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12 March 2020

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 12 – Country Living Zone

Submitter Reference: Transpower NZ Ltd S576 and FS1350

Transpower New Zealand Ltd (“**Transpower**”) writes in relation to Hearing 12 – Country Living Zone, commencing in the week beginning 7 April 2020.

Given the limited number of submission points of relevance to Transpower within the Hearing 12 s42A report, Transpower is not proposing to adduce evidence to Hearing 12 on the points outlined 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 below, 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 12 – Country Living Zone (Chapter 23)

In addition to wider plan wide provisions relating to the ongoing operation, maintenance, development and upgrading of the National Grid, Transpower made one further submission point to be heard at Hearing 12.

Summary of Transpower’s response to s42A Recommendations

By way of summary, Transpower:

- Does not fully support the officer recommendation to reject further submission **FS1350.129** regarding the duplication of the Chapter 14 rules for

subdivision within the National Grid Corridor in the Country Living Zone chapter.

Section 42A Officers Report Recommendations and Transpower's Response

The following comments are specific to the recommendation on the submission point sought by Transpower.

Recommendations not supported

S42A Report reference: Section 8.5: Lot size of Subdivision - General and assessment criteria (FS1350.129)

In its further submission (**FS1350.129**) Transpower opposed submission 697.918 (Waikato District Council) and the relief sought to replicate the rules for subdivision within the National Grid Corridor that are in Chapter 14 of the proposed plan into Chapter 23 (and the other zone chapters) with the reasoning being that this will increase the clarity and usability of the Plan.

As stated in its further submission, Transpower opposes the relief sought and instead supports and prefers a standalone set of National Grid provisions, for the reason it avoids duplication and provides a coherent set of rules which submitters can refer to, noting that the planning maps clearly identify land that is subject to the National Grid provisions. A stand-alone set of provisions as provided in the notified plan is also consistent with the National Planning Standards direction.

The reporting officer recommends the amendment sought by submission 697.918 be accepted (with **FS1350.129** rejected) and that the requested new clause and rule provisions for subdivision within the National Grid Corridor be included into Chapter 23, pending the planned review of the plan's structure at the end of the hearings process.

Transpower understands from paragraph 628 of the s42A report that the structure of the Proposed Plan and its alignment with the NPS is a matter that is to be reviewed in an integration hearing at the end of the hearing process, to ensure that the Proposed Plan meets NPS requirements.

For the reasons outlined in its further submission, and consistent with previous statements prepared by Transpower for the hearing process (e.g. for Hearings 6, 7 and 9), Transpower does not fully support the officer recommendation. As outlined, Transpower's preference is for a standalone set of National Grid provisions to avoid unnecessary duplication and repetition within the plan. A preferable option (as signalled to the Hearing Panel in paragraph 631 of the s42A report) would be to have clear cross-referencing (which could be by way of a hyperlink in an eplan) in the subdivision sections of each zone chapter to the National Grid subdivision rule provisions in the plan's Infrastructure and Energy chapter.

Hearing Appearance

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 (04 590 7540), or on the following email: Pauline.Whitney@transpower.co.nz

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'P. Whitney'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'P' and a trailing flourish.

Pauline Whitney
Senior Environmental Planner