
Small business Code amendment proposal

From Linda Hill [REDACTED]
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To TaskForce <TaskForce@ea.govt.nz>

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I am a strong supporter of solar energy generation by households and small businesses, as well as by the large gentailers and the government. We must get the whole country onto renewable energy to meet our emissions reduction targets and reduce the impacts of climate change.

Rooftop solar is the way to go – no power losses, no transmission costs, lower bills, low cost surplus energy returned to the grid. This must be encouraged by fair payments for surplus energy into the grid, not limited as in your proposal. We want everyone to be able to contribute cheap renewable energy to our national energy system.

My household has had solar water heating for more than 20 years – in two houses – and went full-solar-no-battery three years ago. Love it! We are thinking about whether we can afford the latest battery technology – or maybe not. So feedback tariff arrangements for surplus power are important to us.

I strongly support Rewiring Aotearoa's submission, including the following points. I'd do my own fuller submission if I wasn't doing this on a work break!

- I do not support the 45kVA connection limit or 45kW maximum generation capacity limit as it would restrict many small and medium sized businesses and organisations, like schools, marae, farms and community groups from accessing peak distribution export tariffs. Many of the community organisations and businesses that would be excluded from accessing the peak distribution export tariff would not be well-placed to negotiate this directly with their distributor. They would simply miss out.
- The peak export tariff will provide a fair incentive for customers to include battery storage with investment in distributed generation like solar. Combining local generation with battery storage not only reduces the need for network upgrades and reduces everyone's energy bills, it also provides local resilience. 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 until power is restored.
- The cost of networks and our electricity grid is important to consider because it makes up well over 30 percent of our household electricity bills and is expected to drive most of the electricity price increases over the coming years. This is predominantly due to increasing distribution network costs, so encouraging options to offset and lower network investment and cost is key to help lower bills.
- In our rural communities solar and batteries on farms is a win-win for farmers and the local community. It can provide a valuable revenue stream for farmers and help boost income using very little land (e.g: one paddock or up to 1.5 hectares) and help lower electricity system costs for local customers, providing more resilience and creating an

opportunity for the roll out of on-farm public EV charging options and the development of EV charging corridors in rural communities.

- These unnecessary limits on who receives peak distribution export tariffs would be a step in the wrong direction and a missed opportunity to support customers to invest in a more flexible, affordable, sustainable and resilient local energy supply.

Ngā mihi,
Linda Hill and family
In sunny Raumati on the Kāpiti coast