities		44,971	46	26,462	45
Non-current liabilities					
Trade and Other Payables	15	1,242	-	2,025	-
Deferred tax liabilities	13	50,485	-	48,398	-
Borrowings	17	80,000	-	81,200	-
Deferred Income	4 (ii)	762	-	1,232	-
Derivative financial instruments	26	194	-	634	-
Financial liability	2(v)	6,500	-	6,500	-
Lease liability	28	10,081	-	11,200	13
Total non-current liabilities		149,264	-	151,189	13
Total liabilities		194,235	46	177,651	58
Net assets		\$ 269,651	\$ 35,060	\$ 256,146	\$ 35,000
EQUITY					
Trust Funds	18	30,797	30,797	30,797	30,797
Retained earnings	19	210,735	4,263	195,175	4,203
Cash flow hedge reserve	19	(140)	-	(457)	-
Revaluation reserve	19	29,740	-	32,534	-
Other Reserves	19	(6,500)	-	(6,500)	-
Total equity attributable to the owners		\$ 264,632	\$ 35,060	\$ 251,549	\$ 35,000
Non-Controlling interest		5,019	-	4,597	-
Total Equity		\$ 269,651	\$ 35,060	\$ 256,146	\$ 35,000



Christine P. Rupp
Chair of Trustees
20th of August 2021



Norman W. Foote
Secretary to the Trustees
20th of August 2021

The above consolidated statement of financial position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Counties Power Consumer Trust
Consolidated Cash flow Statement
For the year ended 31st of March 2021

	Notes	2021 \$'000		2020 \$'000	
		Group	Parent	Group	Parent
Cash flows from operating activities					
Receipts from customers (inclusive of goods and services tax)		121,800	-	121,013	-
Payments to suppliers and employees		(67,117)	(379)	(78,432)	(524)
Net GST paid		(5,334)	38	(3,456)	38
Sundry income		-	-	46	46
Dividend received		-	400	-	300
Interest received		66	66	174	154
Interest paid		(3,483)	-	(2,666)	-
RWT & income taxes paid		(3,509)	-	(3,047)	-
Net cash inflow from operating activities	21	42,423	125	33,632	14
Cash flows from investing activities					
Payments for property, plant and equipment		(53,128)	(674)	(56,274)	(672)
Payments for intangible assets - computer software		(2,407)	-	(2,675)	-
Proceeds from Short Term Investments		961	961	670	670
Proceeds from sale of property, plant & equipment		183	-	237	-
Acquisition of business		-	-	196	-
Net cash (outflow) from investing activities		(54,391)	287	(57,846)	(2)
Cash flows from financing activities					
Proceeds from borrowings		35,000	-	34,149	-
Repayment of borrowings		(21,894)	-	(8,000)	-
Lease repayments		(2,303)	(18)	(2,268)	(18)
Net cash (outflows)/inflow from financing activities		10,803	(18)	23,881	(18)
Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents		(1,165)	394	(333)	(6)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		2,486	203	2,819	209
Cash and cash equivalents at end of the year (excl short term deposits)	9	\$ 1,321	\$ 597	\$ 2,486	\$ 203

The above consolidated cash flow statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Counties Power Consumer Trust

Notes to (and forming part of) the Consolidated Financial Statements

For the year ended 31st of March 2021

1. General Information

Entities Reporting

Counties Power Trust was constituted on 17 May 1993 by a Trust Deed dated 10 May 1993 and resettled on 14 September 1995 as Counties Power Consumer Trust ("the Trust").

"The Company" refers to the wholly owned subsidiary, Counties Power Limited.

Counties Power Limited owns and operates an electricity distribution network for the conveyance of electricity, supplies of electrical equipment and provides electrical contracting services in the Counties region of New Zealand. The Company is designated as a profit oriented entity for financial reporting purposes. ECL Group Limited, a subsidiary of the Company, is a leading technical services company specialising in fuel system and technology solutions in New Zealand. The Company is an unlisted limited liability Company incorporated and domiciled in New Zealand. The address of its registered office is 14 Glasgow Road, Pukekohe.

These financial statements are for the year ended 31 March 2021. The financial statements for the "Parent" are those of the Trust. The Trust is designated as a for profit oriented entity for financial reporting purposes.

The consolidated financial statements for the "Group" are for the economic entity comprising the Trust and it's wholly owned subsidiary, Counties Power Limited.

For the purposes of complying with NZ GAAP, the Group is designated as a for-profit entity.

The authorisation and distribution of the financial statements will be ratified by the Trustees for issue on 20th of August 2021.

2. Summary of significant accounting policies

The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of these consolidated financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

(a) Basis of preparation and consolidation

The general purpose financial statements are prepared in accordance with New Zealand generally accepted accounting practice (NZ GAAP). They comply with New Zealand equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards (NZ IFRS), and other applicable New Zealand Financial Reporting Standards as appropriate for profit oriented entities. The consolidated financial statements also comply with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).

The preparation of consolidated financial statements in conformity with IFRS requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates. It also requires management to exercise its judgement in the process of applying the Group's accounting policies. The areas involving a higher degree of judgement or complexity, or areas where assumptions and estimates are significant to the consolidated financial statements are disclosed in note 4.

Statutory base

The consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Energy Companies Act 1992, Financial Reporting Act 2013 and the Companies Act 1993.

Historical cost convention

The consolidated financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention, and where appropriate, modified by the revaluation of financial assets and liabilities and certain classes of property, plant and equipment.

Counties Power Consumer Trust

Notes to (and forming part of) the Consolidated Financial Statements

For the year ended 31st of March 2021

2. Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

Basis of preparation and consolidation (continued)

Comparative information

Certain comparative have been reclassified to conform with current year presentation.

Changes in Accounting Policy

The Group has applied the following standards and amendments for the first time for the year ended 31st of March 2021:

Covid-19

On 11 March 2020 the World Health Organisation declared a global pandemic as a result of the outbreak and spread of Covid-19. On 25 March 2020 New Zealand went into a stage 4 lockdown requiring all non-essential businesses whose employees cannot work from home to close for a four week period (extended by a further 5 days to 27 April 2020). Counties Power Consumer Trust, Counties Power Limited and it's trading subsidiary ECL Group Limited are considered essential businesses and were able to operate during the stage 4 lockdown with essential services and maintenance being performed. The Company continued to operate during lockdown stages 3 and 2.

Trustees, the Board of Directors, and Management have considered the impact of Covid-19 on relevant balances and disclosures in the financial statements. As the Group provides essential services and has continued to operate, there has been no material impact on the financials for the year ended 31 March 2021 (2020: \$8 million goodwill impairment – refer Note 14).

To alleviate the financial burden on it's Consumers, owing to the Covid-19 pandemic, the company paid out 50% of the annual Consumer discount in June 2020, and the remaining 50% was paid out in December 2020. Management and the Directors of the Company continue to monitor developments as they occur.

Basis of consolidation

All material transactions between the Trust and its wholly owned subsidiary are eliminated on consolidation. In the Trust financial statements, investments are stated at cost.

(b) Foreign currency translation

Functional and presentation currency

Items included in the consolidated financial statements of the Group's operations are measured using the currency of the primary economic environment in which it operates ('the functional currency'). The consolidated financial statements are presented in New Zealand dollars, rounded to the nearest thousand dollars, which is the Group's functional and presentation currency.

Transactions and balances

Foreign currency transactions are translated using the exchange rates prevailing at the dates of the transactions. Foreign exchange gains and losses resulting from the settlement of such transactions and from the translation at year end exchange rates of monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are recognised in the Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income.

Consumer discounts are annual power account discounts returned to consumers and recognised when paid.

Counties Power Consumer Trust

Notes to (and forming part of) the Consolidated Financial Statements

For the year ended 31st of March 2021

2. Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

Basis of preparation and consolidation (continued)

(c) Revenue recognition

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable and represents amounts receivable for goods and services (including lines charges) provided in the normal course of business, net of consumer discounts and Goods and Services Tax. Consumer discounts are annual power account discounts returned to consumers and recognised when paid.

The Group recognises revenue when the amount of revenue can be reliably measured, it is probable that future economic benefits will flow to the Group and specific criteria have been met for each of the Group's activities as described below.

i) *Lines revenue*

The Group provides lines services to consumers allowing connection to the wider distribution network. Such services are recognised as series of distinct goods or services and are one performance obligation satisfied over time as the consumer simultaneously receives and consumes the benefits of the service. Revenue is recognised as the service is being provided using an output method based on the actual delivery services provided on a daily basis. Consumer discounts represent the annual power discounts returned to the consumers and recognised when paid.

Pricing includes a transmission and distribution charge relating to the operation of the network. Payment is due in respect of the network line service in the month following the service being provided. A receivable is recognised by the Group reflecting the amount owing for services provided.

As the delivery services are a promise to transfer a series of distinct services that are substantially the same, revenue is recognised based on a measure of progress for the single performance obligation that best depicts the transfer of services to the consumer. It is therefore appropriate for revenue to be recognised in line with billing, as this best reflects the transfer of value to the consumer. Revenue will be recognised over time.

ii) *Metering Revenue*

Revenue received from the rental of meters is recognised in accordance with the relevant agreements.

iii) *Capital Contributions Revenue*

The Group provides electrical connection services to customers to support and provide a connection to the wider distribution network. Such contracts are considered to have an enforceable right to payment for the performance obligation for key milestones achieved as specified in the agreement. This single performance obligation is satisfied over time.

Pricing is determined with reference to the time and material associated with a specific contract for electrical work and is based on the level of cost required to enable a connection.

iv) *Interest income*

Interest income is recognised using the effective interest method.

The Trust recognises interest when received. Interest on any unexpired investment at the end of the reporting period is accrued at the rate of the particular investment.

