

From: energymarkets@mbie.govt.nz
To: [Energy Markets](#)
Subject: Electricity Price Review submission
Date: Saturday, 23 February 2019 12:13:07 p.m.

Name (full)

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Company (if applicable)

N.a

Email

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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

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

Yes

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

No

B5. Offer extra financial support for households in energy hardship

No. This is a matter for government grants- if necessary

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

Yes

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

Yes

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

There is no need for a two tier system

C1. Make it easier for consumers to shop around

Yes

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

Yes

C3. Make it easier to access electricity usage data

Yes. I must comment that to date these questions miss the essential point as far I am concerned Complaint relates to the Lines Company operating in the Turangi area which forces consumers in that area to pay excessive fees to it

C4. Make distributors offer retailers standard terms for network access

Yes

C5. Prohibit win-backs

Yes

C6. Help non-switching consumers find better deals

Yes

C7. Introduce retail price caps

I am in favour of healthy competition between suppliers but we have no option but to use the terrible lines company.

D1. Toughen rules on disclosing wholesale market information

Yes

D2. Introduce mandatory market-making obligations

Don't understand this point

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

Yes

D4. Monitor contract prices and generation costs more closely

Yes but still allow competition

D5. Prohibit vertically integrated companies

Yes if this means that a supplier should not also be generators

E1. Issue a government policy statement on transmission pricing

Yes and stop a company from having a monopoly in a particular area

E2. Issue a government policy statement on distribution pricing

Yes

E3. Regulate distribution cost allocation principles

If this means preventing a lines company from discriminating against certain of its customers. In our case owners of holiday homes are charged at a much higher rate which means those customers are subsidising the permanent population. We have no way we can contest the decisions of the lines company.

E4. Limit price shocks from distribution price increases

No it is what it is

E5. Phase out low fixed charge tariff regulations

Don't know what this means. However, if it means a lines company can charge more to some of its customers then I agree. The tariff should be the same for everyone.

E6. Ensure access to smart meter data on reasonable terms

Yes

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

Yes. But this a a step above my concern which is at a local level

E8. Require smaller distributors to amalgamate

Yes. In the Turangi area we were adversely affected by what is known as the Bradford reforms. Our Turangi area was lumped in with Ohakune, National Park and other scarcely occupied areas in the King country. As a consequence we are forced to contribute to the cost of distribution in those areas. logically we should have been within a distribution area which included Taupo town. If that had happened would not be subsidising half the King country Our distribution cost would have been shared with a far greater population base I.e Taupo town.

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

Yes. The Lines Company is a commercial entity in a monopoly position. It seems to be owned by an adjoining consumer trust. Our own consumer trust was allocated shares in the Lines Company but the trustees of our consumer trust saw fit to sell its lines company shares to the adjoining consumer trust. So the beneficiaries of the adjoining trust receive distributions to offset the oppressive Lines Company charges while the consumers in our trust get nothing. So how fair is that?

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

Why would that be any better. Neither would be at all interested in the Turangi problem

F3. Give regulators environmental and fairness goals

No we just need a fair deal

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

Perhaps but what will this achieve?

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

Perhaps

F6. Establish an electricity and gas regulator

Yes if that Waimea's that the Lines Company was regulated

G1. Set up a fund to encourage more innovation

Yes

G2. Examine security and resilience of electricity supply

Yes

G3. Encourage more co-ordination among agencies

If that assists the concerns of the Turangi area

G4. Improve the energy efficiency of new and existing buildings

Yes for new buildings but we don't want a whole lot of new compulsory

requirements for existing residential buildings