



Waikoukou
 22 Boulcott Street
 PO Box 1021
 Wellington 6140
 New Zealand
 P 64 4 495 7000
 F 64 4 495 6968
www.transpower.co.nz

16 September 2019

Proposed Waikato District Plan Hearing
 Waikato District Council
 Private Bag 544
 Ngaruawahia 3742
 Via email: districtplan@waidc.govt.nz

Dear Sir/Madam

HEARINGS ON THE PROPOSED WAIKATO DISTRICT PLAN

Hearing 1 – Chapter 1 Introduction

Submitter Reference: Transpower NZ Ltd S576 and FS1350

Transpower New Zealand Ltd (“**Transpower**”) writes in relation to Hearing 1, commencing on 7 October 2019.

Given the limited number of submission points and Transpower’s support of the officer recommendations on the matters raised, Transpower is not proposing to adduce evidence to Hearing 1 on the points below. If, prior to the hearing, the Hearings Panel consider it useful for Transpower to appear before the panel to explain and answer any questions on the above it would be more than happy to do so.

Transpower will be appearing at subsequent hearings where there are multiple Transpower submission points of specific and particular relevance to Transpower.

Hearing 1

In addition to broader plan wide provisions relating to the ongoing operation, maintenance, development and upgrading of the National Grid, Transpower submitted on 6 points (5 original points and 1 further submission point) to be heard at Hearing 1.

Summary response to s42A Recommendations

By way of summary, Transpower:

- Accepts the officer recommendations on submission points **576.1, 576.2, 576.3, 576.4** and **576.49**

- Accepts the officer recommendation in relation to further submission point **FS1350.1**.

Section 42A Officers Report Recommendations and Transpower's Response

The following comments are specific to the recommendations on submission points sought by Transpower.

Recommendations supported

Chapter 1.4.3.2 – Protecting the rural environment

s42A Report reference: 5.4.4.3, Page 41 (submission 576.49)

In its submission Transpower opposed and sought amendments to 1.4.3.2(b) as the statement fails to recognise that some activities such as infrastructure, which can be of a linear nature, require/are best placed in a rural location. The officer recommendation is to accept the wording amendment sought by the submission, and on this basis the officer recommendation is supported.

s42A Report reference: 5.4.4.3, Page 41 (submission 576.1)

In its submission Transpower supported the retention of 1.4.3.2(c) as notified. The officer recommendation is to accept this submission point and to retain 1.4.3.2(c) as notified, and on this basis the officer recommendation is supported.

Chapter 1.5.5 – Services and general infrastructure

s42A Report reference: 5.5.6, Page 66 (submissions 576.2 and 576.3)

In its submission Transpower supported the retention of 1.5.5(a) and (d) as notified [it is noted that the s42A report incorrectly refers to submission 576.3 seeking to retain (b), rather than (d)]. The officer recommendation is to accept these submission points and to retain 1.5.5(a) and (d), and on this basis the officer recommendation is supported. The amendments recommended to these clauses in response to other submissions are considered minor and are to support clarity, and as a result do not impact on the relief sought in the Transpower submission points.

s42A Report reference: 5.5.6, Page 66 (submission 576.4)

In its submission Transpower supported but sought amendments to 1.5.5(f) to recognise NPSET policies requiring recognition of the National Grid, and the management of the environmental effects of transmission. Amendments were also sought to replace the term “third party” with the preferred terminology of “subdivision, land use and development”.

The officer recommendation is to accept the submission point in part. While the officer recommends accepting the replacement of the term “third party” with “subdivision, land use and development” (which is supported by Transpower), the officer considers the wording additions sought to the first half of 1.5.5(f) to be unnecessary and this relief is therefore rejected. On the basis that the Plan addresses the importance of electricity infrastructure within the district, and identifies the obligations within the National Policy Statement on Electricity Transmission 2008 and the Regional Policy Statement in respect of this infrastructure, the officer recommendation is accepted.

Chapter 1.10.3.4 National Environmental Standards

S42A Report reference: 5.10, page 98 (FS1350.1)

In its further submission Transpower opposed submission 680.19 (Federated Farmers of NZ) as the statement sought by the submission could be interpreted that the activity is permitted, whereas the activity could be controlled or discretionary under the

specific national environmental standard. The officer recommendation is to reject submission 680.19 (and to accept FS1350.1) on the basis that Chapter 1 provides an overview of the NESs without being specific as to how this is delivered in other parts of the Plan, and on this basis the officer recommendation is supported.

Transpower requests this letter be tabled at the hearing in support of its submission points and the Section 42A Report recommendations as outlined above.

Should you require clarification of any matter, please contact Pauline Whitney at Transpower (04 385 9315), or on the following email: Pauline.Whitney@transpower.co.nz

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Whitney', written in a cursive style.

Pauline Whitney
Senior Environmental Planner