

Before the Proposed Central Hawke's Bay Hearings Panel

Under the Resource Management Act 1991 (the Act)

In the matter of the Proposed Central Hawke's Bay District Plan –
Hearing Stream 3:
**Rural Environment:
Rural Land Resource, General Rural Zone, Rural
Production Zone, Rural Lifestyle Zone, and
Subdivision - Rural.**

Between **Central Hawke's Bay District Council**
Local authority

And **Transpower New Zealand Limited**
Submitter 79 and Further Submitter FS18

**Summary Statement of Pauline Mary Whitney for Transpower New
Zealand Limited**

Dated 15 June 2022

- 1.1 My full name is Pauline Whitney. I have the qualifications and experience set out in my statement of evidence on Hearing 3. I am a planner at Boffa Miskell Ltd, appearing on behalf of Transpower NZ Ltd.
- 1.2 This summary sets out an overview of my primary evidence dated 31 May 2022. For completeness I note my primary evidence stands.
- 1.3 Transpower's submission on the Proposed Central Hawke's Bay District Plan ('PDP') was largely in support of the proposed provisions, with specific refinements sought as opposed to wholesale changes. In particular, Transpower supported the inclusion of provisions specific to the National Grid to give effect to the National Policy Statement on Electricity Transmission 2008 ("NPSET").
- 1.4 This is the first hearing on the PDP at which Transpower is presenting evidence. As such, in addition to addressing the Hearing 3 submission points, my evidence and the Transpower evidence of Mr Campbell and engineering evidence of Mr Cartwright all provide contextual information on the National Grid, including its role and function, operational and technical requirements and the planning policy framework.
- 1.5 The need to operate, maintain, upgrade and develop the electricity transmission network is recognised as a matter of national significance through the NPSET. There are three broad aspects to the NPSET which must be given effect to in local authority plans:
- 1.6 **Enabling the National Grid:**
- 1.7 **Managing the effects of the National Grid:**
- 1.8 And specific to this hearing, **Managing the effects on the National Grid:** A significant resource management issue across New Zealand is managing inappropriate development, land use and subdivision in close proximity to the National Grid, which can compromise its operation, maintenance, development and upgrade. Specifically, the NPSET requires that district plans include a buffer corridor around National Grid lines. The three primary reasons for restricting activities within the buffer corridor are:
 - Electrical risk;
 - Annoyance caused by transmission lines (including reverse sensitivity); and

- Restrictions on the ability for Transpower to access, maintain, upgrade and develop the lines, as well as compromising the assets themselves.

1.9 In my evidence I broadly categorise Transpower's submissions points to Hearing 3 under four 'topics':

- i Definition (of sensitive activities)
- ii Plan Structure (specifically the placement of the NG yard rules)
- iii Rural zone(s) Policies
- iv National Grid Yard Rules

1.10 With respect to the definition of 'Sensitive activities' (being topic 1) I accept the officer recommendation to provide a National Grid specific definition of sensitive activities.

1.11 With respect to the Plan Structure (being topic 2), as part of its submission Transpower sought that the National Grid Yard provisions be moved to the Network Utilities Chapter for a coherent and complete standalone set of provisions for the National Grid. Notwithstanding in my opinion the relocation would improve plan interpretation and application, I understand the officer reasoning on this submission point and therefore have not pursued the relief sought in this evidence.

1.12 With respect to the Rural zone policies (topic 3) I support the recommended amendments to RLR-P4 and accept the recommendation on GRUZ-P2 and PROZ-P2 on the basis the policies refer to 'operational or functional need'.

1.13 The fourth topic relates to the National Grid Yard Rules and associated standards. In its submission Transpower sought a number of changes including restructuring of the provisions, insertion of a new (default) non-complying clause, deletion of the reference to setback from substations, deletion of reference to a 8m setback from poles within the National Grid Yard standard, and retention of specific reference to NZECP and the access standard within the National Grid Yard standards.

1.14 I largely accept the officer recommendations on the above issues, subject to two amendments:

1.15 Firstly, in lieu of the restructuring of the National Grid Yard provisions, I seek that a number of GRUZ and RPROZ activity rules be amended to reference the applicable

National Grid Standard, and a default non-complying activity status apply. This would provide a complete management framework for the National Grid and reflect the non-complying rule framework under standard 13 and 15.

