

**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

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**SUPPLEMENTARY STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE OF SYLVIA JEAN ALLAN  
ON BEHALF OF TRANSPOWER NEW ZEALAND LIMITED  
(National Policy Statement on Electricity Transmission and the consented  
environment)**

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## INTRODUCTION

1. **MY** name is Sylvia Jean Allan. I wish to present a supplementary statement of evidence in relation to the National Policy Statement on Electricity Transmission and on the existing environment.

## NATIONAL POLICY STATEMENT ON ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION

2. **IN** the various sections of my evidence in chief (2) relating to the different components of the project covered in that evidence (paragraphs 181 to 183 for the overhead line, paragraph 290 relating to the Brownhill Substation and paragraph 334 relating to the Whakamaru and Whakamaru North Substation), I have commented that in my opinion no national policy statements in terms of the Resource Management Act 1991 (**RMA**) are relevant. Ms McGovern and Ms Hunter conclude similarly in relation to the Pakuranga and Otahuhu Substations and the underground cables that connect to the Brownhill Substation in their evidence in chief.
3. **IN** the third of the paragraphs noted above (paragraph 181), I referred to the draft National Policy Statement on Electricity Transmission, notified in May 2007. This National Policy Statement has now been approved and gazetted under section 52 of the RMA and is now force (although I note that a amendment to correct a minor typographical error in Policy 9 has recently been gazetted<sup>1</sup>). It includes a specified four-year period within which local authorities are required to amend their plans under section 55(2A). More directly, the National Policy Statement<sup>2</sup> (**NPS**) is now a relevant matter to be considered in terms of section 171(1)(a)(i) and section 104(1)(b)(i). I attach the NPS as **Attachment SJA S1** to this evidence.
4. **THE** preamble to the NPS sets out a number of bullet point "challenges" relating to the national transmission system. Most, if not all, of these challenges have arisen in developing the project which is the subject of the NORs and applications before the Board. It is my opinion that the decisions that have been made within the

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<sup>1</sup> This corrects the reference of the World Health Organisation's monograph referred to in Policy 9 from No. 328 to No. 238.

<sup>2</sup> See section 2, RMA, Interpretation

project have generally been in accordance with the objective and relevant policies of the NPS. I now expand on my opinion, commenting in relation to all NORs and applications.

5. **THE** single objective of the NPS on Electricity Transmission is to facilitate, *inter alia*, the upgrade of the existing transmission network<sup>3</sup> and establishment of new transmission resources while managing adverse environmental effects of the network and also managing the adverse effects of other activities on the network.
  
6. **IN** the context of this overall objective, in my opinion the identification of the substation locations, and the overhead line and underground cable routes and other components of the proposal, along with the various mitigation proposals, have adequately and appropriately managed the project's adverse environmental effects. Provisions in the NORs and consent applications (including any conditions) will ensure that the intent of the objective continues to be met over time.
  
7. **IN** determining the location and design of the components, the adverse effects of other activities on the network have also been considered. As far as practicable, any existing adverse effects, and the potential for future adverse effects on the new transmission resources, have also been provided for within the proposed NORs. These considerations were built into the ACRE process, and the choice of aspects that were evaluated in reaching the preferred route option and refining the alignment, and in similar processes relating to the cables and substation locations.
  
8. **ALL** the policies are expressed as a set of "instructions" to decision makers, albeit that Policies 6 to 8 are effectively dual instructions to decision makers and Transpower. In respect of the other policies, although Transpower and its advisors are not decision-makers as defined in the NPS, in my opinion there is a preliminary responsibility, which falls to those who put a project together (relating to the national grid), to address matters set out in the policies. Although the NPS did not exist at the time of development of the project, I consider that the "best practice" approach, along with the requirements of other legislation, standards, and guidelines, effectively involves many of the same considerations.

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<sup>3</sup> Defined as the national grid.

