

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

Section 145 of the Resource Management Act 1991

RECEIVED ON

Submit to BOTH:

- 4 OCT 2007  
0759

Minister for the Environment  
Freepost Grid Upgrade Submissions  
PO Box 4405  
Hamilton East  
HAMILTON 3247  
Email: tpcallin@mfe.govt.nz  
Fax: 04 439 7700

And Transpower  
Freepost 182915  
PO Box 1021  
WELLINGTON  
Email: submissions@transpower.co.nz  
Fax: 04 819 7624

Please note: you must forward a copy of this submission to BOTH Ministry for the Environment AND Transpower, by any means you wish (post, fax, email)

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 below

CLOSING DATE FOR SUBMISSIONS: 5 OCTOBER 2007

My/Our Full Name(s): Mark Thompson

Postal Address: PO BOX 94 , Whitford 2149 , Auckland

Wk Ph: 09 273 5860 Hm Ph: 09 530 81 41 Cell: 0275 927 467

Wk Fax: Hm Fax: 09 530 81 41 Email: Mark.thompson@sandvik.com

The reasons for my submission are:

AS PER ATTACHED DOCUMENTATION

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

I wish to be heard in support of my submission at the public hearing

I/we have served a copy of my/our submission on the applicant by copy to Transpower as above

Names(s): Mark Thompson  
A. BOSS

Date: 03.10.07



Ministry for the  
Environment  
Heating Hei Te Taiao

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](mailto: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.

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

The Minister of the Environment  
PO BOX 4405  
Hamilton East  
Hamilton 3247

And

Transpower  
PO BOX 10021  
Wellington

This submission is from :

**Mark Thompson and Astrid Bosse  
110 Brownhill Road  
PO BOX 94  
Whitford 2149  
Manukau  
Ph : 09 530 81 41**

As severely affected Landowners on Brownhill Road and having been privy to much of the analysis preceding the current application by Transpower, we wish to register our opposition to the 400 kv capable pylon networks, the associated Brownhill Road Substation and the cabling route along Brownhill Road based on the following assertions:

Transpower has been negligent in its information process and has failed to place in the public arena sufficiently clarifying detail on the true nature, size and enormous visual impact that these pylons will have over much wider areas of countryside than those properties immediately affected.

Images attached to media commentary both newspaper and television typically depicts standard pylons as the public has been accustomed to seeing. These are typically 25-35 meters high. Ninety-five percent of all New Zealanders have never seen 50-70 meters high Pylons because they exist in so few parts of the world (typically economies 50 times the size of NZ population and industrial base such as Japan and Germany) indeed in these times it is increasingly likely these environmental disasters would not be allowed as new installations even in those countries. Surveys I have contacted amongst friends and work colleagues evidence a total lack of perception of what this project

means in visual pollution terms. When explained that the pylons are higher than the Manukau City Council, challenging the height of the harbour bridge the reaction is "we had no idea" and immediate heightened of concern. This lack of perception exists across almost all of the New Zealand population. Neither Transpower nor the current Government has accepted responsibility to put this to test of informed public opinion.

With the 400 kv tower option Transpower is committing the NZ environment to this forever on the premise it may be warranted to retrofit 400 kv in 25-30 years. The location of the future generation is 'best guess' and does not address rapidly changing trends in technology in power production.

For security of supply and efficiency regarding transmission losses generation in the Auckland /Northland area will have increased priority. New methods such as tidal flow capture will be developed. With potential to place Duplex standard 220 kv on this recently acquired route security of supply is ensured for these 30 + years. An alternate route in to Auckland is achieved as well as the twin supply to Otahuhu and Pakuranga substations respectively, if the project must proceed , this is the more sensible and balanced scale.

With observed growth of Auckland in the last 20-25 years now stretching already to the ridge line overlooking Transpowers proposed substation location and the start of the pylon route it is obvious they are not providing a sensible development buffer between the termination point of this project and Auckland urban growth in the next 30 years, let alone 50-100 years, which they should be anticipating.

The proposed location of the Brownhill Substation is based on minimizing the subsequent under grounding cost and little else. The site is admitted by TP to be in a scale of 1-to 5, a 5 (topography/geology) worst to develop. Its location also subjects a large group of existing residents on lifestyle blocks overlooking the site to a significant reduction in property prices due to greatly reduced area visual amenity. No financial compensation is offered. Residents' access to their homes will be greatly impaired by a long period of extremely disruptive road works as Brownhill Road is widened and then fully excavated to several meters depth to install cabling. This will take between 6 months to a year. Finally the resultant installation will dramatically change the visual nature of this valley to all residents and users of the local roads and walkways.

Earthmoving activities and a long period of construction activity will greatly affect all residents and users of the small no exit rural road. No alternative access exist for up to 17 property owners

Two types of substations have been considered by Transpower: AIS + GIS. A long period of consultation with the affected landowners in Brownhill Road including visual simulations of the two alternatives developed by TP has been viewed. Common agreement by all, including Transpowers involved employees and representatives is that the AIS option ( approx 6 football fields in dimension) is massively more impacting on the area in a) earthworks, size and duration b) ability to restrict noise c) visually much more impact on the whole area with resultant property price declines.

Most recently Transpower has committed in writing to employ the far less impacting GIS substation if the project does proceed. We request that the reviewing authority insist that TP are held to the GIS option. NPV differential between the 2 options is stated by TP to be in the region of 2 m NZD. This is an extremely small sum contrasting the extreme difference in environmental impact between these two options.

We are supporting the alternative site offered to Transpower in close proximity (adjacent to their current site 149 Brownhill Rd) that has considerable benefit as far as reducing the visual impact on adjoining landowners.

Transpower have discounted this site providing no detail to the local population as to what technical difficulties were supposedly found. MCC were prepared to support this option prior to Transpower discounting it.

In summation, there is an extensive list of compromises regarding current positioning and impact of the substation, and the environmental impact of these pylons in Auckland's developing eastern corridor.

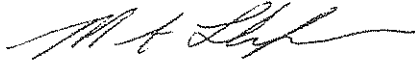
The current scheme advocated by Underground in Manukau and the Manukau Council to bury the cables to a distance that is less impacting on Auckland's potential growth areas and does not despoil the current much admired utilized recreation 'green belt' stretching Whitford-Clevedon – Hunua is our recommended outcome.

It should be the current populations' legacy to future Auckland inhabitants. It should not be the minimum cost, rushed compromise that has been so apparent in the proposal to date. The manifestly restricted Electricity Commission (bound by the grid investment test) has to date been no effective check on the flawed proposals by

---

Transpower. The final responsibility, to recommend rational additional cost incurment to this project is in your hands, it is needed as part of the price we need as a nation to pay for this " clean green" image we seem so ready to unwittingly squander.

Your sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Thompson', written in a cursive style.

Mark Thompson