

31 January 2017

The Electricity Authority  
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**Attention:** Part 3 Notices

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### Support for Top Energy's application for Exemption

The Northland Regional Council supports Top Energy's Application for Exemption from the application of Part 3 of the Act or for an exemption from compliance with a provision(s) under the Part 3 of the Act, section 76 (1) (corporate separation) and section 76 (2, 9 and 10) (arm's-length rules) on the following grounds:

1. The Northland Regional Council is aware that the resilience of the Far North's electricity supply does not meet proper commercial requirements of businesses operating in the Far North. A prime example is the Juken Nissho Timber processing facilities in Kaitāia which currently is the largest employer in Kaitāia supplying around 300 jobs at peak production. The purchase and installation of 20 MW of diesel generators at Kaitāia would seem to provide a pragmatic solution to solving resilience shortcomings in the Kaitāia area.
2. The Northland region badly needs more quality employment opportunities in the mid North. The planned expansion of the Ngāwhā geothermal and the associated industrial park could provide much-needed employment opportunities for the citizens of Northland. The Northland Regional Council therefore supports efforts to ensure that the cost of supply of electricity to the community and to potential industry is kept at an affordable level.

Yours faithfully



Bill Shepherd  
Chairman

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