

## CONSULTATION - WHAT IS IT ABOUT?

### The Trustees need your feedback about the Eastern Bay Energy Trust's activities and its distributions programme.

The Eastern Bay Energy Trust (EBET) is unique in New Zealand in that it must distribute its income for 'Energy Related Purposes'. This has resulted in the Trust providing funding for many energy related community projects, which might not otherwise have taken place.

Of the 24 energy trusts throughout New Zealand, EBET is one of only a handful of energy trusts which distribute funding for community projects.

Many of the other energy trusts distribute their income in the form of a 'rebate' on power bills, or a cash distribution direct to electricity consumers. This is because those trusts are restricted by the terms of their trust deeds, which do not allow any other options.

Many of those trusts have indicated that they would like to be able to provide funding for house insulation projects or energy efficiency projects such as EBET is doing, but their trust deeds do not allow this.

Some of EBET's beneficiaries have called for EBET to distribute some or all of its income direct to its beneficiaries in the form of a rebate or cash distribution.

Other beneficiaries have urged the Trust to continue the current distributions programme with no changes.

**Before the Trustees can make a decision about how the funding will be distributed in the future, they need to consult with as many of the Trust's beneficiaries as possible.**

**The Trustees need to ask ALL beneficiaries about how they would like the Trust Fund to be distributed.**

**Your feedback will help the Trustees to make important decisions on how the funding will be distributed in the future.**

## CONSULTATION - WHAT DOES IT INVOLVE?

Because the Trust's area covers the entire Eastern Bay of Plenty, the consultation programme will be widespread and will involve surveys mailed to electricity consumers, as well as displays, presentations and public meetings in the Kawerau, Opotiki and Whakatane Districts.

The displays will be open to the public for three days in each district, and there will be a public meeting with a presentation on the Trust's activities, on the final day.

### DISPLAYS & PUBLIC MEETINGS

#### KAWERAU

Kawerau Concert Chambers  
Tuesday 13 - Thursday 15 August  
Displays open 10am to 4pm each day  
Public meeting & presentation: 5.30pm,  
Thursday 15 August

#### OPOTIKI

Opotiki Art Society Hall, King Street  
Tuesday 20 - Thursday 22 August  
Displays open 10am to 4pm each day  
Public meeting & presentation: 5.30pm,  
Thursday 22 August

#### WHAKATANE

34 Boon Street (ex Masquerade Hire shop)  
Tuesday 4 - Thursday 6 September  
Displays open 10am to 4pm each day  
Public meeting & presentation: 5.30pm,  
Thursday 6 September

**FREE ENTRY - ALL WELCOME**

### How can I have my say?

Beneficiaries of the Trust are encouraged to complete the two surveys:

- Energy related funding survey.
- Community funding needs survey.

**The survey forms can be filled in manually and posted, or completed online at [www.ebet.org.nz](http://www.ebet.org.nz).**

### What happens then?

Completed surveys need to be returned to the Eastern Bay Energy Trust office by Friday 14 September 2007.

The feedback will be included in the information that the Trustees will use to help them in their strategic planning for the future.

While the feedback gathered during this consultation process will be extremely valuable, participants are reminded **that this is not a consumer poll or vote.**

**Therefore, as elected representatives of the Trust's beneficiaries, the Trustees reserve the right to make decisions on Eastern Bay Energy Trust activities for the future, taking into account the need to ensure sustainability for the Trust and the Trust Fund.**

### Can I see the responses?

Summaries of the responses will be available from the Trust office, Concordia House, 17 Pyne Street, Whakatane, from 1 November, 2007. The information will also be available on the Trust's website [www.ebet.org.nz](http://www.ebet.org.nz), from the same date.

## REBATES & CASH DISTRIBUTIONS

### What is a rebate?

A rebate is a discount on the lines charges, given to consumers from inside the network company, before tax is paid. This can only be done when the network company is 100% owned by the energy trust that is making the rebate.

As the Eastern Bay Energy Trust owns only 77.3% of Horizon Energy, there are other shareholders to consider and so this form of discount could not be done.

### What is a cash distribution?

A cash distribution is a payment made to beneficiaries from income (after tax is paid).

If EBET was to make a cash distribution, it would most likely be paid direct to the beneficiaries, by cheque.

An alternative would be to make the payment to consumers as a discount on their electricity accounts – this would involve the Trust paying the electricity retailers to process the payments.

### How much would I get?

The amount paid to each consumer as a cash distribution would depend on how much money there was to be distributed, and which consumers were included in the payment.

If all consumers (residential, commercial and industrial) were to be included, and if the amount paid were based on the amount of electricity used, the larger consumers (businesses) would receive the bulk of the money, and the smaller consumers (residential) would receive less.

If only residential consumers were included (as in some other areas), each payment would obviously be higher. However, the Trustees have been advised by some business owners that they would oppose the Trust in court if this was to happen.

### How would it affect the community?

If there was a change from the current distributions programme (of community grants) to cash distributions for consumers, or a combination of both options, there would be less funding available to be distributed as community grants for energy related projects. Those community organisations would then have to raise the funds for their projects in other ways.

**Remember - you can complete the surveys online at [www.ebet.org.nz](http://www.ebet.org.nz).**

*Thank you for helping us to help our community*