

EECA's Fortnightly Report to the Minister for Energy

5 September 2025

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1. Energy Security and Affordability

1.1 Support for gas users

EECA's upcoming regional industry engagement events have now been confirmed as:

- 18 September: Hawke's Bay
- 23 September: Auckland
- 24 September: Manawatu/Whanganui

EECA will be using these sessions to promote our digital toolkit for gas users and drive take-up of our Walkthrough Energy Assessment product. 21 businesses have now taken up the walkthrough assessment offer, including 9(2)(ba)(ii). Support like EECA's energy assessments and audits allow businesses to identify immediate energy saving opportunities. EECA supported businesses to complete 32 energy audits in 2024/25, which identified 11 GWh (\$460k) of savings with less than a 12-month payback (across all fuel types).

The digital toolkit includes resources to support small- to medium-sized gas users to take immediate energy efficiency steps, help with talking to their gas suppliers, relevant, replicable case studies, and links to our products including the new walkthrough assessment, feasibility studies and energy transition plans.

We will also promote the toolkit via our digital channels, sector networks and specialist publications, and other engagement opportunities including conferences.

Key points:	• We are continuing to promote our tools for gas-using businesses.
Next steps:	• EECA will publish our digital toolkit for gas users ahead of industry engagement taking place in September.

9(2)(f)(iv)

1.3 EECA engagement with businesses

9(2)(b)(ii)

[Redacted]

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2. Accelerating Renewable Energy

2.1 Solar on farms

On 4 September, EECA published information on the upcoming Solar on Farms demonstration fund which will open for applications from 18 September. We will be looking for applicants from a range of different farm types, sizes and locations across New Zealand. We aim to target 40 farms, solar and battery systems, and farmers who are open to sharing the system performance and their experiences with others in the sector.

The Solar on Farms technology demonstration media release has so far been picked up by Energy News, RNZ Country Life, and NZ Grower and NZ Winegrower magazines. EECA General Manager Megan Hurnard will do a prerecorded interview with RNZ on Tuesday 9 September and Solar on Farms will feature in both magazine's October issues. NZ Grower is doing a broader story on the efficacy of on-farm solar and will feature horticultural farmers in the piece. We expect there will be further media coverage over the coming days.

The Solar on Farms hotline number also went live on Thursday. Contact details are published on our website (<https://www.eeca.govt.nz/co-funding-and-support/products/solar-on-farms>), but are also been shared with sector partners. Our Solar on Farms support team responded to 8 calls on the first day, from farmers, growers and solar installers. Most of the enquiries have been requesting further information on the demonstration fund. We also received 50 new registrations of interest via the website.

We will do further promotion of the 0800 number separately from the fund, encouraging farmers to call if they have questions or are experiencing issues during the quoting, installation or consenting process.

We have now received 157 registrations of interest.

Key points:	• Applications for the Solar on Farms demonstration fund will be open from 18 September. • The Solar on Farms hotline number is now live and our support team have responded to 8 calls in the first day
Next steps:	• We will continue to provide regular updates on the Solar on Farms programme and provided support in the Fortnightly reports as requested.

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9(2)(f)(iv)

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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

2.3 Low Emission Heavy Vehicle Fund (LEHVF)

You met with the Hydrogen Industry Leadership Group on 20 August and discussed their proposal to use some of the remaining LEHVF funding to subsidise the cost of fuel used by hydrogen-fuelled heavy vehicles.

You directed EECA to provide you with advice on how these changes could be practically implemented and the possible impact.

We are currently preparing this advice and have been engaging with hydrogen industry representatives to further refine the proposal.

We will provide you with advice on this proposal by 12 September.

Key points:

- You will receive advice on 12 September on a proposal to amend the LEHVF to subsidise the cost of hydrogen fuel.

