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09 October 2025

Dear [REDACTED]

Re: Official Information Act Request: EECA being Fuel Agnostic

Thank you for your letter on Thursday 11 September in which you requested information under the Official Information Act 1982. You requested:

“Any information relating to EECA and its work being “fuel agnostic”, produced since November 27, 2023

Please note the scope of this request includes, but is not limited to, board meeting minutes and agendas and information held by board members in their capacity as members of the board of EECA”

EECA’s mission is to *mobilise New Zealanders to be world leaders in clean and clever energy use*. Our three strategic focus areas are energy efficiency first, empowering energy users and accelerating renewable energy. Our statutory role is to encourage and promote energy efficiency, conservation and the use of renewable forms of energy.

The term ‘fuel agnostic’ has been used in some recent EECA advice and communications to clarify that EECA provides energy efficiency advice across all fuel types, and no specific renewable fuel or technology pathway is being prioritised over another.

We have conducted a search of what EECA holds on file, where the term ‘fuel agnostic’ has been used, including a search of EECA Board papers and minutes. Generally, the term has been used in regard to the Low Emissions Heavy Vehicle Fund and public information around household energy efficiency.

Please refer to the attachment, Item One – Excerpts for the information that is relevant to your request.

Please note the proposed ‘Clean Fuels’ strategic deep dive referenced in item 4, ultimately did not take place.

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

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1. EECA Fortnightly Report to the Minister for Energy (18 October 2024)

Date: 18 October 2024

Section Title: 3.5 Home energy efficiency partnership and public engagement update

Subheading: Future public engagement activity

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Future public engagement activity

The focus of this work programme is to ensure New Zealanders have the information they need to make informed choices to get the most out of the energy they use while saving money.

Ahead of your meeting with EECA officials on Wednesday 23 October, we have appended a slide deck outlining planned activity, including the purpose, key messages and early creative, where available. Please refer to Appendix One for the slides.

We have a strong focus on value for money, supporting consumers with the information they need to make informed decisions. This activity will deliver value by being highly targeted and not using expensive mass broadcast media such as TV.

The content is fuel agnostic and focuses on supporting consumers with information around highly efficient technology, actions they can take in their home to reduce energy use, and tools that allow them to make decisions that work best for their own situation and priorities.

2. Board paper: Home energy efficiency public engagement update

Date: 30 October 2024

Section Title: We have considered this initiative within the current energy environment and tested consumers' perceptions

Pages: 1-2

We have considered this initiative within the current energy environment and tested consumers' perceptions.

4. We are highly aware that the volatile energy environment means we need to take information to the market that is cognisant of the context it operates in. You will note this work no longer talks to "electrification" and is more energy agnostic. It instead focuses on supporting consumers with information around highly efficient technology, actions they can take in their home and tools that

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allow them to look at their personal situation and understand running cost comparisons, so they can make decisions that work best for their own situation and priorities.

3. Agenda Item 4.1a Board strategy day follow up – Horizon Plan

Date: 28 January 2025

Section Title: Appendix One: Board Paper January 2025 Horizon Plan Update and Next Steps

Subheading: Focus area: Empower Energy Users, Well-informed users (excluding industrial)

Page: 5

2: Well-informed users (excluding industrial)

- Focus on targeted information and tools to raise user confidence, capability, consideration and understanding of energy use.
- Expand partnerships to increase reach and influence and build trust with users.
- Play to our Authority role, be energy fuel agnostic while also supporting solutions that deliver user value.
- Develop the “independent Advisor” role to raise user understanding of energy use.

4. Agenda Item 7.3 Board paper: Board Annual Work Programme 2025

Date: 25 February 2025

Section Title: Strategic 'Deep Dives'

Page: 1

Strategic 'Deep Dives'

3. As part of its annual work programme, the Board periodically receives more in-depth items on areas of strategic interest. A list of proposed deep dive topics is provided below for the Board's consideration.
 - a. *Well-functioning smart energy system*: Discuss progress and expected outcomes of scaled demand flexibility (DF) pilots, discuss broader system settings and EECA's role in the market.
 - b. *Clean fuels*: Discuss what it means to be 'fuel agnostic' in terms of our work to identify fuel options for energy transition and make them widely available, discuss where demand for clean fuels is coming from and which renewable fuels we might prioritise.

5. Agenda Item 5.1 Board paper: Update on EECA Statement of Performance Expectations (SPE) 2025/26

Date: 25 March 2025

Section Title: Important context to consider when drafting the SPE

Page: 2

Important context to consider when drafting the SPE

Priorities of the new Minister and wider Government

4. In January, Hon Simon Watts assumed the role of Minister for Energy. EECA has made good progress in establishing a positive relationship with the Minister.
5. Minister Watts has clearly communicated to EECA that his priorities for the energy portfolio are energy security and energy affordability. The Minister has also reinforced the Government's position that interventions should be market-led and focus on overcoming market barriers, with strong value for money and a fuel-agnostic approach. We will ensure the SPE explicitly describes how EECA's programmes address market barriers, contribute to energy security and energy affordability, and create value for government investment.

6. Briefing (EECA 2025 BRF 014): Additional Changes to the Low Emissions Heavy Vehicle Fund (LEHVF)

Date: 13 May 2025

Section Title: Options for changes to LEHVF settings to provide more support to hydrogen vehicles

Subheading: Option 1 – Extend the two-year age limit on vehicle conversions to five years (recommended), Benefits.

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Benefits

12. We see the following benefits associated with this change:
 - a. This change is simple to make and would address the main barrier raised by industry representatives.
 - b. There would be no impact on vehicle safety as the existing safety requirements would be retained.
 - c. There would be minimal impact on costs to the programme, and would potentially mean the LEHVF could support a higher total number of low emission vehicles (as conversions have a lower cost and grant contribution than new vehicles).
 - d. This change would be considered ‘fuel agnostic’ as it would also provide benefit to companies wishing to convert used diesel vehicles to battery electric technology.