

19 September 2016

Submissions
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Dear Electricity Authority,

Re-orienting WAG and RAG

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Electricity Authority's (**Authority**) proposal to re-orient the Wholesale, and Retail Advisory Groups to the:

- a) Innovation and Participation Advisory Group (**IPAG**): and
- b) Market Development Advisory Group (**MDAG**).

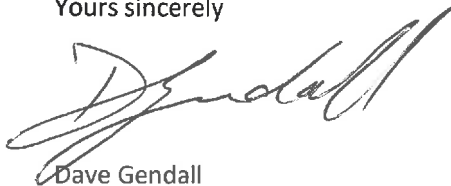
Contact supports the re-orientation of the Advisory Groups. We appreciate the Authority responding to changes in the electricity sector, which are largely driven as a result of emerging technologies and the opportunities this is providing for consumers to participate.

We are conscious that electricity markets need to keep abreast of technology and innovation, and there are likely to be areas of overlap between IPAG and MDAG. We particularly support clause 6.6 of the respective Terms of References which require the advisory groups to coordinate activities, where appropriate. A cohesive approach to removing barriers that inhibit innovation in how electricity is generated, stored, transported, and purchased will be in the best long term interests of consumers.

With reference to paragraphs 2.4.6 to 2.4.12 (IPAG membership), we support the promotion of diversity and consumer-centric views on the IPAG. This does not discount the fact that there are innovators in traditional retailers as well. Contact is interested in having representation on both advisory groups, and looks forward to participating in the nomination process.

Should you wish to discuss any of the matters raised in this submission please don't hesitate to contact me on 04 462 1017.

Yours sincerely



Dave Gendall

Regulatory Affairs & Government Relations Advisor