



11 December 2025

Electricity Authority
PO Box 10041
Wellington 6143

Via email: connection.feedback@ea.govt.nz

Consultation Paper – Reducing barriers for new connections: up-front charges and distributor obligations.

The WEL Networks appreciates the opportunity to provide feedback on the above consultation.

WEL Networks (WEL) is New Zealand's sixth largest electricity distribution company and is 100% owned by our community through our sole shareholder WEL Energy Trust. Our guiding statement of strategic intent is to be leading Waikato's energy future, and we work to ensure that our customers have access to reliable, affordable, and environmentally sustainable energy.

WEL supports the Electricity Authority's Part A proposal of a targeted intervention if issues of distorting connection costs are perceived. The targeted approach should meet the EA's objective without the unnecessary imposition of broad-brush compliance costs on all parties. WEL believes that the cost to connect should take into account the lines revenues to be gained from the connecting party to minimise cross-subsidisation.

As to the Part B proposal on distributor supply obligations, WEL understands why the EA would consider reform in this area necessary. We withhold support however until a full consultation is released. We have concerns that EDB's must be left with some mechanism to be able to avoid truly uneconomic connection proposals (including ongoing operational costs of remote connections) where an obligation to supply may impose unwarranted and unjust costs across all other consumers. WEL is aware of cases where the cost to reconnect a single supply following a weather event far exceed the revenues that would ever be generated over the lifetime of the connection.

Should you require clarification on any part of this submission, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

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Andrew Maseyk
Regulatory Specialist

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