

Submission in support of Package Two, initiative 2C:
Requiring large retailers to better reward consumers for supplying power

13 February 2025

To: Energy Competition Task Force, taskforce@ea.govt.nz

Proposal 2C is to offer variable buy-back rates to reflect the higher value of electricity supplied by consumers at peak times – on the basis that this will fairly reward consumers who have rooftop solar and batteries and will incentivise other consumers to make that investment.

I **strongly support** this proposal.

I ask that the Task Force **also consider options for supporting households to make the investment in rooftop solar and batteries**. This is something New Zealand Inc. should be investing in – it makes economic sense for the country as a whole, to avoid public investment in new power generation and distribution.

Installing rooftop solar and batteries is in large part a public good, and the cost of installation should not be borne solely by individual households. Other countries (e.g. Australia) have incentives/govt subsidies for this, resulting in much higher uptake to date. New Zealand is lagging behind.

The options could include:

- low-cost government finance (banks currently only offer low-cost finance to mortgage-holders)
- government subsidies
- impartial advice and detailed technical guidance (currently advice & guidance is largely generic, and householders are mostly reliant on commercial providers of the products i.e. the advice isn't impartial)

Reducing the barriers to uptake makes sense and should be supported by the government.

I am happy to have this submission published.

Yours sincerely