Counties Power Consumer Trust

Notes to (and forming part of) the Consolidated Financial Statements

For the year ended 31st of March 2021

2. Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

Basis of preparation and consolidation (continued)

- v) *Dividend income*
Dividends are recognised when received excluding imputation credits attached to that dividend.
- vi) *Rental income*
Rental income is recognised on a straight line basis in accordance with the substance of the relevant agreements.
- vii) *Sales of Goods*
Revenue from sales of goods is recognised at the point in time when control of the asset is transferred to the customer, generally on shipment of goods to the customer.
- viii) *Sales of Services*
Contracted maintenance services include preventative maintenance (e.g. periodic inspections), corrective maintenance (e.g. repair / replacement of components on an 'as needed' basis) and customer service support (e.g. help line access).
The contract duration is typically 1-5 years and revenue is recognised over time as service is rendered. The customer pays a fixed amount over the contract term in accordance with the payment frequency specified in the contract.
- ix) *Financing Components*
The Group does not expect to have any significant contracts where the period between the transfer of the promised goods or services to the customer and payment by the customer exceeds one year. As a consequence, the Group does not adjust any of the transaction prices for the time value of money as this is considered to not have a material impact.
- x) *Contract Revenue*
The Group provides contracting services to customers ancillary to its electricity distribution business. Such contracts have an enforceable right to payment for the performance obligation for key milestones specified in the agreement. There is one single performance obligation and it is satisfied over a period of time.
Pricing is determined with reference to the labour and material associated with a specific job. Payment is due in respect of contracting services in the month following the service being provided. A receivable is recognised by the Group reflecting the amount owing for services provided.
Contract revenue is recognised over the period of the contract by reference to stage of completion. The construction contract accounting policy requires estimates to be made of the outcome under each contract, which requires assessments and judgments to be made on a range of factors, such as: recovery of pre-contract costs, changes in the scope of work, contract programmes, maintenance and defect liabilities, and changes in costs.
The Group uses the 'percentage of completion method' to determine the appropriate amount to recognise in a given period. The stage of completion is measured by reference to the contract costs incurred up to the end of the reporting period as a percentage of total estimated costs for each contract. Costs incurred in the year in connection with future activity on a contract are excluded from contract costs in determining the stage of completion.
Contract costs are recognised as an expense by reference to the stage of completion of the contract activity at the end of the reporting period. When it is probable that the contract costs will exceed the total contract revenue, the expected loss is recognised as an expense immediately.

Counties Power Consumer Trust

Notes to (and forming part of) the Consolidated Financial Statements

For the year ended 31st of March 2021

2. Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

Basis of preparation and consolidation (continued)

When the outcome of a construction contract cannot be estimated reliably, contract revenue is only recognised to the extent of contract costs incurred that are likely to be recoverable.

Variations in contract work, claims and incentive payments are included in contract revenue to the extent that may have been agreed with the customer and are capable of being reliably measured.

On the balance sheet the Group reports the net contract position for each contract as either an asset or a liability. A contract represents an asset where the costs incurred plus recognised profit (less recognised costs), exceed progress billings; a contract represents a liability where the opposite is the case.

Contract assets

A contract asset is the right to consideration in exchange for goods or services transferred to the customer, conditioned on something other than the passage of time, if the Group performs by transferring goods or services to a customer before the customer pays consideration or before payment is due.

A contract asset is recognised for the earned consideration that is conditional. The contract assets of the Group include retentions relating to services already preformed, but where the right to consideration is dependent on acceptance by the customer. These balances were classified as part of trade receivables on the Consolidated Statement of Financial Position.

Contract Liabilities

A contract liability is the obligation to transfer goods or services to a customer for which the Group has received consideration (or an amount of consideration is due) from the customer. If a customer pays consideration before the Group transfers goods or services, a contract liability is recognised. Contract liabilities are recognised as revenue when the Group performs under the contract. These balances were represented as deferred income on the Consolidated Statement of Financial Position.

(d) Income tax

The income tax expense for the year is the tax payable on the current year's taxable income based on the notional income tax rate adjusted by changes in deferred tax assets and liabilities attributable to temporary differences between the tax bases of assets and liabilities and their carrying amounts in the consolidated financial statements.

Deferred tax assets and liabilities are recognised for temporary differences at the tax rates expected to apply when the assets are recovered or liabilities are settled, based on those tax rates which are enacted or substantively enacted for each jurisdiction.

The relevant tax rates are applied to the cumulative amounts of deductible and taxable temporary differences to measure the deferred tax asset or liability. An exception is made for certain temporary differences arising from the initial recognition of an asset or a liability. No deferred tax asset or liability is recognised in relation to these temporary differences if they arose in a transaction, other than a business combination, that at the time of the transaction did not affect either accounting profit or taxable profit or loss.

Counties Power Consumer Trust

Notes to (and forming part of) the Consolidated Financial Statements

For the year ended 31st of March 2021

2. Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

Basis of preparation and consolidation (continued)

Deferred tax assets are recognised for deductible temporary differences and unused tax losses only if it is probable that future taxable amounts will be available to utilise those temporary differences and losses.

Current and deferred tax balances attributable to amounts recognised directly in equity are also recognised directly in equity.

(e) Goods and Services Tax (GST)

The Group's Statement of Comprehensive Income is prepared so that all components are stated exclusive of GST. All items in the Group's Statement of Financial Position are stated net of GST, with the exception of receivables and payables, which include GST invoiced.

(f) Impairment of assets

Goodwill and intangible assets that have an indefinite useful life are not subject to amortisation and are tested annually for impairment, or more frequently if events or changes in circumstances indicate that they might be impaired. Other assets are tested for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount may not be recoverable. An impairment loss is recognised for the amount by which the asset's carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount. The recoverable amount is the higher of an asset's fair value less costs of disposal and value in use. For the purposes of assessing impairment, assets are grouped at the lowest levels for which there are separately identifiable cash inflows, which are largely independent of the cash inflows from other assets or groups of assets (cash-generating units). Non-financial assets other than goodwill that suffered an impairment are reviewed for possible reversal of the impairment at the end of each accounting period.

(g) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents includes cash on hand, deposits held at call with financial institutions, other short-term, highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities in the Consolidated Statement of Financial Position.

(h) Trade receivables

Trade receivables are recognised initially at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost, less provision for impairment. The Group recognises lifetime expected credit loss for trade receivables (see details on note 3 [b]).

(i) Inventories

Merchandise, raw materials, consumables and work in progress are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Costs are assigned to individual items of inventory on a first-in-first-out basis.

(j) Property, plant and equipment

Land, buildings and distribution assets are shown at fair value, based on periodic, but at least triennial, valuations by external independent valuers, less subsequent depreciation (excluding land). Any accumulated depreciation at the date of revaluation is eliminated against the gross carrying amount of the asset and the net amount is restated to the revalued amount of the asset. At the end of each reporting period, between the triennial period and the valuation, a review is undertaken to ensure that the carrying value of the distribution network is recorded at fair value.

Counties Power Consumer Trust

Notes to (and forming part of) the Consolidated Financial Statements

For the year ended 31st of March 2021

2. Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

Basis of preparation and consolidation (continued)

All other property, plant and equipment are stated at historical cost less depreciation. Historical cost includes expenditure that is directly attributable to the acquisition of the items.

Subsequent costs are included in the assets' carrying amounts or recognised as a separate asset, as appropriate, only when it is probable that future economic benefits associated with the item will flow to the Group and the cost of the item can be measured reliably. All other repairs and maintenance are charged to the Statement of Comprehensive Income during the financial period in which they are incurred.

Increases in the carrying amounts arising on revaluation of land, buildings and distribution assets are credited to revaluation reserves in shareholders' equity. To the extent that the increase reverses a decrease previously recognised in the statement of comprehensive income, the increase is first recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income. Decreases that reverse previous increases of the same assets are first charged against revaluation reserves directly in equity to the extent of the remaining reserve attributable to the asset; all other decreases are charged to the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

When revalued assets are sold, the amounts included in the revaluation reserve account are transferred to retained earnings.

Land is not depreciated. Depreciation is charged so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets, over their estimated useful lives, using either straight-line (SL) or the diminishing value (DV) method. The following estimated useful lives are used in the calculation of depreciation.

Distribution System	5 to 60 years SL
Buildings	40 to 100 years SL
Leasehold Improvements	1 to 40 years SL
Meters & Relays	10 to 15 years SL
Plant & Vehicles	1 to 10 years DV
Fibre Network	10 to 11 years SL

The estimated useful lives, residual values and depreciation methods are reviewed at the end of each reporting period and adjusted if appropriate.

An asset's carrying amount is written down immediately to its recoverable amount if the asset's carrying amount is greater than its estimated recoverable amount.

Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing proceeds with the carrying amount. These are included in the consolidated statement of comprehensive income.

Counties Power Consumer Trust

Notes to (and forming part of) the Consolidated Financial Statements

For the year ended 31st of March 2021

2. Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

Basis of preparation and consolidation (continued)

(k) Intangible assets

Computer software

Computer software licences are capitalised on the basis of the costs incurred to acquire and bring to use the specific software. These costs are amortised on a straight-line basis (one to seven years). Costs associated with developing or maintaining computer software programmes are recognised as an expense as incurred.

Brands

Brands acquired in a business combination are recognised at fair value at the acquisition date. They have an infinite useful life and are tested for impairment annually.

Customer contracts

The customer contracts were acquired as part of a business combination (see note 29 for details). They are recognised at their fair value at the date of acquisition and are subsequently amortised on a straight-line based on the timing of projected cash flows of the contracts over their estimated useful lives (10 years)

Goodwill

Goodwill represents the excess of the cost of an acquisition over the fair value of the Group's share of the net identifiable assets of the acquired business (note 29), at the date of acquisition. Goodwill on acquisition of a business is included in intangible assets.

Goodwill acquired on business combination is not amortised. Instead, goodwill is tested for impairment annually or more frequently if events or changes in circumstances indicate that it might be impaired, and is carried at cost less accumulated impairment losses. Gains and losses on the disposal of an entity include the carrying amount of goodwill relating to the entity sold.

Goodwill is allocated to cash-generating units for the purpose of impairment testing. The allocation is made to those cash-generating units of groups of cash-generating units that are expected to benefit from the business combination in which the goodwill arose. The units or groups of units are identified at the lowest level at which goodwill is monitored for internal management purposes.

(l) Leases

Leases are accounted for in accordance with NZIFRS 16 Leases. The Group recognises the right of use assets and lease liabilities, except for the leases with a lease term of less than 12 months on adoption and low value leases. Right of use assets are depreciated on a straight line basis over the remaining term of the leases. Interest on the leases are calculated using the Group's incremental borrowing rates. Leases in which a significant portion of the risks and rewards of ownership are retained by the lessor are classified as operating leases.

