

**From:** energymarkets@mbie.govt.nz  
**To:** [Energy Markets](#)  
**Subject:** Electricity Price Review submission  
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9(2)(a)

**Region**

Auckland

**Category**

Consumers, Consumer Groups and Advocates

**Do you accept these terms & conditions?**

Yes

**A1. Establish a consumer advisory council**

Strongly support this option provided it is sufficiently supported financially and resourced to be able to be effective.

**A2. Ensure regulators listen to consumers**

This is essential

**B1. Establish a cross-sector energy hardship group**

Yes support the bulk buying by institutions not subsidised by other consumers

**B2. Define energy hardship**

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

I support this proposal

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

No comment

**B5. Offer extra financial support for households in energy hardship**

This shouldn't be funded by other consumers and the risk of industry funding is that the cost will be passed in to consumers

Requires Government input or the bulk buying option discussed

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

Standards yes but funding should not be a generator or distributor cost

This a social welfare issue

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

Dont agree late payment fees will only further penalise those

In hardship

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

Good proposal

**C1. Make it easier for consumers to shop around**

Yes but it is fairly easy now in most regions

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

An average bill is 2 to 3 pages long now

At most it would need to be a brief reference

Bills need to be simplified that would make the item cost more apparent

**C3. Make it easier to access electricity usage data**

Yes as above

**C4. Make distributors offer retailers standard terms for network access**

No comment

**C5. Prohibit win-backs**

Agree it might encourage providers to offer the best deal sooner

**C6. Help non-switching consumers find better deals**

No comment

**C7. Introduce retail price caps**

The danger with caps is if can increase the price

Though with the seasonal pricing this may be required

**D1. Toughen rules on disclosing wholesale market information**

No comment

**D2. Introduce mandatory market-making obligations**

This is possibly where solar energy should be addressed

The pay back to private consumers for the energy they produce is being actively discouraged

Companies are paying approx 25% back and increasing fixed line charges

Solar generation on private buildings would solve a number of these issues including hardship

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

No comment

**D4. Monitor contract prices and generation costs more closely**

I agree

**D5. Prohibit vertically integrated companies**

Would this just not add to the complexity and number of companies now and make your recommendation to combined some if the smaller ones more difficult to achieve

**E1. Issue a government policy statement on transmission pricing**

The policy would need an enforcement mechanism

Guidelines have proved very ineffective

**E2. Issue a government policy statement on distribution pricing**

As above

**E3. Regulate distribution cost allocation principles**

No comment

**E4. Limit price shocks from distribution price increases**

If possible yes

**E5. Phase out low fixed charge tariff regulations**

No comment

**E6. Ensure access to smart meter data on reasonable terms**

No comment

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

Definitely

Including on the Solar energy issue

New Zealand behind in this and companies are actively discouraging it by punitive pricing

Please i am not in the Solar energy business but am a consumer of it

**E8. Require smaller distributors to amalgamate**

Yes

There needs to be a lit less distributors

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

If it is possible will still maintaining a secure modern and effective power supply

There seems go be debate over this

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

With enforcement powers

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

Yes

**F3. Give regulators environmental and fairness goals**

This could open to abuse

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

Yes

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

No comment

**F6. Establish an electricity and gas regulator**

Could not one more body cover all these areas with the commerce commission playing an increased role

**G1. Set up a fund to encourage more innovation**

Regional Growth fund has \$3 billion

**G2. Examine security and resilience of electricity supply**

Definitely

**G3. Encourage more co-ordination among agencies**

Yes

**G4. Improve the energy efficiency of new and existing buildings**

Agree with Solar being widely encouraged both by promotion and financial incentives not penalised

When it is cheaper for Saudi Arabia to utilize Solar so they can sell their oil what more proof do we need