

EECA's Fortnightly Report to the Minister for Energy

22 May 2026

EECA Contact: Will Jensen, Manager, Policy and Engagement

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

1. Priority updates

Title	Comment
Winter 26	On your request, EECA has reassessed the scale, channels, and level of investment associated with the campaign and developed options that consider value for money, consumer need, campaign visibility, reach to priority audiences and overall impact. MBIE briefed you on these options on 7 May and EECA's Board has since received a letter from you outlining your expectation that EECA expenditure is subject to rigorous assessment of value for money. The EECA Board will consider the Winter 2026 campaign and provide direction at their next meeting on 26 May.
Fuel response	EECA has refined our approach, including significantly reducing spending, for the remaining 4 weeks of our Phase 1 fuel campaign, in response to your direction to maximise the value of any campaign spend. Provisional results suggest the campaign is achieving strong results. Separately, an independent evaluation of Phase 1 is underway and is due to be completed by the end of May. On 19 May, MBIE briefed the Ministerial Economic Security and Supply Chains Group on the approach to public messaging at Phase 2, which we understand is scheduled to be discussed on 25 May. 9(2)(f)(iv) [REDACTED] [REDACTED] MBIE's advice outlines the expected costs associated with preparing for and delivering Phase 2.
Budget 26: Solar on Schools programme design	[BUDGET SENSITIVE] You have agreed to allocate \$20m to deliver solar on schools through the Community Renewable Energy Fund. The programme will be jointly delivered between EECA and the Ministry of Education, with an additional \$10million funding from the education portfolio. Schools will be prioritised by those who are experiencing energy or fuel insecurity, higher energy costs, or are scheduled for gas or diesel boiler replacements. We are working with MoE and MBIE on the detailed design of the programme, including considering longer term commercial structures to maximise the impact of the programme. You will be briefed in July on detailed programme design, to enable rapid delivery. This work will cover delivery models, prioritisation

Title	Comment
	criteria for schools, and sequencing to maximise educational and energy outcomes. We are working towards a possible Ministerial announcement on 3 June.
Budget 26: Gas Users Loan Guarantee Scheme programme design	[BUDGET SENSITIVE] EECA is working with Treasury to prepare for the announcement of the Gas Users Loan Guarantee Scheme on Budget Day. The scheme is expected to be available to gas users in August, once Treasury has finalised deeds of indemnity with participating banks. EECA is preparing holding messages for its website and stakeholder engagements after Budget 26. The scheme will guarantee 80% of eligible lending for businesses using above 1000 GJ pa of natural gas. This will enable banks to offer discounts on their interest rate pricing and increase their risk appetite. EECA will provide wraparound supports for gas users to increase the pipeline of 'bankable' projects. 9(2)(f)(iv) [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Banks have noted that EECA's support to address non-financial barriers will be critical to scheme uptake.
Data and Insights	In early June EECA's Energy End Use Database (EEUD) will be refreshed with its annual updated data along with an insights publication discussing key findings in the data. The EEUD is an authoritative energy database that provides annual energy demand data across the New Zealand economy to a detailed level. The insights report highlights key shifts in energy demand, including trending reductions in coal consumption in the dairy and meat sectors, and significant growing electricity consumption from data centres from a low base. In July Times-NZ 3.0 will be formally launched along with an insights publication discussing key findings in the data. Times 3.0 is a detailed model of New Zealand's entire energy system, from fuel supply to electricity generation, to energy consumption. EECA worked collaboratively with the Business Energy Council (BEC) on the update. Both the EEUD and Times-NZ 3.0 are used by government agencies, the private sector and academia for energy data analytics and modelling.
Statement of Performance	On 30 April, we provided you with a draft copy of EECA's Statement of Performance Expectations (SPE) for 2026/27, outlining our

Title	Comment
Expectations 2026/27	indicative work programme and budget. We understand that you did not have any feedback following your review. We are now working to finalise the SPE, including incorporating Budget 2026 decisions and your expectations around value for money. We intend to provide you with an updated version during the week beginning 15 June, to ensure you have visibility of the content ahead of the 30 June legislative deadline for finalisation.

2. Ministerial servicing updates

2.1 Current and upcoming advice

Title	Purpose	Action and timing
EECA 2026 BRF 015 Updated EECA Statement of Performance Expectations 2026/27	To provide you with visibility of EECA's updated Statement of Performance Expectations 2026/27 ahead of the 30 June deadline for finalisation.	Expected 19/06/2026
EECA 2026 BRF 016 [REDACTED]	9(2)(f)(iv) [REDACTED]	July 2026

2.2 Communications and events calendar

Date	Type	Activity/Event	Opportunities for engagement
19 May 2026	Milestone in broader programme / site visit	EECA and partner Rewiring Aotearoa will complete the first two household installations of V2X chargers as part of the Queenstown V2X pilot. The trial involves the testing of electric vehicles as mobile energy storage devices that can send power back to the grid, homes, or businesses (bidirectional charging).	Queenstown site visit. PR opportunity in discussion/ongoing
June 2026	Budget announcement	EECA and MoE have been working on a programme to provide solar panels to school buildings.	Discussed above.
June 10-13	Fieldays	EECA has a stand at Fieldays as part of the solar on farms programme and will have farmers who are part of the programme onsite.	Photo opportunity
9(2)(f)(iv)			

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

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

2.3 Official Information Act requests

Requestor	Request	Date received	Date due
9(2)(a)	Copies of the current EEC Strategy and 2023 Briefing to the Incoming Minister	20/05/2026	18/06/2026
	Information on EECA's Use of AI	21/05/2026	19/06/2026