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9 September 2024

For the Attention of the Wellington Proposed District Plan Hearings Panel - Re Appearance by Transpower NZ Ltd at Hearing Stream 11 Ecosystems and Indigenous Biodiversity

Transpower New Zealand Limited (“**Transpower**”) writes in relation to Hearing Stream 11 to the Proposed District Plan (“**PDP**”) commencing on 9 September 2024, and Hearing Minute 57.

As the panel will be aware, Transpower lodged independent expert planning evidence and company evidence to Hearing Stream 11. Given the recommendations within the S42A Report, the relief sought in the evidence was very limited, and can be summarised as follows:

- Amendment to the introduction of the INF-NG chapter to refer to SNAs; and
- Insertion of reference to SNA within the INF-NG rules R61, R64, R65, R66 and R67

Transpower has read the rebuttal evidence¹ of the reporting officer on the Transpower evidence, and Minute 57 from the Hearings Panel.

Given the (above) relief sought in Transpower’s independent planning evidence will be addressed in full at Hearing Stream 12 Wrap up hearing, and that there are no other substantive outstanding matters either in the S42A Report or in Transpower’s evidence that remain in contention, Transpower considers there is no specific need or purpose to be heard at Hearing Stream 11. In reaching this decision Transpower is cognisant there is agreement between the two planning experts (being the Council S42A author and Ms Whitney for Transpower NZ Ltd) on the provisions for Ecosystems and Indigenous Biodiversity as they apply to the National Grid, with the only outstanding matters to be addressed at Hearing Stream 12.

Transpower notes that no other expert evidence has been lodged (at the time this letter has been submitted and within the Hearings panel prescribed timeframes) that relate to INF-NG Chapter or the application of the

¹ Statement of supplementary planning evidence of Adam McCutcheon on behalf of Wellington City Council, 5 Sept 2024

Transpower New Zealand Limited
Pauline Whitney

10 I have read Ms Whitney’s evidence and note that she seeks further changes to the Infrastructure – National Grid (INF-NG) chapter.

11 Mr Tom Anderson was the reporting officer for that chapter heard in Hearing Stream 9 - Infrastructure.

12 Mr Tom Anderson has advised that the changes proposed by Ms Whitney are at face value supportable.

13 However, the INF-NG has not directly been addressed through this hearing. There may also be interested parties in Ms Whitney’s proposals that have not had the opportunity to comment.

14 Accordingly, I recommend that these matters be addressed and reported back as part of the wrap up hearing. Mr Tom Anderson is supportive of this approach.

Sarah Shand

15 I have read Ms Shand’s corporate evidence, found it insightful and have no comments.

NPS-IB to electricity transmission (the National Grid). Transpower understands that any speaking notes or legal submissions presented to the panel on the day (or submitter presentations/speaking note) do not constitute expert evidence.

Notwithstanding the above, if the panel have any questions for Transpower, Transpower is happy to appear (and can do so at late notice) before the panel at its scheduled time of 2.10 on Wednesday 11th September.

Should the Panel require clarification on any matter, please contact Rebecca Eng at Transpower (09 590 7072), or on the following email: environment.policy@transpower.co.nz.

Yours faithfully



Rebecca Eng

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