

EECA's Fortnightly Report to the Minister for Energy

14 November 2025

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1. Energy Security and Affordability

1.1 Vehicle to Grid (V2G)

Queenstown Trial

EECA has launched Requests for Proposals for delivery of the Queenstown V2G trial. This includes seeking a supplier to purchase and install the 30-40 V2G chargers to be installed in the trial, as well as a supplier for technical project design and delivery of the trial.

To support this activity, Rewiring Aotearoa spoke about the trial at a Queenstown Electrification Accelerator event on 8 November, as well as publishing a webpage (on their Queenstown Electrification Accelerator site¹) that provides a high-level overview of the project and invites initial expressions of interest for participation.

9(2)(f)(iv)



Other activity

9(2)(f)(iv)



EECA is also engaging with MBIE regarding the potential Climate and Finance 2+2 item relating to 'aligning V2G standards with Australia'. We have provided MBIE with an update on V2G standards from our perspective, to inform engagement with Australian officials.

Key points:

- EECA has launched Requests for Proposals for delivery of the trial to install 30-40 vehicle to grid EV chargers in Queenstown.

¹ <https://www.gea.nz/v2g>

[Redacted]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9(2)(f)(iv) [Redacted]
Next steps:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9(2)(f)(iv) [Redacted] • [Redacted]

2. Accelerating Renewable Energy

2.1 9(2)(f)(iv) [Redacted]

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[Redacted]

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[Redacted]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [Redacted]
[Redacted]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [Redacted]
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2.2 9(2)(f)(iv)

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2.3 Solar Accreditation

Over recent months we have been designing programmes focused on supporting the growth of solar in residential, farming and schooling sectors. A key part of this work is ensuring there is clear and consistent guidance across the sector, particularly regarding requirements for installers and product standards.

To support this, we are developing a set of requirements that cover areas such as:

- the quality of products including solar panels, inverters and batteries (based on criteria for energy performance, durability and demand flexibility)
- providing assurance to customers of the quality of the company installing the system, appropriate system size and design, hardware selection and workmanship

These settings are focused on providing a coherent national approach, future-proofing the system, enabling flexibility, and ensuring solar can be integrated safely and efficiently as uptake grows.

EECA is looking to ensure that requirements are streamlined as much as possible to minimise cost to industry, for example, aligning with Australian requirements and working with industry partners where relevant.

There is broad industry support for the direction of our work. However given the broad range of stakeholders involved – including installers, product suppliers, and industry bodies – there may be a range of views on the requirements. We are mitigating this by undertaking clear engagement and communication with industry.

Key points:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• EECA is currently undertaking work to develop assurance of the quality of solar products (panels, inverters and batteries) as well as the quality of the design and installation of solar systems.
Next steps:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We will continue with this work and provide updates via regular reporting on any developments or stakeholder matters. We can provide you with more detailed advice on this work if you would prefer.

2.4 9(2)(f)(iv) [Redacted]

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[Redacted]	[Redacted]
[Redacted]	[Redacted]

4. Ministerial servicing updates

4.1 Current and upcoming advice to the Minister

Title	Purpose	Action and timing
9(2)(f)(iv) [Redacted]	[Redacted]	Sent – awaiting signature
EECA's 2025/26 First Quarter Report (1 July – 30 September 2025)	To provide delivery updates on EECA's work programmes and performance measures.	Sent
MBIE-EECA joint briefing on the upcoming Energy and Climate Ministerial Council and E3 Strategy	To advise the Minister on attending the upcoming ECMC in December in Canberra, and E3 associated decisions for New Zealand.	Briefing scheduled for late November for Ministerial decisions early December.
EECA's Distributed Flexibility research findings and work programme	To brief the Minister on recent research into the potential of distributed flexibility and outline EECA's activities in this area.	Upcoming (late November)
EECA energy levies funding approach for 2026/27	To present options to progress EECA's recovery of energy levy funding in 2026/27.	Upcoming (mid-November)
9(2)(f)(iv) [Redacted]	[Redacted]	Upcoming (late November)

4.2 Communications and events calendar

The following table shows upcoming events and communications.

Date	Type	Activity/Event	Opportunities for engagement
9(2)(f)(iv)			

4.4 Consultations underway

Strategic priority	Title	Purpose	Action and timing
Energy efficiency standards	E3 Consultation on policy options to introduce MEPS and consumer information for heat pump water heaters	Stakeholder feedback from this public consultation will inform future work under E3 to drive higher market uptake of heat pump water heaters.	Closed 31 October. Over 30 submissions received and being considered to develop a comprehensive policy proposal for your endorsement as a member of the trans-Tasman Energy and Climate Change Council (ECC)

			in December. Another briefing to come 20 Nov.
Empowering energy users	Unlocking the potential of demand flexibility – a residential product perspective	This green paper seeks views from industry and other interested stakeholders on how to unlock the potential of demand flexibility through residential end-use products. This includes identifying key products, and the required product-level components for DF.	Closed 10 November, we received 24 submissions (some still coming in). We will publish a summary on EECA’s website and keep your office informed as we review the submissions and plan next steps.

