

EECA's Fortnightly Report to the Minister for Energy

13 June 2025

EECA Contact: Murray Bell, Group Manager, Policy and Regulation

Phone: 04 470 2242 Mobile: 9(2)(a)



1. Energy Security and Affordability

1.1 Consumer Energy Savings Campaign

The full winter campaign is now live across a wide breadth of channels, including TV, radio, social media, and online video. In 10 days, we have reached 380,000 social media accounts and 46% of all TV viewers. The campaign is live until late August.

We have received only positive feedback about the campaign and have had a range of requests from both the energy sector and community support sector for material and resources to support it.

Our key partnerships are also now live. This includes our commercial partners like The Warehouse Group, as well as our Consumer NZ partnership, which has distributed 400,000 physical resources either direct to the most at-risk households, or via a network of 690 community-based partners such as budgeting services and libraries.

EECA experts have also taken interviews from RNZ and TVNZ, speaking about key campaign messages as well as other topics such as Warmer Kiwi Homes. These have been syndicated across many publications, receiving an average audience of 186,000 people.

So far, across our Get Winter Ready and Winter campaign period we have seen over 37,000 visitors to our specific winter content and 27,000 users check if they are eligible for a Warmer Kiwi Homes grant.

We have also had widespread media coverage (12+ pieces) of our core energy advice and tips including on breakfast television, Radio New Zealand, NZ herald, Stuff.co.nz and in a number of regional titles.

We will have a more comprehensive report in early July that shows national reach of the campaign, the impact on Powerswitch and engagement with EECA's tools and advice. A full external evaluation will be run at the end of winter.

Key points:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• EECA's Winter campaign is live and performing well.
Next steps:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We will supply a more detailed update early July.

1.2 9(2)(f)(iv), 9(2)(b)(ii)

9(2)(f)(iv), 9(2)(b)(ii)

[Redacted text block]

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

1.3 9(2)(f)(iv)

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

Key points:

- 9(2)(f)(iv)

1.3 Whakatane Mill

We recently provided you with information about EECA's actions to support Whakatane Mill [refer 30 May EECA Fortnightly Report].

EECA has co-funded an engineering study, working with energy consultants DETA to urgently obtain a long-term reliable steam fuel solution. Early indications suggest the lowest cost option would be to use biomass (low grade wood logs being chipped on site) as fuel to produce steam, replacing natural gas. This solution can be operational within two years. Other options such as drilling for geothermal steam below the site and using biogas onsite have been ruled out as being unreliable and will have very long lead times and low chance for success for the site.

Transitioning to locally sourced biomass will not only stabilise energy costs for the Mill but also reduce reliance on imported fossil fuels, strengthening regional energy security and supporting more affordable, resilient industrial operations.

So far, we have engaged with four boiler equipment suppliers, and we have received indicative costs back from fuel suppliers – approx. 9(2)(b)(ii) capex for 40MW of steam supply.

We have expedited the process to have a draft study ready by 20 June for sharing with Kanoa, MBIE and MPI, which will be used for a Regional Infrastructure Fund application. We can make this available to your office on request.

Key points:

- EECA is supporting an engineering study to urgently obtain a long-term reliable steam fuel solution for Whakatane Mill.

Next steps:

- We aim to have a draft report of the study ready by 20 June. We can make this available to your office at your request.

1.4 Manawatū–Whanganui RETA report published

EECA's Regional Energy Transition Accelerator (RETA) brings together supply and demand-side players in regions to develop pathways for industrial decarbonisation. We recently published the RETA report for the Manawatū–Whanganui region, spanning the dairy, meat, industrial and commercial sectors. Collectively, these sites consume 2,611 TJ of process heat energy, comprising two-thirds of the total piped fossil gas consumption in the region.

Renewable biomass is a particular focus of this report, alongside electrification and energy efficiency measures. By shifting away from fossil fuels toward renewable energy sources, the region can reduce exposure to volatile global energy markets, enhancing energy security while supporting more stable and affordable energy costs for local industries.

By 2037, the most economic pathway could reduce the region's fossil fuel use by 93% compared to 2022 usage. This pathway would see 17 large heat pump installations, and 25 biomass boilers installed by 2037. Supporting these installations would increase electricity demand by 26 GWh per year, and the demand for biomass by 250kt per year. This presents significant opportunities for employment in the region.

A copy of the Manawatū–Whanganui RETA report can be made available to your office at your request.

