



COVERSHEET

Minister	Hon Simeon Brown	Portfolio	Energy
Title of Cabinet paper	Actions to improve performance of electricity distribution networks and release of discussion document	Date to be published	28 August 2026

List of documents that have been proactively released

Date	Title	Author
July 2026	Actions to improve performance of electricity distribution networks and release of discussion document	Office of the Minister for Energy
29 July 2026	Improving the Performance of Electricity Distribution Networks: Release of Discussion Document ECO-26-MIN-0136 Minute	Cabinet Office

Information redacted

NO

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.



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.

Improving the Performance of Electricity Distribution Networks: Release of Discussion Document

Portfolios **Energy / Commerce and Consumer Affairs**

On 29 July 2026, the Cabinet Economic Policy Committee:

- 1 **noted** that in October 2025, the Government published its Energy package, which included action to improve the business efficiency of electricity distribution businesses (EDBs);
- 2 **noted** that efficient, high performing, and innovative EDBs are critical to delivering lowest cost electricity networks to consumers, electrification of the economy, and economic growth;
- 3 **noted** that the proposed package of work to deliver the outcomes in Recommendation 2 of the Frontier Economics' report, includes:

Actions to progress immediately

- 3.1 voluntary actions by EDBs, monitored by the Minister for Energy;
- 3.2 direction to the Electricity Authority and Commerce Commission about priorities and coordination through letters of expectations;
- 3.3 scoping the development of regulatory powers for the Minister for Energy to drive faster system change;

Options for consultation set out in the discussion paper

- 3.4 proposals to take a more targeted approach to economic regulation of EDBs under Part 4 of the Commerce Act 1986;
- 3.5 potential changes to the legislation related to governance of consumer-owned EDBs;
- 4 **approved** the release of the discussion document *Options to Improve the Efficiency of Electricity Distribution Businesses* (the discussion document), attached to the paper under ECO-26-SUB-0136, for a four-week public consultation period, subject to any minor amendments that may be required;
- 5 **noted** that the proposed package of work would progress several recommendations identified by the Residential and Small to Medium Scale Solar Review undertaken by the Ministry for the Regulation;

- 6 **invited** the Minister for Energy and the Minister of Commerce and Consumer Affairs to report back to Cabinet on the outcome of the consultation and with final policy proposals.

Rachel Clarke
Committee Secretary

Present:

Hon David Seymour
Rt Hon Winston Peters
Hon Nicola Willis (Chair)
Hon Shane Jones
Hon Paul Goldsmith
Hon Louise Upston
Hon Todd McClay
Hon Tama Potaka
Hon Casey Costello
Hon Simon Watts
Hon Chris Penk
Hon Nicola Grigg
Hon Andrew Hoggard
Hon Mark Patterson
Hon James Meager
Hon Scott Simpson
Hon Cameron Brewer
Simon Court MP

Officials present from:

Office of Hon David Seymour
Officials Committee for ECO