

Fonterra submission on proposal to Increase Visibility of Significant DG or Load Connections

November 2025

Fonterra welcomes the opportunity to provide input to the Electricity Authority's proposal to increase visibility of significant DG or load connections.

Fonterra is a dairy co-operative owned by over 8,000 New Zealand farming families with 27 manufacturing sites across the country, making us the country's largest exporter and a major supplier of dairy products to the domestic market.

With manufacturing operations spread throughout New Zealand, Fonterra is a major electricity user. We rely on stable and affordable access to electricity to support our operations. This reliable access underpins New Zealand's export competitiveness.

Fonterra supports the Authority's proposal to increase the visibility of significant load changes as we progress on our decarbonisation journey it becomes more important that EDB's and Transpower are aware of all potential projects not just ours.

For the most efficient use of capital and project resources in both the EDB's and Transpower it is critical that all potential projects are considered collectively to stop rework and optimise network design.

Fonterra's only concern is that commercially sensitive information on changes to electricity use at our sites is not made public as that might impact existing energy suppliers, onsite operational staffing or consent notification requirements. Therefore, we do not support the public display of load aggregation by type as chances are any regional large process heat public reporting could be construed to be a Fonterra site.

It is also noted that all projects and final specifically fuel type (i.e. biogas, biomass, electricity) are not considered final until Board approval, but electrification concept design discussions will need to occur between EDB's and or Transpower for capital costing purposes and therefore may cause noise in the EA's load pipeline if they are removed later on due to selection of a non-electrical decarbonisation option.