

9(2)(a)

20 March 2026

Dear 9(2)(a)

Re: Official Information Act Request: Formal consultation on gas and electricity supply

Thank you for your email on 20 February 2026 in which you requested information under the Official Information Act 1982. In summary, you requested:

'Information on who EECA has formally consulted with on gas and electricity supply for the 2025/26 year (from July 2025 to the date of the request).'

Please refer to **Appendix One** for EECA's response to your request.

Some information is being withheld pursuant to the following sections of the Act:

- 9(2)(ba)(i) – to protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that it is our policy to proactively release our responses to official information requests where possible. Our response to your request will be published shortly at <https://www.eeca.govt.nz/about/news-and-corporate/official-information/> with your personal information removed.

Yours sincerely



Murray Bell
Group Manager, Policy and Regulation

Appendix One: Who EECA has formally consulted with on gas and electricity supply from July 2025 to the date of the request

EECA's statutory role is not focused on the supply of gas or electricity. EECA's role under the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Act 2000 is to encourage, promote, and support energy efficiency, energy conservation, and the use of renewable sources of energy in New Zealand. Responsibility for energy supply largely sits with other government agencies.

EECA does not routinely undertake formal consultation on gas or electricity supply. However, energy is a connected system, and EECA sometimes seeks views from businesses and industry stakeholders where gas supply conditions may affect energy users.

Formal consultation relevant to your request

Research with small and medium-sized gas users – September-October 2025

EECA commissioned research to understand how small and medium-sized businesses are responding to uncertainty in the gas market. The research was conducted by EECA's research partner Verian between September and October 2025.

The research involved interviews with 22 business stakeholders and three industry association representatives from sectors that commonly use gas for process heat, including manufacturing, food processing, and hospitality. The purpose of the research was to understand business experiences with gas market conditions, and the factors influencing decisions about gas use and alternative energy options.

Participants took part on the basis that their identities would remain confidential. For this reason, EECA is **withholding the names of participants under section 9(2)(ba)(i)** of the Official Information Act 1982, to protect information that is subject to an obligation of confidence.

We have considered whether the public interest in releasing this information outweighs the need to withhold it. We consider it does not, as releasing the identities of participants would be likely to discourage businesses from taking part in similar research in the future, which would reduce EECA's ability to gather information needed to understand how energy users are responding to changing market conditions.

The findings from this research are publicly available here:

<https://www.eeca.govt.nz/insights/eeca-insights/how-are-small-and-medium-sized-businesses-responding-to-gas-market-uncertainty/>

Other engagement and research (not formal consultation)

EECA also undertakes a range of research and engagement activities to understand how businesses and consumers interact with energy. While these activities are not formal consultation on gas or

electricity supply, they may include discussion of energy supply conditions. We provide this information for context.

Regional energy transition accelerator (RETA) engagement

EECA leads the Regional Energy Transition Accelerator (RETA) programme. Through this programme, EECA convenes and facilitates regional workshops with energy users, infrastructure providers, regional organisations, and other stakeholders to build a regional understanding of energy demand, infrastructure constraints, and future fuel options.

These workshops focus on regional energy planning and transition pathways rather than consultation on gas or electricity supply.

Further information about the RETA programme is available here:

<https://www.eeca.govt.nz/co-funding-and-support/products/about-reta/>

Workshops with gas-using businesses – July-December 2025

EECA has also held workshops with businesses that currently use gas. These workshops involve two-way discussion with businesses about the challenges and opportunities they face in responding to gas market conditions, including energy efficiency improvements and alternative fuel options.

The workshops allow EECA to understand the barriers faced by gas users and the types of information or support businesses may need as they consider future energy options.

Workshops were held in Hamilton in July 2025, with additional regional workshops in Hawke's Bay, Auckland and Manawatū/Whanganui in September 2025, and a workshop in Northland in December 2025.

Participants include businesses from sectors that rely on gas for process heat.

Consumer and Business Energy Monitor

EECA also undertakes regular research to understand how consumers and businesses interact with energy. This includes the Consumer and Business Energy Monitor, which surveys a broad cross-section of households and businesses about their energy use, experiences, and perceptions. Some questions relate to the impacts of energy supply conditions.

The most recent report can be found here:

<https://www.eeca.govt.nz/assets/EECA-Resources/Research-papers-guides/EECA-Business-Energy-Monitor-FY25-Q1-2.pdf>

TIMESNZ

EECA also publishes energy system modelling tools such as TIMES-NZ, which allow users to explore potential future energy system pathways. Feedback on these tools may be invited as part of

technical development. This work relates to energy system modelling rather than consultation on gas or electricity supply.

The latest information can be found here:

<https://www.eeca.govt.nz/insights/data-tools/times-nz-3-0-work-in-progress-release/>