
Submission from Solayer NZ Ltd on Proposed Reforms to Export Limits for Distributed Generation

From Solayer [REDACTED]

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To Connection Feedback <connection.feedback@ea.govt.nz>

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Solayer NZ Ltd supports the Electricity Authority's proposals to improve export limits for distributed generation. We install solar and battery systems across New Zealand, including for many rural customers who often have residential meters but significant capacity to host larger solar arrays on their homes and surrounding buildings. These customers should be able to export more where it is technically safe to do so, so as to improve resilience of our national grid, local communities and create shorter payback periods to amplify the rate of renewable energy generation in Aotearoa, NZ.

- Solayer NZ Ltd supports the proposals to improve export limits for small-scale DG by:

Setting a default 10kW export limit for small-scale DG connections (with distributors able to set lower limits only where appropriate and based on an industry-developed assessment methodology).

Setting default inverter voltage response settings (aligned with Australian standards), with flexibility for distributors to apply different settings where justified.

- We support the proposals for larger-scale DG by:

Requiring distributors to use an industry-developed bespoke export limits assessment method to determine export capacity for >10kW systems.

Mandating the latest inverter performance standard for low-voltage DG.

- It is important that the bespoke export-limit methodology is transparent, fair, and monitored by the Electricity Authority.

Many farms, rural households, small businesses, and community organisations seeking to install >10kW systems do not have the resources to navigate complex connection processes. The methodology must not be used to unnecessarily limit system size.

- Allowing distributors to set lower limits than 10kW should be used only when clearly justified, and should not be a way for distributors to avoid modernising network management practices. The Electricity Authority should actively scrutinise how this option is used.

- Current export restrictions (often 5kW) are arbitrary and unnecessarily limit the benefits of rooftop and rural residential solar and battery systems.

Higher export limits will support the installation of appropriately sized systems, improve payback periods, and increase savings for customers.

- Higher export limits will also provide wider system benefits, including reducing peak demand, lowering reliance on thermal generation, reducing network upgrade costs, and improving electricity resiliency, especially in rural communities.

Solayer NZ Ltd encourages the Electricity Authority to progress these changes so New Zealanders, including rural customers with residential meters, can fully realise the benefits of solar and battery investment.

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