

Tuesday, 15 July 2025

Hon Simon Watts  
Minister for Energy  
S.Watts@ministers.govt.nz

Dear Minister

**RE: RISING ENERGY COSTS FOR BUSINESSES**

Business Canterbury is the home and voice of business in Waitaha Canterbury. We represent over 2,800 businesses and approximately 75,000 employees, making us the largest business support organisation in the South Island. We are proud members of both the BusinessNZ Network and New Zealand Chambers of Commerce Inc.

In recent months, we have heard growing concern from our members about sharply rising energy costs. As electricity supply contracts come up for renewal, many businesses are facing price increases of 70 to 80 percent – with some experiencing hikes closer to 150 percent. When combined with control period pricing, these increases are significantly undermining productivity, particularly for manufacturers and exporters that are critical to our supply chains and national economic performance.

We understand these cost pressures are partly driven by a longstanding infrastructure deficit in firm-fuel electricity generation investment – and by the costs associated with consenting, traffic management, and the maintenance of electricity systems. These interconnected challenges are now directly impacting the ability of businesses to operate efficiently and in some cases, to even keep the lights on and remain viable.

Given the scale and urgency of this issue, we would like to understand what role the Government intends to play in addressing these cost pressures. Specifically, we are interested in what short-term actions are being considered to stabilise energy affordability and ensure security of supply for business.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss these issues further and to share the experience of Canterbury businesses firsthand.

Kind regards,



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