



The Grand Electrification of the South

In 1914, in the deep south of New Zealand, a revolutionary idea took root: Southlanders decided to build their own hydro-electric power station and supply electricity to the entire province, returning all profits to the people of Southland.

The rest of New Zealand quickly followed the southern innovation – to the extent that New Zealand had, during the interwar years, the greatest number of rural people with access to electric power in the whole of the developed world.

The Grand Electrification of the South traces the origins of the Southland scheme, its transition to government ownership, and the convoluted road of its return to the people of Southland within the structure of The Power Company Limited. Personal anecdotes and over 100 photos (many historical) and diagrams, illustrate the carefully researched narrative.

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Copies available from the publisher for just \$20 (including GST)

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The Power Company Limited is donating the proceeds from the sale of the book to the local St John.

