

4 August 2015

Submissions
Electricity Authority
PO Box 10041
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By email: submissions@ea.govt.nz

Submission on Retail data project: access to tariff and connection data

1. Horizon Energy Distribution Limited (“Horizon Energy”) welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback to the Electricity Authority (“Authority”) on the Retail data project: access to tariff and connection data consultation paper (“retail data paper”) released on 23 June 2015.
2. We note the Authority is proposing to establish a framework for giving consumers, their agents and other parties better access to –
 - (a) information about electricity retailers’ generally available retail tariff plans
 - (b) technical information about points of connection to electricity distribution networks.
3. As stated within the retail data paper, the Authority considers that facilitating improved access to retail tariff and connection data will provide long-term benefits to consumers by promoting competition in New Zealand’s retail electricity market and by promoting the more efficient operation of New Zealand’s electricity industry.
4. We note the Authority’s alternatives set out in section 5 of the retail data paper, whereby retailers would be required to provide or publish generally available retail tariff plan data, and the other options considered to achieve the proposed alternatives’ objectives.
5. We suggest the Authority consider further options as part of the proposed alternatives, so as to provide distributors with outage information from advanced meters in a standardised file format to promote efficiency in operation, such as where outages could be repaired before a consumer becomes aware of a problem.

6. We submit that providing additional access to outage information to distributors serves the Authority's objective in promoting a more efficient operation of New Zealand's electricity industry.
7. While not part of the proposed alternatives within the retail data paper, the Authority mentions the amendment to Part 11 of the Electricity Industry Participation Code ("the Code") which comes into effect on 1 February 2016, which facilitates access for consumers to consumption data upon request from retailers.
8. We suggest the Authority list distributors as an authorised agent for electricity consumer information under Section 11.32E of the Code, so as to avoid inefficient duplication of systems and equipment for capturing detailed load information on the distributor's network.
9. We submit that by providing distributors additional access to electricity consumption information serves the Authority's objective in promoting a more efficient operation of New Zealand's electricity industry.
10. Thank you for considering this submission. Please find contact details below to discuss any of these matters further.

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