

SUBMISSION ON TRANSPOWER'S NOTICES OF REQUIREMENT AND APPLICATIONS FOR RESOURCE CONSENTS

PAGE 1 of 5

NAME: Nicky & Mark Auld
DATE: JAN 2008
ADDRESS: 165 Fitzpatrick Road, Brookby, RD, MANUREWA
EMAIL: m.n.auld@xtra.co.nz.
PHONE (09) 530 8864

The reasons for our submission

1. The proposal will have devastating effects on the NZ environment. It is totally against the sole purpose of the RMA; which is "to promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources. This purpose applies to every part of the act.

2. We seek the Board of Inquiry to decline the application, and build several eco friendly power generation close to Auckland (north of Auckland) This would save the taxpayers billions of dollars as the transmission lines would no longer be required and NZ would retain the NZ Clean Green Image marketed overseas. The board should still action power saving incentives.

3. If the board approves the transmission line the following conditions should be required.

*The entire line should be underground and future proofed to allow for future growth. (NB a lot of the power along the gold coast has been installed underground along the motorways)

*All existing lines going into Auckland should be removed and redirected into the underground system.

*No houses, schools etc or traffic systems should be built near the electricity field for health reasons.

*Look into power saving options in homes and industries

4. ENVIRONMENTAL COSTS NEEDS TO BE ELEVATED AND PRICED INTO THE GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSAL

Environmental effects of introducing mammoth third world pylon technology to beautiful NZ is a disgusting insult to the "Clean Green" image marketed overseas for the tourist dollars and products. This entire proposal of Transpower's should never have been considered in the first place, and binned. New Zealanders are proud of the countryside and these new pylons if approved, will dominate the entire country, and become a standard fixture. The chain of pylons will have an immense effect on the skinny North and South Island. NZ does not have enough land mass to absorb such structures.

5. THE EXISTING PLYONS IN SOUTH AUCKLAND

The existing willy nilly pylon network to Auckland is visually disgusting with so many lines dissecting the narrow coast to coast landmass of Clevedon, Brookby, Ardmore, Alfriston and Manurewa. The total width from coast to coast is just over 20 km. The car journey from Clevedon to the Motorway on ramp at Manurewa is about 12km and takes about 9 minutes. This journey crosses under six sets of large transmission lines. That is one set of pylons in just over a minute. This wastage of land should never have been allowed to happen. The existing six sets of pylons should be removed. Auckland's power needs to be diversified and produced from a variety of sources close to the city to prevent electricity wasted in transporting power over long distances. All cables should be required by law to be housed underground to prevent visual disfigurement of the beautiful NZ countryside. Many of these lines have new houses built under them. Some of this land was own by the govt and sold of to developers.

6. This narrow piece of land also provide the only road, plane, rail access to the city and would be an easy terrorist target to bring Auckland to a halt. The tall pylons will becoming a crash magnet to large international, domestic aircraft entering Auckland airport and also to all the light plane and helicopter traffic headed for Ardmore airport. A large scale plane crash is highly likely, especially in foggy conditions which are experienced frequently in the winter. This area also experiences extremely high winds, tornados, massive electrical storms. Global warming, earthquakes and volcanic activity and tidal waves also needs to be considered. For these reasons security of electricity supply cannot be guaranteed. These risk factors also need to be costed into Transpower's proposal as one of these events is more than likely to happen in the near future.

7. FUTURE PLANNING VISUAL COSTS

Transpower wants to add "Big Mumma" pylons or Two extra large pylon lines to completely over power the Landscape. At one of the meetings we were told that "Big Daddy" would be added along side "Big Mumma" in about 30 years time to keep up with the growth of Auckland. At the meeting it was obvious that transpower had grossly underestimated the growth of Auckland. Transpower had not looked at the council's planned subdividing of South Auckland. So this ugly extra line or two extra lines was probably required in about 15 years time. Therefore in sixty years time there will be "Big Uncle Tom, Dick, Harry" and Big Aunt Martha, Myrtle and Mary. Where will all these lines go? This transmission line is just an ugly quick expensive fix to a problem that will grow. This is just the start of the visual destruction which is planned for the entire country.

8. WHY THIS TRANSMISSION LINE AND WHAT ABOUT THE COSTS

Why build a new NATIONAL GRID network before deciding where the power generation is coming from? It's a bit like building a motorway before knowing where to build the connecting City. Once alternative power is created around Auckland the transmission line will be redundant. A BIG and UGLE WASTE OF TAX PAYERS MONEY.

9. **The previous electricity commission chairman continued to say it was better to wait for years to allow new technology and electricity generation to be built around Auckland before committing to the transmission line as it may be unnecessary. And therefore in the long run save billions in taxpayer's money.**

10. Transpower has only costed to build the pylons and only paying for land that the pylons are on and not taking into account the dollar costs on health, property, natural landscape.

