

**From:** energymarkets@mbie.govt.nz  
**To:** [Energy Markets](#)  
**Subject:** Electricity Price Review submission  
**Date:** Thursday, 14 March 2019 4:29:13 p.m.

---

**Name (full)**

Susan Davies

**Company (if applicable)**

**Email**

9(2)(a)

**Contact number**

9(2)(a)

**Region**

Manawatu-Whanganui

**Category**

Consumers, Consumer Groups and Advocates

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

Yes

**A1. Establish a consumer advisory council**

Have property in King Country and we are held to ransom by The Lines Company.  
I pay about \$20 - \$30 for power but \$80 + for the Lines Company - how can they justify this ?

**A2. Ensure regulators listen to consumers**

The Lines Company has been constantly in the media - Print, Radio and TV - but still the community continues to suffer

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

How many times does this have to be said !

**B2. Define energy hardship**

People turning off power in a snow storm because they cannot afford to be warm - what country are we in !

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

There is a network of community but at the end of the day - The Lines Company do not care - they just keep on charging

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

Actually we should not have to do this - we should have a better system. seems ridiculous that a fund has to be set up in the first place. the system is out of balance

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

Again - see above. But if financial support is required then it should happen

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

This will still allow people to sleep through - the problem needs to be fixed

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

Prompt payment is not the issue - the issue is the charging.

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

This could help - but I go back to The Lines Company is out of balance with the power used.

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

There is no alternative for The Lines Company (not to be confused with the provider of the actual power)

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

It is not the retailer of the Power that is the issue - it is the provider of the lines to the household - separately billed

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

See comments above

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

If we are talking the provider of the lines to the household - this would be fantastic to be looked at - by the Government

**C5. Prohibit win-backs**

if this is about creating power and selling it to the provider of power I have not issue with this

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

this is always helpful - but I think this is already provided. The Lines Company - there is NO competition at all. All consumers have no choice.

**C7. Introduce retail price caps**

On the Power to the Line provider - should be it should be a reasonable ratio

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

This could help

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

On The Lines Company - definitely. Needs to be regulated

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

Fix The Lines Company before I worry about the Power retailer

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

This is always worth doing - keeping the companies honest

**D5. Prohibit vertically integrated companies**

This is always a good restriction

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

Ok - I have been rattling on about the Transmission pricing - The Lines Company is out of control. Ripping off a lower social economic area .

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

Please !

**E3. Regulate distribution cost allocation principles**

This should be a basic step - yes

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

Get The Lines Company under control - they are not helping the community

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

It should be a basic right for people to be able to come home to a warm dinner (in winter), warmth and sending off children with a warm breakfast (in winter) which is when the low fix is not happening

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

yes

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

Yes

**E8. Require smaller distributors to amalgamate**

Oh - yes - spread the load. The Lines Company needs to be overtaken by a more value distributor

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

Yes

**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**

Yes - very much so

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

Yes

**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**

Yes

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

Yes - within reason

**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**