

Before the Hutt City Proposed District Plan Hearings Panel

Under the Resource Management Act 1991 (the Act)

In the matter of the Proposed Hutt City District Plan –
**Hearing Stream 6 –
Infrastructure
Protection of Infrastructure**

Between **Hutt City District Council**
Local authority

And **Transpower New Zealand Limited**
Submitter 504 and Further Submitter F12

Statement of evidence of Pauline Mary Whitney for Transpower New Zealand Limited

Dated 4 September 2026

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. Transpower New Zealand Limited ("**Transpower**") owns and operates the National Grid, which transmits electricity throughout New Zealand from energy generation sources to distribution networks and direct-connect customers. Transpower has assets within Hutt City, including the high voltage Oteranga Bay - Haywards A 350kV line which forms a critical link for transferring electricity between the North and South Islands.
- 1.2. Given this is the first substantive hearing on the Proposed Lower Hutt District Plan ("**PDP**") at which Transpower has appeared, (while Transpower appeared at the Business Hearing (Hearing Stream 2) this evidence prepared for that hearing was on one definition only), this the evidence provides contextual information on the National Grid, including its role and function, operational and technical requirements and the relevant planning policy framework which applies to the Grid.
- 1.3. The need to operate, maintain, upgrade and develop the electricity transmission network is recognised as a matter of national significance through the National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks 2008 (amended December 2025) ("**NPS-EN**"). The NPS-EN is an amendment to the National Policy Statement on Electricity Transmission 2008 ("**NPSET**").
- 1.4. The NPS-EN directs the management of the electricity transmission network under the RMA. The framework of the former NPS-ET is largely retained in that the NPS-EN contains one single objective relating to the national significance of the electricity transmission network, with a series of policies. The policy 'topics' within the NPS-EN reflect that of the NPS-ET, in that they address:
 - Recognising and providing for benefits
 - Māori interests
 - Site, route and method selection
 - Managing environmental effects of the electricity transmission network
 - Managing the effects of third parties on the electricity transmission network
 - Long term spatial and strategic planning, and
 - Electric and magnetic fields
- 1.5. The NPS-EN provides greater policy detail and specificity than the NPS-ET. One key difference between the NPS's is that the NPS-EN also applies to electricity distribution

networks (whereas the NPS-ET only applied to the electricity transmission networks). I accept this is a significant change in scope and therefore my evidence is confined to the electricity transmission network (being the one owned and operated by Transpower).

- 1.6. There are three broad aspects to the NPS-EN which must be given effect to in local authority plans:
 - a. **Enabling the National Grid:** Policies and plans must provide for the effective operation, maintenance, upgrading and development of the National Grid. This includes recognising and providing for the national, regional, and local benefits.
 - b. **Managing the effects of the National Grid:** Policies, plans and decision makers must take into account the characteristics of the National Grid, its technical and operational constraints, and the route, site and method selection process when considering the adverse effects of new National Grid infrastructure on the environment.
 - c. **Managing the effects on the National Grid:** A significant resource management issue across New Zealand is managing inappropriate development, land use and subdivision in close proximity to the National Grid, which can compromise its operation, maintenance, development and upgrade.
- 1.7. At a broad level, while extensive, Transpower's submission on the PDP was largely in support but sought amendments to give effect to the NPSET.
- 1.8. As the Panel are aware, there have been significant regulatory and policy changes relevant to this hearing since the notification of the PDP. These include new and amended national policy statements and the legislative 'plan stop' directive. In my evidence I have attempted to navigate these changes, with a primary focus on the updated national direction. To assist the panel in understanding the ability to amend the plan provisions and relief sought to give effect to the NPS-EN, for each Transpower policy specific submission point where changes were sought, I have outlined the relevant NPSET policy, the equivalent applicable NPS-EN policy, and my opinion as to whether change is needed to give effect to the NPS-EN and whether there is scope to do so. This assessment is included in **Appendix A** (in the submission general assessment table).

- 1.9. The Section 42A reports have comprehensively assessed Transpower's submission points with the majority of the relief sought accepted or accepted in part (noting many of these points sought the retention of provisions as notified).
- 1.10. I support or accept the majority of the officer recommendations (attached as Appendix A to my evidence is a table outlining all the submission points relevant to Hearing Stream 6 and my position on the recommendations). However, there are eight provisions which I recommend amendment too, as follows:
- Definition - National Grid: An amendment is sought to reference the (updated) NPS-EN.
 - Definition – National Grid Subdivision Corridor: The recommendation to amend the definition as sought in the Transpower submission is supported but I recommend clarification that the additional two images (for the 220kV and 350kV lines) are also included (on the basis the setbacks shown in the images differ depending on the kV rating of the transmission line illustrated and the amended text in Appendix 2 of the Section 42A Report only shows the image for the 110kV line).
 - Definition – Transmission Line: An amendment is sought to reference the (updated) May 2026 NES-ETA.
 - Infrastructure Chapter Introduction: In its submission Transpower sought amendment to the Introduction section to clarify the relationship between plan chapters. The Section 42A Report has recommended amendment, but I recommend further refinement to clarify the application of other policies in the plan and reflect my understanding of the intent of the officer recommendation.
 - Policy INF-P8: In its submission Transpower sought amendment to the National Grid specific policy for the development and upgrade of new National Grid assets. I have recommended amendment to the policy to give effect to the NPS-EN. This is the most substantive amendments sought through this evidence.
 - INF-R17 and INF-S21: Deletion of INF-R17 and INF-S21 relating to upgrading given there are no existing National Grid assets within the City that are: a) not regulated by the NESETA; or b) not subject to a designation, the rule and standard are confusing in their application and interpretation.
 - PINF-P3: A minor amendment to the reference to reverse sensitivity to give effect to NPS-EN Policy 11(1)(b) by inserting the wording 'to the extent reasonably possible'.

