

From: Judy Scrivener [mailto:ncwnz@ihug.co.nz]
Sent: Friday, 17 March 2006 11:35 a.m.
To: Nicki Lau Young
Subject: NCWNZ Submission on Levy Arrangement 2006-07

Attention: Ian Wilson
A hard copy of this submission will be in the mail today.
Regards,
Judy Scrivener
Office Administrator

17 March 2006

Ian Wilson
Gas Industry Co Ltd
P O Box 10 646
WELLINGTON

Our Ref: SL/06/06

Dear Ian Wilson

Gas Industry Levy Arrangement 2006/07

The National Council of Women of New Zealand (NCWNZ) is an umbrella organisation representing 38 nationally organised societies, with 32 branches throughout the country to which women from some 150 societies are affiliated. The Council's function is to serve women, the family and the community at local, national and international levels through research, study, discussion and action.

The Consumer Affairs standing committee of NCWNZ thanks you for the opportunity to comment on the above document and wishes to record the following comments.

Levy

NCWNZ favours Option 1, i.e. Only adjust Wholesale Levy, as they consider this option would have a minimal effect on the average consumer.

Effecting changes to consumer accounts

After consideration NCWNZ favours the proposal of a change from a yearly levy to a two year levy. This decision was made to provide more stability for consumers to be able to budget. Costs to industry of the yearly reviews would add to the overall costs to consumers.

Our members have expressed concern that there appears to be no consistency in the manner in which costs to retailers are being passed on to the consumer.

After consideration NCWNZ prefers the proposed Option 3, i.e. Fully Variable Retail Levy. It was considered that all rises in gas payments would present a hardship to

consumers who are on fixed or limited incomes. Calculating costs on a fully variable basis would be more efficient and therefore less costly to the consumer.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this well researched document.

Yours sincerely

Christine Low
National President

Eileen Imlach
Convener, Consumer Affairs Standing Committee