

EECA's Fortnightly Report to the Minister for Energy

17 July 2026

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1. Priority updates

Title	Comment
Gas Transition Loan Guarantee Scheme	On 16 July, we provided you with a briefing on our wraparound support package and market activation strategy for the Gas Transition Loan Guarantee Scheme (EECA 2026 BRF 019 refers). The Scheme is currently planned for launch on 31 July. EECA's one-to-one supports will be ready to launch on 31 July, and include a new options assessment product, feasibility study and business case support, walk-through assessments, process heat audits, and advisory support. We will launch a new digital self-service pathway iteratively over the next 3-6 months with tailored guidance, templates, support recommendations, and links to relevant EECA products based on their sector, ownership and decision-making structure and project characteristics. EECA has planned a significant engagement push over the next few months. We are planning a roadshow with BusinessNZ from mid-August to drive awareness and uptake of the Scheme. This will consist of two-hour workshops in Auckland, Tauranga, Palmerston North, and Wellington. We have met with participating lenders through the New Zealand Banking Association, and we are meeting with each participating lender individually in coming weeks to co-ordinate activity. We will also be working with relevant sector associations and industry bodies to provide targeted messaging to their membership and to refine our supports to address specific barriers.
Solar on schools	You have asked for information about eligible schools. We have identified 581 schools that meet programme eligibility. We are working with MoE and MBIE to finalise an approach to inform schools of their eligibility as soon as feasible alongside releasing details of programme funding arrangements. This will support Boards decisions to 'opt in' and allow ineligible schools to proceed with alternative arrangements to install solar mitigating against any 'market cooling' effects. We will set out this approach in a briefing to you and the Minister of Education later this month. This briefing will include detailed delivery plans for the \$30 million Solar on school's programme, and upcoming delivery milestones required to meet December installations. This includes: • Late July: we intend to release an Expression of Interest (EOI) to the market to identify delivery partners who can support Tranche One installs (solar on 80-100 schools over summer school holiday period). This will also provide an opportunity to conduct market research and identify if any changes to approach are required to meet delivery ambitions.

Title	Comment
	• August: we will complete detailed on-site assessments across priority schools to confirm solar readiness and inform appropriate system configurations. This will inform the final list of Tranche One schools. • September: we intend to direct tender (via Request for Tender process) with EOI respondents who have demonstrated capability to support Tranche One delivery ambitions to establish a register of programme delivery partners. In parallel, EECA is leading the development of a package of wraparound support resources for schools to ensure schools are confident and systems are optimised and delivering maximum benefits. We are also working with MoE to design the approach to scaling the programme from Tranche Two (early 2027).
Smart EV Charging consultation	Following your approval on 10 July, EECA is preparing to launch public consultation on the proposed technical requirements for smart EV chargers in the week of 20 July. The consultation will seek feedback from industry, consumer groups and other stakeholders to inform the drafting of the Ministerial rules. Subject to enactment of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation (Energy Flexibility and Regulatory Improvements) Amendment Bill, EECA expects to consult on the draft rules in early 2027 before providing final recommendations for your consideration.

2. Other updates

Title	Comment
Solar accreditation scheme activity.	We have finalised criteria for a government-endorsed solar installer accreditation scheme, incorporating technical clarifications from stakeholder consultation. The purpose of a government-endorsed accreditation scheme is to increase public trust and confidence in the quality and consistency of the market, and to support the development of a highly qualified and skilled workforce with a focus on enhancing the safety, efficiency and reliability of installs. In early August we intend to release a technical document which sets out the requirements that must be met for government (EECA led) approval and endorsement of suitable programmes that accredit installers of solar PV systems and batteries. Based on feedback from consultation, we expect sufficient interest from industry to launch accreditation schemes by the end of the year (our target

Title	Comment
	timeframes). We will work directly with interested parties to ensure at least one accreditation scheme is operational from the end of this year. Next month, Cabinet is scheduled to consider the Ministry for Regulation's recommendations from its review into small to medium scale solar installation processes. Should Cabinet approve proposed additions to the accreditation scheme, we will ensure this is well communicated with industry including the process and timing for developing and introducing new components into accreditation schemes.
Request for information on underutilised industrial and commercial technologies and processes	On 14 July, EECA issued a request for information to assess the market potential of underutilised technologies that can provide reliable process heat and lower business energy costs. The intent is to build a picture of opportunities in the market to inform future thinking, particularly on EECA's Technology and Fuel Enabler programme, or development of Gas Transition LGS supports. Four focus areas have been identified: • High efficiency electrical heating technologies • Advanced demand-side wood energy technologies • Indirect uses of low temperature geothermal energy • Onsite biogas technologies for direct use. EECA is seeking information on technologies relevant to the focus areas including the scale of deployment potential, capital and operating cost information, and any dependencies or barriers to deployment. The deadline for responses is 14 September 2026.

3. Ministerial servicing updates

3.1 Current and upcoming advice

Title	Purpose	Action and timing
EECA 2026 BRF 019 EECA's wraparound supports for Gas Transition Loan Guarantee Scheme	To brief you on EECA's wraparound support package and actions to drive engagement with the scheme.	SENT 16 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 school's 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
8/2/2026			
July	Announcement/PR	We will announce the successful service providers from round 6 of the Supporting Energy Education in Communities (SEEC) programme. The eight providers will undertake in-home energy advice interventions funding to support households to achieve warmer, more energy-efficient homes and lower their power bills.	PR

Date	Type	Activity/Event	Opportunities for engagement
End of July	Cocktail event and PR	EECA and the BusinessNZ Energy Council (BEC) have completely rebuilt our comprehensive model of the whole NZ energy system. EECA and BEC will be releasing fresh insights from two new future energy scenarios (using the model) at a cocktail function for business leaders on July 28 at Wharewaka, Wellington.	Launch attendance, including an optional address, and PR.
August	Announcement/PR	EECA is working alongside Treasury and banks on the release of the support initiatives alongside the Gas Transition Loan Guarantee Scheme. EECA is collaborating with BusinessNZ on a North Island roadshow, to be launched alongside the wrap around support.	PR and potential event attendance

3.3 Consultations underway

Strategic priority	Title	Purpose	Action and timing
Non-urgent	Proposed energy flexibility regulatory requirements for electric vehicle chargers	To seek feedback on the proposed technical requirements for EV chargers, to inform the drafting of Ministerial rules.	Opens week of 20 July

3.4 Official Information Act requests

Requestor	Request	Date received	Date due
9(2)(a)	Any research or communications, in any form, produced or received by the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority pertaining to dry year energy risk.	09/07/2026	07/08/2026
	All advice provided by EECA and received by EECA on the Gas Loans Scheme.	26/06/2026	27/07/2026
	Enquiring from a solar company's perspective about timeline and how they can engage with the Gas Loans Scheme.	1/07/2026	30/07/2026