



TRANSPOWER

Keeping the energy flowing

Gate 1
Gridco Road
Otara, Auckland 2023
P O Box 17 215
Greenlane, Auckland 1546
New Zealand
P 64 9 590 6000
F 64 9 589 2310
www.transpower.co.nz

Rebecca Eng

Tel: 09 590 7072

Email: environment.policy@transpower.co.nz

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For the Attention of the Hearings Panel, Proposed Waitomo District Plan

Hearing Tranche 2: Hearing appearance by Transpower NZ Ltd

Transpower New Zealand Limited (“**Transpower**”) writes in relation to Hearing Tranche 2 to the Proposed Waitomo District Plan (“**PDP**”) commencing on 27 November 2024.

As the panel will be aware, Transpower lodged independent expert planning evidence and company evidence to Hearing Tranche 2. Given the favourable recommendations within the S42A Reports, the relief recommended in evidence was very limited and confined to four matters.

Transpower has since reviewed the officer rebuttal evidence (specifically the S42A Addendum and Supplementary S42A reports) and of the four matters addressed in evidence, three have been fully addressed in the officer’s supplementary/addendum evidence, and the fourth matter largely addressed with only one minor point outstanding.

Transpower apologises for the late notice of this letter but given the alignment of the evidence of the Council Reporting Officers and the evidence of its witness Ms Whitney, and that there are no substantive outstanding matters from Transpower’s perspective (and no contrary lodged evidence) Transpower is proposing to not attend the hearing on the 28 November. However, if the panel have any questions for Transpower, Transpower is happy to appear before the panel at its scheduled time slot (between 9am – 10am).

The following confirms Transpower’s position for the record.

1. **Provision 1: Definition - National Grid Yard:** In evidence, Ms Whitney supported the recommendation to retain the notified definition of National Grid Yard. In response to a request from the officer in the S42A Report, commentary was provided on the relief sought by Horticulture NZ that the definition of the National Grid Yard be reduced from 12m to 10m in any direction from a National Grid single pole or pi-pole. The officer has confirmed support for the definition as notified in the supplementary S42A Report and there is nothing outstanding from Transpower’s perspective.
2. **Provision 2: Definition - Transmission sensitive activity(ies):** In evidence, Ms Whitney recommended a minor correction to the definition. This has been supported by the officer in the supplementary S42A Report and the matter is satisfactorily addressed from Transpower’s perspective.
3. **Provision 3: Network Utility policy NU-P22:** In response to queries raised in the evidence of Ms Whitney concerning the ‘flow’ of the policy and recommended deletion of some of text, the officer in supplementary evidence has addressed the recommended relief and the

matter is satisfactorily addressed from Transpower's perspective. Transpower confirms it supports the policy as provided in the officer supplementary evidence.

4. **Objective SD-O30:** The only (relatively minor) matter still outstanding from Transpower's perspective relates to Strategic Objective SD-O30. While Transpower supported the objective as notified, it was amended in response to other submissions. Ms Whitney in her evidence outlined that while she supported the intent of the recommended amendments, she had concerns that the reference to reverse sensitivity effects did not sufficiently recognise there may be other effects that may compromise significant infrastructure. The relief recommended is shown below (refer purple text for that recommended by the reporting officer and green text recommended in Ms Whitney's evidence).

SD-OX Recognise and provide for nationally and regionally significant infrastructure and industry, and for those activities associated with significant mineral resources, by recognising their functional, locational and operational needs, and managing reverse sensitivity effects (including reverse sensitivity effects) which may impact or compromise their operation, maintenance or upgrading.

The officer in rebuttal S42A Addendum evidence has recommended further amendments (refer red text below)

SD-O30. Recognise and provide for nationally and regionally significant infrastructure and industry, and for those activities associated with significant mineral resources, by recognising their functional, locational and operational needs and managing ~~reverse sensitivity effects~~ as appropriate (including reverse sensitivity effects), which may impact their operation.

Transpower largely supports the amended objective. The only change it would support would be to insert reference to "maintenance, upgrading and development" after "operation", thereby reflecting the potentially changing nature of the activity and to give effect to the NPSET Policy 10. Transpower notes the Rebuttal S42A Addendum evidence at para 45 refers to "operation, maintenance, upgrading and development".

Alternately, Transpower would support deletion of the words "which may impact their operation".

As noted above, should the Panel see benefit in Transpower appearing before the Panel in relation to this tabled statement, Transpower can readily make itself available.

Should the Panel require clarification on any matter, please contact Rebecca Eng at Transpower (09 590 7072), or on the following email: environment.policy@transpower.co.nz.

Yours faithfully



Rebecca Eng

Technical Lead – Environmental Policy, Transpower New Zealand Limited