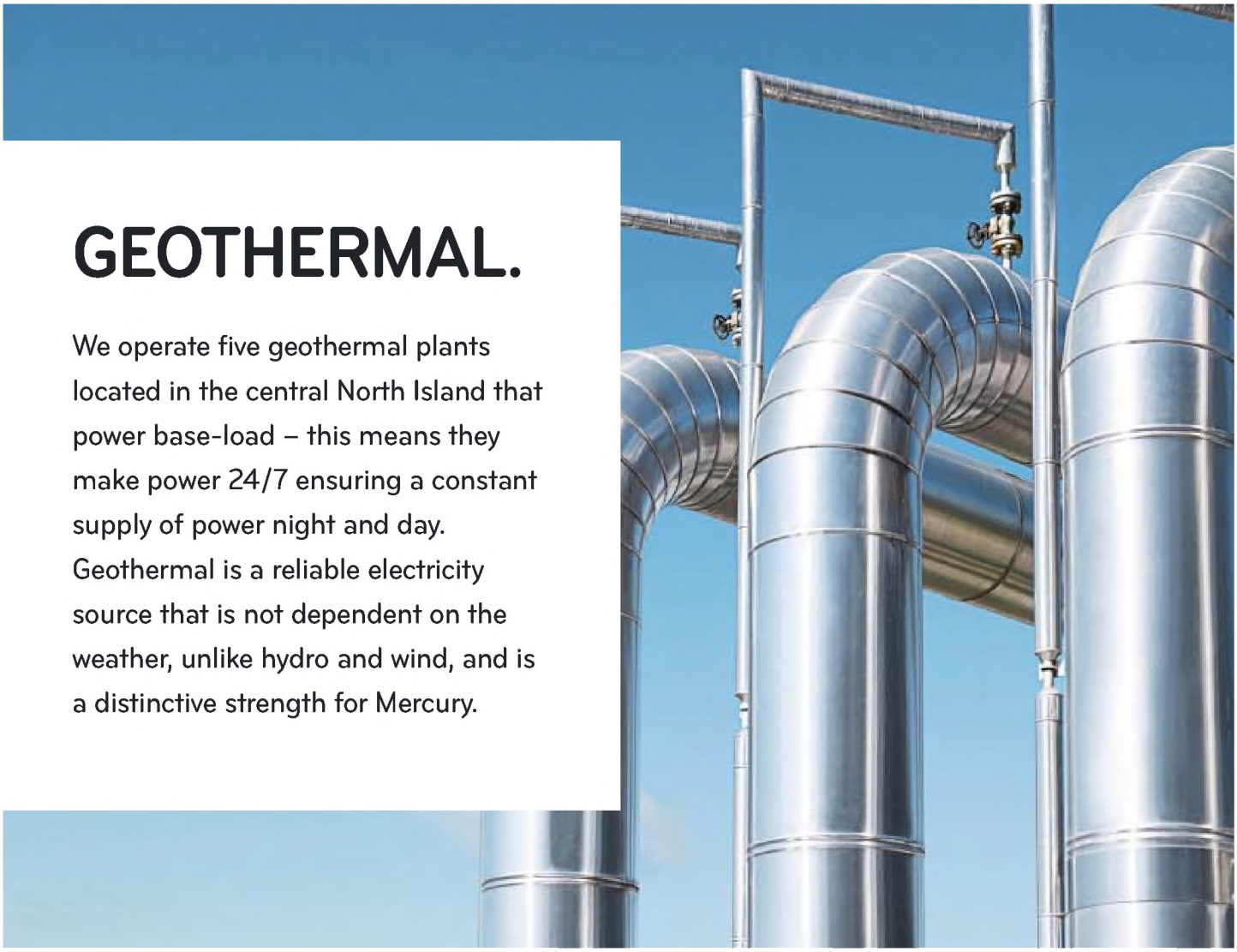

GEOTHERMAL.

We operate five geothermal plants located in the central North Island that power base-load – this means they make power 24/7 ensuring a constant supply of power night and day. Geothermal is a reliable electricity source that is not dependent on the weather, unlike hydro and wind, and is a distinctive strength for Mercury.

GEOTHERMAL STATIONS

KAWERAU

MŌKAI

LEAVE A MESSAGE

Located in the eastern Bay of Plenty, Kawerau has a long history of geothermal development starting in 1952. The geothermal field has over 100 wells used by multiple geothermal operators.

READ MORE

Located on the Mōkai geothermal field, 30km northwest of Taupō. Owned by Tuaropaki Power Company and Mercury.

READ MORE

NGĀ AWA PŪRUA

Located on the Rotokawa geothermal field, 14km northeast of Taupō. A joint venture partnership with Tauhara North No.2 Trust.

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NGĀ TAMARIKI

17 km northeast of Taupō, with the largest Ormat 20MW Binary Cycle units in the world.

READ MORE

ROTOKAWA

Located on the Rotokawa geothermal field, 14km northeast of Taupō. A joint venture with Tauhara North No.2 Trust.

READ MORE

GENERATION DEVELOPMENT

New Zealand leads the world with 80% renewables, and a big part of the growth in renewables over the last decade has been Mercury's investment in geothermal generation in partnership with Maori landowners.

Mercury is one of the world's largest geothermal power station owners following the successful completion of three major geothermal power stations between 2008 and 2013 – Kawerau, Ngā Awa Pūrua and Ngā Tamariki. The combined output of electricity from these stations, which normally run 24/7, provides enough renewable electricity to supply 330,000 New Zealand homes (2800 GWh).

RELIABLE GEOTHERMAL

Geothermal expertise is a point of difference for Mercury, and we work hard every day to keep the five geothermal plants we operate running reliably and efficiently. As part of this we drill make-up wells at our plants from time to time to maintain reliable geothermal fuel supply so our customers can enjoy using renewable energy every day. We recently drilled four new make-up wells to replenish the fuel supply - two at Rotokawa and another two at our Kawerau field. Geothermal wells can go as deep at 3,000m underground, and are built to operate in excess of 20 years.

GEOTHERMAL FAQS

What is the volume of emissions generated from New Zealand's geothermal power plants?

Mercury says its generation assets produce electricity from 100% renewable sources, but don't its geothermal power stations emit significant volumes of carbon dioxide?

Why is carbon dioxide emitted through the geothermal generation process?

Why is geothermal power generation important to New Zealand?

How far underground do you have to drill to tap into geothermal reservoirs?

How long does it take to drill a well?

Will we reach a point where we will run out of geothermal energy underground?

What is the difference between a Flash Plant and a Binary Plant geothermal power station?

What impact does drilling have on the surrounding environment - short and long term?

Does the drilling cause earthquakes/seismic activity?

Will the drilling affect the water supply of nearby towns or residential areas?

How do you keep safe working around geothermal features?

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