

Definition of small business Code amendment proposal



My name is Simon Casey, and I'm semi retired and a local body councilor from Carterton. I live on a 3 hectare lifestyle block. I, like many others, am excited by the potential of better empowering consumers who are fundamentally reshaping our energy future.

I fully support empowering individuals within a community to be part of an energy solution by participating in distributed generation.

I agree with the stated aim of encouraging customers to supply power to the network when it's needed and rewarding them when the power they supply at peak times benefits the network. Incentivising storage alongside solar investment for all customers through a peak distribution export tariff which provides a fair payment that reflects the long run cost of avoided network investment would increase benefits to all customers.

However, I **do not agree** with the Task Force's limit on what constitutes a small business.

I already have a small 8kW domestic solar and a 5kW battery system for my house. I have committed to installing a completely separate 300kW solar array in a 1 hectare paddock of my property. This system is for export only and will allow me to earn significantly more from my property than grazing or baleage.

Once commissioned, I will likely look at adding batteries to enable export at peak usage times but only if the peak distribution export tariff applies to systems of the size I am building. A 45kW system will likely prohibit me from doing this. It is just too low and I strongly advocate that the maximum size be increased to at least 1MW. Being a 300kW provider, I am simply not in a position to negotiate a separate contract for an export tariff with my lines company which in my case is PowerCo.

I believe my success in this project will prompt other owners to consider installing a mini solar farm on part of their property to improve returns on their land. Having more lifestyle block owners not only putting solar on their properties but batteries too will significantly improve resilience and reduce the peak power demand that has to be supplied remotely.

I commend the Electricity Authority in offering peak export payments for small distributed generators. However the 45kW threshold is just too small and will exclude lifestyle block owners, farmers, small businesses and schools from participating. Surely that is an unintended consequence of such a low threshold. The Electricity Authority must set 1mW as the threshold.

Regards

Simon Casey