

EECA's Fortnightly Report to the Minister for Energy

4 April 2025

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1. Energy Security and Affordability

1.1 Consumer Energy Savings Campaign and complementary workstreams

EECA sent you a briefing on our intentions to launch an information campaign to support New Zealanders over winter with energy affordability and help support energy reduction at peak times.

The campaign leverages media, community, and potentially commercial partners, to deliver simple pragmatic advice to support consumers and highlight the potential bill savings. A similar approach in 2023 returned a 3:1 ROI based on consumer energy savings.

While this work is being shaped, EECA is stepping up its *Switch On Efficiency* programme that supports consumers to understand the cost savings produced by having rooftop solar and investing in other efficient appliances. Alongside this EECA is delivering key messaging around what homeowners can do now to prepare their home for winter, including reviewing if they are on the best power plan and if an Off-Peak plan could be best for them.

Key points:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• EECA is preparing for the requested Consumer Energy Savings Campaign
Next steps:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The first stage of the campaign, ‘Get your home winter energy ready’ will launch on 19 April 2025

1.2 9(2)(f)(iv)

[Redacted content]

Key points:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9(2)(f)(iv)
Next steps:	9(2)(f)(iv)

1.3 9(2)(f)(iv)

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[REDACTED]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [REDACTED]

1.4 Home Efficiency Calculator Solar module

The residential solar feature in EECA's Home Energy Savings Calculator went live on 28 March 2025. The calculator focusses on five high-impact energy uses: heating, hot water, cooktops, driving and rooftop solar. The model calculates savings based on the user's appliance type, usage, as well as location and family size.

The addition of solar to the calculator enables New Zealanders to model the potential savings from installing rooftop solar panels on their home. Results show savings for a typical household of approximately \$1,000 per year from adopting solar. Savings are amplified if more electric appliances are used in the home.

Strong promotion of this calculator and the considerations of Solar for consumers are being amplified as a first key action in the Consumer Energy Savings Campaign package we have put forward to you. This promotion will run over TV, online video, social media, and editorial over April and early May.

Key points:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The residential solar feature in EECA’s Home Energy Savings Calculator went live on 28 March 2025.
Next steps:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Consumer Energy Savings Campaign will run over TV, online video, social media, and editorial over April and early May

1.5 Residential and consumer solar research

We are publishing two key pieces of solar research this month:

The first is a residential rooftop solar research report based on a 12-month study across approximately 47,000 homes. The aim of this research is for EECA to better understand the value proposition of residential solar PV in New Zealand, including how benefits vary with location and system-level factors, including technology costs, storage options, alternative distribution and transmission pricing structures, and solar installation configurations. This research found that solar is likely to be financially viable for a significant proportion of households – especially by pairing with battery storage, cost-reflective time-of-use prices are vital to achieve peak load reduction; however, batteries are currently too expensive to provide net economic benefits for many households, and there is a risk of coincident household demand and export causing rapid shifts in aggregate network load around both peak and low-cost period transitions.

The second piece of research builds a deeper understanding of consumer perspective and experiences related to residential solar. The report explores how households investigate, finance, and install solar, and their perceptions of benefits, barriers, and information gaps. This research found a need for practical, trusted, impartial and comprehensive information that touches on the whole consumer solar lifecycle, to cut through perceptions of often conflicting and decentralised information. This work is informing partnerships with both Master Plumbers and Master Electricians to deliver key information and practical training with their sectors around energy and efficiency technology. The more confident these industries feel with the technology the more likely they are to support consumers to adopt.

Both reports have been provided to MBIE as an input into their solar policy work.

Together, the insights from this research will help to inform EECA's strategies to address current barriers to uptake, and enhance communication, education, and engagement, with the purpose of driving greater adoption of residential solar.

Key points:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We are launching two key pieces of solar research this month• Both reports have been provided to MBIE as an input into their solar policy work.
Next steps:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We are planning to launch two key pieces of solar research the week of 14 April.• We will be holding webinars to share the finds with stakeholders across the sector.

2. Accelerating Renewable Energy

2.1 Public EV Charging loan programme – transition to NIFFCo

EECA is working with National Infrastructure Funding and Financing Limited (NIFFCo) to prepare for the launch of the public EV charging loans programme and the transition of delivery of the programme to NIFFCo.

