

Media Advisory
15 May 2009

Board soon to release draft decision on Transpower proposal to upgrade North Island transmission grid

The Board of Inquiry for the Upper North Island Grid Upgrade Proposal expects to release its draft decision and report by the end of this month.

The draft decision and report will be sent to Transpower, the nine affected councils, all 1244 submitters and the Minister for the Environment. These parties will have a period of 20 working days in which to consider the draft report and to send any comments on it to the Board. The Board will consider any comments received and then issue their final decision.

What: Draft decision and report release

When: End of May

Please note the Board of Inquiry will not be commenting on the draft report.

For more information see www.mfe.govt.nz/rma/call-in-transpower/board-of-inquiry/

For further media enquiries please contact Amanda Money, Communications Adviser for the Board, on 04 439 7551 or Amanda.money@mfe.govt.nz

Background information for editors:

The Board is chaired by Judge David Sheppard, a former Principal Environment Judge. The Board members are Kevin Prime, Dr Deborah Read and John Rutherford.

Transpower is proposing to build a new overhead electricity transmission line, underground cables and substations between Whakamaru to Otahuhu and Pakuranga in the upper North Island. The hearing for the proposal began in March 2008 and took place over 72 days in Hamilton, Takanini and Tokoroa. During the hearing Transpower and submitters presented legal submissions, witnesses presented evidence, and were cross-examined. A total of 152 submitters came to the hearing to present their submissions. The Board also visited sites along the entire length of the proposed route.

The Board of Inquiry was appointed after a Ministerial call-in of Transpower's proposal on 8 August 2007.

The call-in process to be followed by a Board of Inquiry is set out in the Resource Management Act.