

On 14/05/2019, at 11:05 AM, Brent Layton

wrote:

Good morning John

Just a quick note to thank you for sending through the finalised IPAG report *Advice on creating equal access to electricity networks*.

The Board received the report at its meeting last Thursday. It is intended the finalised report will be released with Market Brief. The specialist media have already reported on the draft report but may want to follow up on the finalised report.

As your covering letter emphasises in its last paragraph, the key issue is implementation and getting on with it in a flexible and speedy manner. The first few desired outcomes around distributors knowing the capacity and opportunities for DER on their networks and communicating this to potential and actual DER providers and owners we have worked with the ComCom to progress. They have agreed to make funding for this available to distributors through the DPP/IPP reset that is underway. Sue Begg and I met with the chairs and CEO's of South Island distributors in Christchurch a few months back to advise them of this and encourage them to seize the opportunity. Lana, James and I also met with the executive of ENA and gave them the same message. I think we will need to continue to push this along with the help of the ComCom and ENA.

Currently, a number of the initiatives and outcomes recommended in the IPAG report are integrated into a number of Authority work streams: DDA; ACCES; DPP; data sharing, etc. One of the things James is now addressing is whether spreading like this risks things falling in cracks and implementation and design being slower than is optimal as progress is held up by slower progress of other elements of the programmes.

As an aside, the Authority is currently pursuing a short circuit Code change process that was included in section 39(3)(b) of the Electricity Industry Act 2010 as a result of a recommendation of the 2009 Ministerial Review. We will be interested to see how this is received by stakeholders. We are also going to allow a distributor that wants to enter into an innovative arrangement with a new technology provider involving DER on its own network to do so as a pilot.

We noted your offer for IPAG to help with implementation.

Thanks also to you and your colleagues for attending last Wednesday's meeting with MDAG and members of the Authority.

Regards and thanks once again for the IPAG equal access report. Happy for you to share this e-mail with IPAG members.

Brent Layton