



TRANSPOWER

Keeping the energy flowing

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Manager, NPS Urban Development Capacity
Ministry for the Environment
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By email: npsurbandevelopment@mfe.govt.nz

Transpower's submission on the proposed NPS on Urban Development Capacity

Please find **attached** Transpower New Zealand Limited's submission on the proposed National Policy Statement on Urban Development Capacity (NPS-UDC).

We understand New Zealand's housing pressures and the need to release more land for residential and business development. However, it is crucial that urban development occurs in a way that does not compromise critical national infrastructure.

There are a significant number of existing houses and businesses under National Grid lines in Auckland and other urban growth areas. These developments restrict maintenance work on the Grid and create safety risks for contractors, residents and the public. Safety is Transpower's paramount concern. WorkSafe has recently issued a prohibition notice for residential construction activities beneath a line in Auckland – we do not want to see current safety hazards perpetuated.

The National Policy Statement on Electricity Transmission (NPSET) provides a regulatory framework for managing development around National Grid assets. We have worked with councils throughout New Zealand since 2009 to implement the NPSET. We urge ministry officials to ensure NPSET-implementation is not hindered or prevented through the implementation of the NPS-UDC.

Transpower does not want to prevent urban growth, but asks that development occur in way that is compatible with National Grid infrastructure. Transpower's submission sets out some options for achieving this and shows how mutual benefits can occur through consultation and collaboration.

Members of Transpower's Environment Policy and Planning and Legal teams would be very happy to meet with you to discuss these options further.

Yours faithfully

John Clarke
Acting Chief Executive