(m) Trade and other payables

Trade and other payables represent liabilities for goods and services provided to the Group prior to the end of financial year which are unpaid. The amounts are unsecured and are usually paid within 30 days of recognition. Trade and other payables are recognised initially at fair value and are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

(n) Borrowing costs and borrowings

Borrowing costs directly attributable to the acquisition, construction or production of qualifying assets, which are assets that necessarily take a substantial period of time to get ready for their intended use or sale, are added to the cost of those assets, until such time as the assets are substantially ready for their intended use or sale. The Group has defined the threshold for capitalising interest as being any assets taking longer than three months to construct, or greater than \$500,000.

Counties Power Consumer Trust

Notes to (and forming part of) the Consolidated Financial Statements

For the year ended 31st of March 2021

2. Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

Basis of preparation and consolidation (continued)

All other borrowing costs are recognised in the Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income in the period in which they are incurred.

Interest-bearing bank loans and overdrafts are initially measured at fair value and are subsequently measured at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method. Any difference between the proceeds (net of transaction costs) and the settlement or redemption of borrowings is recognised over the term of the borrowings in accordance with the Group's accounting policy for borrowing costs.

Borrowings are classified as current liabilities unless the Group has an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability for at least 12 months after the end of the reporting period.

(o) Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the Group has a present obligation as a result of a past event, the future sacrifice of economic benefits is probable and the amount of the provision can be measured reliably. Provisions are measured at the Company's best estimate of the expenditure required to settle the obligation at balance date, and are discounted to present value where the effect is material.

Where there are a number of similar obligations, the likelihood that an outflow will be required in settlement is determined by considering the class of obligations as a whole. A provision is recognised even if the likelihood of an outflow with respect to any one item included in the same class of obligations may be small.

(p) Employee benefits

Wages and salaries, annual leave and sick leave

Liabilities for wages and salaries, including non-monetary benefits and annual leave expected to be settled within 12 months of the reporting date are recognised in other payables in respect of employees' services up to the reporting date and are measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled. Liabilities for non-accumulating sick leave are recognised when the leave is taken and measured at the rates paid or payable.

Long service leave

The liability for long service leave is recognised in the provision for employee benefits and measured at the present value of expected future payments to be made in respect of services provided by employees up to the reporting date using the effective interest method.

Consideration is given to expected future wage and salary levels, experience of employee departures and years of service.

Retirement benefit obligations

For defined contribution plans, the Group pays contributions to publicly or privately administered pension insurance plans on a mandatory, contractual or voluntary basis.

The Group has no further payment obligations once the contributions have been paid. The contributions are recognised as employee benefit expense when they are due.

Prepaid contributions are recognised as an asset to the extent that a cash refund or a reduction in the future payments is available.

Bonuses

The Group recognises a liability and an expense for bonuses. The Group recognises a provision where contractually obliged or where this is a past practice that has created a constructive obligation.

Counties Power Consumer Trust

Notes to (and forming part of) the Consolidated Financial Statements

For the year ended 31st of March 2021

2. Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

Basis of preparation and consolidation (continued)

Termination Benefits

Termination benefits are payable when employment is terminated by the Group before the normal retirement date, or whenever an employee accepts voluntary redundancy in exchange for these benefits. The Group recognises termination benefits at the earlier of the following dates:

- (a) when the Group can no longer withdraw the offer of those benefits; and
- (b) when the entity recognises costs for a restructuring that is within the scope of NZ IAS 37 Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets and involves the payment of termination benefits.

(q) Share Capital

Ordinary shares are classified as equity.

(r) Dividends

Provision is made for the amount of any dividend declared on or before the end of the financial year but not distributed at reporting date.

(s) Financial Assets

The Group classifies its investment in the following categories in accordance with NZ IFRS 9 Financial Instruments: assets at amortised cost, fair value through other comprehensive income (FVOCI) and fair value through profit and loss (FVTPL). The classification of financial assets under NZ IFRS 9 is generally based on the business model in which the financial assets are managed and its contractual cash flows characteristics.

On initial recognition a financial asset is classified as measured at amortised cost, FVOCI and FVTPL. Financial assets are not reclassified subsequent to their initial recognition unless the Group changes its business model for managing financial assets in which case all affected financial assets are reclassified on the first day of the first reporting period following the change in the business model.

A financial asset is measured at an amortised cost if it meets both of the following conditions and is not designated at FVTPL:

- if it is held with the objective to collect contractual cashflows; and
- its contractual terms give rise on specified dates to cashflows that are solely for the payments of principal and interest on the principal amount being outstanding.

On initial recognition of an equity investment that is not held for trading, the Group may irrevocably elect to present subsequent changes in the investment's fair value in other comprehensive income. The election is made on an investment by investment basis.

All financial assets not classified as measured at amortised cost or FVOCI as described above are measured at FVTPL.

(t) Derivative financial instruments and hedging activities

Derivatives are initially recognised at fair value at the date the derivative contract is entered into and are subsequently re-measured to their fair value at each balance date. The resulting gain or loss is recognised as a financing cost in profit or loss immediately unless the derivative is designated and effective as a hedge instrument, in which event timing of the recognition in profit or loss depends on the nature of the hedge relationship. Derivatives are classified as current or non-current based on the effective date.

Counties Power Consumer Trust

Notes to (and forming part of) the Consolidated Financial Statements

For the year ended 31st of March 2021

2. Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

Basis of preparation and consolidation (continued)

Cash flow hedge

The effective portion of changes in the fair value of derivatives that are designated and qualify as cash flow hedges is recognised in other comprehensive income. The gain or loss relating to the ineffective portion is recognised immediately in the Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income within 'other income and gains'.

Amounts accumulated in equity are reclassified to profit and loss in the periods when the hedged item affects profit or loss. However, when the forecast transaction that is hedged results in the recognition of a non-financial asset (e.g. fixed assets), the gains and losses previously deferred in equity are transferred from equity and included in the initial measurement of the cost of the asset. The deferred amounts are ultimately recognised in depreciation in the case of fixed assets.

When a hedging instrument expires or is sold, or when a hedge no longer meets the criteria for hedge accounting, any cumulative gain or loss existing in equity at that time remains in equity and is recognised when the forecast transaction is ultimately recognised in the Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income. When a forecast transaction is no longer expected to occur, the cumulative gain or loss that was reported in equity is immediately transferred to the Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income within 'other income and gains.'

(u) Business Combination

The acquisition method of accounting is used to account for all business combinations, regardless of whether equity instruments or other assets are acquired. The consideration transferred for the acquisition of a subsidiary comprises the:

- fair values of the assets transferred
- liabilities incurred to the former owners of the acquired business
- equity interest issued by the Group
- fair value of any asset or liability resulting from a contingent consideration arrangement, and
- fair value of any pre-existing equity interest in the subsidiary.

Identifiable assets acquired and liabilities and contingent liabilities assumed in a business combination are, with limited exceptions, measured initially at their fair values at the acquisition date. The Group recognises any non-controlling interest in the acquired entity on an acquisition-by-acquisition basis either at fair value or at the non-controlling interest's proportionate share of the acquired entity's net identifiable assets.

For the non-controlling interests, the Group elected to recognise its proportionate share of the acquired net identifiable assets. Acquisition-related costs are expensed as incurred.

The excess of the:

- consideration transferred
 - amount of any non-controlling interest in the acquired entity, and
 - acquisition-date fair value of any previous equity interest in the acquired entity
- over the fair value of the net identifiable assets of the business acquired, the difference is recorded as goodwill. If those amounts are less than the fair value of the net identifiable assets of the business acquired, the difference is recognised directly in profit or loss as a bargain purchase.

Counties Power Consumer Trust

Notes to (and forming part of) the Consolidated Financial Statements

For the year ended 31st of March 2021

2. Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

Basis of preparation and consolidation (continued)

Where settlement of any part of cash consideration is deferred, the amounts payable in the future are discounted to their present value as at the date of exchange. The discount rate used is the entity's incremental borrowing rate, being the rate at which a similar borrowing could be obtained from an independent financier under comparable terms and conditions.

Contingent consideration is classified either as equity or a financial liability. Amounts classified as a financial liability are subsequently remeasured to fair value with changes in fair value recognised in profit or loss.

(v) Put Option Arrangements

The Group's subsidiary, Counties Power Limited, has written put options over the equity of ECL Group Limited, which permit the holder to put their shares in the subsidiary back to the Group at their fair value on specified dates over a six year period, from 1 February 2019 to 1 February 2025, if ECL Group Limited's EBITDA for the previous financial year is at least \$7,200,000.

The amount that may become payable under the option on exercise is initially recognised at the present value of the redemption amount as non-current financial liability with a corresponding charge directly to equity. The liability is subsequently accreted through finance charges up to the redemption amount that is payable at the date at the option first becomes exercisable. In the event that the option expires unexercised, the liability is derecognised with a corresponding adjustment to equity.

3 Financial risk management

Financial risk factors

The Group's activities expose it to a variety of financial risks: market risk (including currency risk, fair value interest rate risk, cash flow interest rate risk and price risk), credit risk and liquidity risk. The Group's overall risk management programme focuses on the unpredictability of financial markets and seeks to minimise potential adverse effects on the Group's financial performance.

a) Market risk

(i) Foreign exchange risk

The Group manages exposure in forecasted foreign currency exposure arising out of the capital expenditure programme in accordance with its treasury policy. The Group treasury risk management policy is to hedge up to 100% of anticipated cash flows, in each major foreign currency for the subsequent 12 months. In this respect, the Group has hedged the forecasted foreign currency exposure arising out of the capital expenditure programme through forward exchange contracts. There is no exposure to foreign currency risk at year end.

(ii) Cash flow and fair value interest rate risk

As the Group has no significant variable rate interest-bearing assets, the Group's income and operating cash inflows are substantially independent of changes in market interest rates.

The Group's interest rate risk arises from long-term borrowings. Borrowings issued at variable rates expose the Group to cash flow interest rate risk. Borrowings issued at fixed rates expose the Group to fair value interest rate risk.

Group policy currently, for non-core debt, is to maintain a funding facility that provides the appropriate flexibility for the fluctuating requirements at the lowest cost. Hedging arrangements using swaps, collars or options for up to 70% of the exposure are permitted.

