

EECA's Fortnightly Report to the Minister for Energy

19 June 2026

EECA Contact: Will Jensen, Manager, Policy and Engagement

Phone: 04 470 2441 **Mobile:** 9(2)(a)

1. Priority updates

Title	Comment
Gas users loan guarantee scheme	EECA is continuing to prepare for the scheme's launch in July/August once Treasury has finalised deeds of indemnity with participating banks. We are developing a package of wrap-around supports to help businesses overcome non-financial barriers and accelerate project development. These supports are tailored to the needs of different customer groups and include expert advice, help to identify and assess options, and shared resources for customers facing similar challenges and pursuing similar solutions. We are also in the early stages of planning engagement to drive uptake of the scheme, including a roadshow with BusinessNZ in alignment with the launch of the wrap around package. We will be engaging with participating banks in July to agree joint communications, referral pathways and how we can work together to make the Scheme a success. We will brief you on our wrap-around support package and plans for implementation in July.
Solar on schools	We continue working closely with the Ministry of Education to finalise the Solar on schools programme, ahead of briefing you and the Minister of Education on detailed design next month. 9(2)(f)(iv) We have received queries from schools considering solar, seeking confirmation of their eligibility for support through the programme. To provide certainty to schools and solar providers, we will notify the full 500 schools targeted through the programme from August, once programme eligibility settings and delivery plans have been finalised. This will reduce the risk of schools pausing solar plans while they wait to see if funding is available.
EECA Solar workstreams	Ministry for Regulation solar review We have been supporting the Ministry for Regulation's review into residential and small-to-medium solar installation processes, sharing insights from our solar programmes. We expect to receive the draft recommendations for review this week, 9(2)(f)(iv) Alongside this, we have published an approved solar products list, to support the selection of solar products that meet minimum requirements for efficiency and demand flexibility, as well as a shared understanding of best practice.

Title	Comment
	Alignment with the Australian solar market Earlier this week, we (alongside MBIE) met with counterparts from the Australian Clean Energy Regulator to discuss the 2025 2+2 Climate and Finance Ministers agreement to: <i>Facilitate direct engagement between the Australian solar and battery industry and regulators with their New Zealand counterparts to support knowledge exchange and trade arising from Australia's successful Cheaper Home Batteries program and related policies, as well as to identify further opportunities for trans-Tasman regulatory alignment on solar and battery systems.</i> NZ will likely host an Australian delegation over the coming months to support knowledge exchange, exploring partnerships and opportunities for regulatory alignment. This will include bringing together Australian and New Zealand solar and battery regulators, market bodies and industry groups to share lessons on policy settings and identify practical areas for trans-Tasman regulatory alignment.

2. Other updates

Title	Comment
Efficient Demand Flexibility RFP	EECA's request for proposals on Efficient Demand Flexibility has attracted strong interest from the market, receiving more than 80 applications. Our targeted funding is sufficient to support around 30 projects. The programme supports commercial and industrial organisations to demonstrate new battery energy storage and other flexibility technologies, helping build the evidence and confidence other businesses need to invest. Projects must show how they can deliver wider benefits, including supporting the electricity system during peak demand periods, improving the use of existing network infrastructure, and generating data and insights that can inform future investment across New Zealand's energy sector. Applications were received from a diverse range of organisations, including community energy projects, manufacturers, food processors, construction businesses and cold storage facilities. Applications included 133MW of Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS), equivalent to the installed capacity of the Waipipi wind farm, which generates enough electricity each year to power around 65,000 homes. 51 applications involve sites with existing or proposed solar generation, representing around 56 MW of solar capacity. Pairing solar with battery

Title	Comment
	storage can help organisations to use more of their own generation and provide flexibility to the electricity system. Applicants are planning to use batteries and other flexibility technologies to: • provide demand flexibility services to support the electricity system • reduce demand during peak periods • store electricity when prices are lower and using it during higher-priced periods • export electricity back to the grid when conditions are favourable. Several projects are located in parts of the network where capacity constraints exist. These projects may help avoid or defer the need for upgrades to customer connections or local electricity networks, providing insights into how flexibility technologies can be used to make better use of existing infrastructure. EECA is also exploring how emerging market arrangements, including the proposed Multiple Trader Relationship (MTR) framework, could support greater participation by allowing customers to sell excess electricity to parties other than their existing electricity retailer. We are now working with successful applicants to enable contracting. Some higher-value applications are being offered lower co-funding amounts to spread the funding pool to the greatest possible extent.

3. Ministerial servicing updates

3.1 Current and upcoming advice

Title	Purpose	Action and timing
EECA 2026 BRF 015 Final EECA Statement of Performance Expectations 2026/27	To provide you with EECA's final Statement of Performance Expectations 2026/27 for tabling in the House of Representatives.	ETA 30 June
EECA 2026 BRF 018 Discussion document on smart EV charger requirements	To seek your agreement to release a public consultation document on proposed smart functionality requirements for EV chargers.	ETA early July

Title	Purpose	Action and timing
EECA 2026 BRF 016 Solar on schools – advice on detailed design of \$30m programme	To brief you and Minister of Education on detailed design for the \$30m Solar on schools programme to enable rapid delivery. This will cover delivery models, prioritisation criteria for schools, and sequencing to maximise educational and energy outcomes.	ETA end of July

3.2 Communications and events calendar

Date	Type	Activity/Event	Opportunities for engagement
9(2)(f)(iv)			

Date	Type	Activity/Event	Opportunities for engagement
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

Date	Type	Activity/Event	Opportunities for engagement
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

Date	Type	Activity/Event	Opportunities for engagement
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

3.3 Official Information Act requests

Requestor	Request	Date received	Date due
9(2)(a) [REDACTED]	Several questions regarding the announced 'public service overhaul target' including restructures, timelines, impacts on Māori and regional delivery.	11/06/2026	7/07/2026
[REDACTED]	Requesting all communication between EECA and Babbage Consultants Ltd regarding used oil recycling. Emails to and from and any meetings regarding burning waste oil	15/06/2026	14/07/2026
[REDACTED]	Since November 2023, how many working groups, advisory groups, reference groups, expert panels, stakeholder groups, or similar bodies administered by your agency have required participants to sign a non-disclosure agreement (NDA), confidentiality agreement, or confidentiality undertaking as a condition of participation?	17/06/2026	16/07/2026