

Senior Data Engineer (Generation)

Role Purpose

Work across New Zealand’s largest renewable energy portfolio. This is a unique opportunity to be part of a new chapter in Meridian’s Generation business — helping shape the future of data engineering from the ground up. As we modernize our data platforms and practices, you’ll be at the forefront of designing and building the systems, standards, and tools that will power decision-making and innovation

The Senior Data Engineer (Generation Business Unit) is a leader within the Generation team, playing a key role in shaping and executing data and AI architecture and engineering across the business, ensuring alignment with Generation and DigiGen programme goals. This role collaborates with cross-functional teams to enable the creation of data-driven products and experiences for both operational and business teams. You'll transform raw data into actionable, democratized data products that drive business value and support the DigiGen vision of modernizing data engineering, improving data-driven decision-making, and optimizing outcomes through data.

As a leader, you will mentor other data practitioners, fostering a culture of innovation, strategic thinking, and continuous improvement. You'll have the chance to influence architecture, governance, and team culture from day one, leaving a lasting mark on the future of Generation.

Key Responsibilities

- Design and implement modular and scalable data and AI architectures and data models, ensuring Generation data and platforms serve all required data personas.
- Develop and manage data pipelines from ingestion to serving, including automated quality and integrity using DataOps practices.
- Ensure platform high availability, performance, observability, privacy, and security for Generation’s operational and business data.
- Support the transition of Generation’s data practice to modern and AI-supported approaches, ensuring data is accessible and trusted.
- Contribute to enterprise governance, and design and implement Generation-specific principles, patterns, and standards in alignment with DigiGen and Meridian’s overall data ecosystem.
- Collaborate with Generation cross-functional teams and enterprise ICT, acting as a conduit for aligning Generation’s data activities with the wider enterprise data strategy.
- Mentor and empower team members, driving continuous improvement and embedding capabilities for lasting impact beyond the programme’s timeline.

Capabilities

Domain expertise

- Proven experience collaborating with business and product teams to achieve shared outcomes, including design, build, enablement, and transition, with a focus on Generation operations.
- Proven track record with modern data platforms, such as Databricks and AWS or Azure native services, supporting large-scale energy data.
- Solid experience designing, building, and maintaining scalable ETL/ELT data pipelines, ideally using Spark for data at scale in energy or industrial contexts.
- Broad data modelling expertise across the data lifecycle, with an understanding of Generation business needs.
- Strong programming skills in languages such as PySpark, SQL, Python, and exposure to Terraform for IaC (Infrastructure as Code).
- Demonstrated ability to collaborate with business and product, and mentoring other data practitioners.

Individual Skills

- Excellent communication and collaboration abilities
- Excellent planning and work prioritisation abilities
- Adaptability and problem solving skills in dynamic environments.