Counties Power Consumer Trust

Notes to (and forming part of) the Consolidated Financial Statements

For the year ended 31st of March 2021

3 Financial risk management (continued)

Financial risk factors (continued)

Where operational activities lead to the creation of a core level of borrowings, between 30% and 40% of this debt will be hedged by an interest rate swap with the remainder placed in at least two facilities with maturity periods aligned to optimise risk and value.

(iii) Sensitivity analysis

Interest rate swap contracts hedging the forecasted variability in cash flows arising out of variable interest rates on borrowings are treated as cash flow hedges. Any changes in variable interest rates would have no material impact on profit or loss in relation to the portion of borrowings hedged, as changes in the fair value of these interest rate swap contracts are taken through other comprehensive income where the hedge is an effective hedge.

A 100 basis points increase or decrease in interest rates is used for the interest rate sensitivity analysis. The impact of this movement on profit or loss and equity for 2021 and 2020 is immaterial.

(b) Credit risk

Credit risk arises from cash and cash equivalents, and deposits with banks and financial institutions, as well as credit exposures to wholesale and retail customers, including outstanding receivables and committed transactions. For banks and financial institutions, only independently rated parties with a minimum rating of 'A' are accepted.

The Trust considers only those institutions with a minimum rating of 'AA-.'

Otherwise, the management of the Company assesses the credit quality of customers, taking into account their financial position, past experience and other factors. Individual risk limits are set based on internal or external ratings in accordance with limits set by the Board. The utilisation of credit limits is regularly monitored. Sales to retail customers are settled in cash.

The maximum exposure to credit risk is best represented by the carrying value of cash and cash equivalents, short term investments and trade and other receivables as indicated in note 25.

The Group incurs credit risk from transactions with trade debtors and financial institutions in the normal course of business. At reporting date the Group had a significant concentration of credit risk relating to the amount receivable from Electricity Retailers. The Group has a programme to manage this risk concentration, including monitoring the credit status of the major debtors, adhering to specific credit policy requirements and having the contractual ability to require security to be provided by these customers under certain circumstances.

The Group does not generally require collateral or security to support financial instruments other than as outlined above, due to the quality of the financial institutions dealt with.

No credit limits were exceeded during the reporting period, and management does not expect any losses from non-performance by these counterparties.

The Group applies the NZ IFRS 9 simplified approach to measuring expected credit loss which uses a lifetime expected credit loss allowance for all trade receivables.

Counties Power Consumer Trust

Notes to (and forming part of) the Consolidated Financial Statements

For the year ended 31st of March 2021

3. Financial risk management (continued)

Financial risk factors (continued)

To measure the expected credit losses, trade receivables have been grouped based on days past due. The expected credit loss rates are based on the payment profiles over a 12 month period before 31 March 2021 and the corresponding historical credit losses during the period, adjusted for any significant amounts that are not receivable.

(c) Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk management has the objective of maintaining sufficient cash and the availability of funding through an adequate amount of credit facilities to meet the short and long term commitments of the Company as they arise in an orderly manner. Management monitors rolling forecasts of the Company's liquidity requirements on the basis of expected cash flow. The Board of Directors approves all new borrowing facilities for the Company.

The Trustees manage the liquidity risk of the Parent.

The table below analyses the Group's financial liabilities into relevant maturity groupings based on the remaining period at the reporting date to the contractual maturity date. The amounts disclosed in the table are contractual undiscounted cash flows. Balances due within 12 months equal their carrying balances as the impact of discounting is not significant.

At 31 March 2021	Total \$'000	Less than 1 year \$'000	Between 1 and 2 years \$'000	Between 2 and 5 years \$'000	Over 5 Years \$'000
Trade and other payables	23,688	22,446	1,242	-	-
Lease Liability	12,091	2,010	1,918	3,291	4,872
Bank loans	95,200	15,200	-	80,000	-
Derivative Financial Instruments (Fair values)	194	-	194	-	-
Total non-derivatives	131,173	39,656	3,354	83,291	4,872
At 31 March 2020					
Trade and other payables	19,160	17,135	737	1,288	-
Lease Liability	14,022	2,822	2,503	3,396	5,301
Bank loans	82,094	894	81,200	-	-
Derivative Financial Instruments (Fair values)	634	-	-	634	-
Total non-derivatives	115,910	20,851	84,440	5,318	5,301

(e) Fair value estimation

The Group has discounted long term receivables and payables at the implicit rate for finance leases receivable, and at the incremental borrowing rate. This balance is presented net in Trade and other payables in the Consolidated Statement of Financial Position.

Counties Power Consumer Trust

Notes to (and forming part of) the Consolidated Financial Statements

For the year ended 31st of March 2021

3. Financial risk management (continued)

Financial risk factors (continued)

The nominal value less estimated credit adjustments of trade receivables and payables are assumed to approximate their fair values. The fair value of financial liabilities for disclosure purposes is estimated by discounting the future contractual cash flows at the current market interest rate that is available to the Group for similar financial instruments.

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised on the Group's Consolidated Statement of Financial Position when the Group becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

NZ IFRS 13, Fair Value Measurement: Disclosures requires disclosure of the fair value measurements by level from the following fair value hierarchy:

- Level 1 – Quoted price (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets and liabilities;
- Level 2 – Inputs, other than quoted price included within level 1, that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly (that is, as prices) or indirectly (that is, derived from prices);
- Level 3 – Inputs for assets and liabilities that are not based on observable market data (that is, unobservable inputs).

The only financial instruments held by the Group that are measured at fair value are over the counter derivatives. These derivatives have all been determined to be within level 2 of the fair value hierarchy as all significant inputs required to ascertain the fair value of these derivatives are observable (refer note 3(a) (i)). Credit risk is incorporated into the valuation of derivatives.

Distribution system assets and land and buildings are classified within level 3 of the fair value hierarchy. The valuation techniques and assumptions for distribution system assets and land and buildings measured at fair value are disclosed in note 12.

(e) Capital risk management

The Group manages its capital structure and makes adjustments to it in light of economic conditions. To maintain or adjust the existing structure, the Company may adjust the dividend payment to shareholders, return capital to shareholders or issue new shares. No changes were made to the objectives, policies or processes during the years ended 31 March 2021 and 2020.

The Group monitors its compliance with banking covenants as required by its bankers, ANZ Bank New Zealand Limited, ASB Bank Limited, and Bank of New Zealand. (Note 17). There have been no breaches during the year.

The Group monitors equity using a gearing ratio, (a non-GAAP measure), which is net debt divided by total equity plus debt. The Group includes within net debt borrowings less cash and cash equivalents.

Counties Power Consumer Trust

Notes to (and forming part of) the Consolidated Financial Statements

For the year ended 31st of March 2021

3. Financial risk management (continued)

Financial risk factors (continued)

The gearing ratios are as follows:

	Notes	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
Borrowings	17	95,200	82,094
Lease liabilities	28	12,078	13,993
Less: Cash and cash equivalents	9	(724)	(2,283)
Net debt		106,554	93,804
Equity		265,388	251,943
Equity plus net debt		371,942	345,747
Gearing ratio		29%	27%

The Trust has no borrowings and is therefore not included in the gearing ratio calculation above.

4. Critical Judgements in Applying the Entity's Accounting Policies

Critical accounting judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the process of applying the entity's accounting policies, which are described in note 2, management has made the following judgements that have the most significant effect on the amounts recognised in the Financial Statements (apart from those involving estimates, which are dealt with below).

(i) Electricity line revenue recognition

Part of the line revenues are based on normalisation, where consumption is estimated to the end of the billing period based on historical actual electricity usage. Occasionally historical electricity usage data is not consistent and subsequent adjustments are made. These adjustments are immaterial compared with total network revenue (refer to note 5).

(ii) Construction contracting and capital contributions

The Group recognises revenue for construction contracting and capital contributions as performance obligations are met. This method requires the Group to review key milestones specified in the agreement to determine the level of completion.

NZ IFRS 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers: The following contract assets and liabilities were recognised:

Contract Liability – Capital Contributions	Notes	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
Opening Balance		4,278	4,407
Amount of transaction price received for unsatisfied performance obligations		15,375	8,287
Revenue recognised from performance obligations satisfied	5	(11,732)	(8,416)
Closing Balance	15	7,921	4,278

The above table pertains to contract liability in relation to capital contributions and is presented as a deferred capital contribution liability in note 15.

Counties Power Consumer Trust

Notes to (and forming part of) the Consolidated Financial Statements

For the year ended 31st of March 2021

4. Critical Judgements in Applying the Entity's Accounting Policies (continued)

Critical accounting judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty (continued)

Contract Liability – Deferred Income	Notes	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
Opening Balance		2,800	2,913
Amount of transaction price received for unsatisfied performance obligations		10,768	9,661
Revenue recognised from performance obligations satisfied	5	(11,467)	(9,774)
Closing Balance		2,101	2,800

- (iii) **Valuation of network distribution system**
The Group estimates the fair value of the distribution network using independent valuers in accordance with the property, plant and equipment accounting policy. Because of the specialised nature of the network and the infrequency of network sale transactions, there is a lack of market-based evidence available to determine fair value. The valuation has therefore been determined using the discounted cash flow method. The major inputs that are used in the valuation model that require management judgement include load growth and pricing, projected capital expenditure profiles and discount and inflation rates.
- (iv) **Valuation of Buildings and Land**
In accordance with its accounting policy the Group revalues its properties at least once every three years. The valuations, which are performed by independent valuers, involve estimates and judgements as detailed in Note 12.
- (v) **Depreciation**
Judgements have been made in relation to the Group's depreciation rates as per note 2(j).
- (vi) **Goodwill**
The Group assesses at the end of each reporting period whether there is any indication that goodwill may be impaired. The group estimates the recoverable amount for each Cash Generating Unit and should an impairment exist, adjusts the carrying value to that amount. The determination of the fair value of the assets and liabilities is based, to a considerable extent, on management's judgement (refer to note 14).

