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Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority
By email: levyconsultation@eeeca.govt.nz

EECA's 2019/20 levy funding proposal and related work programme

Genesis Energy Limited (**Genesis**) welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission to the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (**EECA**) on the consultation paper *EECA's 2019/20 levy funding proposal and related work programme* (the **consultation paper**) dated November 2018.

Our comments below focus on EECA's work programme, including our support for initiatives that promote the uptake of low emissions transport, and our view that EECA should be providing targeted support for vulnerable consumers to better understand and manage their energy use.

Low emission vehicles important for the transition to a low emissions economy

Genesis is pleased to see EECA recognise that the transport sector provides 'the largest opportunity to improve New Zealand's energy productivity and energy-related emissions profile'. This echoes the findings of the Productivity Commission's recent *Low emissions economy inquiry* that electrification of the transport fleet will be one of three key drivers in achieving New Zealand's emission reduction goals.

We consider material emissions reductions can be achieved if New Zealand's vehicle fleet is decarbonised as a priority, and there is an important role for EECA to promote uptake of electric vehicles and other low emissions vehicles through both the contestable fund and information campaigns. We support EECA to fund these activities.

Greater focus needed on energy literacy, efficiency for vulnerable consumers

In our view, there is also an important role for EECA in supporting consumers in energy hardship to better understand and manage their energy use, including the efficiency of their homes and appliances.

There is no funding currently allocated for this in the consultation paper, which is a missed opportunity in the context of finding solutions to the issues for vulnerable consumers raised in the recent *Electricity Price Review – First Report* (the **report**). The report highlights that some New Zealanders face energy hardship and struggle to pay their electricity bills; and that these consumers are more likely to find it difficult to engage with the sector and to live in homes that are damp and draughty.

EECA already has a range of tools via *energywise* that can contribute to improving consumer energy literacy, including *Rightware* and the *Running cost calculator* that provide insights into energy efficiency measures for the home. EECA also provides some access to insulation through the *Warmer Kiwi Homes* programme.

We consider these existing resources should serve as a platform from which more support can be leveraged effectively and efficiently; for example, increased funding for insulation to eligible consumers,

or targeted promotion of energy efficiency education via social agencies that work with vulnerable consumers.

We look forward to seeing the finalised work programme once EECA has had time to review all stakeholder feedback. If you would like to discuss any of these matters further in the meantime, please contact me by email: margie.mccrone@genesisenergy.co.nz or by phone: 09 951 9272.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. McCrone'.

Margie McCrone
Senior Advisor, Government Relations and Regulation