9. **IN** Policy 1, the benefits of transmission activities must be recognised and provided for. Four specific benefits are listed which may, along with other benefits, be taken into account when considering a specific proposal under the RMA. All these benefits have been identified in the NOR documentation and in the evidence before the Board. The policy also indicates that there may be other benefits relating to specific policies, plans, projects or developments. In terms of this project, there are some additional minor benefits associated with the removal of the ARI-PAK A line in some specific locations, and there are also the direct economic benefits of construction and maintenance of the new infrastructure.
10. **POLICY 2** requires decision-makers to recognise and provide for the effective operation, maintenance, upgrading and development of the electricity transmission network. In my opinion, the project's integration into the network in a location of high demand and significant supply, as well as the capacity and staging of the Upgrade Project, contribute to a high level of overall effectiveness in terms of the overall upgrading and development of the transmission network.
11. **A** project with less ultimate capacity would be less effective, in that additional projects would be needed at an earlier stage. There would be less effectiveness as well, in that a repeat planning and construction process, and all that that entails, would be required (although I note that the cables and substation components involve progressive construction stages, so the above comment relates primarily to the overhead line section).
12. **POLICY 3** requires consideration of the "technical and operational requirements" of the network, when considering measures to avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse environmental effects. As I interpret this, the policy acknowledges that the network may, for technical and operational reasons, include components which may have environmental effects which may be difficult to avoid, remedy or mitigate.
13. **THE** overhead line component of the NIGUP applies technology that appears to be efficient, effective and technologically appropriate in terms of meeting immediate and long-term needs in this part of the network. This has been outlined in the evidence of Mr Boyle and other Transpower technical experts. However, it involves

a number of unavoidable residual environmental effects<sup>4</sup>, including visual effects and effects on other land users, which cannot be completely mitigated.

14. **IN** contrast, the underground cable component is not as convenient technically and operationally (for example in terms of construction and repair), but is included in order to largely avoid long-term adverse environmental effects. Similarly, GIS substation technology includes some long-term unknowns in terms of repair and replacement, but is proposed at Brownhill Substation to address adverse visual environmental effects.
15. **POLICY 4** relates to "route, site and method" selection. In terms of "method", Transpower technical experts have addressed this, and the 400kV-capable design of the project has been identified as the preferred technical method of meeting long-term transmission needs. Considerable evidence has been provided on the process and merits of the selection of this transmission "method". The adverse effects arising from this choice of "method" are, in my opinion, marginally, if at all, greater than any other feasible method of transmission which would have equivalent capacity and/or capability in the long term. In reality, they are likely to be less than, for example, two 220kV lines.
16. **THE ACRE** process applied in the identification "route" identification and "site" selection methodology has been fully described in the NOR documentation, and summarised in evidence. It is my opinion that the processes have, as far as practicable, avoided adverse effects on the environment. The remaining adverse effects are not able to be fully remedied or mitigated, but a range of practicable mitigation measures are proposed, including visual mitigation.
17. **POLICY 5** is relevant in two ways. Firstly, in terms of the parts of the NORs which will designate existing assets, which are proposed to be upgraded. This includes three of the four substation sites, which are existing and which are better provided for in terms of this policy than with the current arrangements (on the basis of existing use rights, or in the case of Whakamaru Substation – under a switchyard designation).

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<sup>4</sup> These are associated with the technology and include the height of the conductors above ground necessary to meet EMF requirements, and the spacing of the arms to allow for maintenance. However, a 220kV line as described in evidence would have quite similar effects.

