



COVERSHEET

Minister	Hon Simeon Brown	Portfolio	Energy
Title of Cabinet paper	Regulating smart electric vehicle chargers	Date to be published	5 May 2026

List of documents that have been proactively released

Date	Title	Author
April 2026	Regulating Smart Electric Vehicle Chargers	Office of Minister of Energy
1 April 2026	Regulating Smart Electric Vehicle Chargers ECO-26-MIN-0044 Minute of Decision	Cabinet Office
2 February 2026	Regulatory Impact Statement: Smart EV Chargers	MBIE

Information redacted

YES (please select)

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.

Some information has been withheld for the reason of confidential advice entrusted to the government.



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.

Regulating Smart Electric Vehicle Chargers

Portfolio **Energy**

On 1 April 2026, the Cabinet Economic Policy Committee:

- 1 **noted** that increasing uptake of electric vehicles (EV) will add to peak electricity demand, increasing costs for all electricity consumers;
- 2 **noted** that smart EV charging can manage this risk, delivering cost savings to all electricity consumers;
- 3 **noted** that increasing the uptake of smart appliances and technology standardisation through regulation is a key enabler for a smarter electricity system;
- 4 **noted** that the regulating smart EV chargers supports New Zealand's commitment on smart charger requirements under the 2025 Australia–New Zealand 2+2 Climate and Finance Dialogue and supports international alignment with countries like the United Kingdom and Australia;
- 5 **agreed**, subject to enactment of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation (Energy Flexibility and Regulatory Improvements) Amendment Bill, to develop regulations requiring electric vehicle chargers (supply equipment) with a maximum charge rate above 2.4kW to:
 - 5.1 have smart functionalities;
 - 5.2 comply with labelling and other information requirements relating to:
 - 5.2.1 smart functionalities;
 - 5.2.2 energy performance;
- 6 **noted** that the Minister for Energy intends to focus requirements on AC chargers of approximately 7 kW used primarily in household settings to manage evening peaks;
- 7 **noted** that, subject to enactment of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Act (Energy Flexibility and Regulatory Improvements) Amendment Bill, the specific smart functionalities will be further defined in rules made by the Minister for Energy;
- 8 **invited** the Minister for Energy to issue drafting instructions to the Parliamentary Counsel Office to give effect to the above decision;

- 9 **authorised** the Minister for Energy to make decisions on minor additional changes, consistent with the policy intent in the paper under ECO-26-SUB-0044, on any issues that arise during the drafting process.

Rachel Clarke
Committee Secretary

Present:

Hon David Seymour
Rt Hon Winston Peters
Hon Nicola Willis (Chair)
Hon Brooke van Velden
Hon Shane Jones
Hon Simeon Brown
Hon Erica Stanford
Hon Paul Goldsmith
Hon Louise Upston
Hon Todd McClay
Hon Tama Potaka
Hon Simon Watts
Hon Chris Penk
Hon penny Simmonds
Hon Andrew Hoggard
Hon Nicola Grigg
Hon Mark Patterson
Hon James Meager
Hon Scott Simpson
Simon Court MP

Officials present from:

Office of Hon James Meager
Officials Committee for ECO