

Definition of small business Code amendment proposal



My name is Sue, and I'm a mum and climate action advocate from Kingsland, Auckland. I, like many others, am excited by the potential of rooftop solar.

I agree with encouraging customers to supply power to the network when it's needed and paying them when the power they supply at peak times benefits the network. Everyone benefits when we incentivise battery storage alongside solar investment for all customers through a peak distribution export tariff which provides a fair payment. This payment should reflect the long run cost of network investment which will not be needed thanks to the commitment shown by these customers.

I do not agree with the Task Force's limit on who can access the tariffs.

Many small businesses and organisations, like schools, marae, farms and community groups which are keen to commit to solar would be excluded from the benefits of peak distribution export tariffs because of the 45kVA connection limit or 45kW maximum generation capacity limit.

The peak export tariff will provide a fair incentive for customers to include battery storage with investment in distributed generation like solar. Combining local generation with battery storage not only reduces the need for network upgrades and reduces everyone's energy bills, it also provides local resilience for communities in a power outage. With an increase in climate-related weather events, we need backup options for communication and other community needs until power is restored.

It's crucial to consider network and grid costs, which account for nearly half of electricity bills. These costs are anticipated to be the primary driver of future electricity price hikes. We need to reward people and groups who are willing to commit to local solar power generation and storage, which can mitigate and reduce network investments and expenses.

Imposing unnecessary restrictions on who can access peak distribution export tariffs would represent a backward step and squander the chance to assist customers in investing in a more flexible, cost-effective, sustainable, and resilient local energy supply.

If a limit is needed, it should be up to 1MW of generation capacity. This enables the inclusion of local community organisations and businesses who are not well-placed to

negotiate directly with EDBs, but would exclude utility generators and large industrial customers.

Let's do what's needed for everyone to move toward a clean energy future. Our children are depending on us to do better.

Ngā mihi,

Sue

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Sue Cardwell

Flexible Digital and Communications Consultancy

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