18. **SECONDLY**, policy 5 also relates to the purpose of each of the designations once in place. The NORs seek that the assets, once in place, may be operated and maintained and, in the case of the overhead line and the Brownhill and Whakamaru substations, upgraded to enable eventual 400kV operation. Some flexibility has therefore been built in to the NORs, but the extent of the designations and the proposed controls will enable reasonable operation and maintenance while ensuring effects are mitigated to acceptable levels. Any "upgrade" change not otherwise expressly provided for in the designation as proposed, and involving more than a minor work, would of course be subject to a change to the designation or a new designation.
19. **IN** terms of policy 6, the project involved in the NORs is more than a "substantial upgrade" to existing assets and therefore may not be directly relevant. However, the project does involve reductions of existing adverse effects of transmission. To the extent that the removal of the ARI-PAK A line is part of the project, where this has had specific adverse effects (such as proximity to Paparimu School, and the locations of the line crossing Lake Karapiro and along the Hunua Valley), as far as practicable endeavours have been made to reduce these adverse effects through the new line's location and design. The undergrounding of the line within Auckland's known future urban areas also creates the opportunity to remove a section of the existing line in its entirety. Similarly, any effects of the existing ARI-PAK A line on archaeological resources will be addressed as part of its removal.
20. **TO** the extent that upgrades of existing substation sites are proposed, it is relevant to note that the NOR and evidence for Transpower clearly indicates the possibility of ongoing reductions in noise emissions from the Otahuhu substation site over time.
21. **POLICY 7** relates to minimising urban amenity effects, and avoiding adverse effects on town centres, and areas of high recreational value, amenity and existing sensitive activities. In my opinion, this policy is largely achieved. In particular, the undergrounding of the line in urban areas addresses amenity effects and effects on town centres. Where existing settlements have been specifically planned or

proposed for growth, (eg, at Clevedon and Hunua) this has been taken into account, and the line avoids the indicated growth areas.

22. **AREAS** of high recreational and amenity value have also been considered from the commencement of the ACRE project and avoided as far as practicable. In terms of sensitive activities<sup>5</sup>, these have similarly been taken into account. In the urban environment, both potential health and amenity issues are relevant. The cable design and location, and the choice of the two northern substation locations which involve existing and long-established sites, have addressed these matters.
23. **POLICY 8** addresses rural environments in particular. In my opinion all the matters listed have been taken into account and largely, if not entirely, avoided. The main debate relating to outstanding natural landscapes and areas of high natural character (and to some extent high recreational value and amenity) relates to areas within Waipa District. In my opinion, there are questions around the extent to which the landscapes affected by the line are natural (as they include considerable physical resources such as roads, bridges, transmission lines, dwellings and other buildings). Areas which are clearly of high natural character (such as the Hunua Ranges, and the upper slopes of Maungatautari as well as other areas evaluated at the Area, Corridor and Route stages) have been avoided.
24. **MAUNGATAUTARI** also has high recreational value and amenity, as does Lake Karapiro and other parts of the Waikato River system. While the line is in proximity to Maungatautari, and crosses the southern part of Lake Karapiro and the river and a lake elsewhere, any adverse effects on the recreational values and amenity of these areas have effectively been avoided or mitigated through route and tower locations.
25. **EXISTING** sensitive activities in rural areas are subject to both health and amenity considerations. Potential health aspects are addressed by compliance with the ICNIRP Guidelines. There remain some unavoidable adverse visual and amenity effects which will affect houses, and to a limited extent, a small number of schools. It is my opinion that these effects have been reduced to the extent practicable, but have not been able to be fully avoided.

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<sup>5</sup> Defined in the NPS to include schools, residences and hospitals.