EECA and NIFFCo are preparing a transition plan for the procurement process and operational and capital funding. As part of this process, we are determining EECA's level of ongoing support for the loans programme (for example subject matter expertise, data provision etc).

We understand the current intention is for the Minister for Energy and the Minister of Transport to seek Cabinet committee approval of the proposed co-investment approach in the week beginning 7 April, with Cabinet confirmation the following week.

Key points:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">EECA is working with NIFFCo to launch the public EV charging loans programme and the transition of delivery of the programme to NIFFCo (including the transfer of operational and capital funding).
Next steps:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Cabinet committee consideration of the new co-investment approach for public EV charging (including delivery by NIFFCo) is expected in the week beginning 7 April.

The latest statistics for total public charge points is provided below.

Total public EV chargers as at 31 March 2025:

	Charge points ¹ :	Charging units ² :	Sites ³ :
New in past year:	197	196	71

¹ Charge points refer to how many vehicles can be charged simultaneously by a charging unit. A charging unit may have multiple charge points.

² Charging unit refers to the stationary electrical supply unit that provides DC or AC electrical output to charge an electric vehicle.

³ Charging site refers to a location where one or more charging units are located (e.g. a service station).

Total:	1,349 ⁴	1,273	558
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EECA-supported public charge points as at 19 March 2025:

Live:	691
In progress⁵:	688
Total:	1,379

⁴ These figures are expected to slightly underestimate the total number of charge points, as it is voluntary for charge point operators to register their chargers in EVRoam (the government-run charger database). This also means there may be a delay in when a charger goes live and when it is reflected in our data.

⁵ In progress refers to charge points that have been contracted but not yet installed.

3. Ministerial servicing updates

3.1 Current and upcoming advice to the Minister

Title	Purpose	Action and timing
Consumer Energy Savings Campaign (EECA 2025 BRF 005)	To inform you of EECA's campaign to help consumers save money and alleviate pressure on grid ahead of winter 2025.	Sent (28 March) Response due 4 April
Update on Hiringa Energy's hydrogen refuelling network (EECA 2025 BRF 009)	Provide context on Hiringa Energy's hydrogen refuelling network.	Upcoming (4 April)
9(2)(f)(iv) [Redacted]	[Redacted]	Upcoming (17 April)
9(2)(f)(iv) [Redacted]	[Redacted]	Upcoming (17 April)
9(2)(f)(iv) [Redacted]	[Redacted]	Upcoming (17 April)
Further advice on EECA work programme reset (EECA 2025 BRF 007)	9(2)(f)(iv) [Redacted]	Upcoming (late April)
Seeking approval to consult on energy efficiency regulatory updates	Seeking your approval to public consultation on further energy efficiency regulatory update proposals.	Upcoming (TBC)

3.2 Communications and events calendar

The following table shows upcoming events and communications which EECA is involved in.

Date	Type	Activity/Event	Opportunities for engagement
8 April 2025	Announcement	We are opening an RFP for round 5 of SEEC funding on 8 April, offering up to 7 providers grants to deliver at least 800 unique in-home energy interventions and support services each, over a 2-year period (to 30 June 2027).	We believe the best opportunity for engagement will be when the 7 providers are announced, which will be by the end of June.
TBC	Announcement	Announcing the Cabinet decision on the new government co-investment approach for public EV charging infrastructure i.e. moving from co-funding to concessionary loans. Pending the Cabinet decision, there will be a launch of Request for Proposals (RFP) for public EV charging concessional loans.	We are discussing opportunities for an announcement or event with your office and the Minister of Transport's office – the early preference is to have one announcement/event to launch the RFP shortly after Cabinet confirmation.
9(2)(f)(iv)			

			9(2)(f)(iv) [Redacted]
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3.3 Official information Act requests

Requestor	Request	Date received	Due date
9(2)(a) [Redacted]	All conflict-of-interest plans for Board member Jon Carnegie, and all correspondence for the commissioning, drafting and approval of any such plan.	14/03/2025	11/04/2025
9(2)(a) [Redacted]	Several questions about the LETF.	24/03/2025	23/04/2025
9(2)(a) [Redacted]	Several questions regarding the placement of Wallbox EV Charger in recent campaign.	25/03/2025	24/04/2025
9(2)(a) [Redacted]	Briefings provided to Ministers in the last 5 years on expanding the Warmer Kiwi Homes programme.	1/04/2025	2/05/2025
9(2)(a) [Redacted]	Number of EV chargers installed as a result of the road user charges.	2/04/2025	5/05/2025