11. DEVASTATING EFFECTS ON THE BROOKBY LANDSCAPE

Brookby is a narrow valley which takes approximately 2 minutes to drive across by car. It is prime, pristine Green NZ countryside 7 minutes from the Manurewa off ramp and half an hour from down town Auckland. Brookby is an oasis close to the city, with manicured paddocks on rolling hills, highlighted with large pockets of native bush. Visually this area has extremely high landscape amenity values and is worth preserving for future generations. Adding the proposed pylon chain straight across the valley and up Brookby ridge will completely destroy this billion dollar landscape. Brookby will become famous for its massive chain of ugly metal tower structures running through the valley and up over the ridge for all to see. Not to mention the number of million dollar properties destroyed in the process.

12. AIRCRAFT TRAFFIC IN THE NARROW BROOKBY VALLEY

We live on the ridge between Brookby and the Clevedon-Ardmore Valley. We tend to watch the weather pattern and experience heavy aircraft traffic. Light planes and helicopters fly directly over our house (the slight dent in the hill) from Ardmore Airport and straight over the Brookby Valley. The helicopters fly at a lower altitude and use Brookby School as a reporting station prior to landing at Ardmore. Above these planes we have the larger jets which fly over at higher altitude on their approach to the Auckland Airport although on some foggy nights they seem very low and managed to violently shake the house. These large jets seem to fly straight over the existing pylon on Brookby ridge. Does transpower really want to run the risk the possibility of an Erebus scale crash on Brookby ridge into the new mega chain of pylons?

13. HAZARD TO AIRCRAFT

Ardmore Airport has the highest number of aviation movements in the country. It seems ridiculous that transpower proposes to erect a major chain or two of aviation hazards straight across the Cleveland and narrow Brookby valley's. This stretch of air space has the highest air movement in the country. Brookby is a narrow busy airspace. When the cloud reduces the visual ceiling there is not much room for the planes and helicopters to move. Air craft crashes into the new pylons or each other will possibly become a common occurrence. The fog also has the effect of hiding the pylons adding to the risks.

14. ARDMORE VALLEY AIR TRAFFIC

The planes circle around the Clevedon end of the Ardmore Airport before approaching to the runway to land. Sometimes we see 10 planes in this circuit waiting to land. It is crazy to add a new chain of pylon's straight across the approach and take off area to runway confided by two hill ranges to the North and South. The existing three sets of pylons should be removed as they are a trap just waiting to claim a plane or helicopter to crash into them especially when it is foggy. The pylons are also very difficult to see when looking into the sun. Ardmore runway lies East to West. Sun strike happens in the morning with the sun rising in the east, with most planes taking off flying directly into the sun. The new mega chain's of pylons will just add to this risk. Add to this Ardmore is a training ground for pilots with no experience.

15. POWER CONSERVATION LEGISLATION should be looked into and costed on a power savings basis.

16. Laws could be passed stating

- All new building's to install solar water heating
- Incentives for existing building's to install solar water heating
- All new appliances to be energy efficient a pass rating tests
- Grants for new green projects
- All new street light to be self powered solar light
- All existing street lights to be phased out in favour for self powered solar lights
- Incentives for solar powered panels to be installed in houses
- Fund research into solar lighting and solar powered appliances
- Fund research into wind powered appliances i.e.: pumps
- Fund research into solar powered appliances like ovens, kettles, computers
- Provide incentives for
 - self powered out door lighting for building's and parks
 - farmers to use solar powered electric fence units
 - home and business to use low energy light bulbs
 - all new homes to conserve heat to reduce heating costs
 - develop a low energy air conditional system to reduce power consumption in the Auckland summer
 - develop smart lights, sound systems which turn off when you leave the room
 - power discounts for night rates at off peak use
 - solar water heating for swimming pools, spa pools
 - Develop a street light system, using energy efficient lighting, without using lamp posts by installing low light panels to foot paths like the BP shop night light system. This would reduce car crashes into lamp posts and the effects of unwanted night glare

This legislation would drastically reduce power requirements and is the way of future technology.

17. CREDIBLE ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS

- Create a tidal power plant and other green powers generation near Auckland's North Shore. Then the transmission line will be a complete waste of money and won't be needed at all.
- Geothermal generation north of Auckland
- Introduce power conservation legislations and funding for smart power alternatives for buildings, appliances, street lighting, office night lighting etc.
- If a new line is built it should be installed underground in a system which can easily add extra lines as require in the future. A & B lines running into Otahuhu need to be removed as they are nearly at the end of their economic life and not upgraded. Otahuhu substation should be removed to a location further south to allow for South Auckland's growth. A substation on the north shore should also be considered.

18. In a major earthquake, flood, volcanic eruption, tidal wave, major wind storm, warfare attack or terrorist attack etc (**It is easier to restore power to the largest city in NZ WHEN THE POWER IS GENERATED CLOSE TO THE CITY WHICH IS USING IT.**)

19. We require the Board of Inquiry to decline Transpower's proposal to fulfilled its lawful, moral, ethical and economical duty to the taxpayers of NZ and look more closely at alternative solutions. The transmission line is not required if Auckland has power generated close to Auckland. Keep NZ clean, pristine and healthy.

NB Some photo's will accompany this submission