

16 June 2026

Submissions
Electricity Authority

By email: distribution.feedback@ea.govt.nz

Improving information on high-voltage network capacity

Meridian appreciates the opportunity to provide feedback on the Authority's consultation paper proposing improvements to the availability of high-voltage network information. Meridian strongly supports the proposal.

Meridian is a significant access seeker that frequently connects new public EV charging to distribution networks. Meridian operates the Zero¹ EV charging network with over 500 charge points available in our nationwide charging network, making it the second largest in Aotearoa. Meridian has ambitious plans regarding the rollout of public EV charging and support for businesses to design and deploy business EV chargers. We are committed to accelerating the transition to low-emissions transport and supporting the Government's goal of 10,000 public EV chargers by 2030.

Meridian agrees that increased transparency and understanding of what capabilities and connection sizes would be efficient for a range of locations will help to streamline connection processes, reduce speculative connection applications, and support more efficient investment decisions by access seekers. In Meridian's opinion, the proposed improvements will deliver significant efficiency gains and lead to benefits to consumers in the long term. We agree with the Authority's assessment that the benefits of the proposed amendment will outweigh the costs.

¹ <https://zero.meridianenergy.co.nz/>

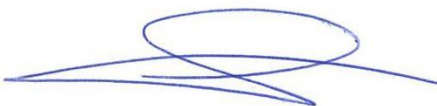
Meridian supports the proposed quarterly update of high voltage network information about load and export capacity – both current and forecast – network topology, planned upgrades, historical reliability, and the potential use of non-network solutions. Meridian supports the proposed granularity of information including grid exit points, zone substations, sub-transmission feeders, distribution substations stepping down to 11kV, and 11kV distribution feeders.

We also strongly support the proposed standardisation of formats and requirement to provide information in a downloadable format commonly used by geographical, or equivalent, information systems mapping software. That will enable access seekers to easily compare locational options nationally and across arbitrary distribution network boundaries.

Meridian supports a phased approach starting with high-voltage network visibility. That should enable earlier benefits for access seekers than would be the case if low voltage network visibility is included with longer lead times. Starting with high-voltage network information should also enable distributors to begin developing the systems and capabilities to manage and make data readily accessible and fit for purpose. Those learnings can then be applied to low voltage network information and reduce the costs of expanding the proposed obligations into low voltage parts of distribution networks. There are likely to be consumer benefits from more granular network visibility, and a phased approach should, by definition, include further steps. Meridian encourages the Authority to actively consider the timing of subsequent phases for expansion into low voltage network information and ways to develop distributor capabilities ahead of implementing such obligations.

Please contact me if you have any queries regarding this submission.

Nāku noa, nā



Sam Fleming
Head of Regulatory Affairs