3.4 Consultations underway

Strategic priority	Title	Purpose	Action and timing
Equipment Energy Efficiency Programme (E3)	Regulation impact statement Consultation – Three phase electric motors	Consulting on options to improve the energy efficiency of three phase cage induction motors supplied in Australia and New Zealand. Note, this consultation is being led by Australia.	Closes 28 April
Equipment Energy Efficiency Programme (E3)	Regulation impact statement Consultation – external power supplies	Consulting on possible changes to the energy efficiency requirements applying to external power supplies (EPS) sold, supplied or imported into Australia or New Zealand.	Closes 28 April
Targeted investment	Green paper: Updates to EECA's targeted investment approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signals to the market EECA's move away from grants-based funding models. • Set out EECA's new financial products and provides questions about the models to prompt feedback from businesses and other financial sector stakeholders. 	Closes 30 April

EECA's Fortnightly Report to the Minister for Energy

17 April 2025

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1. Energy Security and Affordability

1.1 Consumer Energy Savings Campaign and complementary workstreams

We are in the market from 19 April with “get your home winter ready” material, highlighting key actions consumers can take ahead of the coldest months to save money on their bills. This includes checking if they are on the right plan and considering an off-peak option.

The larger winter campaign is in development to be live mid-May.

We are also working with the wider energy sector on joined up communications.

We have attached to this report a presentation that gives you a much more detailed update on this initiative.

Next steps:

- Discuss options with you at EECA officials meeting on 24 April

1.2 Whakatane Mill

9(2)(b)(ii)

EECA has supported Whakatane Mill over a number of years to reduce their energy demand by optimising their industrial systems and employing process improvements. This has included, co-investment toward a save-all hot water and heat recovery project, energy management programmes, feasibility studies, and an energy graduate. We continue to have a strong relationship with the business.

9(2)(f)(iv)

Key points:

- 9(2)(f)(iv)

Next steps:

- 9(2)(f)(iv)

1.3 Maru Energy Trust

Maru Energy Trust is a not-for-profit provider, delivering the Warmer Kiwi Homes programme in The Lines Company's network area (including King Country, Taupo, Ruapehu, and Waitomo). MBIE's 4 April Weekly Report flagged some operational issues raised by Maru Energy Trust in their meeting with electorate MP Barbara Kuriger.

Maru Energy Trust are instrumental in the delivery of WKH in the Central Plateau area and their work has significantly lifted the output for the programme in that area. We have reached out to Maru to discuss the matters raised with MP Kuriger. Specific matters raised were:

- Being more flexible with the limits on when wood burners could be removed and replaced with heat pumps.
- Allowing local GPs to refer households to the programme.
- EECA to be more flexible in their procurement approach for preferred installer providers

We have provided a fulsome update to your office on these three points, that your office may like to share with Barbara Kuriger's office.

Key points:

- Maru Energy Trust is a long-standing provider of the Warmer Kiwi Homes programme.
- They have raised some operational concerns which EECA is engaged with them on.

Next steps:

- A fulsome update has been provided to your office, if you would like them to liaise with Barbara Kuriger's office.

1.4 9(2)(f)(iv)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

9(2)(f)(iv)	

2. Accelerating Renewable Energy

2.1 Public EV Charging

On 14 April, Cabinet approved the government's concessional loan approach for investing in public EV charging infrastructure, with National Infrastructure Funding and Financing Limited (NIFFCo) as the delivery agency.

EECA is currently working with NIFFCo to launch public EV charging loans programme and the transition of delivery of the programme to NIFFCo (including the transfer of operational and capital funding).

As part of this, we are confirming with NIFFCo their comfort with the Request for Proposals (RFP) material that we developed for the loans programme. This will influence the timing of when the RFP can be launched. We are also testing the level of support from EECA they will require to launch and deliver the RFP.

The Ministry of Transport (MoT) and MBIE are preparing another Cabinet paper to seek agreement to the appropriation changes required to transfer operational and capital funding for the loans programme to NIFFCo. This will need to be considered after the Budget moratorium ends on Budget day.