Counties Power Consumer Trust

Notes to (and forming part of) the Consolidated Financial Statements

For the year ended 31st of March 2021

	Notes	2021 \$'000		2020 \$'000	
		Group	Parent	Group	Parent
5. Revenue					
From continuing operations					
Electricity line revenue – gross		61,724	-	60,273	-
Consumer discounts		(10,860)	-	(10,560)	-
Net electricity line revenue		50,864	-	49,713	-
Metering revenue		4,038	-	3,959	-
Construction contract revenue		3,875	-	3,025	-
Capital contributions		11,732	-	8,416	-
Fuel and technology customer revenue		54,514	-	56,392	-
Total from continuing operations		\$ 125,023	\$ -	\$ 121,505	\$ -
6. Other income and gains					
Gain / (Loss) on disposal of fixed assets		45	-	(2)	-
Sundry income		198	-	209	71
Dividend income		-	400	-	300
Interest income		56	56	146	126
		\$ 299	\$ 456	\$ 353	\$ 497
7. Expenses					
Expenses, excluding finance costs, included in the statement of comprehensive income classified by nature					
Employee benefits expense		40,468	-	41,848	-
Depreciation and amortisation expense		21,028	20	19,136	19
Transmission costs		10,989	-	13,587	-
Less: Rental Rebates		(1,111)	-	(852)	-
Raw materials and consumables used		21,662	-	20,436	-
Land Valuation		-	-	730	-
Other expenses		6,285	376	6,263	469
		\$ 99,321	\$ 396	\$ 101,148	\$ 488
Finance costs		\$ 3,484	\$ 1	\$ 2,677	11
Included in expenses above					
Depreciation (note 12)					
Plant & vehicles		3,416	2	3,407	1
Buildings		236	-	224	1
Leasehold improvements		65	-	60	-
Distribution system		9,580	-	8,515	-
Meters & relays		2,048	-	1,968	-
Managed network		48	-	24	-
Right of use assets		2,535	18	2,414	17
Total depreciation		\$ 17,928	\$ 20	\$ 16,612	\$ 19
Amortisation					
Computer software	14	2,050	-	1,474	-
Customer goodwill	14	1,050	-	1,050	-
Total amortisation		\$ 3,100	\$ -	\$ 2,524	\$ -

Counties Power Consumer Trust

Notes to (and forming part of) the Consolidated Financial Statements

For the year ended 31st of March 2021

8. Income tax expense

(a) Income tax expense

	Notes	2021 \$'000		2020 \$'000	
		Group	Parent	Group	Parent
The tax on the Groups profit before tax differs from the theoretical amount that would arise using the weighted average tax rate applicable to profits of the Group as follows:					
Current tax		2,892	-	3,441	-
Deferred tax	13	3,644	-	1,217	-
		\$ 6,536	\$ -	\$ 4,658	\$ -

(b) Numerical reconciliation of income tax expense to prima facie tax payable

Profit before tax		22,518	60	10,033	(2)
Add imputation credits attached to dividend		156	156	117	117
Expenses not deductible for tax purposes		11	-	9,991	-
Reintroduction of building depreciation*		-	-	(3,530)	-
Taxable profit		\$ 22,685	\$ 216	\$ 16,611	\$ 115
Income tax expense attributable to taxable profits		6,411	-	4,703	-
Tax effect of tax loss carried forward		-	-	-	-
Prior year adjustments		125	-	(45)	-
Non-deductible depreciation on buildings		-	-	-	-
Income tax expense		\$ 6,536	\$ -	\$ 4,658	\$ -

*This is a result of the Covid-19 Response (Taxation and Social Assistance Urgent Measures) Bill enacted on 25 March 2020 which impacted the deferred tax as shown in Note 13.

(c) Imputation credit account

The value of imputation credits available to the company for subsequent reporting periods as at 31 March 2021 is \$33.8 million (2020: \$30.4m).

The above amounts represent the balance of the imputation account as at the end of the reporting period adjusted for:

- Imputation credits that will arise from the payment of the amount of the provision for income tax;
- Imputation debits that will arise from the payment of dividends recognised as a liability at the reporting date;
- Imputation credits that will arise from the receipt of dividends recognised as receivables at the reporting date.

	Notes	2021 \$'000		2020 \$'000	
		Group	Parent	Group	Parent
(d) Tax losses available (Trust)					
Balance as at 1 April		1,700	1,700	1,491	1,491
Tax losses applied to Trustee income		(205)	(205)	(143)	(143)
Imputation credits converted to loss carried forward		471	471	353	353
Closing balance		\$ 1,966	\$ 1,966	\$ 1,701	\$ 1,701

Counties Power Consumer Trust

Notes to (and forming part of) the Consolidated Financial Statements

For the year ended 31st of March 2021

	Notes	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
		Group	Parent
9. Cash and cash equivalents			
Bank balances		1,321	597
Closing Balance (excl short term depts)		\$ 1,321	\$ 597

10. Trade and other receivables

Trade receivables	9,104	-	9,114	-
Accrued revenue	8,429	-	5,208	-
Other receivables	10	10	12	12
GST receivable	2	2	39	39
Provision for doubtful receivables	(277)	-	(321)	-
Net trade receivables	17,268	12	14,052	51
Sundry prepayments	1,084	-	874	1
Total Receivables	\$ 18,352	\$ 12	\$ 14,926	\$ 52

Provision for doubtful receivables

Opening balance	321	-	502	-
Plus additional provision recorded during the year	(44)	-	(181)	-
Closing balance	\$ 277	\$ -	\$ 321	\$ -

(a) Bad and doubtful trade receivables

The Group has recognised an expense of \$209,000 in respect of bad and doubtful trade receivables during the year ended 31 March 2020 (2020: \$137,000). The movement has been included in 'expenses' in the Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income.

(b) Fair value

Information about the impairment of trade receivables and the Group's exposure to credit risk can be found in note 3(b). The Group applies NZ IFRS 9 Financial Instruments simplified approach to measuring expected credit losses which uses a lifetime expected credit loss allowance for all trade receivables.

To measure the expected credit losses, trade receivables have been grouped based on days past due. The expected credit loss rates are based on the payment profiles over a 12 month period before 31 March 2021 and the corresponding credit losses during the period, adjusted for any significant amounts that are not receivable.

On that basis, the following table details the loss allowance at 31 March 2021:

	Current	More than 30 days past due	More than 60 days past due	More than 90 days past due	Total
Expected loss rate	0%	3%	14%	26%	2%
Gross carrying value					
- trade receivables (\$'000)	15,741	656	491	645	17,533
Loss Allowance (\$'000)	25	18	68	166	277

Counties Power Consumer Trust

Notes to (and forming part of) the Consolidated Financial Statements

For the year ended 31st of March 2021

	Notes	2021 \$'000		2020 \$'000	
		Group	Parent	Group	Parent
11. Inventories					
Merchandise		4,595	-	4,424	-
Provision for obsolescence		(872)	-	(760)	-
Work in progress		-	-	1,128	-
Goods in transit		238	-	647	-
		\$ 3,961	\$ -	\$ 5,439	\$ -

12. Non-current assets – property, plant and equipment

	Land \$'000	Buildings \$'000	Plant & vehicles \$'000	L'hoid Imprvmts \$'000	Meters & relays \$'000	Distribution system \$'000	Managed network \$'000	Parent – Plant & Equipmt	Total \$'000
Year ended 31 March 2020									
Opening net book value	15,155	9,658	13,260	285	12,492	268,608	826	9	320,293
Additions	1,850	994	3,178	69	527	49,208	135	-	55,961
Change in WIP	-	-	(359)	-	-	-	-	-	(359)
Disposals	-	-	(220)	(1)	(17)	-	-	(2)	(240)
Revaluation gain / (loss)	3823	52	-	-	-	(5,076)	-	-	(1,201)
Depreciation charge (note 7)	-	(223)	(3,406)	(60)	(1,968)	(8,515)	(24)	(1)	(14,197)
Closing net book value	20,828	10,481	12,453	293	11,034	304,225	937	6	360,257
At 31 March 2020									
Cost or valuation	20,828	10,481	26,789	1259	22,633	304,225	2,186	15	388,416
Accumulated depreciation	-	-	(14,336)	(966)	(11,599)	-	(1,249)	(9)	(28,159)
Net book value	20,828	10,481	12,453	293	11,034	304,225	937	6	360,257
Year ended 31 March 2021									
Opening net book value	20,828	10,481	12,453	293	11,034	304,225	937	6	360,257
Additions	660	2,952	3,726	-	1,397	42,438	-	1	51,174
Change in WIP	-	-	1,281	-	-	-	-	-	1,281
Disposals	-	-	(128)	-	(9)	-	-	-	(137)
Revaluation gain/(Loss)	1,526	-	-	-	-	(6,000)	-	-	(4,474)
Depreciation charge	-	(236)	(3,414)	(65)	(2,048)	(9,580)	(48)	(1)	(15,392)
Closing net book value	23,014	13,197	13,918	228	10,374	331,083	889	6	392,709
At 31 March 2021									
Cost or valuation	23,014	13,393	29,257	1,259	24,012	331,083	2,186	15	424,219
Accumulated depreciation	-	(196)	(15,339)	(1,031)	(13,638)	-	(1,297)	(9)	(31,510)
Net book value	23,014	13,197	13,918	228	10,374	331,083	889	6	392,709

Distribution system assets

Distribution system assets were subject to an independent (three-yearly) valuation as at 31 March 2021. As the fair value of the assets was not able to be reliably determined using market-based evidence, the valuation was prepared using discounted cash flow methodology. The valuation was independently prepared by Deloitte and the key assumptions used are shown in the table below. In all cases an element of judgement is required. The valuation was based on revenue and cost assumptions applied against a combination of WACC and CPI inflation rates that are generally in the mid-point of the range.

Counties Power Consumer Trust

Notes to (and forming part of) the Consolidated Financial Statements

For the year ended 31st of March 2021

12. Non-current assets – Property, plant and equipment (Continued)

The valuation range determined by Deloitte was \$316m to \$350m using the following assumptions:

Assumptions	Valuation assumptions adopted	Low	High	Valuation Impact \$'m
Capital expenditure	\$259m ¹	90.0%	110%	-/+1.0
WACC	4.5%	4.0%	5.0%	-/+17.0
RAB Multiple	1.01x	0.96x	1.06x	-/+3.4

¹ This amount represents capital expenditure over ten years, as shown in the Company's asset management plan, excluding terminal capital expenditure.