EECA's Fortnightly Report to the Minister for Energy

28 November 2025

EECA Contact: Will Jensen, Manager, Policy and Engagement

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1. Accelerating Renewable Energy

1.1 9(2)(f)(iv)

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1.2 Solar on Farms demonstration projects

EECA has completed assessment of the 237 applications, received for the Solar on Farms technology demonstration fund.

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9(2)(f)(iv)

[Redacted]	[Redacted]
[Redacted]	[Redacted]

1.3 SEANZ survey on solar grid connection issues

SEANZ recently completed a survey of solar installers identifying common challenges for solar PV grid connections across different EDB regions. We understand SEANZ have engaged with your office on this work. Common themes identified include a lack of communication, transparency, and consistency in processes, preventing timely and straightforward grid connections. In response, SEANZ has proposed mitigations to introduce consistency across networks, including:

- agreement on maximum processing time for all applications
- consistent information requests for connections
- working with staff informed on solar technology
- transparency with costs and processes (online accessible)
- third party management of a universal connection agreement.

EECA is working with the Electricity Engineers' Association, the EA and several EDBs to develop technical guidance to enable consistency across EDBs for connected distributed energy resources (including solar). We will consider SEANZ findings in the guidance being developed, which will be published from March 2026.

In the meantime, we continue to reiterate expectations of consistent, streamlined processes and timeframes for solar connections across EDBs involved in delivering EECA's various solar programmes. Where appropriate, we are leveraging the ENA for sector coordination.

Key points:

- SEANZ recently completed a survey identifying common challenges for solar PV grid connections across EDBs, identifying a lack of communication, transparency, and consistency preventing timely and straightforward grid connections.

Next steps:

- We will consider SEANZ findings (and considered proposed mitigations) through technical guidance we are developing to enable consistency across EDBs for connected distributed energy resources (including solar). This will be published from March 2026.
- We continue to reiterate expectations of consistent, streamlined processes to EDBs involved in delivering EECA's various solar programmes.

2. Energy Security and Affordability

2.1 International Energy Agency Energy Efficiency report

The IEA released its annual Energy Efficiency report on 20 November 2025. The report finds global energy-efficiency progress has continued to improve (~1.8% energy intensity improvements p.a. from 2019 – 2025) but remains below the COP28 commitment to double energy efficiency progress by 2030 (i.e. 4%).

While global efficiency investment is rising (~USD 800 billion in 2025), there are particular challenges with industrial energy use, commercial buildings, data-centres, workforce capability and supply-chain readiness.

The report reaffirms the importance of EECA's strategic focus on "Energy Efficiency First" to enable energy security and affordability. EECA will take note of the report's findings as we continue to pursue this objective within our existing work programme.

Key points:

- The IEA's 2025 Annual Energy Efficiency Report reaffirms, accelerating energy efficiency remains the largest, fastest, and lowest-cost way to support households and businesses that face rising energy costs.
- Global energy-efficiency continues to improve but remains below the COP28 commitment to double energy efficiency progress by 2030.

Next steps:

- This research will be a useful input into our work programme to enable energy security and affordability.

2.2 Warmer Kiwi Homes

EECA has improved the way it identifies eligible low-middle income household areas.

The WKH programme is eligible to homeowners who hold a Community Services Card, SuperGold Combo card or live in an area identified as low to middle income. To identify these eligible low-middle income areas in the most effective and accurate way possible, EECA has recently updated its socio-economic derivation index model. This update means EECA is now able identify these eligible areas down to the smallest geographical area available from Statistics New Zealand based on the best available census data (2023).

EECA is working with the University of Otago to consider other ways it might be able to improve on the existing deprivation index model. This work is ongoing, however initial findings indicate alternative methods provide similar performance levels.

From next year, eligible households will no longer be able to apply for a WKH subsidy for a wood or pellet burner.

EECA has considered the appropriateness of funding wood burners under the Warmer Kiwi Homes programme, in light of new research highlighting the negative impact on homeowners through indoor air pollution, alongside wider community harms from particulate matter pollution.

We have determined that wood burners will become ineligible for Warmer Kiwi Homes funding in 2026. There will be a transitional phase to align with the remaining term for current service provider contracts. In the interim, eligibility criteria for wood burners will be tightened so they are only being installed in situations where heat pumps do not offer an acceptable alternative.