- 1.16 Secondly, that the the NZECP 34:2001 clause 2.b.i. within GRUZ-S13 and RPROZ-S15 not be deleted as recommended by the s42A Report, and instead be retained as notified. While I accept the reasoning of the s42A Report that the requirement is addressed under another standard (being PRPOZ-S8 and RUZ-S7), and therefore there is no need to repeat it with the National Grid specific Standards, that rationale fails to acknowledge the differing activity status (being non complying) that is afforded where activities may compromise the National Grid.

2 Other party rebuttal evidence and summary statement

- 2.1 In response to the evidence of Ms Wharfe for Horticulture NZ Ltd (specifically paragraph 1.27) seeking consistency with NZECP and the National Planning Standards framework, my evidence stands.
- 2.2 In response to the evidence of Ms Dasent on behalf of Federated Farmers (under Key issue 18) I have considered the points raised in her evidence but do not support the relief sought or the reasoning provided. In response to the sought 8m setback from poles (to reflect NZECP34) as outlined by Mr Cartwright, reliance on the standards within NZECP is not sufficient to ensure the grid is not compromised. The National Grid Yard setbacks are based on an engineering approach and give effect to the NPSET. I also note the provisions and setback are entirely consistent with the district plan approach sought across NZ, including in decisions recently released on the Proposed Waikato District Plan, and in plans such as Queenstown Lakes, and Dunedin. I am not aware of any district plans which have a default/blanket 8m setback from support structures (noting that the plan provisions do allow certain activities closer than 12m but this is limited to certain activities). In response to Paragraph 62 of Ms Dasent's evidence that "some other district Councils only have a 12m setback, but this is only because of an absence of poles in the their district so 8m is not relevant", I can confirm that of the three 110kv lines in the country that are on poles (within Waikato, Horowhenua and Waimate), all three have a 12m setback from the poles which reflect the Central Hawke's Bay

approach. Specific district tplan references are below¹. As a final note, the requirements of NZECP do not limit the ability of the district plan to impose rules.

- 2.3 The second issue raised by Ms Dasent relates to the access standard. For the reasons outlined in evidence, I do not consider the access standard unnecessary. In my opinion, access is an important component of the network and the associated planning framework.

3 In conclusion

- 3.1 In my opinion, the policy and rule framework as proposed in the PDP and recommended to be refined through the Transpower submission and this evidence gives effect to the NPSET and is consistent with the approach sought across district plans in New Zealand.

Pauline Whitney

15 June 2022

¹ **Waikato** – Hamilton-Meremere A 110kV line on poles (which runs through the entire district), Proposed District Plan Rule GRUZ-R21, [https://www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/docs/default-source/your-council/plans-policies-and-bylaws/plans/district-plan-review/decisions/proposed-waikato-district-plan-\(decisions-version\)/part-3-area-specific-matters/grz-general-residential-zone/part-3_4-gruz-general-rural-zone.pdf?sfvrsn=48e69ac9_2](https://www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/docs/default-source/your-council/plans-policies-and-bylaws/plans/district-plan-review/decisions/proposed-waikato-district-plan-(decisions-version)/part-3-area-specific-matters/grz-general-residential-zone/part-3_4-gruz-general-rural-zone.pdf?sfvrsn=48e69ac9_2), Definition of National Grid Yard [https://www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/docs/default-source/your-council/plans-policies-and-bylaws/plans/district-plan-review/decisions/proposed-waikato-district-plan-\(decisions-version\)/part-1-introduction-and-general-provisions/interpretation/part-1_5-interpretation_definitions.pdf?sfvrsn=20e29ac9_2](https://www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/docs/default-source/your-council/plans-policies-and-bylaws/plans/district-plan-review/decisions/proposed-waikato-district-plan-(decisions-version)/part-1-introduction-and-general-provisions/interpretation/part-1_5-interpretation_definitions.pdf?sfvrsn=20e29ac9_2)
Horowhenua – Bunnythorpe -Mangahoe A 110kV line on poles, District Plan Rule 19.6.15(a)(iii) <https://www.horowhenua.govt.nz/files/assets/public/districtplan2015/horowhenua-district-plan-2015-chapter-19-rural-zone.pdf>, Definition of National Grid Corridor <https://www.horowhenua.govt.nz/files/assets/public/districtplan2015/ppc12approval/horowhenua-district-plan-2015-chapter-26-definitions.pdf>
Waimate – Glenavy-Timaru A 110kV line on poles, District Plan Rural zone Rule 8.8.1. <https://www.waimatedc.govt.nz/repository/libraries/id:21r92ideo17q9sg7je9s/hierarchy/Documents/Council/Publications/District%20Plan/04%20Rural>