

13 October 2021

## Electricity vital to decarbonise Aotearoa

"Today's Draft Emission Reductions plan highlights the key role of electricity in reducing New Zealand's carbon emissions," Electricity Retailers' Association of New Zealand Chief Executive Cameron Burrows says.

"We're pleased to see our recommendation of a national energy strategy adopted, and are eager to see the government work with industry to form this strategy

"Converting to a low carbon economy is vital to New Zealand's future and the electricity sector has a key role to play in New Zealand's climate change transition. Our electricity is the 8th cheapest in the developed world, which makes it easier to switch from carbon intensive activities to renewable power – so it isn't just what's best for the planet but what's best for you and your back pocket.

"Successfully decarbonising will mean a big increase in electricity use, and that will require extra investment from the sector to be met. It's vital we have an energy transition that drives lowest-cost carbon reductions to minimize any unnecessary costs for Kiwis, and the Government's carbon budgets will help with this.

"The draft document highlights the ambitious, and potentially aspiration nature of a strict 2030 100 per cent renewable electricity target. Even with demand increasing, the proportion of renewably electricity is expected to increase significantly over the next 15 years. Pushing for that last few percent could mean a massive extra cost for a small amount of emission reductions gained.

"The scale of emission reductions New Zealand needs will be a challenge, but it's a challenge that New Zealand and the electricity sector are up for. Electricity will help carbon intensive sectors shed emissions and become more renewable," Mr Burrows says

\*ENDS\*

### Media contact

Elizabeth Mitchell (021 024 54559)

### **About ERANZ**

*The Electricity Retailers' Association of New Zealand (ERANZ) represents companies that sell*

*electricity to Kiwi households and businesses. Our members supply over 90% of New Zealand's electricity to Kiwis.*

[eranz.org.nz](http://eranz.org.nz) • [energymate.nz](http://energymate.nz)