



# COVERSHEET

<b>Minister</b>	Hon Chris Penk	<b>Portfolio</b>	Building and Construction
<b>Title of Cabinet paper</b>	Incentivising residential solar generation	<b>Date to be published</b>	September 2025

## List of documents that have been proactively released

<b>Date</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Author</b>
April 2025	Incentivising residential solar generation	Office of the Minister for Building and Construction
9 April 2025	Incentivising residential solar generation ECO-25-MIN-0054 Minute	Cabinet Office
April 2025	Regulatory Impact Statement: Incentivising residential solar generation	MBIE
August 2024	Energy Efficiency Requirements for Homes	Office of the Minister for Building and Construction
6 August 2024	Energy Efficiency Requirements for Homes EXP-24-MIN-0039 Minute	Cabinet Office
April 2025	Refocused climate work programme for building and construction	Office of the Minister for Building and Construction
9 April 2025	Refocused climate work programme for building and construction ECO-24-MIN-0312 Minute	Cabinet Office
14 August 2024	Briefing 2425-0569: Updating the building chapter of the First Emissions Reduction Plan to reflect your portfolio priorities	MBIE
18 September 2024	Briefing 2425-0886: Opportunities to include buildings in the Second Emissions Reduction Plan	MBIE

## Information redacted

## Yes

Any information redacted in this document is redacted in accordance with MBIE's policy on Proactive Release and is labelled with the reason for redaction. This may include information that would be redacted if this information was requested under Official Information Act 1982. Where this is the case, the reasons for withholding information are listed below. Where information has been withheld, no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it.

- Confidential Advice to Government
- Privacy of Natural Persons
- Legal Professional Privilege
- Commercial Information



# Cabinet Economic Policy Committee

## Minute of Decision

*This document contains information for the New Zealand Cabinet. It must be treated in confidence and handled in accordance with any security classification, or other endorsement. The information can only be released, including under the Official Information Act 1982, by persons with the appropriate authority.*

### Incentivising Residential Solar Generation

**Portfolio**                      **Building and Construction**

On 9 April 2025, the Cabinet Economic Policy Committee (ECO):

- 1        **noted** that in December 2024, ECO directed officials to report back to the Minister for Building and Construction (the Minister) with advice on how waiving the building levy and fast-tracking building consents for green buildings may be used to support the Government's climate obligations [ECO-24-MIN-0312];
- 2        **noted** that the Minister considers fast-tracking building consents for new residential buildings with solar electricity generation would incentivise uptake of solar generation, benefit building occupants, and support the Government's priorities;
- 3        **agreed** to require Building Consent Authorities to process building consent applications within 10 working days for new residential buildings which meet the performance criteria for solar electricity generation Confidential advice to Government s;
- 4        Confidential advice to Government ;
- 5        **agreed** to introduce a new power for the Chief Executive of the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment to prescribe performance criteria, in secondary legislation, for meeting the solar electricity generation provision Confidential advice to Government ;
- 6        **agreed** to amend Schedule 1 of the Building Act 2004 (the Act) to exempt rooftop solar installation in existing residential buildings from requiring a building consent, subject to technical consultation and further technical work on any risks involved;
- 7        **authorised** the Minister to issue drafting instructions to the Parliamentary Counsel Office to give effect to the above paragraphs;
- 8        **authorised** the Minister to make decisions consistent with the intent of the proposals in the paper under ECO-25-SUB-0054 on any issues which arise during the drafting process, including determining the most appropriate legislative vehicle.

Rachel Clarke  
Committee Secretary

**Present: (see over)**

**Present:**

Hon David Seymour  
Hon Nicola Willis (Chair)  
Hon Chris Bishop  
Hon Brooke van Velden  
Hon Shane Jones  
Hon Simeon Brown  
Hon Erica Stanford  
Hon Paul Goldsmith  
Hon Louise Upston  
Hon Dr Shane Reti  
Hon Tama Potaka  
Hon Simon Watts  
Hon Chris Penk  
Hon Penny Simmonds  
Hon Andrew Hoggard  
Hon Nicola Grigg  
Hon Scott Simpson  
Hon Mark Patterson  
Simon Court MP

**Officials present from:**

Office of the Prime Minister  
Office of Hon Chris Bishop  
Officials Committee for ECO