

EECA's Fortnightly Report to the Minister for Energy

24 April 2026

EECA Contact: Will Jensen, Manager, Policy and Engagement

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

1. Priority updates

Title	Comment
Fuel response	We have briefed you on EECA's fuel response campaign, sharing campaign messaging and phasing, and seeking decisions on future funding for this work programme [EECA 2026 BRF 014]. Campaign results to date have been strong. In the first three weeks, we estimate New Zealanders have saved 5.3 million litres of fuel, avoiding \$18.6 million in fuel costs, compared to \$2.5 million spent to date. We are on the fourth week of a twelve-week campaign with a total campaign cost of \$4.6 million. Spending is planned to ramp down in stages, with an expected spend of \$200,000 per week in weeks 7-12. This week we have also been engaging with transport sector stakeholders including National Road Carriers, Toyota, TR Group, Optifleet, Transporting NZ, and Hyundai to develop broader supports including driver training, fleet optimisation, and diesel boiler system walkthroughs and audits.
Gas affordability	Our fuel response actions are building on similar successful actions we have delivered to support industrial gas users with gas affordability pressures. This month we are facilitating regional information sharing sessions with commercial and industrial gas users in the Hawke's Bay and Waikato. To date we have also funded around 50 light-touch 'walkthroughs' to identify quick efficiency gains and fuel switching options for businesses, identifying savings of between 10-30%. 9(2)(f)(iv)
Accelerating solar	We are progressing a range of workstreams to accelerate solar uptake. 9(2)(f)(iv) 9(2)(f)(iv) Solar on Farms This programme is demonstrating the cost and resilience benefits of solar and battery energy storage across a range of farm types and locations. As part of the engagement workstream of the programme, EECA will have a

Title	Comment
	presence at Fieldays in June, alongside farmers we have partnered with, highlighting outcomes of demonstration projects. Residential solar loan guarantee scheme [BUDGET SENSITIVE] Alongside MBIE and Treasury, we are consulting with banks to inform detailed design of a possible residential solar loan guarantee scheme. Funding for the scheme is intended to be held in a tagged contingency via Budget 26. We are also developing advice with MBIE on possible targeted grant support. Joint advice will be provided in May. Underpinning actions This week we invited solar suppliers to have their products assessed against EECA's voluntary best practice requirements for efficiency and demand flexibility. Approved products will then be listed on our website by June 2026. This list would be used by consumers, green loan providers and other parties to encourage homeowners and small businesses to buy smart solar products. Smart solar systems can send and receive network signals, helping to avoid costly network upgrades. We are also working with industry and government stakeholders to launch an industry accreditation scheme for solar installers, aimed at increasing trust and confidence in the industry. Earlier this month we opened consultation for feedback on the programme and its requirements and invited expressions of interest from parties wanting to become an accreditation provider.
Energy Efficiency and Conservation Amendment Bill	9(2)(f)(iv) [REDACTED] We are working with MBIE and PCO to inform drafting. Separately, we are working with MBIE on preparatory work so we can move at pace once enabling powers are enacted. Next steps include: • Smart EV charging: We are working with MBIE to develop a discussion document and draft rule for public consultation. EECA and MBIE will seek your approval before any material is released for public consultation. • Rules development: Planning for prioritisation of rule-making activity (beyond EV chargers). This means tranches of rules will be ready to consult and implement once the Act amendments are in force.

2. Other updates

Title	Comment
Draft Statement of Performance Expectations	You will receive a draft of EECA's Statement of Performance Expectations (SPE) on 30 April 2026 in line with the Crown Entities Act 2004. This will outline our indicative work programme and budget for 2026/27. It has been prepared based on currently available information and is subject to final Budget 2026 decisions. We will look to discuss work programme priorities with you at the 12 May EECA officials meeting, ahead of finalising the SPE by 30 June 2026.
9(2)(f)(iv)	9(2)(f)(iv) [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Warmer Kiwi Homes	We are on track to exceed our target of 23,000 insulation and heating retrofits delivered through Warmer Kiwi Homes this financial year. Since 2018, the programme has installed almost 200,000 retrofits across New Zealand. We are sharing possible communications opportunities with your office. Funding for the programme expires at the end of 2026/27. A decision will be required on future funding for the programme. We estimate there are currently around 40,000–50,000 low-income homes (in the highest deprivation levels) remaining. There are also up to 300,000

