

BEFORE THE BOARD OF INQUIRY

IN THE MATTER of the Resource
Management Act 1991

AND

IN THE MATTER of applications for resource
consent and notices of
requirement by Transpower
New Zealand Limited for
the North Island Grid
Upgrade Project

**STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE OF SIMON HERBERT BEALE IN REBUTTAL FOR
TRANSPOWER NEW ZEALAND LIMITED
(Terrestrial ecological impacts)**

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Introduction

1. **MY** name is Simon Herbert Beale. I wish to present rebuttal evidence to the statements of evidence of:
 - (a) Mr Jefferis of 38 McGovern Road, Te Kauwhata; and
 - (b) Mr John Makin of Clevedon Road, Clevedon.
2. I address the evidence of each submitter below.

Mr Jefferis (Submission number 0813)

3. **AT** paragraph 1 of his evidence, Mr Jefferis questions why mature kahikatea trees are to be felled. I presume he is referring to kahikatea trees on his property and the adjoining property owned by AM & VC Tubic. I note that most of these trees form part of a large remnant, while a smaller number occur as scattered fragments or outliers immediately to the south of the main remnant. I have described this remnant at paragraphs 146 and 147 of my first statement of evidence as being of ecological value. I ranked this remnant as being locally significant.
4. **INVESTIGATIONS** conducted by Transpower during the route phase of the project included consideration of various tower sites and overhead line alignments in this area. Of particular relevance was the siting of Tower 112 and the degree that this would affect the kahikatea remnant. My recommendation to Transpower at that time was to site the tower to the east of the remnant in an area of pasture so as to minimise the degree of tree removal.
5. **THIS** recommendation was endorsed by Transpower, but opposed by the Tubics, primarily as this site placed the tower closer to their residence than other sites being considered. The selection of the current tower position and alignment of the proposed overhead line was thus governed by the landowner concerns and constraints imposed to the north and south of this tower such as the location of houses and other farm buildings.

6. **A** combination of factors, such as the flat terrain and thus low conductor height along much of the spans to the north and south of Tower 112, coupled with the 25+ metre height of the majority of the canopy trees in the affected remnant, would result in significant lineal clearance through this remnant during construction of the proposed overhead line.

7. **IN** view of the large scale of indigenous vegetation removal required, Transpower proposes to undertake a significant programme of replanting, as is described in my first statement of evidence (at paragraph 286). This replanting programme would include plantings of shrubs and low tree species along the cleared corridor as well as plantings of kahikatea, totara and kowhai, either to the east of the remnant or along the corridor left following removal of the ARI-PAK A overhead line.

Mr John Makin (Submission number 0781)

8. **AT** page 4 of his evidence, Mr Makin refers to plantings of native trees and shrubs in strategic places on his property that will be bulldozed by Transpower due to their proximity to the proposed overhead line.

9. **ON** the basis of my understanding of the position, age and approximate annual height increments for species such as kauri and rimu (between 25 to 35 cm per annum), I anticipate these plantings would not need to be removed for at least 35 to 45 years from now. However, Mr Makin is correct with respect to the mature kahikatea trees near Clevedon Road. The canopy of these trees already impinges into the growth limit zone, and they would need to be removed during construction.

10. I note the existence of a group of three young kahikatea trees, situated roughly halfway between the mature kahikatea trees mentioned above and Tower 22, which also lies in the Makin property. The current height of these trees varies between approximately eight to ten metres. Based on annual height increments in the order of 30 cm per annum, I would not expect these trees to be removed until 15 to 20 years from now.

Simon Herbert Beale

22 April 2008