

19 August 2020

Proposed Waikato District Plan Hearing
Waikato District Council
Private Bag 544
Ngāruawāhia 3742
Via email: districtplan@waidc.govt.nz

Dear Sir/Madam

HEARINGS ON THE PROPOSED WAIKATO DISTRICT PLAN

Hearing 21B – Landscapes

Submitter Reference: Transpower NZ Ltd S576 and FS1350

Transpower New Zealand Ltd (“**Transpower**”) writes in relation to Hearing 21B – Landscapes, commencing on 10 September 2020.

Given the limited number of submission points of relevance to Transpower within the Hearing 21B s42A reports and the favourable officer recommendations, Transpower is not proposing to adduce evidence to Hearing 21B on the points outlined below. If, prior to the hearing, the Hearings Panel consider it useful for Transpower to appear before the panel to explain and answer any questions on the below, it would be more than happy to do so.

Transpower will be appearing at subsequent hearings where there are multiple Transpower submission points of specific and particular relevance to the National Grid.

Hearing 21B – Landscapes (Chapter 3 and associated definitions)

In addition to plan wide provisions relating to the ongoing operation, maintenance, upgrading and development of the National Grid, Transpower made seven submission points to be heard at Hearing 21B (being submission points 576.42, 576.43, 576.44, 576.46, 576.7, 576.8, and 576.9). The Section 42A Officer’s Report recommendation on all seven points are supported.

The seven submission points, relief sought and Transpower’s response to the Section 42A Officers Report recommendation are as follows:

Sub Ref	Relief Sought in submission	Section 42A Recommendation	Report	Transpower response to Officer Recommendation
576.42	Retain the definition for	Submission is accepted in part with the definition amended as follows:		The S42A Report recommends retention of the definition and cross

Sub Ref	Relief Sought in submission	Section 42A Recommendation	Report	Transpower response to Officer Recommendation
	"Outstanding Natural Feature" in Chapter 13 Definitions, as notified.	<i>Outstanding Natural Feature – means a feature identified as an Outstanding Natural Feature on the planning maps, and described in Schedule 30.6</i>		reference to new schedules to be inserted for ONF/ONL/NCA/SALs. The officer recommendation is supported in that the schedule provides clarification on the values of the specific feature/landscape. The identification of the feature on the planning map assists plan users and provides clarity on the application of the Proposed District Plan provisions that relate to the definition.
576.43	Retain the definition for "Outstanding Natural Character Area" in Chapter 13 Definitions, as notified.	Submission is accepted in part with the definition amended as follows: <i>Outstanding Natural Character Area – means an area identified as an Outstanding Natural Character Area on the planning maps and described in Schedule 30.9</i>		Refer above commentary. The officer recommendation is supported.
576.44	Retain the definition for "Outstanding Natural Landscape" in Chapter 13 Definitions, as notified.	Submission is accepted in part with the definition amended as follows: <i>Outstanding Natural Landscape – means a landscape identified as an Outstanding Natural Landscape on the planning maps, and described in Schedule 30.7</i>		Refer above commentary. The officer recommendation is supported.
576.46	Retain the definition for "Significant Amenity Landscape" in Chapter 13 Definitions, as notified.	Submission is accepted in part with the definition amended as follows: <i>Significant Amenity Landscape – means an area identified as a Significant Amenity Landscape on the planning maps, and described in Schedule 30.10</i>		Refer above commentary. The officer recommendation is supported.
576.7	Retain Objective 3.3.1 Outstanding natural features and landscapes, as notified.	Submission is accepted and Objective 3.3.1 is retained		The S42A Report recommends retention of the objective. The officer recommendation is supported. The reference within the objective to 'inappropriate' is supported as such reference is consistent with Section 6(b) of the RMA, Waikato RPS Objectives 3.12 and 3.20, and also recognises that not all development is to be avoided, rather the emphasis is on that which is inappropriate.
576.8	Retain Objective 3.5.1 Natural Character, as notified.	Submission is accepted and Objective 3.5.1 is retained		The S42A Report recommends retention of the objective. The officer recommendation is supported. The reference within the objective to 'inappropriate' is

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				supported as such reference is consistent with Section 6(a) of the RMA, Waikato RPS Objectives 3.12 and 3.22, and also recognises that not all development is to be avoided, rather the emphasis is on that which is inappropriate.
576.9	Retain Policy 3.5.4 Protecting the natural character of wetlands, and lakes and rivers and their margins, as notified.	<p>Submission is accepted in part and Policy 3.5.4 is retained, with amendment as follows:</p> <p><i>3.5.4 Policy – Protecting the natural character of wetlands, and lakes and rivers and their margins</i></p> <p><i>(a) Protect the natural character qualities of wetlands, and lakes and rivers and their margins from inappropriate subdivision, use and development by:</i></p> <p><i>(i) ensuring that location, intensity, scale and form of subdivision, use and development are appropriate;</i></p> <p><i>(ii) minimising, to the extent practicable, indigenous vegetation clearance and <u>earthworks disturbance: modification – (including earthworks, disturbance and structures);</u></i></p> <p>.....</p> <p><i><u>(b) Where man-made influences are dominant, it may be appropriate that activities result in further adverse effects on natural character, though opportunities to remedy or mitigate should still be considered.</u></i></p>		<p>The S42A Report recommends retention of the policy, with amendment.</p> <p>The officer recommendation is supported as –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the reference to inappropriate within clause (a) is retained; • clause (ii) retains the reference to ‘minimise, to the extent practicable’, thereby recognising it is not always practicable to minimise adverse effects; • the reference to ‘earthworks disturbance’ within clause (ii) is accepted; and • the insertion of clause (b) is accepted.

Hearing Appearance

Transpower requests this letter be tabled at the hearing in support of its submission points and the Section 42A Report recommendations as outlined above.

Should you require clarification of any matter, please contact Rebecca Eng at Transpower (09 590 7072), or on the following email: Rebecca.Eng@transpower.co.nz

Yours faithfully



Rebecca Eng
Senior Environmental Planner