

Submission on the Electricity Authority's Proposal on Distributed Generation Pricing Reform

To:

Electricity Authority – Te Mana Hiko

From:

Electrify the Hutt Incorporated

A community organisation under the Rewiring Aotearoa umbrella

20 April 2026

1. Introduction

Electrify the Hutt Incorporated welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Electricity Authority's consultation regarding distributed generation pricing reform.

Electrify the Hutt is a community-based organisation operating in the Hutt Valley, working under the Rewiring Aotearoa umbrella to support education, empowerment, and practical action toward household and community electrification. Our mission is to help whānau, businesses, and community groups participate equitably in the transition to renewable energy and cleaner, more efficient technologies.

We therefore strongly support regulatory settings that enable consumers to fully benefit from distributed generation where and when it reduces costs.

2. General Position

Electrify the Hutt supports the Authority's overarching goal of establishing more consistent rules for the costs and benefits of distributed generation.

We support distributed generators being fairly rewarded when they ease pressure on the network by supplying electricity when demand peaks.

3. Support for the Proposed Fairer Recovery of Distributed Generation Costs

We support the Authority's proposals to require lines companies to clearly explain their pricing so that this can be monitored by the Authority.

We support the principle of network charges being set so that others on the network are not charged for costs they did not create.

4. Support for Consistent Treatment of Distributed Generation Costs and Benefits

We support the proposed pricing principles for Distributed Generation.

We support Distributed Generators being rewarded by lines companies for easing pressures on the network at times of high demand. Since 1 April 2026 Distributed Generators in the Hutt Valley have received a small payment from their lines company for exporting power to the grid at peak times. Despite these benefits, the Hutt Valley currently experiences significant curtailment of potential rooftop solar generation due to the lines company's

restrictive 5kW export constraint. Increasing this limit will help unlock community-level generation that is currently going to waste

5. Conclusion

Electrify the Hutt Incorporated supports the proposed reforms to network pricing rules for distributed generators. These steps will make for a fairer, more transparent allocation of network costs and enable households and communities to play a greater role in New Zealand's transition to a modern, distributed, and low-emissions electricity system.

We encourage the Authority to ensure strong oversight of distributor practices to maintain consistency and prevent the misuse of unfair network pricing. Doing so will support affordable, resilient, and equitable electrification in the Hutt Valley and across the motu.

We appreciate the opportunity to contribute to this consultation and would welcome continued engagement on policies that support community-level electrification and distributed generation.

Sincerely

Electrify the Hutt Incorporated
Hutt Valley, Aotearoa New Zealand