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Dispatch

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### **Dispatch Day 1 – Huntly Power Station and Rotowaro Mine**

The trip started the first day with the class rendezvous Monday at noon at the Auckland airport. After packing into two vehicles, we started the drive south for our first stop to the Huntly Power Station followed by a drive through of the Rotowaro Mine.



Huntly Power Station is the largest thermal power station in New Zealand. It is operated by Genesis Energy Limited. It supplies about 31% of the country's energy demand. It has two 250 MW coal-gas steam turbine units, 50 MW gas peaking plant and a 403 MW combined cycle gas turbine plant. It operates on natural gas from Taranaki and coal from the Rotowaro Mine. About 50% of the coal used in the older section of the plant is imported from Indonesia. Before the 1990s, Huntly used natural gas to power the generation but switched to coal due to dwindling resources. It uses the water from the Waikato River for cooling purposes.





The Rotowaro Mine was once a small coal mining township about 10 km from Huntly. The town was built for miner's house but was entirely removed in the 1980s for a large open cast mine. Mining in the Rotowaro began around 1915 by Taupiri Coal Co. In 1928, it was producing 11,000 tons of coal a month. A train station was opened in 1918 but was closed down in 1997. It produces 1.3 million tons of coal per year and is projected to run till 2018.