The valuation was updated and reviewed by Deloitte at 31 March 2021. The Board determined that a revaluation adjustment of \$6 million was required to reduce the carrying value to \$331.1 million, to fall within the valuation range.

Land and Buildings

The network land and buildings were revalued upwards by \$3.8 million as at 31 March 2020 (Revaluation reserve uplift \$4.6 million, devaluation of \$0.7 million to the Consolidated Statement of Profit or Loss). This three yearly valuation was prepared by JLL, independent valuers and property consultants. These valuations were carried out in accordance with PINZ Practice Standards and New Zealand equivalent to International Accounting Standard IAS 16 Property, Plant and Equipment. The valuations were determined based on discounted cashflow, capitalisation of net income, sales comparison and depreciated replacement cost approaches and on the basis of continued use. The valuations took into account the nature of the property, age and conditions of the buildings.

In March 2021, JLL revisited the valuation prepared for land to assess the impact of market changes. An uplift of \$1.5 million was booked to reflect the higher valuation.

Land and Buildings – historical cost

If distribution network, land and buildings were stated on the historical cost basis, the amounts would be as follows:

	2021 \$'000		2020 \$'000	
	Group	Parent	Group	Parent
Distribution Network – deemed cost	422,063	-	379,625	-
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(89,839)	-	(80,259)	-
Net book value	\$ 332,224	\$ -	\$ 299,366	\$ -
Land – deemed cost	5,648	-	4,988	-
Buildings – deemed cost	12,754	-	9,802	-
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(2,280)	-	(2,044)	-
Net book value	\$ 16,122	\$ -	\$ 12,746	\$ -

Counties Power Consumer Trust

Notes to (and forming part of) the Consolidated Financial Statements

For the year ended 31st of March 2021

	Notes	2021 \$'000		2020 \$'000	
		Group	Parent	Group	Parent

13. Deferred tax liabilities

Movements

Opening deferred tax liability		48,398	-	48,713	-
Charge to income tax expense		3,644	-	4,747	-
Reintroduction of building depreciation		-	-	(3,530)	-
Cash flow hedges		123	-	(126)	-
Deferred tax recognised on revalued assets		(1,680)	-	(1,406)	-
Closing balance at 31 March		\$ 50,485	\$ -	\$ 48,398	\$ -

Deferred tax Assets:

Deferred income tax asset to be recovered after more than 12 months		729	-	251	-
Deferred income tax asset to be recovered within 12 months		112	-	107	-
Closing balance at 31 March		\$ 841	\$ -	\$ 358	\$ -

Deferred tax liabilities:

Deferred tax income tax liability to be recovered after more than 12 months		49,239	-	49,071	-
Deferred income tax liabilities (net)		\$ 48,398	\$ -	\$ 48,713	\$ -

	Revaluation of property, plant and equipment \$'000	Depreciation \$'000	Other \$'000	Total \$'000
Deferred tax liabilities				
At 31 March 2019	25,523	19,767	3,423	48,713
Charged to income tax expense	-	4,747	-	4,747
Reintroduction of building depreciation	-	(3,530)	-	(3,530)
Cash flow hedges	-	-	(126)	(126)
Charged directly to equity	(1,406)	-	-	(1,406)
At 31 March 2020	24,117	20,984	3,297	48,398
Charged to income tax expense	-	4,844	(1,200)	3,644
Cash flow hedges	-	-	123	123
Charged directly to equity	(1,680)	-	-	(1,680)
At 31 March 2021	22,437	25,828	2,220	50,485

Counties Power Consumer Trust

Notes to (and forming part of) the Consolidated Financial Statements

For the year ended 31st of March 2021

	Notes	2021 \$'000		2020 \$'000	
		Group	Parent	Group	Parent
14. Intangible assets					
At 31 March					
Cost		46,643	6	45,754	6
Accumulated amortisation		(14,491)	(4)	(12,908)	(3)
Net book value		\$ 32,152	\$ 2	\$ 32,846	\$ 3
Opening net book value		32,846	3	40,893	4
Additions		2,999	-	1,881	-
Change in WIP		(592)	-	794	-
Disposals		-	-	(1)	-
Amortisation charge	7	(3,101)	(1)	(2,525)	(1)
Impairment		-	-	(8,000)	-
Closing net book value		\$ 32,152	\$ 2	\$ 32,846	\$ 3

Policies

Goodwill represents the excess of the consideration transferred over the fair value of the group's share of the net identifiable assets of an acquired subsidiary.

Goodwill is carried at cost less accumulated impairment losses.

Allocation

For the purpose of assessing impairment, assets are grouped in the smallest identifiable group of assets that generates cash inflows that are largely independent of the cash inflows from other assets or group of assets ('CGU'), which at 31 March 2021 is identified as 1 CGU compared with 2 CGU's as at 31 March 2020. Following the legal amalgamation on 1 December 2020, the previously identified 2 CGU's have now been combined due to business operational changes. The identification of CGU and operating segment at 31 March 2021 has been performed in line with guidance in NZ IAS 36 Impairment of assets and NZ IFRS 8 Operating segments, including how the Company makes decisions about resource allocation and how it reviews operating results and assesses performance.

Critical estimates and judgements

To assess impairment, management must estimate the future cash flows for each CGU. This entails making judgements including:

- the expected rate of growth of revenues;
- margins expected to be achieved;
- the level of future expenditure required to support these outcomes; and
- the appropriate discount rate to apply when discounting future cash flows.

Impairment

Goodwill is tested at least annually for impairment against the recoverable amount of the CGU to which it has been allocated or when there is an indication that the assets may be impaired.

An asset is impaired if the Carrying Amount of the CGU is less than the Recoverable Amount at the Measurement Date. The Recoverable Amount of the CGU is defined as the higher of Fair Value Less Costs of Disposal (FVLCD) and its Value in Use (VIU).

At 31 March 2021, there was no impairment of goodwill. (2020: \$8 million).

Counties Power Consumer Trust

Notes to (and forming part of) the Consolidated Financial Statements

For the year ended 31st of March 2021

Assumptions

The recoverable amounts attributed to the CGUs are calculated based on Value in Use ('VIU'). The VIU was calculated based on cash flows discounted using the applicable WACC rate.

Future cash flows are forecast based on actual results and strategic business plans. A five-year plan as approved by the Company Directors has been used.

The table below sets out the key assumptions for the CGU:

Revenue growth, COGS and Direct wages (% annual increase – FY22)	12.8%
Revenue growth (% annual increase – average FY23 to FY26)	3.2%
COGS and Direct wages (% annual increase – average FY23 to FY26)	2.0%
WACC rate	9.6%
Terminal growth rate	1.7%

Revenue is driven by a combination of organic growth and large project works. New market segments have been identified which are expected to provide significantly high mid-term and long-term growth prospects. The business has proven capability within these market segments and the capacity to scale as required as new customers are brought on.

COGS and wages can be scaled up or down to the level of business growth with pricing set on a sustainable basis.

WACC rates take into account the cost of debt and equity. The cost of equity is derived from the expected return on investment by the Group using the capital asset pricing model. The cost of debt takes into account incremental borrowing rates for the Company.

The terminal growth assumption is based on the current implied inflation rates, calculated as the difference between inflation adjusted and vanilla government bond yields at the valuation date.

Sensitivity to changes in key assumptions

The following summarises the effect on goodwill of a reasonably possible change in the key assumptions for the CGU with all other assumptions remaining constant:

	\$'000
Revenue growth (1% decrease year on year from FY23 to FY26)	(11,500)
COGS and Direct wages (1% increase year on year from FY23 to FY26)	(10,300)
WACC (0.5% increase)	(5,500)
Terminal growth (1% decrease)	(7,200)

The recoverable amount of the CGU could equal its carrying amount if the key assumptions were to change as follows:

	From	To
Revenue growth	1% decrease	1.45% decrease
COGS and Direct wages	1% increase	1.65% increase
WACC	0.5% increase	2.3% increase
Terminal growth rate	1% decrease	No impact

Any further impact to the above key assumptions would trigger an impairment.

Counties Power Consumer Trust

Notes to (and forming part of) the Consolidated Financial Statements

For the year ended 31st of March 2021

	Notes	2021 \$'000		2020 \$'000	
		Group	Parent	Group	Parent
15. Trade and other payables					
Trade payables		10,447	6	8,321	7
Sundry accruals		3,296	28	3,753	22
Deferred capital contributions liability		7,921	-	4,278	-
Non-interest bearing liabilities		783	-	783	-
Total current payables		22,447	34	17,135	29
Non-current trade and other payables					
Non-interest bearing liabilities		1,242	-	2,025	-
Total trade and other payables		\$ 23,689	\$ 34	\$ 19,160	\$ 29

16. Employee benefits

Employee benefits	880	-	649	-
Holiday pay	2,842	-	2,532	-
Other leave	116	-	107	-
Total Provisions	\$ 3,838	\$ -	\$ 3,288	\$ -

Provision is made for annual leave, bonuses and superannuation payments due to employees.

Counties Power Consumer Trust

Notes to (and forming part of) the Consolidated Financial Statements

For the year ended 31st of March 2021

	Notes	2021 \$'000 Group	Parent	2020 \$'000 Group	Parent
17. Borrowings					
Unsecured - interest bearing					
Bank loan – current		15,200	-	894	-
Bank loan – non-current		80,000	-	81,200	-
Total borrowings		\$ 95,200	\$ -	\$ 82,094	\$ -

(a) Interest rate risk exposures

Details of the Group's exposure to interest rate changes on interest bearing liabilities are set out in note 3.

(b) Financing arrangements

Unrestricted access was available at reporting date to the following lines of credit:

Credit standby arrangements	2021 \$'000 Group	Parent	2020 \$'000 Group	Parent
Total facilities				
Counties Power Limited	150,000	-	100,000	-
ECL Group Limited	17,900	-	17,900	-
Total facilities	167,900	-	117,900	-

Used at reporting date

Bank Loans	95,200	82,094
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Unused at reporting date

Bank Loans	72,700	35,806
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Counties Power Limited

The revolving credit bank loan facilities may be drawn down at any time. The ASB banking loan facility limit is \$150.0 million and expires on 22 May 2025 (2020: \$100.0 million).

