

Renewable energy projects among business growth opportunities



L/R: Peter McClean (Pioneer Energy) and Justin Peterson (PowerNet).

Hydroelectricity investments in Central Otago and the Nelson area are two key projects coming together for the Southern Generation Ltd Partnership.

Pioneer Generation Investments Ltd and Roaring Forties (owned by Electricity Invercargill Ltd and The Power Company Ltd) together form the Southern Generation Ltd Partnership.

Pioneer Energy has two renewable energy projects under construction, the Matiri near Nelson, and The Upper Fraser facility, near Alexandra in Central Otago.

PowerNet GM business growth Justin Peterson visited the Upper Fraser facility in early August to meet Pioneer's field team and to take a closer look at the turnkey substation design.

The Upper Fraser project was finished earlier in 2019, and the Matiri project is scheduled to be operational by late 2019.

The Matiri and Upper Fraser schemes add another 12 MW and nominally 60 GWh of generation to the Pioneer Energy portfolio. Both will be transferred to Southern Generation once operational.

Justin says the business growth area is a mixture of new and emerging opportunities, and finding safer and more efficient ways of doing traditional tasks.

PowerNet is currently looking at two potential external contracts valued at about \$4 million, he says.

Business growth opportunities do not impact on PowerNet's core roles of delivering safe, efficient and reliable power to its communities – they enhance them, he says.

"Our focus is the networks – our number one priority – so we have to be mindful of that."