

In the Environment Court of New Zealand  
at Auckland

I mua i te Kōti Taiao o Aotearoa  
I te rohe o Tāmaki Makaurau

ENV-2025-AKL-000159

*under:* the Resource Management Act 1991

*in the matter of:* an appeal pursuant to clause 14(1) of the First Schedule  
to the Resource Management Act 1991

*between:* **The Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of  
New Zealand Incorporated**  
*Appellant*

*and:* **Waitomo District Council**  
*Respondent*

Notice of Transpower New Zealand Limited's wish to be party to  
proceedings

Dated: 21 August 2025

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**NOTICE OF TRANSPOWER NEW ZEALAND LIMITED'S WISH TO BE PARTY TO PROCEEDINGS**

*Section 274, Resource Management Act 1991*

**To** The Registrar  
Environment Court  
Auckland

- 1 Transpower New Zealand Limited (*Transpower*) wishes to be a party to appeal ENV-2025-AKL-000159 (*Appeal*) by the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand (*Forest and Bird*) against parts of the decision (*Decision*) of Waitomo District Council (*Council*) on the Proposed Waitomo District Plan (*Proposed Plan*).
- 2 Transpower made a submission and further submission about the subject matter of these proceedings.
- 3 Transpower is also a person who has an interest in the proceedings that is greater than the public generally, in that it is the State-Owned Enterprise that plans, builds, maintains, owns and operates New Zealand's electricity transmission network – the National Grid. The need to operate, maintain, develop and upgrade the electricity transmission network is a matter of national significance under the National Policy Statement for Electricity Transmission 2008 (*NPSET*).
- 4 Transpower is not a trade competitor for the purposes of section 308C or 308CA of the Resource Management Act 1991.
- 5 Transpower is interested in the parts of the Appeal that relate to:
  - 5.1 Part 1: Interpretation, Section 9: Definitions;
  - 5.2 Part 2: Energy, Infrastructure and Transport - Section 19: Network Utilities – NU;
  - 5.3 Part 2: Natural Environment Values - Section 26: Ecosystems and Indigenous Biodiversity – ECO; and
  - 5.4 Part 2: Natural Environment Values - Section 27: Natural Character – NATC.
- 6 Transpower is interested in the issues raised by the Appeal that may affect its ability to operate, maintain, develop and upgrade the National Grid.
- 7 Specifically, Transpower opposes the relief sought in relation to:

- 7.1 Definitions – ‘Vegetation Clearance’;
  - 7.2 NU-P16 (previously NU-21);
  - 7.3 NU-P17 (previously NU-21);
  - 7.4 NU-P18 (previously NU-P22);
  - 7.5 NU Rules – General;
  - 7.6 ECO-01;
  - 7.7 ECO-P1;
  - 7.8 ECO-P2;
  - 7.9 ECO-P11 (incorrectly referenced as ECO-P10 in the Appeal);
  - 7.10 ECO Rules – General;
  - 7.11 ECO-R16; and
  - 7.12 NATC – Rules.
- 8 Transpower opposes the relief sought because it:
- 8.1 Does not give effect to the NPSET. The NPSET requires the Proposed Plan to recognise and provide for the effective operation, maintenance, upgrading and development of the National Grid (Policy 2) and to enable the reasonable operational, maintenance and minor upgrade requirements of established electricity transmission assets (Policy 5);
  - 8.2 Does not give effect to the Waikato Regional Policy Statement. Specifically objective 3.5(e) requires the Proposed Plan to provide for the operation, maintenance, development and upgrade of electricity transmission in a way that recognises and provides for the national, regional and local benefits of electricity transmission;
  - 8.3 Does not promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources;
  - 8.4 Does not promote the efficient use and development of natural and physical resources, particularly the National Grid;
  - 8.5 Does not meet the reasonably foreseeable needs of future generations; and
  - 8.6 Does not result in the most appropriate provisions in terms of section 32 of the RMA.
- 9 Transpower agrees to participate in mediation or other alternative dispute resolution of the proceedings.

**Signed** for and on behalf of Transpower New Zealand Limited by its solicitors and authorised agents Chapman Tripp



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Luke Hinchey  
Partner  
21 August 2025

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