3. Ministerial servicing updates

3.1 Current and upcoming advice to the Minister

Title	Purpose	Action and timing
Proposal to amend LEHVF to support hydrogen fuel (EECA 2025 BRF 026)	To seek the Minister's decision on a proposal to use some LEHVF funding to subsidise the cost of hydrogen fuel	Upcoming (12 September)
E3 Heat Pump Water Heater public consultation (EECA 2025 BRF 027)	Joint EECA-MBIE briefing to seek Ministerial approval to consult	Upcoming (12 September)
Green paper on unlocking the potential of demand flexibility from a residential product perspective (EECA MEMO 174)	To advise the Minister of green paper before public release	Upcoming (September)

3.2 Official information Act requests

Requestor	Request	Date received	Due date
9(2)(a) [Redacted]	Copies of any reports, documents or briefings regarding the health effects of gas cooking and/or emissions from gas cooking, produced by, commissioned or received by EECA.	26 August	23 September

3.3 Consultations underway

Strategic priority	Title	Purpose	Action and timing
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Energy efficiency standards	(Working title) Technical options to address cooling seasonal performance calculation issues for air conditioners	In collaboration with DCCEEW and under the E3 programme, to develop technical options to address a technical issue in the cooling seasonal performance calculation for air conditioners	Open (submissions close 30 September)
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.	We have received feedback from MBIE and the Australian Government. Subject to EA feedback, consultation will commence in October.

EECA's Fortnightly Report to the Minister for Energy

19 September 2025

EECA Contact: Will Jensen, Manager, Policy and Engagement

Phone: 04 470 2441 Mobile: 9(2)(a)



1. Energy Security and Affordability

1.1 Support for gas users

EECA's digital toolkit for gas users is going live on our website on Friday 19 September. The digital toolkit includes resources to support small- to medium-sized gas users to take immediate energy efficiency steps, help with talking to their gas suppliers, relevant, replicable case studies, and links to our products including the new walkthrough assessment, feasibility studies and energy transition plans.

The digital toolkit will be heavily promoted at our industry engagement events and backed by tactical digital marketing activity. We are also sharing key tips included in the toolkit with interested media.

As noted previously, EECA's regional industry engagement events with gas users are taking place on:

- 18 September: Hawke's Bay
- 23 September: Auckland
- 24 September: Manawatu/Whanganui

We have had 42 businesses register to attend the Hawke's Bay event, 33 for Auckland and 13 so far for Manawatu/Whanganui. We will provide you with insights from this industry engagement in the next fortnightly report on 3 October.

EECA's ongoing engagement with the finance sector has identified strong interest in our gas industry engagement events and banks have been promoting the events to their customers.

EECA has now had 26 businesses sign up for Walkthrough Energy Assessments. Initial feedback from service providers offering the assessments is that they are useful as businesses are feeling that they don't have many options to address gas affordability. Businesses are weighing up options such as electricity supply capacity, whether they may need to move sites in future, technology availability in New Zealand and consideration of utilising alternative fuels (such as LPG) as an interim solution. The assessments help businesses to understand the options available to them, and next steps to progress preferred options.

Key points:

- EECA's digital toolkit for gas users is going live and, along with our Walkthrough Energy Assessment product, is being promoted to businesses at our regional industry engagement events.

Next steps:

- We will update you on the insights from our regional industry engagement events in the next fortnightly report on 3 October.

1.2 Consumer Energy Savings Campaign

The Winter Consumer Energy Savings Campaign came out of market on 31 August after launching in June.

We have the interim results from an external research provider and are pleased to report that the campaign has been highly successful. It has reached 2.5 million New Zealanders with relevant actionable advice over winter to support energy affordability.

Key performance metrics:

- 1.5 million New Zealanders can recall the campaign, with further increased rates of recall amongst those more at risk of energy hardship.
- 85% consider the campaign to be practical and informative.
- 1.2 million New Zealanders took at least one of our promoted energy efficiency actions.
- Powerswitch had its three biggest months of visitors in history (over 700,000 visits) with a 136% increase in consumers switching year on year.
- Warmer Kiwi Homes had over 10,000 applications in the last 2 months, over 40% of the annual target.
- EECA has invested under \$1.85 for every consumer that has taken an energy saving action due to the campaign.