Key points:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The WKH programme can now identify the eligible low-middle income areas in a more precise and accurate manner using the latest data available from Stats NZ.• EECA has made the decision to no longer provide WKH funding for the installation of wood and pellet burners. This will come into effect fully in 2026.
Next steps:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• EECA will take steps to narrow current criteria for wood burners.• Wood burners will become ineligible for Warmer Kiwi Homes funding in 2026.

2.3 Banking sector RFI

We plan to launch a request for information (RFI) in the first week of December, seeking information on what products banks and others offer so that we can refer to, or link to, those on our website. This information will be published by EECA as part of a searchable 'Finance Hub' and will also be used as part of our engagement with energy users.

This information will be published by EECA on our website as part of a searchable 'Finance Hub' and may also be used directly by Regional Managers to help energy users access finance. We will keep your office informed as this progresses.

This initiative follows recent engagement with the major banks (ANZ, ASB, BNZ, Westpac and Kiwibank) and other non-bank lenders/investors who focus on energy-related projects. The engagement was focused on sharing EECA's current initiatives and focus areas. These sessions were well received, and have resulted in a number of potential opportunities, including better bank promotion of EECA information and materials.

Key points:

- We plan to launch an RFI in the first week of December seeking information about sustainable lending products that can be used by energy users to support EECA initiatives.

Next steps:

- The RFI will be open until late January, following which we will collate all information for publication on our website.

2.4 Compliance case - Kumar's Automotives

On Friday 21 November, Lower Hutt company Kumar's Autoservices Limited (KAL) was sentenced after pleading guilty to failing to meet energy efficiency regulations for air conditioners they imported and sold in 2024. These below-standard units could cost homeowners an additional \$700-\$1400 over the life of the product at current energy prices.

From a starting point of a \$17,000 fine, the Judge applied a 25 per cent discount for KAL's guilty pleas, a 10 per cent discount for its lack of previous convictions, and a five per cent discount for its limited financial position. The final sentence was therefore a \$10,500 fine (five charges).

This is a great compliance outcome as the units will no longer be sold and EECA can utilise this story to promote the importance of Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS) for household appliances.

Key points:

- Kumar’s Autoservices has been handed down a \$10,500 fine for non-compliance with minimum energy performance regulations.

Next steps:

- EECA will leverage this case to increase public awareness of energy efficiency.

3. Other Updates

3.1 Engagement on EECA levy funding recovery for 2026/27

Around half of EECA’s annual baseline appropriation funding is sourced from three government energy levies on the engine fuel, electricity, and natural gas sectors.

Levy funding is critical for EECA to deliver our baseline work programmes that support your priorities of energy security and affordability. This includes:

- Solar on farms,
- Wood energy initiatives,
- Demand flexibility initiatives
- Direct support for gas users
- Regulatory work programme; and
- Consumer information.

The energy levy recovery process is coming up for 2026/27. As the responsible Minister, you determine the amount and proportions that EECA recovers from the three energy levies each year (up to \$23.259 million per the cap set by Cabinet).

EECA must publicly consult on our levy funding proposal for 2026/27 in January before submitting a formal levy funding request to you in February for decision.

MBIE and EECA will begin early engagement with you on EECA’s 2026/27 levy funding proposal at your EECA officials meeting on 10 December. EECA will brief your office on our levy consultation document in January ahead of public consultation, and report back to you on the consultation outcome when submitting our final levy funding request in late February.

Key points:

- The levy recovery process is coming up for 2026/27 and EECA will begin engaging with you in December.
- This is an important process in securing funding for EECA’s key initiatives.

Next steps:

- EECA will discuss our levy funding proposal with you at the officials meeting on 10 December.
- EECA's public levy consultation will take place in January, before we submit our formal levy funding request to you in late February.

3.2 Revised procurement rules

EECA has established a work programme to ensure the successful implementation of the new revised Government Procurement Rules (Fifth Edition). We are confident that EECA will be fully compliant with the revised rules by the time they come into effect, on 1 December 2025.

To prepare for the new rules, we are rolling out an online contract management platform, which will strengthen our procurement and contract management capability.

Our revised procurement approach will place a stronger emphasis on identifying and realising economic benefits to New Zealand. This focus will be embedded in staff training to ensure that economic benefit considerations are consistently applied. The monitoring of these benefits will be proportionate to the type and scale of benefit sought. At a minimum, this requirement is being incorporated into EECA's contract templates and contract management plans, as well as the addition of new fields in GETS.

Key points:

- The revised Government Procurement Rules (Fifth Edition) ("the Rules") come into effect from 1 December 2025. EECA is reviewing and updating our procurement policies and processes to ensure full alignment with the new requirements.
- The revised procurement approach has a stronger emphasis on delivering economic benefits to New Zealand.

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EECA's Distributed Flexibility research findings and work programme	To brief the Minister on recent research into the potential of distributed flexibility and outline opportunities to promote EECA's activities in this area.	Upcoming (early December)

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