

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

Section 145 of the Resource Management Act 1991

RECEIVED ON

- 5 OCT 2007

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To: Minister for the Environment  
Freepost Grid Upgrade Submissions  
PO Box 4405  
Hamilton East  
HAMILTON 3247

OR Email: tpcallin@mfe.govt.nz  
Fax: 04 439 7700

[If you are emailing or faxing your submission, please make it for the attention of "Grid Upgrade Submissions"]

This submission relates to the notices of requirement and/or applications for resource consent, lodged by Transpower New Zealand Ltd for the North Island Grid Upgrade Project, and identified on the next page.

CLOSING DATE FOR SUBMISSIONS: 5 OCTOBER 2007

Title: Mr  
My/Our Full Name(s): Kevin Baker  
Postal Address: 102 Hooker Road RD3 Hamilton  
Wk Ph: Hm Ph: 07 823 2295 Cell: 021 991 823  
Wk Fax: Hm Fax: 07 823 2296 Email: kevin@oakdalegroup.co.nz

Please tick the relevant boxes on the next page to identify whether you are making a submission on all notices of requirement and applications for resource consents or just some of them (please identify).

Please also indicate on the back of this form (✓) whether you support, oppose, or are neutral in relation to the notice(s) of requirement and applications for resource consents. If you are making a submission only on parts of a notice of requirement or application for resource consents, please note this when specifying the reasons for your submission.

The reasons for my/our submission are:

See attached.

If you are attaching further information tick (✓) for yes

Please use more pages if you need to.

I/we seek the following decision from the Board of Inquiry (provide precise details including the nature of any conditions sought):

Decline the Application

Please use more pages if you need to.

Use a clear tick in the appropriate box below (✓)

I/we wish to be heard in support of my/our submission (to speak at the public hearing).

I/we DO NOT wish to be heard and hereby make my/our submission in writing only.

Signature(s):

*Kevin Baker*

Date:

5 October 2007

(Signature of submitter, or person authorised to sign on their behalf is required. Note signature is not required for electronic (email) submissions. If this is a joint submission by two or more individuals, each individual's signature is required.)

Use the tick boxes below to indicate the called-in notices of requirement and applications for resource consents that your submission concerns. Use a clear tick in the appropriate box or boxes (✓).

I/we make my/our submission concerning all notices of requirements and applications for resource consents below.

OR

My/our submission only concerns the notices of requirement and applications for resource consents that I/we have ticked below.

	Support	Oppose	Neutral
<b>Manukau City Council</b>			
Pakuranga Substation Notice of Requirement. Reference No. 27619			
Otahuhu Substation Notice of Requirement. Reference No. 27619			
Brownhill Substation Notice of Requirement. Reference No. 27619			
Underground Cable – Pakuranga to Brownhill Notice of Requirement. Reference No. 27619			
Underground Cable – Otahuhu to Brownhill Notice of Requirement. Reference No. 27619			
Overhead Line Notice of Requirement. Reference No. 27619			
<b>Franklin District Council</b>			
Overhead Line Notice of Requirement. Reference No. L07089			
<b>Waikato District Council</b>			
Overhead Line Notice of Requirement. Reference No. DES0011/07			
<b>Matamata-Piako District Council</b>			
Overhead Line Notice of Requirement. Reference No. RMR200621			
<b>Waipa District Council</b>			
Overhead Line Notice of Requirement. Reference No. DN/0006/07			
<b>South Waikato District Council</b>			
Overhead Line Notice of Requirement. Reference No. 240/021		✓	
<b>Taupo District Council</b>			
Overhead Line Notice of Requirement. Reference No. RM070209			
Whakamaru and Whakamaru North Substation Notice of Requirement. Reference No. RM070209			
<b>Auckland Regional Council – Resource Consents</b>			
<i>Pakuranga to Brownhill Underground Cable Resource Consents</i>			
Application 34102: Land Use Consent for earthworks			
Application 34370: Discharge of Contaminants to land from ancillary activities that produce wastewater or washwater			
Application 34372: Works in the Bed of a Watercourse			
Application 34373: Diversion of Surface Water			
<i>Overhead Line and Brownhill Substation Resource Consents</i>			
Application 34711: Land Use Consent for earthworks			
Application 34712: Discharge of Contaminants to land			
<b>Environment Waikato – Resource Consents</b>			
<i>Overhead Line and Whakamaru North Substation Resource Consents</i>			
Application 116902: Land Use Consent for vegetation clearance and earthworks			
Application 116903: Discharge Permit for the composting of vegetation			
Application 116904: Land Use Consent for the drilling of tower foundation below the water table			
Application 116905: Discharge Permit for the discharge of site water and drilling fluids from drilling activities into surface water.			

**NOTE: A copy of this submission form must be sent as soon as possible at:  
 North Island Grid Upgrade Project, Transpower Freepost 182915, PO Box 1021, Wellington  
 or email submissions@transpower.co.nz or fax 04 819 7624.**

I/we make my/our submission concerning all notices of requirements and applications for resource consents below.

