

From: Hamilton Rates
To: [Energy Markets](#)
Subject: Electricity Price Review - Directive
Date: Friday, 22 March 2019 11:20:14 a.m.

To whom it may concern.

Your model of supplying and charging for electricity in New Zealand is broken and should be returned to Electricity Supply authorities model pre- "Rogernomics Era" where prices were reasonable and services accessible to ALL in our society. The model of privatisation as it is now works for the profiteering companies/corporations and their shareholders and NOT the consumers, many of whom are going cold in the winter, sitting in darkness and going without hot food. It is driving people further into poverty. Why are you building a further layer of costly bureaucracy dealing with people "begging" for financial relief? It makes no sense.

I refuse to fill out your online questionnaire type form as I find it heavy in jargon, a fair proportion of it is not understandable and therefore misleading. Then you have on this form a box to tick to "agree to the terms and conditions". This is the first time I have seen a contract within a submission to government?!

I find this bizarre but then are we talking to a corporation rather than a government department?

An example is this statement on your form:-

"Ensure access to smart meter data on reasonable terms" -What does this actually mean - who is selling the consumers smart meter data and who is gaining and who is accessing what and why? What terms are you talking about?

Smart meters in themselves are a health hazard, have fire issues, cyber security issues and foisted on unsuspecting consumers with no informed consent. It is unethical and shameful how this was rolled out. Many countries such as Canada have had thousands of these hazardous devices removed. New Zealand authorities in general are always picking up on discarded technology and slow to act when they find out they are hazardous.

I have heard the great difficulty of consumers in the King Country area where "The Lines Company" are enforcing extortionist line fees causing undue hardship and angst in this community. Many have switched to alternatives such as gas bottles, solar power etc and because of this, costs are rising to cater for the diminished number of consumers. Many have relayed to you the following which I reiterate -they require a " new law CAPPING the lines component of the total power bill to no more than 30% Many of us pay 50% and some up to 60% in lines of our total power bill; that before we've even switched on a light." In my considered opinion this would not be required if the model was simply returned to supply authorities as I previously indicated. It has been brought to my attention that consumers if using off peak power could pay less during these periods but not so any longer because the infrastructure was "removed" so there is no opportunity for discount. I find this a complete betrayal to the consumer in removing this choice.

My father Ron Rhodes of Taumarunui (easily found in the phone book) is a retired Electrical Supply authority engineer with knowledge and expertise along with his surviving colleagues know how the electricity industry worked pre-Rogernomics era and worked successfully for the consumer and this country. I strongly suggest you meet with him to discuss these matters.

Government continues to fail in recognising that "all living costs come out of the same

pocket". Wages continue to stagnate yet taxes such as rates continue to skyrocket out of control because of overspending by most councils and where there is NO oversight to reel them in. The same could be said about electricity costs.

New Zealand's economy is continuing to decline/stagnate with the ever increasing hardship people face in keeping a roof over their heads and will continue to do so unless the corporate model of government is returned to a body that acts for the good of the people and keeping costs affordable; that recognises borrowing from overseas banks to keep the economy afloat is never going to work. Your department has the choice to dismantle the present broken model of electricity delivery which is failing this country OR provide the best possible model to help the consumer survive in this difficult economic climate and therefore ensure that New Zealand prospers.

I wish to be heard.

Sincerely,
Mischele Rhodes
President
Hamilton Residents & Ratepayers Assn Inc