



TRANSPOWER

Keeping the energy flowing

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**For the Attention of the Hamilton City Council, Waipā District Council and Waikato District Council
Intensification Planning Instruments Independent Hearing Panel**

**Joint Opening Hearing on the Hamilton, Waikato and Waipā Intensification Planning Instruments
("IPIs"))**

Transpower New Zealand Limited ("Transpower") writes in relation to the joint opening hearing, commencing on Tuesday 14 February 2023, on Plan Change 12 to the Hamilton District Plan, Variation 3 to the Proposed Waikato District Plan, and Plan Change 26 to the Waipā District Plan.

Transpower's main interest in the IPIs is ensuring that the planning framework proposed in each plan change or variation appropriately recognises and provides for the National Grid, including that it gives effect to the National Policy Statement on Electricity Transmission 2008 ("NPSET") through identification of the National Grid as a qualifying matter.

Transpower notes that the opening hearing is limited to evidence which provides an overview of the approaches all three councils have taken to the implementation of the Resource Management (Enabling Housing Supply and Other Matters) Amendment Act 2021, particularly as it relates to the approach taken to qualifying matters.¹ As such, this letter relates to the identification of the National Grid as a qualifying matter in the IPIs, rather than to the more specific submission points raised in Transpower's submissions.

Transpower notes that all three IPIs have identified the National Grid as a qualifying matter, and therefore continued to apply the current National Grid Corridor provisions. Transpower has submitted in support of each IPI doing so. Included within the Transpower submissions² is a detailed assessment of the National Grid as a qualifying matter and relevance of the intensification provision to the Transpower assets within the respective district. Transpower also notes that no submitter on any of these plan changes appears to dispute the identification of the National Grid as a qualifying matter; nor the continued application of the National Grid Corridor provisions. On that basis, and given the focus of the opening hearing, Transpower has not requested to be heard or filed evidence. That said, Transpower is available to respond to any questions the Hearings Panel may have at this stage.

Notwithstanding Transpower's support for the identification of the National Grid as a qualifying matter, Transpower has sought changes to the specific provisions proposed in each plan change or variation. These largely relate to ensuring that the plan provisions are appropriately drafted to ensure that the application of the qualifying matters on an ongoing basis is clear. The following table summarises the changes sought. Transpower continues to seek such changes, but understands that the specific changes sought will be traversed at the subsequent hearings for each IPI.

¹ Direction 1 of the Independent Hearing Panel, 19 August 2022, at 2.2.

² Transpower submitter reference 018 to the Waikato Variation 3 Enabling Housing Supply, reference 038 to the Waipā PC26, and reference 147 to the Hamilton PC12.

Plan	Brief Summary of Changes Sought in Transpower Submission
Waipa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Amendments to ensure consistency across the ODP and provide greater clarity, particularly in relation to the application of qualifying matters. - Ensuring that the National Grid is correctly applied as a qualifying matter to the subdivision provisions applying in the Medium Density Residential Zone. - Reconsideration of the changes proposed to Policies 2.3.7.5 and 15.3.15.5, and the replication of this policy in new Section 2A as 2A.3.9.5.
Waikato	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Amendments to correct references, and to retain references to applicable qualifying matters within the MRZ2, so that these remain clear to plan users in the future.
Hamilton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inclusion of a definition of 'qualifying matters', and 'qualifying matter area', and minor changes to the policies and explanations within the IPI to refer to this, to assist in the effective implementation of the District Plan. - Minor amendments to various provisions in Chapter 4 to provide greater clarity in regard to the application of qualifying matters.

Transpower respectfully requests that this letter be tabled for the Panel's consideration, to confirm its position in relation to matters addressed at the opening hearing.

Should you require clarification of any matter, please contact Daniel Hamilton at Transpower (03 590 6926), or on the following email: environment.policy@transpower.co.nz

Yours faithfully



Daniel Hamilton
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