

PRESS RELEASE – 25 May 2026

Helping business transition from gas given thumbs up by major users

The Major Electricity Users' Group (MEUG) welcomes the Government's announcement of a new scheme to help businesses transition away from gas while protecting jobs and supporting productivity.

MEUG Executive Director Karen Boyes said the initiative provides much-needed recognition and support for businesses struggling with high energy costs.

"These Government-backed loans will help businesses invest in electrification and alternative fuels, while improving energy efficiency and maintaining or increasing productivity," said Boyes. "Supporting businesses to transition away from gas will also help free up limited gas supplies for essential industries not yet able to switch or reduce their use of natural gas."

The Government's Budget 2026 commitment of \$5.9 million for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (EECA) to work with business on options to transition away from gas was another important step, Boyes says.

"EECA has an important role in supporting businesses on the ground, helping improve energy efficiency, the adoption of new technologies, and electrifying industrial operations," said Boyes.

MEUG also supported the Government's decision to pass legislation to improve transparency in the gas market.

"Access to accurate and timely gas market information is critical — not only for direct gas users, but also for the wider electricity market. Improved transparency will help all parties make more informed decisions.

"MEUG believes it's important that businesses retain fuel choice to support their operational needs, and are properly supported through New Zealand's energy transition," Boyes concluded.

ENDS

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About the Major Electricity Users Group

The Major Electricity Users Group (MEUG) represents the interests of large electricity consumers in New Zealand. MEUG advocates for policies ensuring a reliable, affordable, and sustainable electricity supply, benefiting its members and the wider community.