

9 June 2026

S9(2)(a)

By email: S9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe S9(2)(a)

Your request

Thank you for your request, received on 28 April 2026, under the Official Information Act 1982 (Act) for the following information:

I see the EA quotes some general figures on prices: "Most of this year's increases came into effect on 1 April and showed wide variation across the country and by retailer, ranging from 1%-11%."

Can you please provide the underlying data - ie, broken down by retailer and region?

Our response

The Electricity Authority Te Mana Hiko (Authority) has identified one document within scope of your request attached as Appendix 1.

Some information within scope has been redacted:

- a. under section 9(2)(ba)(i) of the Act, to protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence, where the making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the supply of information from the same source
- b. under section 9(2)(b)(ii) of the Act as release would be likely to unreasonably prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or is the subject to the information.

In terms of context, the information you have sought was provided to the Authority in response to an informal request sent to the four largest retailers. The Authority sought:

- 1. Estimated percentage increase in retail prices paid by your mass market customers in the region facing the lowest percentage increase in retail prices (the minimum increase)*
- 2. Name of the region facing the lowest percentage increase in retail prices (the minimum region)*
- 3. Estimated percentage increase in retail prices paid by your mass market customers in the region facing the highest percentage increase in retail prices (the maximum increase)*
- 4. The name of the region facing the highest percentage increase in retail prices (the maximum region).*

It is important to note, the data we hold from the above request results in a short list of the regions expected to experience the lowest and highest price rises ahead of winter 2026. In addition, at the time provided, it reflected forward looking (not confirmed) pricing.

We have consulted with the retailers on your request for release of information broken down by retailer and regions. Two retailers were comfortable with the release of the information, while two requested that the information be withheld under section 9(2)(b)(ii) and section 9(2)(ba)(i). Ultimately it is for the Authority to decide whether the withholding grounds apply.

In respect of the Genesis and Meridian information being withheld, the Authority has decided there is good reason for withholding the information under section 9(2)(ba)(i) of the Act. The relevant information was provided by these retailers to the Authority on a voluntary basis and subject to an obligation of confidence.

Following consultation, Genesis and Meridian have advised the Authority that they would be less likely to provide information on a voluntary basis in the future if the information was released. The Authority accepts release of the information would prejudice the future supply of voluntary information for these retailers. The Authority considers it is in the public interest that such information continues to be supplied.

Contact and Mercury, when consulted, did not raise the same concerns with release of their information. Accordingly, the same concerns regarding the future provision of voluntary information do not exist.

For completeness, we have also considered whether the information should be withheld under the commercial prejudice ground (9(2)(b)(ii) of the Act). We previously noted the information was potentially commercial sensitive as it could include pricing intentions not yet in effect, noting we would need to consult with the retailers on release of the information. You questioned this view on the basis all price increases had been implemented. We noted that not all price increases may be in effect until the end of June 2026. Genesis and Meridian have also provided additional reasons to us on why release could result in commercial prejudice. We consider these reasons have some validity.

For this information, I am satisfied, in terms of section 9(1) of the Act, that the need to withhold the information referred to above is not outweighed by other considerations that render it desirable, in the public interest, to make the information available. It is relevant that consumers can already access pricing information by retailer and plan via retailers' websites or through comparison and switching tools (such as billy.govt.nz).

It is also relevant that the Authority:

- has requested information including about upcoming price increases (through until 30 June) from all retailers with 1% market share or more – insights from these findings (including regional information) will be published once this information is processed and analysed, and
- later this month we will be releasing an updated pricing dashboard that provides a breakdown of average electricity bills by region and their change over time.

The retail price increase insights and the updated regional price dashboard may be of interest to you given your earlier request. The Authority will send you links to this information once it is published.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

As this information may be of interest to other members of the public, the Authority may proactively release a copy of this response on our website. All personal data, including your name and contact details, will be removed before publication.

If you'd like to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact us by emailing oia@ea.govt.nz.

Nāku noa, nā,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Airihi Mahuika". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Airihi Mahuika

GM Legal, Monitoring and Compliance

Appendix 1

Name of retailer	Average % increases in retail	Minimum increase region % increase and name*	Maximum increase region % increase and name*
Contact Energy Limited	9%	6% Rotorua	11% Christchurch
Genesis Energy Limited	s.9(2)(ba)(i) s.(9)(2)(b)(ii)		
Mercury NZ Limited	6.8%	6.36% Tairāwhiti and Wairoa	6.88% Dunedin
Meridian Energy Limited	s.9(2)(ba)(i) s.(9)(2)(b)(ii)		