5<sup>th</sup> October 2007

by Fax: 044397700

### Transpower Grid Upgrade Submission

I am a Director of Lichfield Farms Ltd. LFL owns 1135ha of Dairy Farm land in the South Waikato. Transpower ID 6842384.

LFL wish to oppose the granting of resource consent for the following reasons

- 1 Visual effects. LFL does not agree that this project is an upgrade. It is the new Greenfield construction of a highly visual transmission line over rural farm land, particularly in our case going where no such lines have been before. This new Greenfield line is 8kms shorter than using the existing 220kv corridor purely to save Transpower construction costs but at great expense to us. These new pylons are up to 70 metres tall and are so high aviation rules require a light to be placed on top, so not only will we see them in the daylight they will flash at night. It is proposed that eleven of these new towers will be on our land. The line will cross within 100meters of our homes and cowshed. This will not be a moderate or minor effect as stated by Transpower. This is a major disruption to our farm our lives and visual pollution in the highest degree.
- 2 Farming disruption. The construction of 11 pylons will be a major disruption to our farming operation. Our farm milks 2600 cows twice a day with 14 staff. Staff and milk tankers travel in daily to work and will be using the same access tracks Transpower will need for the construction of these towers. The tower design itself will use 85 truckloads of concrete for each tower. This will be 935 truck movements one way into the farm and 935 trucks coming out. Then count all the numerous construction crews and material delivery trucks accessing our land. This is a major logistical problem on a large scale through one access point. Supplying milk is our income and the construction of 11 towers will mean months of disruption, not just a matter of days. The power lines will need to be dragged out across raceways and paddocks disrupting milking routines and adding to our staff health and safety as well as adding time for labour costs. This is a very serious disruption to our staff and farming policies.
- 3 Future farming disruption. LFL spends in excess of \$50,000 dollars annually on agricultural helicopter operations. LFL apply nitrogen and solid based fertilizer by air. Annual weed spraying is done by air. Hydro seeding to sidelings is applied by air and this is an Environment Waikato regulation. Fire lighting and scrub burn off is done by air. The alignment of the route will severely impact this work; furthermore, planned tree felling operations in 2011 will be carried out in close proximity to a proposed tower site. This transmission line will be a serious ongoing disruption to LFL's farming procedures.
- 4 Electrical field disruption. Due to the closeness of the line to our homes and buildings all current and future staff will be reluctant to work on our

farm. Whether the effects are real or not the perceived risk will be too high for them to work on our farm. Female staff in particular are very concerned and it will cost more to employ people to work near or under the transmission lines. Our modern farming and employment policies are such that we operate electronic equipment on the farm at all times. We operate hand held notebooks for herd record information. Tractors have computers onboard for systems management. This electronic equipment is subject to failure when close to or under the transmission lines. As we know what the impact of living next to this line will be this transmission line must be relocated away from houses and work areas. It is a major health concern to all people affected by the proposed route alignment.

- 5 Easement consultation. Transpower may have the right to apply for resource consent for a transmission line over our land. But at today's date they have only consulted with us face to face on two occasions. This was very early in the planning stages about January 04. We meet with Transpower consulting staff in Tokaroa and as a result of that meeting allowed Transpower staff to come onto our property to look at an alternative route to avoid the transmission line tracking close to our houses and cowsheds. We then re met with them and the meeting outcome was that they would not be prepared to move the line as the cost to Transpower was too great. LFL were not presented with any costing supporting this decision by Transpower and LFL were told that it was too late to change the alignment anyway. This is not what I call effective consultation under the RMA. I would have expected the Environment Court to reject any application for consent until Transpower had the signed consent of effected parties. LFL being a land owner which Transpower wishes to place an easement over for the construction and operation of highly contentious 400kv line is a very serious matter. To say Transpower have effectively consulted with us is lie. They have done nothing to mitigate the effects of the proposed new transmission line over our property
- 6 Conclusion. We strongly object to the granting of consent to the transmission line until such time that Transpower can demonstrate they have
  - Written consent from the effected land owners giving their approval of the alignment and allowing the necessary easements to be registered on the title of their land.
  - Have mitigated the visual effects of 70m high pylon towers over a Greenfield rural landscape or followed an existing electrical transmission route
  - Have proven the electrical field effects on human health and electronic equipment are less than minor
  - Have mitigated the farming disruption effects both in the construction phase and from the ongoing disruption resulting from the proposed new line.
  - Have draft consent conditions that monitor and place performance conditions on Transpower to mitigate any real or potential effects as a result of the line prior to construction and for three years after

construction and commissioning with further reviews if the line is upgraded to 400kv.

LFL wish to be heard at the Consent Hearing and we wish for the Hearing Committee to decline the Transpower application

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'KBaker', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Kevin Baker  
Director  
Lichfield Farms Ltd