Title	Comment
	middle-income homes eligible to be retrofitted with insulation under the current settings.
Raukawa Energy Project	On 22 April, Ministers and officials had positive engagement with Raukawa leadership at the Raukawa-Crown Accord Ministerial Relationship Forum. Raukawa acknowledged the positive engagement to date with EECA and wider government on a possible community energy project, utilising marae and iwi-owned assets. 9(2)(f)(iv) [REDACTED]

3. Ministerial servicing updates

3.1 Current and upcoming advice

Title	Purpose	Action and timing
9(2)(f)(iv) [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
9(2)(f)(iv) [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
EECA 2026 BRF 013 Equipment Energy Efficiency Programme (E3): Approval of proposals on three phase cage induction electric motors at the trans-Tasman Energy and Climate Change Ministerial Council meeting on 8 May 2026	To seek approval of a policy proposal on three phase cage induction electric motors (electric motors) under the Equipment Energy Efficiency (E3) Programme to endorse at the upcoming meeting.	DUE TO BE SENT: 29/04/2026 ACTION BY: 6/05/2026

Title	Purpose	Action and timing
EECA 2026 BRF 007 EECA Draft Statement of Performance Expectations 2026/27	To provide you with a draft copy of EECA's Statement of Performance Expectations 2026/27 for review and comment within 15 working days in accordance with the Crown Entities Act 2004.	DUE TO BE SENT: 30/04/2026 ACTION BY: 21/05/2026

3.2 Communications and events calendar

Date	Type	Activity/Event	Opportunities for engagement
9(2)(f)(iv)			
Late April/ early May	Milestone in broader scaled pilots programme	EDB Powerco, in partnership with EECA, is launching a new energy trial in Ōmokoroa to explore smarter ways of using electricity and managing peak demand of power. This sits within EECA's broader 'smart energy community' pilot programme.	PR opportunity. This would follow on from an Orion/EECA PR last month, but there has been no MO activity to date.

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

Date	Type	Activity/Event	Opportunities for engagement
Late May / early June 2026	Announcement/site visit	Supporting Energy Education in Communities (SEEC) - RFP opened March and successful providers will be ready to be announced late May/June to wider national coverage	Potential site visit to providers support households to have warmer, more energy-efficient homes and lower their power bills through education and small interventions. And/or potential PR opportunity (including quotes from service providers).

3.3 Official Information Act requests

Requestor	Request	Date received	Date due
9(2)(a)	Requesting information around cost and directive for stretch every tank campaign.	05/04/2026	05/05/2026
	Information relating to agency wide client decision making policies, criteria and guidance.	07/04/2026	06/05/2026
	Information regarding insulation installed at her property.	10/04/2026	11/05/2026
	Correspondence related to the 'Stretch every tank' campaign and a spending breakdown.	14/04/2026	13/05/2026
	Requesting copies of several briefing papers related to the Technology and Fuel Enabler (TAFE), Low Emissions Heavy Vehicle Fund (LEHVF), and Warmer Kiwi Homes programmes and budget.	14/04/2026	13/05/2026
	'Stretch every tank' campaign spending breakdown.	15/04/2026	16/05/2026

Requestor	Request	Date received	Date due
[REDACTED]	Ministerial direction and correspondence related to the 'Stretch every tank' campaign. Budget information and a spending breakdown. As well as performance metrics.	20/04/2026	19/05/2026
[REDACTED]	Information relating to the 'Stretch every tank' campaign.	23/04/2026	22/05/2026

3.4 Consultations underway

Strategic priority	Title	Purpose	Action and timing
Energy security and affordability	Attributes and competencies required for EECA approved solar installers	Trust in solar installer capability and system performance is a key barrier to uptake. This consultation is testing the best approach to supporting best practice.	Closes 15 May