



Transpower's North Island Grid Upgrade Project – proposal for a new electricity transmission line

Transpower New Zealand Ltd has lodged notices of requirement and applications for resource consents for its proposal to build a new overhead electricity transmission line, underground cables and substations, from Whakamaru to Otahuhu and Pakuranga (the proposed North Island Grid Upgrade Project).

Hon Pete Hodgson, on behalf of the Acting Minister for the Environment, has 'called in' the notices of requirement and applications for resource consent because he considers Transpower's proposal to be of national significance.

WHY HAS THE MINISTER CALLED IN TRANSPOWER'S PROPOSAL?

Hon Pete Hodgson has called in the matters involved in Transpower's proposal for the following reasons:

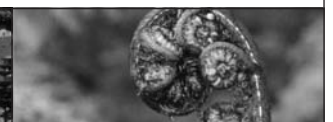
- it has aroused widespread public concern and interest about its actual or likely effect on the environment
- it involves significant use of natural and physical resources
- it affects more than one region or district
- it involves technology, processes or methods that are new to New Zealand and may affect the environment
- it is likely to result in or contribute to significant or irreversible changes to the environment.

The Minister has directed that the matters be referred to a Board of Inquiry. The Board will decide whether to approve the notices of requirement and applications for resource consents. The Board is independent of the Minister and all other parties involved, and will consider all submissions.

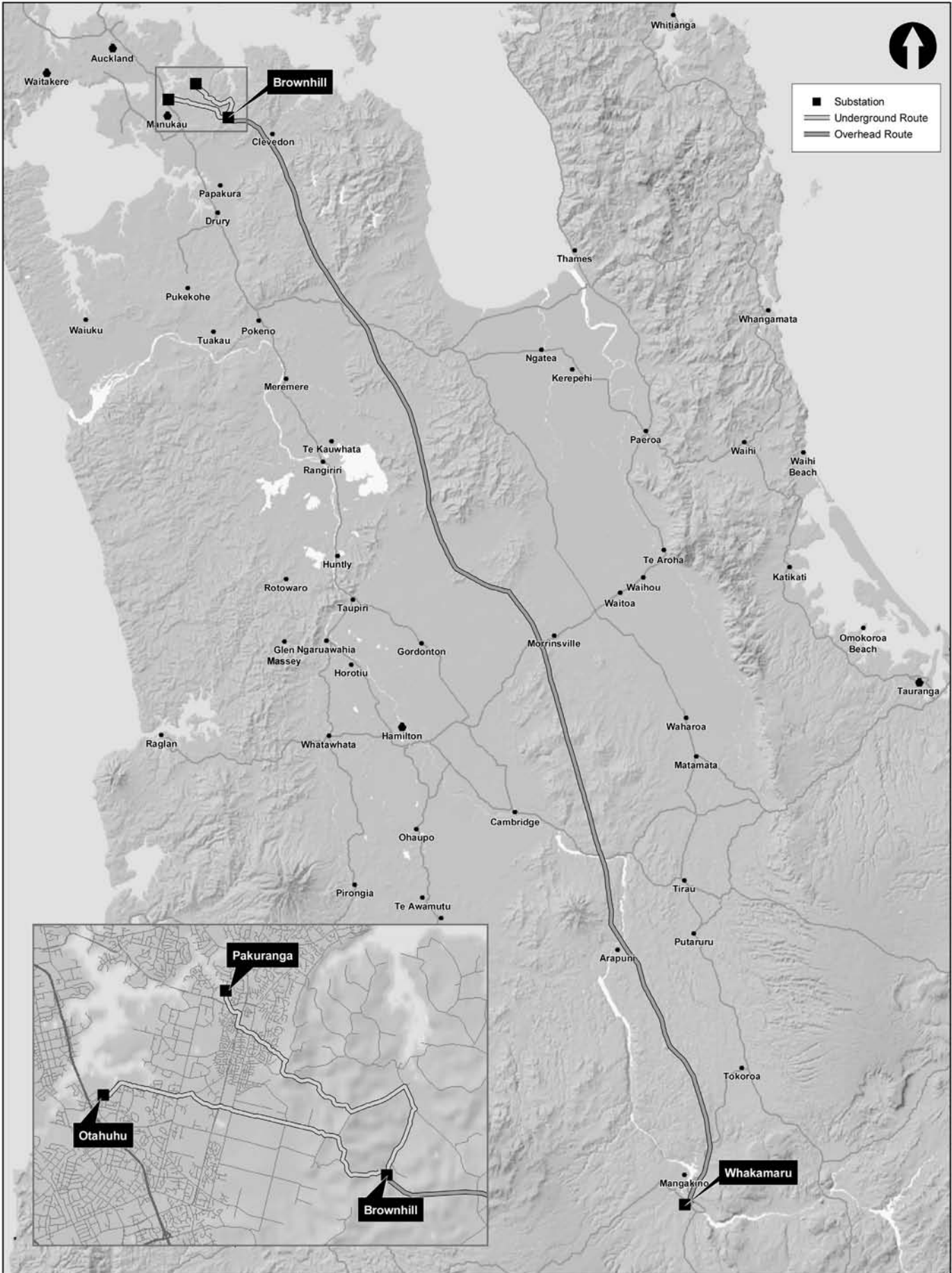
WHAT EXACTLY IS TRANSPOWER PROPOSING?