26. **AS** noted elsewhere, the ICNIRP Guidelines have been one of the main drivers of line design. The proposal complies fully with the ICNIRP Guidelines over the life of the project and under all normal operating conditions. Accordingly, I consider that Policy 9 is achieved.
27. **POLICY 10** relates to third parties and, as I interpret it, provides an instruction that is outside the scope of the NORs. However, I make the observation that the ACRE process has endeavoured to take into account the types of effects that can lead to future reverse sensitivity issues (such as line locations in public viewshafts, or in close proximity to sensitive activities). Introducing a large structure (or other activity) into an existing environment (including people) will, in my opinion, always carry with it a risk of future reverse sensitivity issues arising from the existing population and disposition of land use activities. Nevertheless, the use of the designation procedure and inclusion of designations in district plans can put people "on notice" to ensure that the effects of other activities on the network can be considered and addressed.
28. **POLICY 11** is also outside the scope of the NORs, as the NOR provides for an appropriate "buffer corridor".
29. **POLICY 12** is provided for by the NOR process, as the designations will be shown on the relevant planning maps (see NORs, Part 1A).
30. **IN** terms of Policy 13, the designation process is being used for the long-term (staged) plan encompassed in the Upgrade Project, including the development, upgrading and maintenance of important infrastructure to assist in meeting the needs of the north of the North Island. The designation sought allows for the long-term planning of the network as described in Mr Boyle's evidence.
31. **POLICY 14** is already partly met in terms of both relevant regional policy statements, which, as I have analysed in my evidence in chief (2)<sup>6</sup>, include objectives and policies which support regional infrastructure. In particular, the

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<sup>6</sup> Ms McGovern and Ms Hunter have also provided evidence in relation to regional instruments.

Auckland Regional Policy Statement also integrates this with land use considerations through Chapter 2.

32. **OVERALL**, in my opinion, both the project and the NORs are in close accordance with all relevant provisions of the NPS on Electricity Transmission.

### **THE EXISTING ENVIRONMENT**

33. **IN** this section of evidence, I address a matter raised by the Board of Inquiry related to activities which have been consented but not implemented in respect of land subject to the NORs for the Upgrade Project. I will refer to the substation sites, cable routes and the overhead line section separately.

#### **Substation sites**

34. **AS** the Board has heard in evidence, resource consents have been granted for Transpower to undertake upgrade works at the Otahuhu Substation. This work is now underway. Adjacent to the Otahuhu Substation site, Contact Energy has consents to develop the Otahuhu C gas-fired power station. I am not aware of any unimplemented resource consents in respect of other substation sites or in their vicinity, except as referred to below in relation to the Brownhill Substation.
35. **THE** proposed Brownhill Substation site adjoins an area of land to the west which is being subdivided and developed quite rapidly due to recent alterations to the Manukau District Plan. This involves subdivision and development along the Redoubt Road ridge which is taking place within the recently-operative Flat Bush Countryside Transition Zone. Attachment SJA R2.3 in my statement of evidence in Rebuttal (2) shows the zoning in the general area. All development involves subdivision, which requires consent. A number of subdivided lots abut the upper slopes of the substation site, and have not yet been built on. These are shown on the cadastral layout of the NOR documentation. In May 2007, consent was granted for approximately 20 lots on the Regis Park land, which adjoins the northern boundary of the substation site. **Attachment SJA S2** shows the subdivision layout

and the approved building locations for future dwellings<sup>7</sup>. I am not aware of any further applications in relation to this land or other land in the vicinity of the Brownhill Substation site.

### **Cable routes**

- 36.** **THE** cable routes are largely located in developed urban areas, or in urban areas which are in their planning stages. In particular, Variation 13 ushered in a range of major changes in the Flat Bush area which provide for urban land uses. The cable routes have, as far as practicable, been located in areas of roading and open space (including areas of road widening or future roading, and existing and future open space areas), rather than areas which will be developed for housing and other purposes.
- 37.** **THE** area is in a state of rapid change and it has not been practicable to investigate specific approvals. In areas such as the Caldwells Road part of the Pakuranga to Brownhill Substation cable route which remain in rural zoning (Rural 3 and Whitford Rural), and in the vicinity of the route along Sandstone and Brownhill Roads, no specific consented activities have been identified.