There have been no breaches of debt covenants during the year and the Group forecasts it will continue to comply with covenants.

ECL Group Limited

The revolving credit bank loan facilities may be drawn down at any time. The ASB banking loan facility limit is \$17.9 million and expires on 31 December 2021. There have been no breaches of debt covenants during the year and the Group forecasts it will continue to comply with covenants.

Borrowings are subject to restrictive covenants imposed by ASB. Principal covenants are as follows:

- The ratio of EBIT to interest in respect of each period of 12 months ending on an annual or half-yearly balance date of the Group shall not be less than three times.
- Shareholder's funds are not less than 50% of adjusted total tangible assets at any time during the continuance of the facility.

The weighted average interest rate on borrowings was 2.51% (2020: 3.31%). The Distribution System assets include capitalised borrowing costs of \$300,000 (2020: \$297,000).

Counties Power Consumer Trust

Notes to (and forming part of) the Consolidated Financial Statements

For the year ended 31st of March 2021

(c) **Fair value**

The fair value of current borrowings equals their carrying amount, as all borrowings are at floating interest rates.

(d) **Foreign currency risk exposure**

All of the Group's borrowings are denominated in New Zealand dollars.

18. Trust Funds

	Notes	2021 \$'000 Group	Parent	2020 \$'000 Group	Parent
Trust funds at resettlement		30,797	30,797	30,797	30,797
Total Trust Funds		\$ 30,797	\$ 30,797	\$ 30,797	\$ 30,797

15,000,000 fully paid ordinary shares in Counties Power Limited vested in the Trust in terms of the Energy Company's (Counties Power Limited) Vesting Order 1993, represented by shares and reserves being Opening Shareholders' Funds in Counties Power Limited.

19. Reserves

	Notes	2021 \$'000 Group	Parent	2020 \$'000 Group	Parent
Retained earnings					
Opening balance		195,175	4,203	190,151	4,205
Distribution to Trust Beneficiaries		-	-	-	-
Net Surplus for the year		15,560	60	5,024	(2)
Closing balance		\$ 210,735	\$ 4,263	\$ 195,175	\$ 4,203
Asset revaluation reserve					
Opening balance		32,534	-	31,599	-
Revaluation of distribution system	12	(6,000)	-	(5,076)	-
Revaluation of land and buildings	12	1,526	-	4,605	-
Deferred tax	13	1,680	-	1,406	-
Closing balance		\$ 29,740	-	\$ 32,534	-
Cash flow hedge reserve					
Opening balance		(457)	-	(131)	-
Derivative contracts taken into equity		440	-	(451)	-
Deferred tax	13	(123)	-	125	-
Closing balance		(140)	-	(457)	-
Other reserves					
Put option arrangement	2(v)	(6,500)	-	(6,500)	-
Total retained earnings and reserves		\$ 233,835	\$ 4,263	\$ 220,752	\$ 4,203

Dividends paid by the Company to the Trust was 2 cents per share. (2020: 2 cents per share). In the consolidated statements, this dividend has been eliminated.

Counties Power Consumer Trust

Notes to (and forming part of) the Consolidated Financial Statements

For the year ended 31st of March 2021

20. Remuneration of Auditors and other Advisors

During the year the following fees were paid or payable for services provided by the auditors of the Group, its related practices, non-related audit firms and other audit charges:

Notes	2021 \$'000		2020 \$'000	
	Group	Parent	Group	Parent
Audit services				
Auditing the Financial Statements - RSM	19	19	20	20
Auditing the Financial Statements - PWC	302	-	360	-
Auditing of Regulatory Statements - PWC	49	-	47	-
Total Audit services	370	19	427	20
Other Services				
Other Advisory Services – Non-related audit firms	335	-	464	-
Regulatory Advice - PWC	-	-	9	-
Total Remuneration of Other services	335	-	473	-
Total Remuneration of Auditors and Other Advisors	\$ 705	\$ 19	\$ 900	\$ 20

Regulatory advice includes providing assistance with modelling the regulatory implications of a property development. Advisory services from non-related audit firms includes internal audit services and due diligence work.

21. Reconciliation of surplus after income tax to net cash inflows from operating activities

Notes	2021 \$'000		2020 \$'000	
	Group	Parent	Group	Parent
Reported surplus after tax	15,982	60	5,375	(2)
Depreciation and amortisation	21,028	20	19,136	19
Impairment	-	-	8,000	-
Land valuation	-	-	730	-
Changes in Deferred Tax	3,644	-	1,216	-
Net loss/(gain) on sale of assets	(46)	-	2	-
Finance charge	1	1	2	2
	24,627	21	34,761	21
<i>(Decrease)/Increase in Current Liabilities</i>				
Accounts Payable	4528	4	184	(7)
Employee Benefits	550	-	518	-
Taxation payable	(617)	-	395	-
<i>Decrease/(Increase) in Current Assets</i>				
Receivables & Prepayments	(3463)	3	(590)	39
Income Tax Receivable	-	-	-	-
GST Receivable	37	37	(39)	(39)
Inventories	1,478	-	(1,184)	-
Deferred income	(699)	-	(113)	-
Derivative financial instruments	-	-	-	-
	1,814	44	(831)	(7)
Net cash inflow from operating activities	\$ 42,423	\$ 125	\$ 33,632	\$ (14)

Counties Power Consumer Trust

Notes to (and forming part of) the Consolidated Financial Statements

For the year ended 31st of March 2021

22. Contingent liabilities

The Group had no contingent liabilities as at 31 March 2021 (2020: \$Nil).

23. Commitments

(a) Capital commitments

The Group had \$8,334,686 committed for property, plant and equipment at 31 March 2021. (2020: \$13,556,143).
Refer Note 29.

24. Related party transactions

(a) Parent

The Company is 100% owned by the Trustees elected to the Counties Power Consumer Trust.

(b) Transactions with related parties

The following transactions occurred with related parties:

Notes	2021		2020	
	\$'000		\$'000	
	Group	Parent	Group	Parent
Directors' fees – Counties Power Limited	\$ 345	\$ -	\$ 330	\$ -
Directors' fees – ECL Group Limited	\$ 148	\$ -	\$ 144	\$ -
Trustees' fees	\$ 134	\$ 134	\$ 139	\$ 139
Dividends received	\$ -	\$ 400	\$ -	\$ 300

The Company has agreed to advance \$1,132,600 (2020: \$1,132,600) to its Parent, for the purchase of land. The loan is repayable by 30 June 2024 and will incur interest at the ASB borrowing rate for the Company. (Note 17).

During the year, the Trust rented office premises from SBH Investments, a partnership, in which a Trustee is a partner. The rent totalled \$17,640 excluding the insurance, rates and maintenance components inclusive of GST (2020: \$17,640).

The Company owns 14.29% of SmartCo Limited and benefits from the group buying benefits of SmartCo in relation to smart meters and related equipment. The Company paid a contribution of \$6,000 to the operating costs of SmartCo Limited during the year. (2020: \$6,000).

The Company has, through its 75% ownership of ECL Group Limited, a financial liability with the minority shareholder, Optima Investment Group Limited, of \$6,500,000. (2020: \$ 6,500,000).

The Company owns 31.58% of Ampli Limited. There were no transactions between the Company and Ampli Limited during the year. (2020: \$ nil).

The Group had no other related party transactions during the year.

(c) Outstanding balances

The Group had no other outstanding balances with related parties at reporting date. (2020:\$nil)

(d) Terms and conditions

All related party transactions were made on normal commercial terms and conditions.

Counties Power Consumer Trust

Notes to (and forming part of) the Consolidated Financial Statements

For the year ended 31st of March 2021

24. Related party transactions (continued)

(e) Key management personnel compensation

Notes	2021 \$'000		2020 \$'000	
	Group	Parent	Group	Parent
Salaries and short term employee benefits	2,201	-	2,144	-
Total	\$ 2,201	\$ -	\$ 2,144	\$ -

Key management personnel have been defined as the Leadership team of the Company.

25. Financial Instruments by category

Assets as per statement of financial position

	Amortised cost \$'000		Total \$'000	
	Group	Parent	Group	Parent
At 31 March 2021				
Trade and other receivables	17,268	12	17,268	12
Cash and cash equivalents	1,321	597	1,321	597
Short term investments	2,325	2,325	2,325	2,325
	\$20,914	\$2,934	\$ 20,914	\$2,934
At 31 March 2020				
Trade and other receivables	14,927	53	14,053	52
Cash and cash equivalents	2,486	203	2,486	203
Short term investments	3,286	3,286	3,286	3,286
	\$20,699	\$3,542	\$19,825	\$3,541

Liabilities as per statement of financial position

	Liabilities through other comprehensive income \$'000		Financial liabilities at amortised cost \$'000		Total \$'000	
	Group	Parent	Group	Parent	Group	Parent
At 31 March 2021						
Derivative financial instruments	194	-	-	-	194	-
Borrowings	-	-	95,200	-	95,200	-
Lease Liability	-	-	12,107	29	12,107	29
Trade and other payables	-	-	23,684	29	23,684	29
	\$ 194	\$ -	\$130,991	\$ 58	\$131,185	\$ 58
At 31 March 2020						
Derivative financial instruments	634	-	-	-	634	-
Borrowings	-	-	82,094	-	82,094	-
Lease Liability	-	-	14,022	29	14,022	29
Trade and other payables	-	-	19,160	29	19,160	29
	\$ 634	\$ -	\$115,276	\$ 58	\$115,910	\$ 58

Counties Power Consumer Trust

Notes to (and forming part of) the Consolidated Financial Statements

For the year ended 31st of March 2021

26. Derivative Financial Instruments

	2021 \$'000		2020 \$'000	
	Group	Parent	Group	Parent
Interest rate swap	194	-	634	-
Net derivative financial instruments	194	-	634	-

The Group had outstanding interest rate swaps of \$25,000,000 at 31 March 2021 (2020: \$25,000,000).

The Group had no forward foreign exchange contracts at 31 March 2021 (2020: \$USD 206,000).

27. Other Registered Holdings of the Company

Subsidiaries	Country of Incorporation	Interest held by entity 2021	Interest held by entity 2020
ECL Group Limited	New Zealand	75%	75%
CPL Network Limited	New Zealand	100%	100%

On 1 February 2019, Counties Power Limited acquired a 75% interest in ECL Group Limited. The 25% minority interest is held by Optima Investment Group Limited.

