

Electricity Authority

14 May 2024

by email to: compliance@ea.govt.nz

Electricity Authority

Re: Application for Part 6A Exemption Vector Ltd and Manawa Energy Ltd

I wrote a submission to the Authority in February 2024 regarding a 6A exemption application from Ms Urlwin as a Director of Infratil and Vector. I suggested that Ms Urlwin does have a significant influence over Manawa Energy and the exemption should not be granted given the Vector Directorship as well. My argument was based on a matter of principle, the Code is vital both to protect competition and to be seen to protect competition for the retail electricity customers.

The Authority did recognise that Ms Urlwin was involved in both Vector and Manawa Energy and granted an exemption with what seem to be strict conditions.

I suggest that the 6A exemption applications from Manawa Energy Ltd and Vector Ltd are refused, again as a matter of principle. The Authority has the option of imposing strict conditions and the applicants have indicated the onerous and costly nature of such conditions.

Unlike the Infratil case, the current applications are published using the Authorities application format. Question 11 makes it quite clear that the Authority considers an exemption an interim measure only.

11. How long do you need the exemption for?

Bearing in mind that an exemption is intended to be an interim measure until a permanent solution is implemented, specify how long you are seeking the exemption for.

Both applicants are intending to ignore the published interim measure restrictions of an exemption and seek exemption for as long as the current situation persists. The Authority should stand firm and reject the applications. I am sure there are alternative candidates for directorships.

David Riley

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