- 1.11. For the avoidance of doubt, I support or accept all the other recommendations for the reasons outlined in **Appendix A**.
- 1.12. As noted above, attached as **Appendix A** to my evidence is a table outlining all the submission points relevant to Hearing Stream 6. Attached as **Appendix B** is the National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks 2008 ("**NPS-EN**") (Amended December 2025). Attached as **Appendix C** are specific amendments sought through this evidence.

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Appendix A - Summary Table - Response to s42A Report Officer Recommendations

Appendix B - National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks 2008 ("NPS-EN") (Amended December 2025)

Appendix C - Specific amendments sought through this evidence

2. Qualifications and Experience

- 2.1. My full name is Pauline Mary Whitney.
- 2.2. I am a Senior Planner and Senior Principal of Boffa Miskell Ltd, a national firm of consulting planners, ecologists and landscape architects. I hold the qualification of Bachelor of Resource and Environmental Planning (Hons). I am a Full Member of the New Zealand Planning Institute and have over 28 years' experience as a resource management planner.
- 2.3. I have been a planning consultant based in Wellington for the past 23 years, providing consultancy services for a wide range of clients around New Zealand, including local authorities, land developers, and the infrastructure and energy sectors. Prior to that I was employed with local authorities in New Zealand and the United Kingdom for 5 years. My experience includes:
- a. Work on the preparation of plan changes for councils and private clients and review of numerous regional policy statements, regional plans and district plans on their behalf; and
 - b. Preparing resource consent applications and notices of requirement for a wide range of development and infrastructure projects.
- 2.4. Specific to Transpower New Zealand Limited ("**Transpower**"), I have assisted Transpower on a number of planning processes and thus have a good practical understanding of how the grid operates.
- 2.5. My evidence is given in support of Transpower's submission on the Hutt City Proposed District Plan ("**PDP**"). In this matter, Boffa Miskell Ltd was engaged by Transpower to prepare this evidence on the PDP. I am aware that Boffa Miskell Ltd has assisted Council on components of the PDP. I can confirm this input by my colleagues has not related to this Infrastructure Chapter, and that I have not had any involvement in either the plan development or hearings process.
- 2.6. I have read the Code of Conduct for Expert Witnesses contained in Section 9 of the Environment Court Consolidated Practice Note (2023), and I agree to comply with it. My qualifications as an expert are set out above. I confirm that the issues addressed in this brief of evidence are within my area of expertise. I have not omitted to consider material facts known to me that might alter or detract from the opinions expressed.

3. Scope of Evidence

- 3.1. Transpower lodged an extensive submission to the PDP with the overall intent to ensure the district plan gives effect to the National Policy Statement on Electricity Transmission 2008 ('**NPSET**'), noting the NPSET was amended in 2025 and the applicable national instrument is now the National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks 2008 (amended December 2025) ('**NPS-EN**').
- 3.2. While Transpower appeared at the Business Hearing (Hearing Stream 2), given the evidence prepared for that hearing was on one definition¹ only, this is the first substantive hearing at which Transpower has appeared. I therefore consider that it would be helpful to outline Transpower's interests in the Hutt City as well as the specific policy framework associated with the National Grid. On this basis my evidence will address the following:
- a. The planning background to Transpower's submission, and an outline of the need to provide sufficient recognition of the national significance of the National Grid, particularly in the context of the NPS-EN;
 - b. An overview of Transpower's submission on the PDP (in context of those provisions still in scope); and
 - c. My responses to the recommendations within the Section 42A Report on Transpower's submission points.
- 3.3. My evidence should be read together with the evidence of Ms Sarah Shand who describes Transpower and the role and importance of the National Grid and addresses the nature of Transpower's assets within Hutt City.

4. Transpower's Assets within Hutt City

- 4.1. Transpower owns and operates a variety of infrastructure assets associated with the National Grid within Hutt City. Details of the existing assets, including a plan of the specific existing National Grid assets within the district, are provided in the evidence of Ms Shand.