Key points:	• We have the interim results from an external research provider and are pleased to report that the campaign has been highly successful.
Next steps:	• We will undertake ROI modelling to understand the total energy and cost savings of the campaign alongside its cost effectiveness. • We would welcome the opportunity to take your office through the performance of both the Winter Campaign and our Switch On Efficiency campaign as well as next steps such as early thinking for supporting consumers in Winter 2026.

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

2. Accelerating Renewable Energy

2.1 Solar on Farms

The Solar on Farms demonstration fund is now live and open for applications as of 18 September. We received 440 registrations of interest for the fund, and we have notified them that we are now accepting applications.

Farmers can apply via our website: [Solar on farms – demonstration fund | EECA](#)

Our Solar on Farms support team have taken over 50 phone calls since the hotline number was connected on 4 September. The majority of enquiries have been about the demonstration fund.

Key points:

- The Solar on Farms demonstration fund is now live and open for applications.

Next steps:

- We will be setting up a dedicated, recurring reporting channel with your office to monitor the Solar on Farms programme and share key insights.

2.2 New Zealand Defence Force State Sector Decarbonisation Fund projects

NZDF has not started two SSDF projects (Woodbourne and Waiouru) and has no intention to for at least four years. In light of this, you sent a letter to the Minister of Defence on 12 August 2025 requesting a return of the related SSDF project co-funding (\$4.387 million).

The Minister of Defence responded on 20 August noting that these funds were never drawn down to Vote Defence. It has since been confirmed that the Ministry of Defence never actioned a baseline update to draw down the agreed Tranche 15 funding from the Tagged Capital Contingency.

Accordingly, approval from the Minister of Finance and Minister of Defence to return the funding is not required. EECA and MBIE now deem this matter resolved.

Key points:

- Approval from the Ministers of Finance and Defence is not required to return unutilised SSDF funding from NZDF, as it was never drawn down.
- EECA and MBIE now deem this matter resolved.

3. Ministerial servicing updates

3.1 Current and upcoming advice to the Minister

Title	Purpose	Action and timing
Green paper on unlocking the potential of demand flexibility from a residential product perspective (EECA MEMO 174)	To advise the Minister of green paper before public release	Sent 17 September
Approval to consult on a trans-Tasman proposal to introduce minimum energy performance standards and information requirements for heat pump water heaters (EECA 2025 BRF 027)	To seek the Minister's approval to consult on a trans-Tasman proposal to introduce minimum energy performance standards and information requirements for heat pump water heaters	Sent (response due 26 September)
9(2)(f)(iv) [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

3.2 Communications and events calendar

The following table shows upcoming events and communications.

Date	Type	Activity/Event	Opportunities for engagement
24 September	EECA media statement	Statement on EECA website – to support combustion report published	FYI only
9(2)(f)(iv) [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

October/ November	Announcement opportunity	Solar on Farms demonstration farms confirmed	On farm site visits
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3.3 Official information Act requests

Requestor	Request	Date received	Due date
9(2)(a) [REDACTED]	Copies of any reports, documents or briefings regarding the health effects of gas cooking and/or emissions from gas cooking, produced by, commissioned or received by EECA.	26 August	23 September
9(2)(a) [REDACTED]	Any information relating to EECA and its work being “fuel agnostic”, produced since 27 November 2023	11 September	9 October

3.4 Consultations underway

Strategic priority	Title	Purpose	Action and timing
Energy efficiency standards	Solar product technical specification for consultation	This paper seeks feedback on technical specification for efficient and demand-flexible solar	Open (submissions close 29 September)
Energy efficiency standards	(Working title) Technical options to address cooling seasonal performance calculation issues for air conditioners	In collaboration with DCCEEW and under the E3 programme, to develop technical options to address a technical issue in the cooling seasonal performance calculation for air conditioners	Open (submissions close 30 September)

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.	Planning to release for public feedback at the end of September
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.	Subject to Ministerial approval, we are planning to publicly consult from the week 29 Oct