

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

Waikato

Category

Individuals, Researchers and Academics

Do you accept these terms & conditions?

Yes

A1. Establish a consumer advisory council

If this will give consumers an effective voice within the energy market yes.

A2. Ensure regulators listen to consumers

Some companies seem to have a monopoly in our district of Turangi and in particular The Lines Company. This company does not listen to consumers and they charge ridiculous charges. Eg charges for their meters, charges for power supply and time of usage when they are not the power supply company but only the company that runs and maintains the power lines. We pay separate energy supply companies for our electricity. The company which manages the power lines charges us the same price for their services as the company that sells us electricity. In some cases the costs for power lines and meters is more than the cost of the electricity supply. And regardless of the protestations of local consumers their prices continue to increase.

B1. Establish a cross-sector energy hardship group

What does cross sector mean? Government sold out of the energy production business which taxpayers paid for years ago, now these companies have a monopoly on energy supply and are screwing over the population. They need to be regulated to give cheap and efficient energy supplies to all consumers.

B2. Define energy hardship

Possible examples could include, going without heating during winter months. People who require electricity and heating equipment for health reasons going without because it is unaffordable.

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

How will this be funded? Yes it sounds like a good idea but the establishment of these services acknowledges that there is a problem in our communities with energy hardship so if that is the case then why isn't the issue being dealt with in an effective manner.

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

Set up a fund which will give all consumers access to more efficient energy supplies.

B5. Offer extra financial support for households in energy hardship

Yes but also regulation of energy suppliers and the prices they charge.

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

Yes.

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

Does this statement mean that the energy supply companies are really just overcharging their customers and using the prompt payment discount system deceptively? Because if this is so these companies should be made accountable and have to pay their customers back.

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

Not sure how this would work, perhaps Work and Income and Ministry of Health could cover this.

C1. Make it easier for consumers to shop around

Yes but the Lines Company have a monopoly in Turangi.

Consumers pay for their meters how unfair is that. Does a carpenter charge his customers for his hammer every month. We pay a fee each month for their meter stuck on our houses, this is their equipment and we are paying them for these meters. We were all told that we needed to have their smart meters and we are being charged for them as well!! We can't shop around in Turangi for this service. I would like solar power to bypass them completely but that would be too costly to install. If loans were made available to consumers at a low cost I would take this up.

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

C3. Make it easier to access electricity usage data

How is this done?

C4. Make distributors offer retailers standard terms for network access

I don't understand this does it relate to peak and off peak times?

C5. Prohibit win-backs

Don't understand win-backs

C6. Help non-switching consumers find better deals

Yes who will do this ?

C7. Introduce retail price caps

Particularly for those who own the lines and the meters but charge for the power that runs through those lines whereby consumers are paying an electricity supply bill to the electricity retailer and the same amount and more in some cases to the company who owns the power lines and the meters.

D1. Toughen rules on disclosing wholesale market information

Yes if the consumer benefits and gains clarification

D2. Introduce mandatory market-making obligations

I dont understand what this means but if it entails regulation gor the sake of fairness to the consumers and the community then yes.

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

Yes and accountability to their communities.

D4. Monitor contract prices and generation costs more closely

It all comes back to accountability

D5. Prohibit vertically integrated companies

Whats this?

E1. Issue a government policy statement on transmission pricing

Sounds like government has just realised that they've sold us diwn the tube and need us to back them up to fix up their shit.....

E2. Issue a government policy statement on distribution pricing

Same as above

E3. Regulate distribution cost allocation principles

E4. Limit price shocks from distribution price increases

Jfc

E5. Phase out low fixed charge tariff regulations

No

E6. Ensure access to smart meter data on reasonable terms

Not if ut means thst consumers have to pay for these meters

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

Yes

E8. Require smaller distributors to amalgamate

Why

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

Im not sure

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

Yes especially where certain companies have a monopoly over the distribution system such as the Lines Company in Te Kuiti, Taumarunui and Turangi.

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

To be honest Ive never heard of Electricity Authority before and their regulatory functions and that is probably the case for most of the consumers in the Turangi area. Has this been a deliberate deception on their part to keep the consumer uninformed and paying through the nose? In fairness to consumers and the communities yes the Commerce commission should have a role in the regulations of this service which all New Zealanders partake.

F3. Give regulators environmental and fairness goals

Definitely

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

Definitely

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

Who will enforce this?

F6. Establish an electricity and gas regulator

Yes

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