Thursday 4th October 2007
316 Monument Road
Clevedon
RD2
Papakura

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To: Minister for the Environment, Fax 04 439 7700
To: Transpower Fax 04 819 7624

Subject Submission on Transpower's Notice of Requirement and Applications for Resource Consents

I am completely opposed to the building, route and above ground pylon structures Transpower are proposing for the 400kV capable line between Whakamaru and Otahuhu

This one sided and high handed "consultation" process over **Transpower's** proposed overhead upgrade of the transmission line between Whakamaru and Otahuhu grinds on with the lonely promoter of the plan demonstrating zero empathy, limited active listening skills, lack of political correctness and business acumen plus a fundamentally flawed cost benefit model.

Point 1. The consultation process is a farce, you are not listening.

The only compelling argument **Transpower** have is that enhanced power supply will clearly be needed for Auckland in the future; nobody I have met disagrees with this requirement. However, **Transpower's** technical and health impact claims are both shaky to say the least with plenty of anecdotal evidence to the contrary. I am very concerned with the absence of transparency in that **Transpower** are not prepared to undertake a peer review of a proposal of such magnitude, claiming that no one within New Zealand is qualified, what about the rest of the planet!

Point 2. Extra power will be needed in the future but you don't know where it's coming from.
Point 3. Any project of this magnitude must have an independent peer review.

Transpower's claim that their proposal stacks up under your "cost benefit" financial model and that burying the cable is too expensive and doesn't meet the cost benefit criteria. This is where the justification for **Transpower's** whole proposal falls over. The financial model **Transpower** use is flawed and does not take into consideration that pylons are ugly and no one wants to live anywhere near them. Irrespective of **Transpower's** claims, the proposed 70metre pylons are grossly ugly and will destroy the aesthetics' of rural South Auckland and consequently property values will be negatively impacted.

Point 4. Transpower's cost benefit model is flawed, capital investment and return on assets are only part of the equation.
Point 5. Transpower have a duty to the community and the taxpayer to quantify and factor social and environmental aspects.
Point 6. Transpower's are abusing the rights of individuals, bullying at schools and bullying in the workplace has nothing on your performance to date.

Transpower needs to accept that no one other than yourselves supports their overhead upgrade proposal. They then need to think socially and environmentally about the magnitude of what they are proposing. **Transpower** needs to take the decision to bury the cable from Hunua to Otahuhu and think laterally about how this can be funded. The answer is simple. Many infrastructural assets around the world are funded by those that enjoy the benefit of those assets. There are many examples of bridges, road tunnels and motorways that are built and maintained on a user pays basis.

Point 7. User pays will meet all needs including yours.

It has been calculated that the extra cost of burying the cable between Hunua to Otahuhu could be funded by Aucklanders (the future beneficiaries of this proposal) each paying $1.50 per annum for the next fifty years. Now there's a simple solution to a sticky problem and $1.50 per annum is a small price to pay for future power supply that's pleasing on the eye.

Colin McKenzie
027 292 4080
cmckenzie@cavbrem.co.nz