Transpower is proposing to build an electricity transmission line which would be 400kV capable and 186km in length. The map on the following page shows its proposed route.

The proposed line would provide electricity to Auckland and Northland and would run through the following local authority districts: Manukau City Council, Franklin District Council, Waikato District Council, Matamata-Piako District Council, Waipa District Council, South Waikato District Council and Taupo District Council.



Transpower's proposed new power line



Transpower has lodged notices of requirement with the local authorities listed on page 1 to be able to construct, operate and maintain the proposed transmission line. It has also applied for resource consents from Auckland and Waikato regional councils.

CAN I HAVE A SAY ABOUT THE TRANSMISSION LINE?

Yes. Any person can make a submission by filling in the submission form. The closing date for submissions is 5.00pm 5 October 2007. Please see the information on page 6 in this information sheet about how to fill in the submission form.

A Board of Inquiry will receive the written submissions and they will also hold public hearings to listen to the submitters who indicate they wish to speak at the hearing.

WHAT IS A NOTICE OF REQUIREMENT?

A notice of requirement is the way a network utility operator (such as Transpower) is able to give formal notice to a city or district council of its requirement for designation of land for a project under the Resource Management Act.

Transpower has lodged notices of requirement with relevant councils for land to be designated to upgrade the transmission line, cable routes and substations of the North Island grid.

A designation, once included in a district plan, gives effect to the notice of requirement. This enables the utility operator to undertake specified activities without a land use consent from the city or district council.

A designation requires anyone wanting to do anything within the designated area that would prevent or hinder the project to get written consent from the requiring authority (in this case it would be Transpower).

This applies from the time a notice of requirement is lodged.

WHY DOES TRANSPOWER NEED RESOURCE CONSENTS?

Transpower's resource consent applications are for earthworks and the construction of stream crossings associated with the underground cable section between Pakuranga and Brownhill substations. These have been lodged with Auckland Regional Council.

Resource consent applications have been lodged with both Auckland Regional Council and Waikato Regional Council for earthworks associated with the overhead lines.

Transpower has applied for the 'main' resource consents that are required for the proposal to proceed. These consents have been called in by the Minister and will be considered at the same time as the notices of requirement.

Transpower may need to lodge further resource consent applications with district councils for some associated activities, such as access works. These will be lodged separately, with the relevant council, if required.

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE MINISTRY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT?

The Ministry for the Environment will service the Board of Inquiry for administration of its functions. In doing so the Ministry will use the support and processing systems previously established by the councils where appropriate. This support is coordinated by Environment Waikato (Waikato's regional council).

