



MAJOR ELECTRICITY USERS' GROUP

22 November 2011

Submissions
Electricity Authority

By email to submissions@ea.govt.nz

Dear Madam/Sir

Consultation Paper—Proposed change to advisory group terms of reference to provide for staggered membership

1. This is a submission on the Electricity Authority consultation paper “Proposed change to advisory group terms of reference to provide for staggered membership”, 25th October 2011¹. MEUG agrees with the proposal to stagger membership.
2. This is the first proposed change to the Authority’s Charter about advisory groups and generic terms of reference since the inaugural set was published in December 2010². MEUG suggests another part of the Charter that needs to be reviewed are clauses 2.9 for the SRC (and identical clause 2.12 for Advisory Groups) that states:

“The Authority will consider remunerating people or organisations that would be financially disadvantaged by their participation in the SRC.”
3. At a MEUG meeting last week senior MEUG member company staff reported the time involved in attending and preparing for advisory group meetings, and travel costs, were a barrier to making nominations from within their companies. By comparison the largest suppliers have a large pool of in-house staff to nominate and their core business is electricity. We suggest it is time to review if the remuneration policy is providing an even playing field for suppliers and consumers to nominate suitable people to advisory groups.

Yours sincerely

Ralph Matthes
Executive Director

¹ <http://www.ea.govt.nz/our-work/consultations/corporate/proposed-change-advisory-group-terms-reference-staggered-membership/>

² <http://www.ea.govt.nz/about-us/documents-publications/foundation-documents/>