

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 HELEN GLYNDWR HENDREN ON BEHALF OF
TRANSPOWER NEW ZEALAND LIMITED
(Tangata whenua consultation)**

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INTRODUCTION

1. **MY** name is Helen Glyndwr Hendren. I am a company director and live in Milford, Auckland.
2. **IN** the period from mid-2003 to mid-2005, Buddy Mikaere and Associates employed me as Administration Manager/Research Manager.

Scope of evidence

3. **AS** part of that role, in 2004/05 I was responsible for two tasks. The first was assisting with consultation in relation to the North Island Grid Upgrade Project (**Upgrade Project**); the second was assembling the relevant Maori land information held in the records of the Maori Land Court.
4. **MY** evidence covers both these matters. I consider that the approach taken by Transpower New Zealand Limited (**Transpower**) in relation to these matters is illustrative of the extraordinary effort that was put into the consultation with tangata whenua in respect of the Upgrade Project and its potential impact on tangata whenua.
5. I confirm that I have read and am familiar with the Code of Conduct for Expert Witnesses in the Environment Court Consolidated Practice Note (2006). I have approached the preparation of this evidence in the same way that I would for the Environment Court.

Consultation hui

6. **THE** consultation process for the Upgrade Project required much organisation. I consider that the nature of the consultation strategy for Maori was difficult, because contact details for some marae were not always available, which made the arranging of consultation hui very time consuming. I worked with the Hamilton Office of Te Puni Kokiri in an effort to obtain this information.
7. **MY** task was to co-ordinate the organisation of consultation hui, including arranging for attendance by appropriate Transpower staff, marae hire, and the advertising of the hui by way of newspaper and radio advertisements. I had the

assistance of Mr Christopher Roberts of Transpower who was the public relations/media person at the time.

8. I also had the assistance of Tahi Ngakete who played the leading role in identifying iwi/hapu/marae contacts, on the ground liaison and meeting facilitation.

Maori Land Court records

9. **THE** other task that I had was assembling all the relevant Maori land information held in Maori Land Court records for the proposed routes for the then 400kV line that were under consideration. This was to clarify and/or confirm the mapped information that had earlier been assembled by Transpower from more general land information sources, as well as to identify owners.
10. **THIS** exercise required close liaison with the Maori Land Court offices in Hamilton and Papatoetoe. I worked with Vicky Gough, Janet Falwasser, and Mana Te Kanawa, of the Maori Land Court staff. Lorelle Burke who was employed as a research assistant by Buddy Mikaere and Associates also helped me.
11. **THE** initial survey came up with a list of 27 Maori-owned land blocks (attached as **Appendix 1**) that might be affected by the Upgrade Project. While it was possible to get a reasonably general idea about where the various land blocks lay, determining whom to contact in respect of those blocks was another matter. This was because the records of the Maori Land Court for those blocks were often in disarray.
12. **THIS** was not the fault of the staff or the records as such. What I found was that many of the listed owners were deceased, or there were no contact addresses, or succession orders had not been lodged or processed.
13. **IT** was also found that a number of the blocks had subsequently changed status. In particular, they were no longer Maori land, or were the subject of long-term leases for forestry purposes.

14. **WORKING** with the Maori Land Court staff, we dealt with this aspect in two ways. I proposed that one way around the problem might be to place articles about the Upgrade Project in the Land Court publication *Te Pouwhenua*. These articles were printed from material generated by Transpower and had sufficient detail to give a broad outline of what land might be affected. Publication took place in January/February 2005.
15. **THE** articles attracted a number of phone calls – some of them quite abusive - from Maori landowners who suspected that the proposed transmission line might pass over their blocks. I noted down the contact details for later follow up.
16. **ONCE** we were able to get a better appreciation of what blocks would be involved, we placed a suitable notification in *Te Pouwhenua* listing the block names and asking those with interests in those blocks to advise us of their contact details. We also placed a similar series of advertisements in all the local newspapers.
17. **THE** lack of response was disappointing. The inability to identify the current administrators of the various blocks from lists of owners meant that this exercise was subsequently abandoned. However, 14 blocks which we were able to determine had administrative trusts or incorporations, were contacted and offered consultation. Again, this exercise met little success, but did lead to an appreciation by those involved in the tangata whenua consultation that the owners and marae consultation attendees were often the same people.

CONCLUSION

18. **THE** intent of my evidence has been to outline the extraordinary lengths that Transpower was prepared to go to in order to properly identify Maori land parcels, and thus to also develop a database of potentially affected Maori parties and offer them consultation. Any criticism of these processes in terms of the tasks that I was involved with cannot, in my opinion, be sustained.



Helen Glyndwr Hendren

30 January 2008

APPENDIX 1

Transpower – Maori Land Blocks identified for the east & west routes

No.	Block ID	Legal description
361.	4475278	Part Te Mimi 9 block [276 Hangawera Rd]
358.	4460934	Part Ngakuriaruru block [369 Horrell Rd – Matamata]
148.	4264059	Part Mangawhara 2 [503 Totman Rd – Tirau]
139.	4467315	Mangawhara 1B2B2
143.	4472474	Mangawhara 1B2A [602 Totman Rd – Tirau]
157.	4518474	Pt Okoroire 41.
158.	4512814	Pt Waipa
60.	4543544	Pt Matanuku 3
65.	4308461	Pt Matanuku 3
58.	4308355	Waotu South 10ABC3
64.	4292673	Waotu South 14 [NZ Forest Products]
72.	4463480	Waotu South 17 [1124 Wiltsdown Rd]
75. (Boundary)	4304820	Waotu South (10A-C) 3
68.	4543447	Waotu South 10ABC2
66. (Boundary)	4381591	Pt Waotu South 15A
62.	4544281	Pt Waotu South 16A
511.	4333037	Pt Maraetai
515.	4449880	Pt Maraetai
43. (Boundary)	6553262	Pt Maraetai
51.	6553264	Pt Pouakani
1.	4515937	Pt Whakamaru Maungaiti
27.	4557903	Pt Pouakani
7.	4484426	Pt Pouakani 1 [80 Whakamaru Rd]
37.	4424734	Pt Whakamaru Maungaiti
36.	4437774	Pt Whakamaru Maungaiti
8.	4548869	Pt Pouakani 1
507.	4310916	Pt Whakamaru Maungaiti

[27 blocks]