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**SUBMISSION ON  
TRANSPOWER'S NORTH ISLAND GRID UPGRADE PROJECT**

**To:** Minister for the Environment  
Freeport Grid Upgrade Submissions  
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HAMILTON 3247

Email: [tpcallin@mfe.govt.nz](mailto:tpcallin@mfe.govt.nz)

**Submission on:** Transpower's North Island Grid Upgrade Project

**Name of Submitter:** Housing New Zealand Corporation (HNZC)

**Address for Service:** Tonkin & Taylor Ltd  
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WELLINGTON

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**We do wish to be heard in support of our submission.**

**If others make a similar submission, we will consider presenting a joint case with them at the hearing.**

.....  
*Nathan Baker*

Nathan Baker  
Senior Resource Management Consultant  
On behalf of HNZC

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*5/10/2007*  
Date

## **Introduction: HNZC's role and Interests**

Housing New Zealand Corporation (HNZC) was established in 2001 (previously Housing New Zealand Ltd and other related agencies).

HNZC's mission statement states:

*HNZC provides access to decent homes, helping New Zealanders manage their own circumstances and contribute to community life.*

HNZC has two key objectives:

- To deliver housing assistance to those greatest in need.
- To be the principal advisor to the Government on housing policy.

Principal matters of importance to HNZC include:

- Community development through amenity improvement.
- Asset value protection and enhancement.

In relation to Transpower's North Island Grid Upgrade Project (the Project), HNZC has the following direct interests:

- HNZC owns a number of properties in close proximity to the Project, particularly in the area of Otara.
- HNZC has strategic goals to better meet housing needs of a changing population and provide for affordable, good quality housing (for example The New Zealand Housing Strategy, 2005-2008 Auckland Regional Strategy). Those strategic goals have a reliance on the efficient and effective provision of the transmission network to HNZC properties.
- Auckland's size and rapid growth make it HNZC'S largest region, with HNZC owning or managing approximately 7% of the city's total housing. Auckland has the highest demand for state housing in the country and this is likely to increase as housing becomes less affordable. HNZC is responding to that demand by improving and increasing social housing in Auckland. Improving and increasing social housing requires the efficient and effective provision of the transmission network to HNZC properties.
- HNZC aims to provide tenants with a home environment that promotes good health, energy efficiency and resource conservation.
- HNZC generally supports the Government's vision, as expressed in the Draft New Zealand Energy Strategy to 2050, to achieve a reliable and resilient energy system.

## **Submission**

HNZC generally supports the Project, particularly Transpower's common objective for the Project, being:

*"To ensure the continued security and certainty of electricity supply to Auckland, Northland, and parts of the Coromandel and Waikato, by constructing and operating a new transmission link (including substations and ancillary facilities) and to upgrade existing assets, in a manner that is safe, efficient and consistent with maintaining*

*current grid reliability standards and which provides flexibility to address future changes in supply."*

The combination of growing demand and the need to provide electricity in environmentally sustainable ways gives increased importance to the improvement, upgrade and extension of the national grid. The increased demand for power generation from renewable sources (such as hydro and wind) necessitates new lines and connections to the transmission grid, especially where viable renewable sources are located away from metropolitan areas.

The Auckland Region is one of the largest electricity consumers in New Zealand, with the least generation from local renewable resources. HNZN considers the Project will help provide security of electricity supply to the upper North Island for the foreseeable future, providing a secure transmission network to a significant number of HNZN properties. HNZN is contributing to the Auckland Sustainable Cities programme that promotes sustainable economic development through planning and building cities that meet future requirements.

On balance, HNZN considers the Project is consistent with Part II of the RMA. The Project seeks to use, develop and protect transmission infrastructure of the national grid in a way that will enable people and communities of the upper North Island to provide for their social, economic, and cultural wellbeing and for their health and safety.

In terms of effects on HNZN properties and tenants, HNZN requests that any adverse effects generated by the Project such as social disruption, construction effects (including noise, dust, visual, vibration and traffic effects), hazard exposure and effects on health, well-being and quality of life will be no more than minor.

HNZN supports the design methodology to install the transmission route underground in the Otara area, which will have a lesser long-term effect on the community than an overhead alternative.

HNZN considers that environmental effects associated with the construction of the Project will likely be the most significant effect on HNZN properties and tenants. Accordingly, HNZN requests that the actual and potential effects associated with construction be clarified and confirmed, with specific reference to HNZN properties and tenants.

The Project application documents address the generic character of construction effects, however state that it has not been possible to undertake a detailed analysis of construction effects as the final construction programmes will be developed by the contractors engaged to design and build the line within the specifications set by Transpower (including resource consent requirements).

### **Decision Sought**

HNZN requests that the actual and potential effects associated with construction of the Project be clarified and confirmed, with specific reference to HNZN properties and tenants.

HNZC requests that should any HNZC property be directly affected by the Project, that HNZC be contacted and consulted prior to any works commencing. HNZC requests that this specific requirement for consultation with HNZC be confirmed by way of a condition of consent should the application be approved.

HNZC requests that any adverse effects generated by the Project such as social disruption, construction effects (including noise, dust, visual, vibration and traffic effects), hazard exposure and effects on health, well-being and quality of life will be no more than minor.

HNZC also requests that the costs of the Project are not unduly passed on to HNZC and its tenants.

A copy of this submission has also been sent to:

Transpower  
Freepost 182915  
PO Box 1021  
WELLINGTON

Email: [submissions@transpower.co.nz](mailto:submissions@transpower.co.nz)  
Fax: 04 819 7624