



DOMESTIC ENERGY USERS' NETWORK

Briefing to Incoming Parliament, 11 November 2008

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SUMMARY

The Domestic Energy Users' Network, DEUN, is a network of national organizations which advocates for affordable and sustainable household energy for all New Zealanders. This briefing addresses the key policy challenges relating to the household energy sector today.

Energy Poverty: The percentage of city dwellers in potential energy poverty has doubled since 2001.

DEUN Recommends: Elimination of energy poverty in New Zealand through a combination of crisis payments to the most vulnerable home energy consumers and fairer electricity and gas tariffs, plus a long-term programme of home energy retrofits.

Household energy prices: are rising faster than inflation. The energy component of domestic electricity prices is twice the cost of electricity from new power stations.

DEUN Recommends: Independent review to determine fair and efficient pricing for domestic electricity and gas supply.

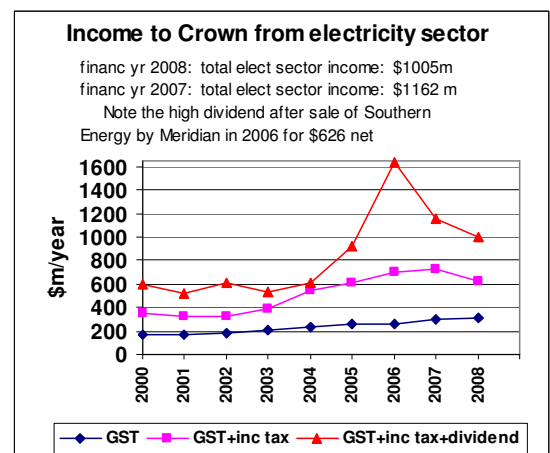
Household insulation is the by far the most cost-effective means of reducing electricity demand and greenhouse emissions from the whole energy sector.

Technology solutions: can make household energy both more sustainable as well as affordable. Heat pumps are efficient but are increasing electricity peak demands, a systems approach to clean wood burning can realize the best benefits from both heat pumps and wood burning

DEUN Recommends: Review of the condition of New Zealand houses to determine how many retrofits are cost-effective, including health as well as energy benefits; develop and promote highly efficient wood burning technologies and fuel supply systems.

Home energy projects can stimulate the economy through the recession. The Crown receives \$1 billion per year from the electricity sector, even before emission pricing increases windfall revenues. Dedicating some of this to the Household Fund will create jobs, while giving early payback in reducing energy bills as well as improving health outcomes.

DEUN Recommends: Use of the Household Fund be professionally planned using international best practice, including input from the community



For a complete copy of the Briefing contact Peter Rutledge at p.rutledge.clear.net.nz.