

COUNTIES POWER CONSUMER TRUST

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TO: **2013 REVIEW**
ELECTRICITY GROUP
ENERGY AND COMMUNICATIONS BRANCH
MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

electricity@med.govt.nz

FROM: **Counties Power Consumer Trust**

DATE: Wednesday, September 26, 2007

SUBJECT: **Continuance of Supply (2013 Review)**

*All Trust correspondence to be addressed to: **Box 580, PUKEKOHE 2340***

Chairman: Mr R H Arvidson

Secretary: Miss G Riddell

SUBMISSION TO Ministry of Economic Development

CONTINUANCE OF SUPPLY (2013 REVIEW)

Counties Power Consumer Trust owns 100% of the lines company Counties Power Limited.

There is nothing of a confidential nature in this submission.

In our deliberations on the Discussion Document as published on the MED website, we have not found a further feasible option to place before the Ministry for consideration. Therefore we are taking this opportunity (for which we thank you) to supply feedback on one of those options already outlined.

In considering what, if any, arrangements should be put in place to ensure affected consumers continue to have an electricity supply after 2013, more quantifiable information is needed. This is because without it, it would not be possible to assess the economic impact any resulting regulation might have, especially when comparing the diverse terrain over which individual Lines Companies operate their networks.

This being the case, we therefore oppose any option which requires legislative amendment without the outcome being both equitable and quantifiable.

In our opinion there is only one option which is positive, non-interfering and will have the most balanced financial impact on all concerned.

Counties Power Consumer Trust (“The Trust”) supports a change to the Electricity Act 1992 Section 62 as set out under “Continuance of Supply (2013 Review): Discussion Document” published by the Ministry of Economic Development (originally published on 21 August 2007), namely:-

- 5.3 Obligation to maintain line function services expires but lines companies provide advance information on intentions.*
- 61 Under this option section 62 would expire on 1 April 2013 but lines companies would be obliged to provide notice to their customers if they intend a change in, or removal of, line supply to consumers.*

The Trust supports a notice period of five (5) years. The Trust’s lines company, Counties Power Limited will be requested to include in its Statement of Corporate Intent (SCI) that it will advise affected consumers of the rationale behind any intention to cease a supply under such a provision.

The Trust believes that such a legislative change and the reasonable notice period would enable all concerned to make informed choices, know where they stand and plan for (or perhaps negotiate) alternative arrangements.

Trustees would appreciate advice as to when and where all submissions will be available for reading.

The contact for any enquiries on the above submission is:

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