

From: energymarkets@mbie.govt.nz
To: [Energy Markets](#)
Subject: Electricity Price Review submission
Date: Wednesday, 20 February 2019 11:13:19 a.m.

Name (full)

Jason Garman

Company (if applicable)

Email

9(2)(a)

Contact number

9(2)(a)

Region

Auckland

Category

Individuals, Researchers and Academics

Do you accept these terms & conditions?

Yes

A1. Establish a new consumer advisory council

Yes

A2. Ensure regulators listen to consumers

Yes -- how can you be "undecided" on this?

B1. Establish a cross-sector energy hardship group

Yes

B2. Define energy hardship

Yes -- and make sure to benchmark it against standards across the OECD

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

Yes -- and properly resource that fund.

B5. Offer extra financial support for households in energy hardship

Yes

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 -- but only if the energy companies don't just slyly jack up the price for everyone in the process. You know it's in their interest to do this. Force them to be transparent through the transition.

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

Yes. Not just "seek", but "ensure"

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

C4. Make distributors offer retailers standard terms for network access

Yes

C5. Prohibit win-backs

C6. Help non-switching consumers find better deals

Yes -- but not just better in the sense of price. Better should include sustainability criteria for the generation.

C7. Introduce retail price caps

Absolutely. Energy is a basic human right. It should not be an unregulated profit-making business.

D1. Toughen rules on disclosing wholesale market information

Yes

D2. Introduce mandatory market-making obligations

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

Yes -- and transparency in a way that builds trust with the public. Currently, who trusts that the information we do get is the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?

D4. Monitor contract prices and generation costs more closely

D5. Prohibit vertically integrated companies

E1. Issue a government policy statement on transmission pricing

Yes

E2. Issue a government policy statement on distribution pricing

Yes

E3. Limit price shocks from distribution price increases

Yes

E4. Phase out low fixed charge tariff regulations

Yes

E5. Ensure access to smart meter data on reasonable terms

Yes

E6. Strengthen the Commerce Commission's powers to regulate distributors' performance

Yes

E7. Make more information available to beneficiaries of energy trusts

Yes

E8. Require smaller distributors to amalgamate

No

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

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

No

F3. Give regulators environmental and fairness goals

Yes -- this has to be about more than just price

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

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

yes

F6. Establish an electricity and gas regulator

Yes

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

Yes

G4. Improve the energy efficiency of new and existing buildings

YES -- there is so much to gain here. This should not be a footnote at the bottom of the questionnaire, it should be a top priority.