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## Maximising benefits from local electricity generation

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

# Supporting Smarter Solar: Unlocking New Zealand's Renewable Potential

Kia ora,

As a proud Kiwi backing the Coalition Government's vision for a **stronger, more productive economy** powered by affordable energy and private investment, I wholeheartedly endorse the Electricity Authority's proposals to lift export limits on distributed generation (DG). These practical, market friendly reforms will cut red tape, reward initiative, and deliver real savings for hardworking households and businesses—without picking winners or burdening taxpayers.

## Empowering Everyday Kiwis with Fair 10kW Defaults

- **Set a nationwide 10kW export default** for small scale DG (up to 10kW capacity), with flexibility for lower limits only where an **industry-led assessment** proves it's genuinely needed.
- **Adopt proven Australian voltage response settings** as the default, letting distributors tweak only when evidence demands it.

This isn't about mandates—it's about **clear rules of the road** so families can install solar confidently, knowing they'll get a fair go at exporting excess power.

## Backing Bigger Players with Transparent, Tailored Rules

- **Require distributors to apply an industry-developed, bespoke assessment** for larger DG connections.
- **Mandate the latest inverter standards** for low voltage systems to keep the grid reliable.

Mid sized solar for **farms, community groups, small businesses, and rural households** is the engine of our renewable future. These Kiwis aren't corporate giants—they need a **level playing field**. The Authority must **monitor and publish** how these assessments are used, ensuring no sneaky barriers stifle ambition or investment.

## Scrapping Arbitrary Caps to Slash Power Bills

- **Prohibit distributors from limiting nameplate capacity.** Let customers size systems for their own needs—exports are already capped, so bigger arrays mean bigger self-sufficiency and faster paybacks.
- **Allow lower-than-10kW defaults only with robust, transparent justification**—and Authority oversight to stop foot-dragging on network upgrades.

Higher exports = **shorter payback periods** = **more solar on roofs** = **lower wholesale prices for everyone**. That's real cost-of-living relief, delivered by markets, not subsidies.

## Why This Matters for a Productive New Zealand

These changes align perfectly with the Government's priorities:

- **Reducing regulatory drag** so innovators can get on with it.
- **Driving private capital** into clean, reliable energy.
- **Delivering tangible savings** to households stretched by high power bills.

Let's get this done—fair rules, more solar, cheaper power.

Ngā mihi,

A supporter of practical, pro-growth energy policy

Regards

Mat whinney