

Call for nominations – Distribution Connection Pricing Technical Group

1. Purpose

- 1.1. The Electricity Authority (Authority) is calling for nominations for ordinary members of the Distribution Connection Pricing Technical Group (DCPTG).

2. Introduction and background

The Distribution Connection Pricing Technical Group

- 2.1. The Authority released the Distribution Pricing Reform: Next steps paper on 7 May 2024. The Authority is planning to work with industry to develop a draft code amendment to ensure efficient pricing of network connections. The DCPTG is a technical group proposed to assist the Authority.

Membership criteria

- 2.2. The Authority will appoint members to the DCPTG based on their level of knowledge and experience of network connections and specifically pricing of connections. The DCPTG will collectively have detailed knowledge and experience of, for example:
 - (a) the range of connection pricing practices across the distribution sector in New Zealand, including rate cards, cost-revenue calculations, thresholds, and reassignment policies
 - (b) commercial processes and terms for distribution connections, including for property developers, small connections, large connections, and connection upgrades
 - (c) vested asset practices and their relationship to connection and use of system pricing
 - (d) links between connection pricing and use of system pricing, included posted tariffs and special pricing
 - (e) distribution connection project cost structures, including links to network planning and growth and renewal investment
 - (f) the Code, including Part 6 Connection of distributed generation
 - (g) policies and standards that may influence network connections (eg, relating to security standards, congestion management, and operations)
 - (h) differences in practice between distributors who are exempt and non-exempt (from the Commerce Commission's price-quality regulation)
 - (i) distributor perspectives
 - (j) access seeker perspectives.
- 2.3. The Authority is not expecting an individual member of the DCPTG to have all the requisite knowledge and experience required of the technical group in aggregate.
- 2.4. The Authority will consider a nominee's ability to consider the long-term interests of consumers, provide impartial advice, and contribute effectively to the DCPTG's tasks.
- 2.5. A senior member of the Authority's staff will chair the DCPTG.

Term of appointment

- 2.6. The Authority intends to appoint members of the DCPTG for a period of ten months. This aligns with the Authority's expectation of the timeframe for the group to complete its work.
- 2.7. The Authority will appoint members by written notice to the relevant nominee. The notice will state the date the appointment takes effect and the term of the appointment.
- 2.8. The Authority will appoint members after calling for nominations and considering nominees against the membership criteria set out in clause 2.2.

Remuneration

- 2.9. Should a member of the DCPTG be financially disadvantaged by their participation in the DCPTG, the Authority will remunerate them and reimburse their actual and reasonable expenses incurred in carrying out their office as a member.
- 2.10. Any such remuneration will be determined by the Minister of Energy and Resources for Energy in accordance with the Government's fees framework for the remuneration of such bodies. Fees are to reflect an element of public service and community commitment, the personal contribution and recognition of the intangible benefits to the member, balanced by:
 - (a) the complexity of the functions and the expertise required
 - (b) recruitment and retention issues
 - (c) the extent to which an individual member needs to insure against personal liability
 - (d) the potential risk to reputation
 - (e) the degree to which the role is in the public eye
 - (f) affordability and
 - (g) the period since the fees were last reviewed.
- 2.11. The first DCPTG meeting will be face-to-face. Members will have the option to connect virtually to the second and subsequent meetings.

3. Terms of reference

- 3.1. The terms of reference for the DCPTG are published on the Authority's website.

4. Nominations process

- 4.1. Any organisation or individual can make nominations. Nominations are to be in writing and should include:
 - (a) a brief summary of the relevant expertise and experience of the person being nominated
 - (b) contact details for both the person being nominated, and for the individual or organisation making the nomination and
 - (c) evidence that the person being nominated agrees to the nomination (e.g. an e mail from the nominee, agreeing to be nominated).
- 4.2. Nominations should be sent to distribution.pricing@ea.govt.nz with 'Nomination for Distribution Connection Pricing Technical Group' in the subject and must be received by the Authority by 5.00 pm 24 May 2024.

- 4.3. The Authority intends to appoint the members of the DCPTG by 7 June 2024. The first meeting of the DCPTG is expected to take place by 26 June 2024.