
Maximising benefits from local electricity generation

From Daniel Hill [REDACTED]

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

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My name is Daniel, and I'm a homeowner with solar and a battery from North Canterbury. I, like many others, am excited by the potential of better empowering consumers who are fundamentally reshaping our energy future through investment in distributed generation like rooftop solar, and battery storage.

I agree with the Electricity Authority Te Mana Hiko (Authority) aim to remove unnecessary barriers to more efficient investment in distributed generation and maximise the benefits it brings for all New Zealanders.

I support the Electricity Authority proposals to improve export limits for small-scale distributed generation (DG) by:

- setting a default 10kW export limit (with allowance to set lower limits where appropriate based on an industry-developed assessment methodology) for small scale distributed generation connections (up to 10kW capacity),
- setting default voltage response settings for inverters (using Australian A setting) and allowing for distributors to set different settings where appropriate.

Allowing for distributors to set lower default limits than 10kW where appropriate using an industry-developed export limits assessment methodology, might be needed in specific situations but it should not be used as a way for EDBs to avoid improving network management approaches to support more customer solar investment and continuing to impose arbitrary unnecessary export limits. Electricity Authority scrutiny should be applied here, to monitor use. My local EDB has shown it is hesitant to move toward higher export limits through its public statements. <https://www.mainpower.co.nz/get-connected/solar-distributed-generation/#:~:text=No%20change%20to%20export%20limits>

Higher export limits will have widespread benefits for all New Zealanders and strengthen the resilience of the electricity supply. For example, distributed generation can increase the energy resilience of local communities by reducing reliance on electricity generated from centralised, grid-scale generation. Plus solar and battery systems can provide essential back up if there is a power outage, providing power for essential communications, EV charging and basic needs.

The country is screaming out for more generation and we know there is currently spare solar energy being curtailed by the networks that could be helping, especially in a dry year. We want to encourage the biggest possible solar systems because it reduces the costs for the homeowner and for everyone else on the network and higher export limits will help do that.

I support the Electricity Authority proposal to prohibit distributors from imposing any limits on the

nameplate capacity of installed distributed generation. Limiting how much solar customers install for their own use is unnecessary and does not maximise benefits to customers. Larger solar systems can be designed to provide optimal supply and battery storage, and exports back to the grid via the inverter are limited so they don't breach required export limits.

Kind regards

Daniel Hill