



PRESS RELEASE – 10 December 2025

MEUG welcomes announcement on new planning system for renewable energy

The Major Electricity Users' Group (MEUG) welcomes the Government's announcement that it intends to introduce a new planning system which aims to accelerate renewable energy development and improve the consenting environment for critical electricity infrastructure.

"The reforms are a positive and necessary step to ensure New Zealand can meet its future energy needs," says MEUG Executive Director Karen Boyes.

"New Zealand has world-class renewable energy resources, but we're told that the planning and consenting system has held back investment, delayed vital projects, and increased costs for both generators and consumers," Boyes says. "We welcome the Government's commitment to streamlining the system so that renewable generation and firming capacity can be delivered at the pace this country requires."

Ms Boyes says MEUG is encouraged by the Government's intention to cut red tape, provide clearer national direction, and improve certainty for investors.

"The sector needs a modern planning system that enables—not obstructs—new generation and the infrastructure required to support it. These reforms must speed up the availability of renewable energy projects and firming, so the sector can get on and build for the future."

"Investors need stability. If New Zealand is to deliver the large-scale renewable generation needed over coming decades, developers must be able to plan with confidence and know that planning frameworks will endure over the life of their projects."

MEUG looks forward to engaging constructively in the Select Committee process and working with Government to ensure the new system delivers the timely, cost-effective, and predictable outcomes that major electricity users—and the wider economy—depend on.

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