Key points:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cabinet has approved the government's concessional loan approach for investing in public EV charging infrastructure, with NIFFCo as the delivery agency. • EECA is working with NIFFCo to launch the public EV charging loans programme and the transition of delivery of the programme to NIFFCo.
Next steps:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will keep you updated on the transition plan for NIFFCo delivery of the EV charging loans programme, including planned release date for the RFP. • MoT and MBIE will provide you and the Minister of Transport with a Cabinet paper seeking agreement to the appropriation changes to transfer funding to NIFFCo.

The latest statistics for total public charge points is provided below.

Total public EV chargers as at 15 April 2025 (and increase since last fortnight):

	Charge points ¹ :	Charging units ² :	Sites ³ :
New in past year:	183	182	65
Total:	1,368 (+19) ⁴	1,273 (+15)	558 (+6)

EECA-supported public charge points as at 15 April 2025:

Live:	721 (+30)
In progress ⁵ :	658 (-30)
Total:	1,379

2.2 9(2)(f)(iv)

¹ Charge points refer to how many vehicles can be charged simultaneously by a charging unit. A charging unit may have multiple charge points.

² Charging unit refers to the stationary electrical supply unit that provides DC or AC electrical output to charge an electric vehicle.

³ Charging site refers to a location where one or more charging units are located (e.g. a service station).

⁴ These figures are expected to slightly underestimate the total number of charge points, as it is voluntary for charge point operators to register their chargers in EVRoam (the government-run charger database). This also means there may be a delay in when a charger goes live and when it is reflected in our data.

⁵ In progress refers to charge points that have been contracted but not yet installed.

- 9(2)(f)(iv) [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]	• [Redacted]
	• [Redacted]
[Redacted]	• [Redacted]

3. EECA Administrative

3.1 EECA internal change proposal

On 10 April, EECA announced an internal change proposal. The proposal is aimed at:

- Providing cost reductions as required by Government
- Aligning our organisational design to deliver on the strategic objectives set by Government
- Set EECA up to concentrate on fewer priority areas that have significant impact.

The consultation period for the proposed change ends on 30 April, with final changes to be announced on 30 May.

We can make a copy of the change proposal available to your office on request.

Key points:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• EECA has announced an internal change process.
Next steps:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Final changes will be announced to staff on 30 May.

4. Ministerial servicing updates

4.1 Current and upcoming advice to the Minister

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Update on Hiringa Energy's hydrogen refuelling network (EECA 2025 BRF 009)	Provide context on Hiringa Energy's hydrogen refuelling network.	Sent (4 April) Response required by 24 April
9(2)(f)(iv) [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Upcoming (17 April)
9(2)(f)(iv) [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Upcoming (17 April)
Further advice on EECA work programme reset (EECA 2025 BRF 007)	9(2)(f)(iv) [REDACTED]	Upcoming (22 April)
Seeking approval to consult on energy efficiency regulatory updates	Seeking your approval to public consultation on further energy efficiency regulatory update proposals.	Upcoming (TBC)

4.2 Communications and events calendar

The following table shows upcoming events and communications which EECA is involved in.

Date	Type	Activity/Event	Opportunities for engagement
TBC	Announcement	Announcing the Cabinet decision on the new government co-investment	We have been working with MoT and NIFF on materials to support the

Requestor	Request	Date received	Due date
9(2)(a)	Briefings provided to Ministers in the last 5 years on expanding the Warmer Kiwi Homes programme.	1/04/2025	2/05/2025
9(2)(a)	Follow up request regarding the inclusion of a Wallbox-branded EV charger in EECA's GenLess Campaign.	14/04/2025	15/05/2025
9(2)(a)	Copies of documents relating to updated to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion policies and plans.	16/04/2025	19/05/2025

4.4 Consultations underway

Strategic priority	Title	Purpose	Action and timing
Equipment Energy Efficiency Programme (E3)	Regulation impact statement Consultation – Three phase electric motors	Consulting on options to improve the energy efficiency of three phase cage induction motors supplied in Australia and New Zealand. Note, this consultation is being led by Australia.	Closes 28 April
Equipment Energy Efficiency Programme (E3)	Regulation impact statement Consultation – external power supplies	Consulting on possible changes to the energy efficiency requirements applying to external power supplies (EPS) sold, supplied or imported into Australia or New Zealand.	Closes 28 April
Targeted investment	Green paper: Updates to EECA's targeted investment approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Signals to the market EECA's move away from grants-based funding models. Set out EECA's new financial products and provides questions about the models to prompt feedback from businesses and other 	Closes 30 April

		financial sector stakeholders.	
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