

To: Electricity Authority (Authority)
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From: Electricity Engineers' Association of NZ

Date: 20 December 2024

Subject: EEA Submission – Consultation Paper – Distribution Connection Pricing Proposed Code Amendment

OVERVIEW

The Electricity Engineers Association (EEA) of NZ welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on the Authority's consultation paper on "Distribution Connection Pricing Proposed Code Amendment".

The EEA represents over 70 Corporate Members (companies) and 600 Individual Members across Aotearoa New Zealand from all engineering disciplines and sectors of the electricity supply industry (see Appendix A).

Collectively, we are the electricity industry's largest collaborative forum in Aotearoa New Zealand, provide guidance on complex engineering and technical issues, practical support and solutions, and market intelligence to equip our members and other industry stakeholders to deliver electrification for Aotearoa.

Introduction

The EEA wishes to make a high-level submission that highlights the outcomes that our members seek from the proposed code amendment. The EEA supports the intent of the proposal and the desirability of debate and progress in improving the use of pricing to achieve better outcomes for the electricity sector and its consumers. The EEA supports the ENA's submission, including the concerns it raises in relation to potential unintended consequences.

We encourage the Authority to prioritise amendments that achieve the following outcomes:

- Support the long-term best interest of consumers
- Appropriately balance the interests of NZ businesses seeking to electrify and encountering upfront capital barriers, and the interests of other consumers on impacted networks
- Achieve transparency and clarity on connection pricing, providing certainty for making investment decisions
- Support intergenerational equity

- Empower distribution networks to design, plan and undertake connection projects in a manner that is most optimal and efficient for the system as opposed to treating connection projects as unrelated, and
- Enable better coordination across the energy system, stakeholders, and workforce needs.

Contact

The EEA's contact person for this submission is Dr Stuart Johnston, Lead Advisor Engineering & Technical