### **Overhead line section**

- 38.** **AS** the project has been in the public arena since early 2005, it is likely that activities potentially affected by the overhead alignment will have become known to Transpower through the consultation process and/or the relevant local authority will have identified Transpower as a potentially affected party for written approval or notification (such as has happened with at least two lifestyle subdivisions proposed in Matamata-Piako District<sup>8</sup>).
- 39.** **DURING** the course of the investigations leading to the Route report, the only activity which was known to be consented but not fully implemented was the Card Road lifestyle subdivision. This subdivision is within the Matamata-Piako District (Map Book, Series 2 Map, 13B) and comprises 12 lots of between 8 hectares and

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<sup>7</sup> Note that this is a water supply and wastewater management layout plan, being the only plan that shows the whole of the subdivision and likely building location.

<sup>8</sup> See various submissions including those of Vercoe, Seales, Scott and Matamata-Piako District Council.

0.78 hectares in size, located partly on an elevated ridge-line crossed by the alignment. Allotments were being marketed but no dwellings had been constructed at the time of the Route stage investigations. Following the public release of the project, a small number of dwellings have been constructed<sup>9</sup>. It is my understanding that two of the developed lots have since been acquired by Transpower. It is my opinion that the other lots in the subdivision are not adversely affected by the alignment to the same extent.

40. **THE** layout of the alignment, the subdivision and the lots purchased by Transpower are shown on **Attachment SJA S3** to this evidence.
41. **IN** the first public consultation stage, it was identified that two resource consent applications had been made within Waipa and South Waikato District Council areas for tourist-related developments in proximity to the Waikato River. Inquiries at the time revealed that both had been put on hold at the request of the applicants. Both have since been granted consent – one to operate a tourist boat on the Waikato River downstream from Arapuni in the vicinity of the alignment to Lake Karapiro, and the other (for six tourist cabins) in the vicinity of the alignment. The tourist boat is currently operating, and it is my understanding that one of the six cabins (granted consent in March 2006) has recently been constructed. **Attachment SJA S4** shows the consented location of the cabins.
42. **A** range of submitters<sup>10</sup> have been critical that the documentation for the NOR did not identify the Orini Downs quarry area. Its application for resource consent in 2005 was known to Transpower (which made a submission on it). The quarry is outside the area identified in the District Plan for quarry activities (shown on map 12B, Series 2, Map Book). As there seemed to be some uncertainty as to the extent of the consented area, I obtained details of the application prior to preparing my evidence in chief. The quality of the application documentation was poor, but it was possible to determine the consented area. This is shown as **Attachment SJA S5** to this evidence.

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<sup>9</sup> The first of these was on the lot most affected by the alignment.

<sup>10</sup> Including Orini Downs Station Limited (Submission number 0837), Orini Hilltops Limited (Submission number 0839), Waikato Quarries Limited (0840) and Perry Aggregates Limited (Submission number 0838). See my statement of evidence in chief (1) at paragraph 363.

43. **BECAUSE** of the uncertainty, the detail of the extent of the consented area was provided to the Council Officers for their confirmation of accuracy. An email to that effect is included in **Attachment SJA S5**. The application also included a report from a recognised quarry consultancy, and from that it was possible to identify the likely future direction of quarrying. This is also shown mapped on **Attachment SJA S5**, and is in the direction that would take it away from the line.
44. **THE** evidence of Mr Merlo on behalf of Mr and Mrs Peart refers to the intention to build a conference/restaurant facility in addition to the operational activities (tasting and wine sales, consented 2003) at Twilight Vinyards. Enquiries with Manukau City Council have indicated that consents have not yet been sought.<sup>11</sup>
45. **WHILE** I have not undertaken a full investigation of local authority records, or made a general enquiry in recent months, I am not aware of any other consented activities affected by the alignment that have not been implemented.

**Sylvia Jean Allan**

**17 June 2008**

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<sup>11</sup> Pers Comm, Ken George, MCC, 15.04.09 and 16.06.08.

**ATTACHMENT SJA S1**

**NATIONAL POLICY STATEMENT  
ON ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION  
(GAZETTED 13 MARCH 2008)**

## NATIONAL POLICY STATEMENT

# on Electricity Transmission

*Issued by notice in the Gazette on 13 March 2008*

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## Preamble

This national policy statement sets out the objective and policies to enable the management of the effects of the electricity transmission network under the Resource Management Act 1991.

