

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

Canterbury

Category

Consumers, Consumer Groups and Advocates

Do you accept these terms & conditions?

Yes

A1. Establish a consumer advisory council

Not keen on another quango. If the current rules are not working to government's satisfaction then change the rules, not add another expense

A2. Ensure regulators listen to consumers

B1. Establish a cross-sector energy hardship group

That is a political issue and decision - this must surely be outside the panel's terms of reference

B2. Define energy hardship

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

EECA?

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

No. That is what social welfare is for

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

Isn't this what our health system is for

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

I support this proposal

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

This is the prerogative of our social welfare system - no need to re-invent the wheel. Perhaps Work and income should purchase and operate a hydro electric generation facility.

C1. Make it easier for consumers to shop around

A good idea in principal but it eventuates a bit like a wack-a-mole!

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

Mildly useful - better to establish a comprehensive web site with appropriate advice and links. Site to be well advertised.

C3. Make it easier to access electricity usage data

See C2.

C4. Make distributors offer retailers standard terms for network access

Very much agree with this proposal

C5. Prohibit win-backs

Agree

C6. Help non-switching consumers find better deals

Wack-a-mole again. Better to encourage the rewarding of loyalty by the retailers

C7. Introduce retail price caps

It may as well be government run if this action was enforced.

D1. Toughen rules on disclosing wholesale market information

I'm not sure that this section should be called "placing commercial competition in a straight jacket" rather than "reinforcing wholesale market competition!"

The implementation of the proposals in Section D will again require an army of civil servants to enforce and stifle the free market - a free market which was implemented by government in the 90s to provide competition.

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

That will do a load of good!! NOT. They have been elected to govern - not make statements

E2. Issue a government policy statement on distribution pricing

And again

E3. Regulate distribution cost allocation principles

E4. Limit price shocks from distribution price increases

E5. Phase out low fixed charge tariff regulations

Yes. This is a classic case of government bungling and the whole thing back firing in favour of people like myself with a well insulated house and gas hot water being able to qualify for the low fixed charge when the scheme was intended for the less financial able people. It needs to be remembered when considering some of the earlier proposals in this survey

E6. Ensure access to smart meter data on reasonable terms

Yes. There are enormous savings to networks with access to smart meter data.

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

Strengthen?? They don't have more than sufficient power now??

E8. Require smaller distributors to amalgamate

Ouch!! It must be a socialist government in power at present!!

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

See E8

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

Yes

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

I'm not sure about this one - more consultation and understanding before hand.

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

The CC gather screeds of information now from the networks so I suggest the EA contract some of the information they require from the commission.

F6. Establish an electricity and gas regulator

I thought this is the role of the Commerce Commission and the Electricity Authority - silly me.

G1. Set up a fund to encourage more innovation

G2. Examine security and resilience of electricity supply

Do an exercise on the alpine fault release - I suggest that would be a sufficient 'examination' to understand the enormity of such a task. Cold starting the hydro electric generators will be the first problem and considering there are only about 6 - 8 portable temporary pylons in storage in the South Island will be the next problem.

G3. Encourage more co-ordination among agencies

Or reduce the number of agencies.

G4. Improve the energy efficiency of new and existing buildings

A no-brainer but who pays?