



Reducing barriers for new connections

19 December 2025

1 Submission and contact details

Consultation	Reducing barriers for new connections – Part C
Submitted to	Electricity Authority
Submission address	connection.feedback@ea.govt.nz
Date submitted	19 December 2025
Email	regulatoryconsultations@welectricity.co.nz

2 Confidential information

There is no confidential information provided in this submission. This submission can be publicly disclosed.

3 Executive Summary

Consultation on Reducing barriers for new connections - Part C

Wellington Electricity (WELL) welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission on the above section of the *Reducing barriers to new connections* consultation. WELL is generally supportive of the proposed Code changes to requirements regarding the pioneer scheme and reconciliation processes.

PART C – Minor amendments to the Code (connection pricing requirements)

Q9. Do you have any comments on the drafting of the proposed amendments?	<p>WELL do not agree that the EA should consult on EDB policy, process and, compliance changes with only 4 months until their enforcement. This does not give sufficient time for the industry to make amendments to business processes and policies depending on the final outcome, (following cross-submissions and final decision). The EA should look to align and provide more certainty for EDBs and customers, so there is less confusion and rework required by constantly changing regulation.</p> <p>WELL wants to ensure that regulation is fit for purpose and practicable. We urge caution regarding accelerated</p>
--	---

	<p>implementation. While the desire to act swiftly is understandable, introducing urgent change risks greater harm than benefit.</p> <p>Our main concern is the risk of heightened costs and compromised long-term efficiency. Accelerated changes of new regulatory requirements place significant strain on both market participants and internal regulatory capacity. In sectors like electricity, hurried change often leads to misinterpretation, increased risk, and higher operational costs. This would lead to EDBs overspending OPEX and incurring IRIS penalties, or EDBs being more conservative with their spending.</p> <p>WELL makes the following recommendations for a balanced path forward.</p> <p>Extend consultation periods to ensure comprehensive stakeholder engagement. There have been 19 consultations in 2025 that directly impact EDBs, compared to 9 in 2024. The industry needs time and capacity to respond to these consultations with useful insight.</p> <p>Use staggered implementation phases, aligning new regulation with existing submission and review cycles to reduce bottlenecks. Roll-out new policies, like pioneer scheme and connection pricing reconciliation separately, with ample time so that EDBs and customers understand the full changes happening.</p> <p>Enhance impact analysis, projecting cost, investment, and emissions outcomes under various timing scenarios. This would help prioritise what schemes should be progressed and what timing is manageable by the industry.</p>
--	---

In summary, an overly accelerated process may cause instability and unintended harm—both economically and operationally. We encourage a measured pace that allows for quality feedback, thorough compliance readiness, and minimized risk.