In accordance with section 55(2A)(a) of the Act, and within four years of approval of this national policy statement, local authorities are to notify and process under the First Schedule to the Act a plan change or review to give effect as appropriate to the provisions of this national policy statement.

The efficient transmission of electricity on the national grid plays a vital role in the well-being of New Zealand, its people and the environment. Electricity transmission has special characteristics that create challenges for its management under the Act. These include:

- Transporting electricity efficiently over long distances requires support structures (towers or poles), conductors, wires and cables, and sub-stations and switching stations.
- These facilities can create environmental effects of a local, regional and national scale. Some of these effects can be significant.
- The transmission network is an extensive and linear system which makes it important that there are consistent policy and regulatory approaches by local authorities.
- Technical, operational and security requirements associated with the transmission network can limit the extent to which it is feasible to avoid or mitigate all adverse environmental effects.
- The operation, maintenance and future development of the transmission network can be significantly constrained by the adverse environmental impact of third party activities and development.
- The adverse environmental effects of the transmission network are often local – while the benefits may be in a different locality and/or extend beyond the local to the regional and national – making it important that those exercising powers and functions under the Act balance local, regional and national environmental effects (positive and negative).
- Ongoing investment in the transmission network and significant upgrades are expected to be required to meet the demand for electricity and to meet the Government's objective for a renewable energy future, therefore strategic planning to provide for transmission infrastructure is required.

The national policy statement is to be applied by decision-makers under the Act. The objective and policies are intended to guide decision-makers in drafting plan rules, in making decisions on the notification of the resource consents and in the determination of resource consent applications, and in considering notices of requirement for designations for transmission activities.

However, the national policy statement is not meant to be a substitute for, or prevail over, the Act's statutory purpose or the statutory tests already in existence. Further, the national policy statement is subject to Part 2 of the Act.

For decision-makers under the Act, the national policy statement is intended to be a relevant consideration to be weighed along with other considerations in achieving the sustainable management purpose of the Act.

This preamble may assist the interpretation of the national policy statement, where this is needed to resolve uncertainty.

### 1. Title

This national policy statement is the National Policy Statement on Electricity Transmission 2008.

### 2. Commencement

This national policy statement comes into force on the 28<sup>th</sup> day after the date on which it is notified in the *Gazette*.

### 3. Interpretation

In this national policy statement, unless the context otherwise requires:

**Act** means the Resource Management Act 1991.

**Decision-makers** means all persons exercising functions and powers under the Act.

**Electricity transmission network, electricity transmission and transmission activities/assets/infrastructure/resources/system** all mean part of the national grid of transmission lines and cables (aerial, underground and undersea, including the high-voltage direct current link), stations and sub-stations and other works used to connect grid injection points and grid exit points to convey electricity throughout the North and South Islands of New Zealand.

**National environmental standard** means a standard prescribed by regulations made under the Act.

**National grid** means the assets used or owned by Transpower NZ Limited.

**Sensitive activities** includes schools, residential buildings and hospitals.

## 4. Matter of national significance

The matter of national significance to which this national policy statement applies is the need to operate, maintain, develop and upgrade the electricity transmission network.

## 5. Objective

To recognise the national significance of the electricity transmission network by facilitating the operation, maintenance and upgrade of the existing transmission network and the establishment of new transmission resources to meet the needs of present and future generations, while:

- managing the adverse environmental effects of the network; and
- managing the adverse effects of other activities on the network.

## 6. Recognition of the national benefits of transmission

### POLICY 1

In achieving the purpose of the Act, decision-makers must recognise and provide for the national, regional and local benefits of sustainable, secure and efficient electricity transmission. The benefits relevant to any particular project or development of the electricity transmission network may include:

- i) maintained or improved security of supply of electricity; or
- ii) efficient transfer of energy through a reduction of transmission losses; or
- iii) the facilitation of the use and development of new electricity generation, including renewable generation which assists in the management of the effects of climate change; or
- iv) enhanced supply of electricity through the removal of points of congestion.

