



# MEDIA RELEASE

16 August 2007

---

## ENERGY TRUST CONSULTS WITH BENEFICIARIES

The Eastern Bay Energy Trust is fulfilling the promise it made to consult with its beneficiaries - the electricity consumers of the Eastern Bay of Plenty. The Trustees promised to carry out a consultation process, asking all of the Trust's beneficiaries for feedback on the Trust, its activities, and its distributions programme.

The Eastern Bay Energy Trust (EBET) is the majority shareholder of Horizon Energy Distribution Limited and receives most of its income as dividends on its 77.3% shareholding.

The Trust 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.

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.

Trust chairman Kevin Hennessy said "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 consultation involves a survey mailed to electricity consumers, displays in the three district council areas, and public meetings in Kawerau, Opotiki and Whakatane. The Trust's beneficiaries can complete the survey and return it post-paid, or they can make their response online at [www.ebet.org.nz](http://www.ebet.org.nz)

Completed surveys need to be returned to the Trust by 14 September, and electricity consumers who complete the survey will go into a draw to win one of 8 prizes with a total value of \$2000, including free electricity and free EnergyCheck household energy audits.

Mr Hennessy said "Consultation is about giving as well as receiving information. We hope people will read the information included with the survey, and go and have a look at the display while it is in their area. We also urge them to complete the survey, as we need their feedback. We have some important decisions to make, and we need to know how those decisions, whatever they may be, might impact on our community.

While this is not a consumer poll or vote, the feedback gathered during this consultation process will be very valuable as it will be included in the information that the Trustees will use to help them in their strategic planning for the future".

### ***For further information contact***

Kevin Hennessy

Chairman, Eastern Bay Energy Trust

Phone 07 315 6799 / 027 625 9379