Key points:

- The Manawatū–Whanganui RETA report has been published.
- The report explores potential pathways that could reduce the region's fossil fuel use by 93% by 2037.

2. Accelerating Renewable Energy

2.1 Low Emission Heavy Vehicle Fund

We are integrating recent changes to the Low Emission Heavy Vehicle Fund (LEHVF). Following the update on 28 May, two Australian-based hydrogen trucks suppliers have expressed interest. We are yet to receive any grant applications following the programme changes.

We do continue to see issues in the market. For instance, 9(2)(f)(iv), 9(2)(b)(ii)

[Redacted]

Key points:

- Two hydrogen truck suppliers have expressed interest since the recent changes to LEHVF.
- 9(2)(f)(iv), 9(2)(b)(ii)

Next steps:

- We will continue to inform you of any updates the programme

2.2 Biogas Bridge forum

You are scheduled to open the Biogas Bridge Forum on 17 July, hosted by GasNZ the Bioenergy Association of NZ, and sponsored by EECA. The intent of the forum is exploring commercial and environmental opportunities relating to biogas production in New Zealand.

Smart adoption of anaerobic digestion, using local feedstock and processing to manage waste streams, could economically generate valuable renewable biogas energy, renewable carbon dioxide, and natural fertilisers. This, in turn, would support regional employment, growth, and resilience, while also contributing to national energy security.

Key points:

- You are scheduled to open the Biogas Bridge Forum on 17 July
- Biogas presents a major opportunity for NZ to replace significant amounts of natural gas and LPG

3. Ministerial servicing updates

3.1 Current and upcoming advice to the Minister

Title	Purpose	Action and timing
9(2)(f)(iv) [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Support for medium to large gas users (EECA BRF 019)	9(2)(f)(iv) [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Update on EECA's 2024/25 Performance measures (EECA MEMO 173)	Information on EECA's performance in the lead up to the Estimates examination hearing (on 19 June).	Upcoming (week of 16 June)
EECA Final Statement of Performance Expectations (SPE) 2025-26 (EECA BRF 018)	To provide the final copy of EECA's Statement of Performance Expectations (SPE) 2025/26 for tabling in the house in accordance with the Crown Entities Act 2004.	Upcoming (27 June)

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
9(2)(f)(iv)			
June	Announcement	Solar on Farms has now been launched at Fielddays at the Farmlands advocacy tent and the project is now in final design phase.	We will support your office through follow-ups with agriculture and energy media, and focus on comms support for the first initiative being stood up.

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27 June 2025

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1. Energy Security and Affordability

1.1 Consumer Energy Savings Campaign and consumer engagement update

The full winter campaign continues to run as we push into winter. We are pleased to report at this early stage 1 million Kiwis have been reached by the TV campaign, we have had 50,000 visits to the online tips and support information and have had over 46,000 people check if they are eligible for a Warmer Kiwi Homes (WKH) grant.

Our initial campaign survey found 70% of consumers that have seen the campaign find its content useful and 80% have taken some action after seeing it. A full external evaluation will be run at the end of winter.

To make sure we are best achieving your goals, we would like to offer the opportunity for EECA to take you through the FY 25/26 roadmap for our Practical Consumer Information programme. This update could be included with a data tools demonstration as outlined in item 1.2.

Key points:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The campaign is performing well, with 70% of consumers that have seen the campaign finding it useful, and 80% taking some action.
Next steps:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We will continue to update you on the campaign performance.• A full evaluation will be undertaken at the end of winter.• We would like to offer an update session on our Practical Consumer Information programme.

1.2 EECA's Data Tools

EECA has created a suite of interactive, publicly available data tools that are used by energy analysts and modellers across the public and private sector to facilitate sound decision making, policy and strategy for the current and emerging energy affordability and security challenges of New Zealand. These tools include:

- **The Energy End Use Database** - an authoritative database of energy use across the NZ economy. The data can be broken down by fuel type, end use and technology. Example Usage: Electricity Authority end usage analytics.
- **The Regional Energy Transition Accelerator Map** – A detailed, regional picture of industrial energy requirements. Example Usage: Transpower future demand modelling.

- **The NZ Energy Scenarios TIMES-NZ 2.0 tool** – Explore possible future scenarios and test assumptions about the New Zealand energy system.

Example Usage: Private sector, to better understand the impact of decisions.

