

17 December 2025

Claire Harkess
Manager, Data and Information Disclosure
Commerce Commission
Wellington 6140

By email to: infrastructure.regulation@comcom.govt.nz

Dear Claire,

Submission to the Commerce Commission (Commission) on *Electricity Distribution ID Amendments – Related party transaction threshold 2025 – draft decision*

Electricity Networks Aotearoa (ENA) appreciates the opportunity to make a submission to the Commission on its consultation on draft decision proposing to amend the related party reporting thresholds.

ENA is the industry membership body that represents the 29 electricity distribution businesses that take power from the national grid and deliver it to homes and businesses (refer Appendix A for list of members).

EDBs employ over 7,800 people, deliver energy to more than two million homes and businesses, and have invested \$6.2 billion in network assets over the last five years. ENA harnesses members' collective expertise to promote safe, reliable, and affordable power for consumers.

ENA supports the proposed amendment for 'issue 1' – related party disclosure thresholds

We agree with the Commission's proposal to increase the threshold from \$20 million to \$30 million, as the current threshold no longer accurately reflects the scale of the operations it was originally intended to capture, due to cost inflation over the last 8 years.

ENA recommends a CPI adjustment be built into the amendment

We recommend that the Commission amend the determination to include 'adjusted each year by the CPI movement' from the date of implementation. This will ensure the threshold continues to adjust in line with inflation going forward and reduce the risk of needing 'catch up' adjustments like this one.

The Electricity Authority have recently done this with some of their Code amendments for connection pricing,¹ e.g.:

pioneering connection works means an **extension** where—
(a) the portion of the **extension cost** initially met by a **connection applicant** is more than the amount of \$50,000 in December 2025 dollar terms, adjusted each year by the **CPI movement**, or a lesser amount specified by the **distributor**; and

¹ Electricity Authority, [Electricity Industry Participation Code Connection Pricing Requirements Amend 4H518Bt.pdf](#), July 2025

Members between the thresholds may require an exemption for this disclosure year

Our understanding is that it can sometimes be difficult for members to engage an assessor to complete the independent report requirements in clause 2.8.2, in relation to related party disclosures, unless confirmed with significant notice. This may mean that a decision in late Q1 2026, as indicated that it might be in your reasons paper, may leave them with insufficient time to engage an assessor, and complete the additional disclosure work, should your final decision be to not adjust the threshold, or to adjust it to a lower level than indicated by the draft.

ENA therefore recommends that, if the Commission's final determination is issued later than 31 January 2026, the Commission should consider granting related party exemptions for EDBs who expect to fall between the \$20 million and \$30 million level for the disclosure year ending 31 March 2026. We propose this as a one-off transitional arrangement to provide greater certainty for EDBs.²

ENA supports the proposed amendment to 'issue 2' – director certification

We support the proposal to extend the scope of the director certification to cover all clauses of the related party disclosures, meaning 2.3.8 to 2.3.16. Whilst we have no objection to the inclusion of clauses 2.3.17 and 2.3.18, we do note that these clauses are unrelated to related party disclosures, which we don't think has been clear within the wording of the draft decision reasons paper.³ Perhaps the reasons paper accompanying the final determination could provide more clarity on why clauses 2.3.17 and 2.3.18 are deemed 'relevant' for director certification.

ENA supports the principle of removing unnecessary information from schedules ('issue 3')

ENA makes no comment on the specific schedules referred to under issue 3. However, we support the principle of 'minor amendments to EDB schedules layout' to remove disclosures that are no longer required. We are also very happy to work with the Commission on other ways to make the ID schedules more user friendly for stakeholders, such as exploring ways to reduce the width of Schedule 8.

If you have any questions about ENA's submission please contact Gemma Pascall, Regulatory Manager ().

Yours sincerely

Gemma Pascall
Regulatory Manager

² This could be done in a manner similar to the 2020 exemptions, e.g. [ID-Exemption-All-EDBs-Auditing-of-successive-interruptions-9-April-2020.pdf](#) or [ID-Exemption-All-EDBs-Notice-of-conditional-exemptions-from-electricity-distribution-services-information-disclosures-31-March-2020.pdf](#)

³ Paragraph 19 continues to reference related party disclosures and then in the last sentence proposes extending the scope to include 2.3.8 to 2.3.18 'to ensure all relevant disclosure obligations are captured.' In the context of a paper specifically on related party transactions and with related parties explicitly referenced in the previous sentence in the same paragraph, our reading is that the implication is that all the clauses 2.3.8 to 2.3.18 refer to related party transactions and that's why they are deemed 'relevant'.

Appendix A: ENA Members

Electricity Networks Aotearoa makes this submission along with the support of its members, listed below:

- Alpine Energy
- Aurora Energy
- Buller Electricity
- Centralines
- Counties Energy
- Electra
- EA Networks
- Firstlight Network
- Horizon Networks
- MainPower New Zealand
- Marlborough Lines
- Nelson Electricity
- Network Tasman
- Network Waitaki
- Northpower
- Orion New Zealand
- Powerco
- PowerNet (which manages The Power Company, Electricity Invercargill, OtagoNet and Lakeland Network)
- Scanpower
- Top Energy
- The Lines Company
- Unison Networks
- Vector
- Waipa Networks
- WEL Networks
- Wellington Electricity
- Westpower