

**Before the Proposed Central Hawke's Bay District Plan Hearings
Panel**

Under the Resource Management Act 1991 (the Act)

In the matter of the Proposed Central Hawke's Bay District Plan –
Hearing Stream 5:

Hazards & Risks, and Subdivision:

**Contaminated Land, Hazardous Substances,
Natural Hazards, Earthworks, Mining & Quarrying,
and General Subdivision**

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

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

**Statement of evidence of Daniel Hamilton for Transpower New
Zealand Limited**

Dated 24 August 2022

1. Qualifications and Experience

1.1. My name is Daniel Hamilton.

1.2. I am the Environmental Regulatory Team Leader at Transpower New Zealand Limited ('Transpower'). My team sits within Transpower's Environmental Policy and Planning Group, whose responsibilities include:

- a. Strategic planning. This is achieved through the development and implementation of Transpower's Corridor Management Policy at a national level and local level (namely implementation of the National Policy Statement on Electricity Transmission 2008 (NPSET));
- b. Delivering Transpower's policy approach on environmental regulations, legislation and council planning documents;
- c. Ensuring the protection of Transpower's network;
- d. Ensuring that all environmental approvals are obtained for Transpower's physical works; and
- e. Managing third party interactions to ensure that Transpower's interests are appropriately maintained.

1.3. I have been employed by Transpower for six and a half years, and during this time I have had experience working in various roles, including:

- a. Senior Planner in the Environmental Regulatory team. This role involved working on implementing Transpower's corridor management programme in regional and district planning processes to ensure planning documents gave full effect to the National Policy Statement on Electricity Transmission 2008; and
- b. Acting Environmental Consents & Compliance Team Leader. This role involved leading the team at Transpower responsible for ensuring all of Transpower's maintenance works (e.g. transmission pole replacements, transformer replacements, tower painting etc.) across the National Grid have the necessary environmental approvals.

- 1.4. In my current role as Environmental Regulatory Team Leader, I lead the team at Transpower responsible for advocating for Transpower's interests in District, Regional and National planning and policy documents, providing environmental input into major projects (those initiated by Transpower, but also those initiated by Customers (e.g. projects to connect new electricity generation to the National Grid)), and managing public and private development in the vicinity of National Grid assets.
- 1.5. I have a Bachelor of Science Degree with Honours (First Class) from the University of Canterbury, and a Master of Business Administration degree from the Henley Business School, England. I am an Associate Member of the New Zealand Planning Institute and have over 15 years' of RMA experience, including compliance and enforcement, regional plan drafting and regional policy statement development.
- 1.6. I confirm that I am authorised to give this evidence on behalf of Transpower.

2. Scope of Evidence

- 2.1. Mr Dougall Campbell, the Environmental Policy and Planning Group Manager at Transpower, appeared at Hearing Stream 3 and provided evidence¹ on:
 - a. Transpower and the National Grid;
 - b. New Zealand's Paris Commitment and Decarbonisation;
 - c. Transpower's assets within Central Hawke's Bay District;
 - d. Transpower's approach to National Grid Yards and Corridors and implementing the NPSET; and
 - e. The New Zealand Electricity Code of Practice for Safe Distances 34:2001 (NZECP34:2001).
- 2.2. Mr Campbell is not available to appear this hearing. I have read and concur with the evidence of Mr Campbell, noting the evidence does not contain any opinions, rather outlines the role of Transpower and the National Grid, and Transpower's approach to National Grid Yards and Corridors and implementing the NPSET.

3. Hearing 5

¹ Statement of Evidence in Chief of Dougall Campbell for Transpower New Zealand Limited, Dated 31 May 2022

- 3.1. Hearing Stream 5 is of relevance to Transpower as it relates to subdivision and earthworks, activities which can impact on the operation, maintenance, upgrade and development of the National Grid.
- 3.2. For the reasons outlined in the evidence of Mr Campbell (which I adopt), I support the evidence of Mr Cartwright (Engineer – Lines within the Tactical Engineering Team) and Ms Whitney (Independent Planning Witness). I concur with the recommended amendments outlined in the evidence of Ms Whitney.
- 3.3. Transpower's approach to NPSET implementation is to ensure that we only seek the minimum District Plan restrictions necessary to give effect to the NPSET. The provisions proposed allow Transpower to effectively and efficiently carry out its work and provide for the safety, health and wellbeing of the Central Hawke's Bay community and New Zealand as a whole. This approach has also been developed over time and is one that is evolving as new land practices occur and development pressures arise. I am cognisant of the rural setting of the existing National Grid assets within the Central Hawke's Bay, but a rural setting alone does not preclude development and activities occurring (at any stage) which can seriously compromise the safe and efficient operation, maintenance, upgrade and development of the National Grid.
- 3.4. NZECP34:2001 seeks to protect persons, property, vehicles and mobile plant from harm or damage from electrical safety hazards by setting out minimum safe electrical distances. However, this Code of Practice relates purely to electrical safe distances – it does not address the resource management matters in Policies 10 and 11 of the NPSET and does not protect the integrity of the National Grid from the effects of other activities. Given the national significance of the National Grid, Transpower does not support simple reliance upon NZECP34:2001. Transpower has encountered numerous examples of development around the National Grid which complies with NZECP34:2001, yet significantly compromised (and even prevented) the ability of Transpower to ensure access to, and the safe operation and maintenance of, the National Grid.
- 3.5. The need to provide ongoing, unobstructed access to support structures is a further component of the National Grid corridor framework sought in district plans. As outlined in the evidence of Mr Cartwright, access is required to enable Transpower to physically maintain and operate its infrastructure, both as a matter of routine and in an emergency.

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

Daniel Hamilton

24 August 2022