We would welcome the opportunity to demonstrate our suite of data tools for you. If this would be of interest, we will work with your office to set up a demonstration session.

Key points:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EECA has created a suite of data tools that can be used to help with current and emerging energy challenges.
Next steps:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We would welcome the opportunity to demonstrate these data tools with you.

1.3 EECA hosting E3 workshop for international delegates

From 17–19 June, EECA hosted a delegation from the Australian Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW), led by the Head of the Greenhouse and Energy Minimum Standards (GEMS) Branch, along with colleagues from CLASP – a US-based organisation specialising in energy and climate science. We convened an Equipment Energy Efficiency (E3) strategy workshop, focused on the long-term development and alignment of trans-Tasman energy efficiency regulations.

1.4 9(2)(f)(iv)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

9(2)(f)(iv)

Key points:

- 9(2)(f)(iv)

Next steps:

- 9(2)(f)(iv)

1.5 9(2)(f)(iv)

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

9(2)(f)(iv)

9(2)(f)(iv)

Key points:

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

Next steps:

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

2. Accelerating Renewable Energy

2.1 Public EV Charging Infrastructure Loans Programme RFP

The Public EV Charging Infrastructure Loans Programme RFP was released on 11 June 2025 by EECA on behalf of National Infrastructure Funding and Financing Ltd (NIFFCo). EECA is supporting NIFFCo as required with administration of the RFP and technical advice and will have representatives on the evaluation panel. NIFFCo is responsible for the RFP and evaluation process, decision making and contracting, and will then manage the programme.

As part of the RFP, there is an online supplier briefing on Thursday 26 June 2025. The deadline for proposals is 12pm on 22 July 2025. Decisions on successful Respondents is expected in early October 2025.

The Ministry of Transport is preparing a Cabinet paper seeking agreement to amend appropriations to transfer the delivery of the loans programme from EECA to NIFFCo. This is planned to be considered by Cabinet Expenditure and Regulatory Review (EXP) Committee on 15 July.

Key points:

- The Public EV Charging Infrastructure Loans Programme RFP was released on 11 June 2025.
- EECA is supporting NIFFCo with administration of the RFP, with NIFFCo responsible for the RFP and delivery of the programme.

Next steps:

- The deadline for proposals is 12pm on 22 July 2025.
- Cabinet EXP Committee will consider the Cabinet paper on 15 July to amend appropriations to transfer funding for the programme from EECA to NIFFCo.

2.2 Hiringa Energy's hydrogen refuelling network

Following the update on 16 May [EECA Fortnightly Report 16 May refers], IRG Ministers have agreed to extend the deadline for Hiringa to complete the hydrogen refuelling network to 31 December 2025, and 31 March 2026 for delivery of the remaining vehicles of the 20-vehicle fleet from TR Group.

Hiringa remain confident in completing the build of the final hydrogen site at Tauriko by 30 June 2025, however acknowledge the bedding-in process including the purification of hydrogen produced to be suitable for refuelling trucks will require additional time.

EECA will also need to be satisfied that all funding conditions are met including confirmation of a 10-year lease agreement, insurance cover and all consents have been issued before agreeing to the conversion of the loan to grant funding.

TR Group have confirmed that in addition to the truck currently in testing, the four Hyundai trucks will be operational by October 2025 and the delivery of the GBV converted trucks will be completed by February 2026.

Key points:

- IRG Ministers have agreed to extend the deadline for Hiringa to complete the hydrogen refuelling network to 31 December 2025.

Next steps:

- We will maintain contact with Hiringa and TR Group, and offer our help where we can, to avoid further delays.

3. Ministerial servicing updates

3.1 Current and upcoming advice to the Minister

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EECA Final Statement of Performance Expectations (SPE) 2025-26 (EECA BRF 018)	To provide the final copy of EECA's Statement of Performance Expectations (SPE) 2025/26 for tabling in the house in accordance with the Crown Entities Act 2004.	Upcoming (27 June)

3.2 Communications and events calendar

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[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

		9(2)(f)(iv)	
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3.3 Official information Act requests

Requestor	Request	Date received	Due date
9(2)(a)	(In summary) Information regarding the slowing down of the State Sector Decarbonisation Fund (SSDF). Including project statuses.	23 June	21 July

3.4 Consultations underway

Strategic priority	Title	Purpose	Action and timing
		9(2)(f)(iv)	