
Definition of small business Code amendment proposal

From Katy Glenie [REDACTED]
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To TaskForce <TaskForce@ea.govt.nz>

[REDACTED]

Kia ora

My name is Katy, and I'm a Sustainability Manager and proud solar panel owner, living in one of the best spots for solar Otautahi! I, like many others, am excited by the potential for better peak load management and distributed generation related to an improved peak distribution export tariff for solar.

However I'm concerned that limiting this just to 45kVA connections and 45kW maximum generation capacity limit will mean that lots of small and medium sized businesses and organisations, like schools, marae, farms and community groups will not benefit from these tariffs. We need these 'medium' sized players in the system to ensure it really is able to help smooth peak load, and to build resilience across the network. For example, marae and schools with rooftop solar and batteries can act as local hubs for the community in a power outage. With an increase in extreme weather events this will be increasingly important to provide backup options for communication, EV charging and other community needs.

Many of these organisations and businesses are not able to negotiate good pricing directly with their distributor. They would simply miss out.

If the Authority wishes to create a limit it should be set to include all customers with up to 1MW of generation capacity. This is a sensible level that includes local community organisations and businesses who are not well placed to negotiate better pricing, but would exclude utility generators and large industrial users who are more likely to be able to negotiate their own contracts.

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Katy Glenie