

**From:** energymarkets@mbie.govt.nz  
**To:** [Energy Markets](#)  
**Subject:** Electricity Price Review submission  
**Date:** Thursday, 28 February 2019 11:28:45 a.m.

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**Name (full)**

Marion Hall

**Company (if applicable)**

**Email**

9(2)(a)

**Contact number**

9(2)(a)

**Region**

Waikato

**Category**

Consumers, Consumer Groups and Advocates

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

Yes

**A1. Establish a consumer advisory council**

Yes

**A2. Ensure regulators listen to consumers**

Yes

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

**B2. Define energy hardship**

Low income users in the Turangi area find TLC charges difficult to deal with. Pensioners are in the same boat. My power bill is much less than TLC charges. This should never be the case .

As hard as we try to reduce TLC charges, come winter more folk are going to be cold and sick and stress caused by the cost of their TLC bills.

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

Lower TLCCCharges. They are rediculously high in this small region.

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

Lower TLC charges would be a better idea. Maybe they need to merge with another company.

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

The Govt does this for a short time in winter. If TLC pricing was not so high this would assist those with energy hardship

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

Is this not currently in place?

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

Disagree. Why should those who pay on time be disadvantaged by those who make late payments.

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

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

They can do this now.

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

Does this not happen now?

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

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

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**C5. Prohibit win-backs**

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

**C7. Introduce retail price caps**

Yes

**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**

Yes

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

Yes

**D5. Prohibit vertically integrated companies**

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

Why? TLC needs a thorough investigation. They have a small data base and should be merged with another company to reduce the cost to this small data base.

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

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**E3. Regulate distribution cost allocation principles**

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

How do you plan to do this.?

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

Why?How will you achieve this

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

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

How do you intend to do this?

**E8. Require smaller distributors to amalgamate**

Most definitely. TLC is a typical one.

**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**

What will that achieve?

**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**

Maybe

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

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

Is there a problem here?

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

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

Sure.