WHAT IS THE BOARD OF INQUIRY'S PROCESS?

A Board of Inquiry must be chaired by a current, former or retired Environment Court judge. It will have between three to five members.

The appointment of the Board by the Minister will follow the Cabinet process for appointments. The Minister will choose members with skills and experience relevant to the inquiry.



Once established, the Board of Inquiry will consider Transpower's proposal. The Board will decide whether to commission any reports and it will also establish the process for hearing submissions. The duration of the hearing will depend on the number and nature of the submissions.

Following the hearing, the Board of Inquiry will issue a draft decision. Everyone who made a submission, councils, Transpower and the Minister then have an opportunity to comment before the Board makes its final decision. The process to be followed for a Board of Inquiry is set out in the Resource Management Act.

The Board's final decisions can only be appealed to the High Court on points of law.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

1. The Minister calls for submissions and places a public notice in national and local newspapers about the 'direction' to call in Transpower's proposal. [8 September 2007]
2. Submissions close 20 working days after public notification. [5.00pm 5 October 2007]
3. The Minister appoints a Board of Inquiry. The Board receives all the submissions.
4. The Board holds a public hearing. The timing of this is dependent on the Board's processes. All submitters will be advised.
5. The Board releases a draft report. This is sent to all submitters.
6. The Board releases final decisions on Transpower's notices of requirement and resource consents.

WHERE CAN I VIEW TRANSPOWER'S PROPOSAL?

Transpower's application for notices of requirement and associated resource consents consists of a large amount of information. There are separate volumes of material for each aspect of its proposal.

Transpower has prepared executive summaries of its proposal which will help you determine which parts of the proposal documents you need to see. These summaries are in one booklet called "Transpower New Zealand Ltd North Island Grid Upgrade Project – Notices of Requirement and Resource Consent Application Documentation – Executive Summaries".

You can view the executive summaries and full copies of Transpower's proposal, including notices of requirement, resource consents and accompanying information at the locations listed below.