Counties Power Lines Limited was renamed to CPL Network Limited on 18 November 2019. It has been non-trading in both the current and comparative years.

Effective 28 April 2021, CPL Network Ltd has changed its name to Counties Energy Limited.

Investment in Associates and Joint Ventures	Place of Business/Country of incorporation	% of Ownership Interest	Nature of Relationship	Measurement Method
SmartCo Limited	New Zealand	14.29%	Joint Venture	Equity
Ampli Limited	New Zealand	31.58%	Associate	Equity

In 2010, the Company acquired a 14.29% joint venture investment in SmartCo Limited. Due to the nature of the contractual rights and obligations, SmartCo Limited is classified as a joint venture for accounting purposes and accounted for using the equity method.

In 2017, the Company acquired a shareholding of 30.0% in Ampli Limited, (incorporated on 18 December 2017), at nil consideration. Ampli Limited was formed to develop data analytics for the electricity distribution industry. The company is no longer trading.

There were no other changes during the year.

Counties Power Consumer Trust

Notes to (and forming part of) the Consolidated Financial Statements

For the year ended 31st of March 2021

28. Leases

NZIFRS 16 Leases: For the lessee, all leases (other than short-term or low value), are recognised in the Consolidated Statement of Financial Position.

The lease liabilities were measured at the present value of the remaining fixed lease payments and remaining variable lease payments dependent on an index or rate as appropriate. The weighted average incremental borrowing rate applied to lease liabilities was 4.0%. The associated right of use assets for leases were measured at the amount equal to the lease liability determined as at 1 April 2019, with no overall change in net assets.

The leases for buildings relate to office and warehouse space throughout New Zealand. Distribution system assets are used exclusively by the company.

	2021 \$000		2020 \$000	
	Group	Parent	Group	Parent
Right of use assets				
Buildings	8,425	22	9,381	40
Plant and vehicles	1,716	-	2,783	-
Distribution system	1,580	-	1,722	-
Closing net book value	11,721	22	13,886	40
Finance lease liability				
Current	2,010	13	2,822	16
Non-current	10,081	-	11,200	13
	12,091	13	14,022	29
Depreciation on right of use assets				
Buildings	1,820	36	854	17
Plant and vehicles	2,846	-	1,418	-
Distribution system	284	-	142	-
	4,950	36	2,414	17

Right of use assets are depreciated on a straight-line basis over the life of the lease. The current rates are:

Buildings	5-50%
Plant and Vehicles	20-90%
Distribution system	6-14%

Right of use assets that had a lease term of less than 12 months or were low value leases were not material in 2021 or 2020.

Counties Power Consumer Trust

Notes to (and forming part of) the Consolidated Financial Statements

For the year ended 31st of March 2021

29. Deposits paid

	2021 \$'000		2020 \$'000	
	Group	Parent	Group	Parent
Land and Building Deposit	2,000	1,345	1,000	672
Total Provisions	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,345	\$ 1,000	\$ 672

On 19 November 2019, the Group has entered into an agreement to purchase land and building assets at 17 Nelson Street, Pukekohe which covers four separate property titles. As the land and building assets was already under an unconditional sale and purchase agreement, the Group entered into a deed of assignment to take over the rights to purchase the land and building assets from the original purchaser.

As part of the agreement the Group paid a 1st deposit of \$1,000,000 in December 2019, and a 2nd deposit of \$1,000,000 in June 2020, which are recognised as deposits paid in the statement of financial position. The total amount of the purchase is \$7,632,600 (plus GST – if any). Payments to settle this purchase took place with a 3rd deposit of \$832,600 paid in April 2021, and balance of \$4,800,000 at settlement on 30th June 2021. At balance date the Group had a capital commitment of \$5,632,600, plus GST, if any. (2020: \$6,632,600, plus GST, if any)

To finalise the purchase of the land and building assets, the Trust entered into a loan agreement with Counties Power Limited for \$1,132,600 which was executed on settlement date of 30 June 2021.

The Trustees believe that the strategic acquisition of these assets will provide significant benefits to the wholly owned subsidiary, Counties Power Limited, and will provide reoccurring returns for the Trust in the form of rental income in future years.

30. Events occurring after reporting date

Property Settlement - 17 Nelson Street, Pukekohe

On 16th April 2021 the Group paid a 3rd deposit of \$832,600, and balance of \$4,800,000 at settlement on 30th June 2021, as disclosed in Note 29. To finalise the purchase of the land and building assets, the Trust entered into a loan agreement with Counties Power Limited for \$1,132,600 which was executed on settlement date of 30 June 2021.

ASB banking facility for ECL Group Limited

The lending facility was extended in June 2021 for a further three years to 30 June 2024.

On the 10th of August 2021, Counties Power Limited, changed its name to Counties Energy Limited. There have been no other changes to the nature of their operations.

We have received confirmation from the Directors of the Company that since the issue of the consolidated financial statements of Counties Power Limited there have been no other changes that may impact the use of the going concern assumption in the preparation of these financial statements. The Trustees therefore believe that the going concern assumption remains appropriate in the preparation of the consolidated financial statements of Counties Power Consumer Trust.

Counties Power Consumer Trust

Statement of Service Performance

For the year ended 31st of March 2021

The table below sets out the performance targets included in the Statement of Corporate Intent for the year ended 31 March 2021.

	2021		2020	
	TARGET	ACTUAL	TARGET	ACTUAL
Earnings before consumer discounts, interest and tax expressed as a percentage of total average capital employed	8.1%	10.1%	9.4%	6.7%
Profit/(loss) before consumer discounts and after tax expressed as a percentage of average consolidated shareholders' funds	7.3%	8.9%	7.8%	4.8%
Average minutes without electricity per consumer: (SAIDI)				
• Unplanned outages	140	120.81	110	137.73
• Planned	90	70.12	90	87.13
Average number of unplanned faults per consumer (11kV and above) (SAIFI)	2.70	2.55	2.80	2.71

Financial targets were exceeded in 2021.

Unplanned outages, as measured by SAIDI (average minutes without electricity per customer), were better than the target by 19.19 minutes (13.7% favourable). The main categories of faults were third party interference (33.29 minutes), defective equipment (32.02 minutes) and vegetation, (23.61 minutes).

Planned SAIDI was favourable, being 19.88 minutes, (22.1% favourable) under the year's target.

SAIFI performance was favourable, being 0.09, (3.2% favourable), under the year's target.

The SAIDI and SAIFI results were calculated in accordance with the 2015-20 DPP normalisation method using information from the Company's non-financial systems. The SAIDI long term target for unplanned outages remains 110. However, the annual targets have been reviewed, and amended on a reducing scale, to a level that better reflects the improvements being undertaken on the network to achieve the long term target.

Health and Safety Measures

Health and safety continues to be the most important aspect of what the Company does and why it does it. It's the first core business agenda item at each Board meeting and is supported by key information from all corners of the Counties Power Group of businesses.

Counties Power Limited is an active member of the Business Leaders' Health and Safety forum whose prerequisite for membership is a pledge to Zero Harm. Within the reporting period, Counties Power's Safety Management System was externally audited and retained certification. Like many other companies, Counties Power continues to assess key critical risks, and the management thereof, with increasing insight being put on the health component of health and safety.

	2021		2020	
	TARGET	ACTUAL	TARGET	ACTUAL
Lost time Injuries (LTIs)	-	3	-	4

Independent Auditor's Report

To the Beneficiaries of Counties Power Consumer Trust

Opinion

We have audited the consolidated financial statements of Counties Power Consumer Trust and its subsidiary ("the Group"), which comprise:

- the consolidated and parent statement of financial position as at 31 March 2021;
- the consolidated and parent statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income for the year then ended;
- the consolidated and parent statement of changes in equity for the year then ended;
- the consolidated and parent cash flow statement for the year then ended; and
- the notes to the consolidated financial statements, which include significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the consolidated and parent financial statements on pages 9 to 46 present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Counties Power Consumer Trust and its subsidiary as at 31 March 2021, and their financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with New Zealand equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards and International Financial Reporting Standards.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (New Zealand) (ISAs (NZ)). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the consolidated and parent financial statements* section of our report.

We are independent of Counties Power Consumer Trust and its subsidiary in accordance with Professional and Ethical Standard 1 *International Code of Ethics for Assurance Practitioners (including International Independence Standards)* issued by the New Zealand Auditing and Assurance Standards Board, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Other than in our capacity as auditor we have no relationship with, or interests in, Counties Power Consumer Trust or its subsidiary.

Other information

The Trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the Directory on page 3, the Chair Report on pages 4 to 7, the Trustees Statement on page 8, and the Statement of Service Performance on page 47 (but does not include the consolidated and parent financial statements and our auditor's report thereon), which we obtained prior to the date of this auditor's report. Our opinion on the

consolidated and parent financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of audit opinion or assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the consolidated and parent financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information identified above and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the consolidated and parent financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work we have performed on the other information that we obtained prior to the date of this auditor's report, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of the Trustees for the consolidated and parent financial statements

The Trustees are responsible, on behalf of Counties Power Consumer Trust and its subsidiary, for the preparation and fair presentation of the consolidated and parent financial statements in accordance with New Zealand equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards and International Financial Reporting Standards, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of consolidated and parent financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the consolidated and parent financial statements, the Trustees are responsible, on behalf of the Counties Power Consumer Trust and its subsidiary, for assessing the ability of Counties Power Consumer Trust and its subsidiary to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless, the Trustees either intend to liquidate the group or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the consolidated and parent financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the consolidated and parent financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (NZ) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists.

Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the decisions of users taken on the basis of these consolidated and parent financial statements. A further description of the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the consolidated and parent financial statements is located at the XRB's website at:

<https://xrb.govt.nz/standards-for-assurance-practitioners/auditors-responsibilities/audit-report-7>

Who we report to

This report is made solely to the beneficiaries of Counties Power Consumer Trust, as a body, in accordance with the Trust Deed. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state those matters which we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than Counties Power Consumer Trust and its' beneficiaries, as a body, for our audit work, for this report or for the opinions we have formed.

