

Submitter: Mark Robinson

I have solar PV and a battery installed at my property as well as a plug-in hybrid vehicle. So, I have experienced the frustration of trying to find the best retailer and understanding the costs that I will likely have to pay.

After reviewing some of the submissions, I support the Business NZ proposal of allowing consumers to have Multiple Trading Relationships. This would allow them to purchase their power from one retailer and sell excess power to another retailer (or aggregator or similar). This contractual split between import and export would mean that there wouldn't be a need to mandate rebates because the business purchasing the consumer's power could have targeted pricing based on the value of the power exported, e.g. location, quantity, timing, duration, and who is managing the power export. This would be a much simpler regulatory solution than rebates and would allow for better management of the pricing risk and more innovation in flex-demand businesses.

For the time-of-use tariffs, there is information asymmetry which puts the consumer at a disadvantage. The retailer sometimes knows the consumer's TOU power consumption, but the consumer doesn't have their own data unless they spend a lot of time to extract this from their bills. So, there should be a standard TOU format for power usage and export that consumers are able to access for themselves. This would then allow comparisons to be made between TOU tariffs and uniform tariffs. Addressing this information asymmetry is a higher priority than mandating TOU tariffs.