The above list of benefits is not intended to be exhaustive and a particular policy, plan, project or development may have or recognise other benefits.

## 7. Managing the environmental effects of transmission

### POLICY 2

In achieving the purpose of the Act, decision-makers must recognise and provide for the effective operation, maintenance, upgrading and development of the electricity transmission network.

### POLICY 3

When considering measures to avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse environmental effects of transmission activities, decision-makers must consider the constraints imposed on achieving those measures by the technical and operational requirements of the network.

### POLICY 4

When considering the environmental effects of new transmission infrastructure or major upgrades of existing transmission infrastructure, decision-makers must have regard to the extent to which any adverse effects have been avoided, remedied or mitigated by the route, site and method selection.

### POLICY 5

When considering the environmental effects of transmission activities associated with transmission assets, decision-makers must enable the reasonable operational, maintenance and minor upgrade requirements of established electricity transmission assets.

#### POLICY 6

Substantial upgrades of transmission infrastructure should be used as an opportunity to reduce existing adverse effects of transmission including such effects on sensitive activities where appropriate.

#### POLICY 7

Planning and development of the transmission system should minimise adverse effects on urban amenity and avoid adverse effects on town centres and areas of high recreational value or amenity and existing sensitive activities.

#### POLICY 8

In rural environments, planning and development of the transmission system should seek to avoid adverse effects on outstanding natural landscapes, areas of high natural character and areas of high recreation value and amenity and existing sensitive activities.

#### POLICY 9

Provisions dealing with electric and magnetic fields associated with the electricity transmission network must be based on the International Commission on Non-ionising Radiation Protection *Guidelines for limiting exposure to time varying electric magnetic fields (up to 300 GHz)* (Health Physics, 1998, 74(4): 494-522) and recommendations from the World Health Organisation monograph *Environment Health Criteria* (No 328, June 2007) or revisions thereof and any applicable New Zealand standards or national environmental standards.

### 8. Managing the adverse effects of third parties on the transmission network

#### POLICY 10

In achieving the purpose of the Act, decision-makers must to the extent reasonably possible manage activities to avoid reverse sensitivity effects on the electricity transmission network and to ensure that operation, maintenance, upgrading, and development of the electricity transmission network is not compromised.

#### POLICY 11

Local authorities must consult with the operator of the national grid, to identify an appropriate buffer corridor within which it can be expected that sensitive activities will generally not be provided for in plans and/or given resource consent. To assist local authorities to identify these corridors, they may request the operator of the national grid to provide local authorities with its medium to long-term plans for the alteration or upgrading of each affected section of the national grid (so as to facilitate the long-term strategic planning of the grid).

### 9. Maps

#### POLICY 12

Territorial authorities must identify the electricity transmission network on their relevant planning maps whether or not the network is designated.

### 10. Long-term strategic planning for transmission assets

#### POLICY 13

Decision-makers must recognise that the designation process can facilitate long-term planning for the development, operation and maintenance of electricity transmission infrastructure.

#### POLICY 14

Regional councils must include objectives, policies and methods to facilitate long-term planning for investment in transmission infrastructure and its integration with land uses.

#### Explanatory note

*This note is not part of the national policy statement but is intended to indicate its general effect*

This national policy statement comes into force 28 days after the date of its notification in the *Gazette*. It provides that electricity transmission is a matter of national significance under the Resource Management Act 1991 and prescribes an objective and policies to guide the making of resource management decisions.

The national policy statement requires local authorities to give effect to its provisions in plans made under the Resource Management Act 1991 by initiating a plan change or review within four years of its approval.

**ATTACHMENT SJA S2**

**REGIS PARK SUBDIVISION**

**APPROVED, 11.5.07**

