

Q. Reference: CA-NLH-028.

Table 1 shows a huge increase in Total Capital Costs incurred for metering over the period 2020 to 2024.

a) Please explain the increase.

b) Please extend Table 1 to include estimates/forecasts for 2025, 2026 and 2027.

A. a) The increase in total capital costs is due to the Replace Metering System capital project that began in 2022 and will be completed in 2025. This project replaced approximately 31,000 manually read meters with drive-by meters (automated meter readings).

b) Please refer to Table 1 for the five-year historical metering operations and maintenance ("O&M") and capital costs for 2020 to 2024, forecast estimate for 2025 and budget estimate for 2026 and 2027.

Table 1: Historical, Forecast and Budget Metering O&M and Capital Costs 2020–2027 (\$000)¹

Description	2020A	2021A	2022A	2023A	2024A	2025F	2026B	2027B
Total O&M Costs	438.8	401.7	553.2	560.7	531.1	558.3	727.0	763.3
Total Capital Costs	180.6	228.6	2,260.6	2,196.3	4,263.5	1,885.6	2,462.5	1,205.3
Total Metering Costs	619.5	630.3	2,813.8	2,757.0	4,794.6	2,443.9	3,189.5	1,968.6

¹ Numbers may not add due to rounding.