MINISTRY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Auckland Office

Level 6, Tower Centre
45 Queen Street
Auckland
09 985 4800

Head Office

Environment House
23 Kate Sheppard Place
Wellington
04 439 7400

Christchurch Office

Level 7
Te Waipounamu House
158 Hereford Street
Christchurch
03 365 9270



COUNCIL OFFICES, PUBLIC LIBRARIES/INFORMATION CENTRES

Auckland Regional Council

21 Pitt Street
Auckland
09 366 2000

Manukau City Council

Manukau Office
Ground Floor
Kotuku House
4 Osterley Way
Manukau City
09 263 7100

Botany Library

Sunset Terrace
Botany
09 272 0010

Clevedon Library

Main Road
Clevedon
09 269 0500

Franklin District Council

Pukekohe Office
82 Manukau Road
Pukekohe
09 237 1300

Tuakau Office

George Street
Tuakau
09 237 1333

Pukekohe Library

Roulston Street
Pukekohe
09 237 1333

Hunua Help Site

Hunua Motors
2320 Hunua Road
RD 3
Papakura
09 292 4820

Environment Waikato

Hamilton Office
401 Grey Street
Hamilton East
07 856 7148 / 07 859 0999

Taupo Office

Paora Hapi Street
Taupo
07 378 6359

Paeroa Office

13 Opatito Road
Paeroa
07 862 8376

Waikato District Council

Ngaruawahia Office

15 Galileo Street
Ngaruawahia
07 824 8633

Ngaruawahia Library

4 Jesmond Street
Ngaruawahia
07 824 5905

Huntly Office/Library

142 Main Street
Huntly
07 828 7551 / 07 828 8539

Hamilton City Council Building

Garden Place
Hamilton
07 838 6699

Te Kauwhata Library

5A Main Street
Te Kauwhata
07 826 4820

Matamata-Piako District Council

Te Aroha Office

35 Kenrick Street
Te Aroha
07 884 0060

Morrinsville Office

Canada Street
Morrinsville
07 889 8388

Matamata Office

Tanui and Tui Street
Matamata
07 881 9050

Te Aroha Library

Rewi Street
Te Aroha
07 884 7042

Morrinsville Library

Canada Street
Morrinsville
07 889 8388

Matamata Library

Tui Street
Matamata
07 888 7157

Te Aroha Information Centre

102 Whitaker Street
Te Aroha
07 884 8052

Morrinsville Information Centre

Thames Street
Morrinsville
07 889 5575

Matamata Information Centre

45 Broadway
Matamata
07 881 9050 (for the area office)

Waipa District Council

Te Awamutu Office

101 Bank Street
Te Awamutu
0800 924 723

Cambridge Office

23 Wilson Street
Cambridge
0800 924 723

Cambridge Library

23 Wilson Street
Cambridge
07 823 3838

South Waikato District Council

Tokoroa Office

Torphin Crescent
Tokoroa
07 885 0340

Tokoroa Library

Mannerling Street
Tokoroa
07 886 6574

Putaruru Office

Overdale Street
Putaruru
07 883 7189

Putaruru Library

Overdale Street
Putaruru
07 883 7187

Tirau Information Centre

State Highway 1
Tirau
07 883 1202

Tirau Library

Station Street
Tirau
07 883 1208



Taupo District Council

Taupo Office
Rifle Range Road
Taupo
07 376 0899

Taupo Library
29 Totara Street
Taupo
07 376 0070

Mangakino Service Centre
Rangatira Drive
Mangakino
07 882 8700

Transpower's proposal is available on their website see: www.gridnewzealand.co.nz

Electronic copies of Transpower's full proposal are available on a DVD. It is also possible to get a CD version which excludes some of the larger files, eg, Part 1A ariel photography and some specialist reports (see contact details below).

CONTACT DETAILS

To receive electronic information about Transpower's proposal or for questions about how to submit and about the Board of Inquiry process:

Email: tpcallin@mfe.govt.nz
Phone: 0800 TPNIGRID (0800 876 447)
Website: www.mfe.govt.nz/rma/call-in-transpower

TO OBTAIN A SUBMISSION FORM

If you received an information pack, a submission form should be enclosed. If not, please use the contact details above to request one, or download it from the Ministry for the Environment's website see: www.mfe.govt.nz

For information on other work programmes on electricity transmission see: www.mfe.govt.nz/rma/central/transmission/index.html (proposed National Policy Statement on electricity transmission) and www.mfe.govt.nz/laws/standards/electricity-transmission.html (proposed National Environmental Standards for electricity transmission).

HOW TO FILL IN THE SUBMISSION FORM

Your submission must be in writing, dated, signed by you and include the following information:

1. Your name and address, including a phone number, fax number and email address (if applicable).
2. Details of the notice(s) of requirement or application(s) for resource consents in respect of which you are making the submission.
3. Whether you support or oppose the relevant notice(s) of requirement or application(s) for resource consent or whether you are neutral regarding the notice(s) or application(s).
4. The reasons for your views.
5. The decision you wish the Board of Inquiry to make, including the general nature of any conditions sought.
6. Whether or not you wish to be heard in respect of this submission.

Please return your submission by 5.00pm 5 October 2007 to the Minister for the Environment and send a copy to Transpower. See the freepost addresses below.

Send your submission form to:

Minister for the Environment
FreePost Grid Upgrade Submissions
PO Box 4405
Hamilton East
Hamilton 3247

or email: tpcallin@mfe.govt.nz

or fax: **04 439 7700**, please make this for the attention of "Transpower Grid Upgrade Submission".

A copy of your submission form must also be sent to Transpower at:

The National Grid Upgrade Project
Transpower
FreePost 182915
PO Box 1021
Wellington

or email: submissions@transpower.co.nz

or fax: **04 819 7624**