



ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION ORGANISATIONS OF NZ INC.

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Submissions
Electricity Authority
PO Box 10041
Wellington 6143

Submission on An operational review of Part 6 of the Code - second consultation

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Environment and Conservation Organisations of NZ (ECO) is the national alliance of 55 groups with a concern for the environment. We were established in 1972. Our reach within New Zealand is substantial. Energy Policy and climate change has been a central concern for many years, and has had much attention from our members and working groups and Exec committee and has been discussed at successive AGMs.

This submission has been prepared by members of ECO Executive and is in line with ECO Policy that was developed in consultation with ECO member bodies and endorsed by our AGM.

ECO has had a long involvement in energy policy going back to its formation over 40 years ago.

2.0 Summary of Submission

ECO supports measures to make it easier for distributed generators eg solar panels or small scale operators to feed electricity back. This generation is important if New Zealand is to move to 100% renewable electricity network and avoid the emissions of greenhouse gases.

There is evidence globally of a move to promote the installation of PV panels – in the last year China installed more PV panels than New Zealand has installed capacity. The US and

Europe have similarly adopted measures to promote the installation of PV panels as measures to increase the use of renewable and reduce their dependence on fossil fuel generators.

ECO considers that Government should regulate to promote connections of PV panels to the local grid and that this should be determined nationally rather than by individual power companies.

These regulations should require that electricity companies purchase excess solar electricity produced by households and businesses at a fair and predictable price. This includes the introduction of true net metering as an option for all solar electricity producers. This would allow people producing solar electricity to be charged for the net amount of electricity they use and thus receive a fair price for the excess electricity they produce. This is the only truly fair way to go.

7.0 Request

ECO would welcome the opportunity to discuss this submission with the Authority. Please contact ECO at eco@eco.org.nz tel 04385-7545 and copy in ecowatch@paradise.net.nz and for any arrangements about this submission.

Yours sincerely,

Barry Weeber
Co-Chairperson
Environment and Conservation Organisations