

From: energymarkets@mbie.govt.nz
To: [Energy Markets](#)
Subject: Electricity Price Review submission
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Region

Auckland

Category

Other Industry Groups, Advocates, Service Providers, Technology Companies

Do you accept these terms & conditions?

Yes

A1. Establish a consumer advisory council

A2. Ensure regulators listen to consumers

B1. Establish a cross-sector energy hardship group

B2. Define energy hardship

B3. Establish a network of community-level support services to help consumers in energy hardship

B4. Set up a fund to help households in energy hardship become more energy efficient

B5. Offer extra financial support for households in energy hardship

B6. Set mandatory minimum standards to protect vulnerable and medically dependent consumers

B7. Prohibit prompt payment discounts but allow reasonable late payment fees

B8. Seek bulk deals for social housing and/or Work and Income clients

C1. Make it easier for consumers to shop around

Technology can provide an unbiased and instant comparison on available alternative plans.

Accurassi is an Australian based technology company that has delivered a SAAS digital solution called kogbill, used in Australia by the New South Wales government, Victoria Government, and the tier 1 retailers.

kogbill is able to upload an existing digital electricity or gas bill to provide the consumer (residential and SME) with an instant comparison of their current plan against competitive plans on a like for like basis, incorporating usage (TOU), concessions, discounts, solar etc. In the New South Wales Government application the usage is compared against >4,000 plans from 27 retailers. In the previous six months the average annual saving per consumer has been AUD\$422.

As a hosted digital solution it would be able to integrate into the NZ framework via API's, and is able to operate at scale and it is possible to fulfill via API if the retailer has the facility to receive.

C2. Include information on power bills to help consumers switch retailer or resolve

billing disputes

C3. Make it easier to access electricity usage data

C4. Make distributors offer retailers standard terms for network access

C5. Prohibit win-backs

C6. Help non-switching consumers find better deals

Consumer inertia is an impediment to receiving available savings, especially among the vulnerable and those who do not embrace technology.

kogbill is able to extract data from bills and compare at scale. Rather than integrate into retailer billing systems, it would be feasible to securely bulk receive all electronic bills (as a common source of truth) and then conduct a comparison, pushing the projected savings to consumers for consideration.

C7. Introduce retail price caps

D1. Toughen rules on disclosing wholesale market information

D2. Introduce mandatory market-making obligations

D3. Make generator-retailers release information about the profitability of their retailing activities

D4. Monitor contract prices and generation costs more closely

D5. Prohibit vertically integrated companies

E1. Issue a government policy statement on transmission pricing

E2. Issue a government policy statement on distribution pricing

E3. Regulate distribution cost allocation principles

E4. Limit price shocks from distribution price increases

E5. Phase out low fixed charge tariff regulations

E6. Ensure access to smart meter data on reasonable terms

E7. Strengthen the Commerce Commission's powers to regulate distributors' performance

E8. Require smaller distributors to amalgamate

E9. Lower Transpower and distributors' asset values and rates of return

F1. Give the Electricity Authority clearer, more flexible powers to regulate network access for distributed energy services

F2. Transfer the Electricity Authority's transmission and distribution-related regulatory functions to the Commerce Commission

F3. Give regulators environmental and fairness goals

F4. Allow Electricity Authority decisions to be appealed on their merits

F5. Update the Electricity Authority's compliance framework and strengthen its information-gathering powers

F6. Establish an electricity and gas regulator

G1. Set up a fund to encourage more innovation

G2. Examine security and resilience of electricity supply

G3. Encourage more co-ordination among agencies

G4. Improve the energy efficiency of new and existing buildings