5. National Direction under the RMA

Scope on Updated National Direction

¹ Reverse Sensitivity

5.1. Like the panel, I am cognisant of changes to National Direction and the scope and practicalities of giving effect to changes through the plan review process (specifically the hearings process). I have read the 9 March and 8 May advice from Mr Quinn on the topic, and largely concur with his advice. However, I do think the situation is not as clear cut for electricity transmission as it may be for other infrastructure/network utility activities which were not subject to a NPS at the time the PDP was notified. On this basis, accepting the commentary in the S42A Report that the NPS-EN cannot be addressed in a comprehensive way, I do consider there to be some scope to give effect to the NPS-EN. My reasoning is as follows:

5.1.1. Specific to Transpower (in relation to electricity transmission), the relief sought in its submission was specific to the NPS-ET (noting the 2 May 2025 submission was lodged prior to the governments late May 2025 consultation package on amended and new national direction). However, the submission did note potential and imminent changes to national direction, and that Transpower's position may change through the PDP plan process, with a general submission point to give effect to the NPSET. I do note that the application of the NPS-EN to the electricity distribution network is in my opinion a significant change in scope and therefore the focus of evidence is confined to the electricity transmission network (i.e. the National Grid).

5.1.2. The NPS-EN amended the NPSET as opposed to 'replacing' it, with the commencement date remaining as 2008. Specific to electricity transmission, the structure of the NPS-EN reflects that of the NPSET in terms of a single objective, policies to recognise benefits, managing the effects of transmission activities, managing the effects of third parties on the National Grid, long term planning, and electric and magnetic fields.

5.1.3. Having reviewed the NPS-EN and NPSET, there is alignment between many of the policies. However, I accept the NPS-EN is more extensive and detailed in its policy direction and there is unlikely to be scope or, for reasons of natural justice, the ability to make wholesale changes to National Grid specific provisions in the PDP. However, in saying that, I also do not consider it appropriate for changes to be made or provisions adopted that are contrary to, or do not give effect to the NPS-EN. A delicate and considered balance is required.

5.1.4. Section 75(3) of the RMA is very directive in requiring a district plan must give effect to, in a NPS, therefore confining the ability for the relief sought in

submissions to mis-align with the policies. While the Plan Stop directive means plan changes are not required to give effect to the NPS-EN, the explanation to the NPS does recognise that this may not be the case where an exemption applies.

- 5.2. Bearing in mind the further complexities added to the process by the Plan Stop directive and partial withdrawal of the PDP, to assist the panel in understanding the ability to amend the plan provisions and relief sought to give effect to the NPS-EN, for each Transpower policy-specific submission point where changes are sought, I have outlined the relevant NPSET policy, the equivalent applicable NPS-EN policy, and my opinion as to whether change is needed to give effect to the NPS-EN and whether there is scope to do so. I have been conservative in my recommendations for change with the main changes confined to the National Grid specific policy for upgrading and development. This assessment is included in **Appendix A** (in the submission general assessment table).
- 5.3. In paragraph 8.16 of my evidence I comment on the practical implications of the part plan withdrawal on the National Grid specific plan provisions.

National Policy Statements

- 5.4. National policy statements are at the top of the hierarchy of planning instruments under the Resource Management Act 1991 (“**RMA**”). Of particular relevance to the PDP and Transpower’s submission is the National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks 2008 (“**NPS-EN**”) (Amended December 2025) (previously named National Policy Statement on Electricity Transmission 2008 (“**NPSET**”), (and the supporting Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Electricity Transmission Activities) Regulations 2009 (“**NES-ETA**”)), and the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2010 (“**NZCPS**”). Addressing the interface between these two national policy statements and how they are read together is a key aspect of the relief sought by Transpower.
- 5.5. In terms of other potentially relevant national policy statements, in my opinion the National Policy Statement on Urban Development 2020 – Updated 2022 (“**NPS-UD**”) and National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020 (“**NPSFM**”) and the National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Land 2022 (“**NPS-HPL**”) are of limited relevance given: the NPS-UD has been given effect to through the 2022/23 Intensification streamlined planning process, the PDP is a district as opposed to

regional plan, and the NPS-HPL provides specific policy directives for the National Grid (as specified infrastructure).

- 5.6. The National Policy Statement for Infrastructure 2025 (“**NPS-I**”) does not apply to electricity transmission. The National Policy Statement for Natural Hazards 2025 (“**NPS-NH**”) does not apply to Infrastructure (as defined in the RMA which includes the National Grid).
- 5.7. While the National Policy Statement on Indigenous Biodiversity 2023 (“**NPS-IB**”) is relevant to the PDP, it is not relevant to the National Grid on the basis of clause 1.3(3) which provides:

Nothing in this National Policy Statement applies to the development, operation, maintenance or upgrade of renewable electricity generation assets and activities and electricity transmission network assets and activities. For the avoidance of doubt, renewable electricity generation assets and activities, and electricity transmission network assets and activities, are not “specified infrastructure” for the purposes of this National Policy Statement.

- 5.8. I recognise that while the NZCPS is the only mandatory national instrument, all the national policy statements (“**NPS’s**”) sit at the top of the planning instrument hierarchy (i.e. on the same level as the NZCPS). I note the NPS’s neither stipulate nor provide direction on their relationship or standing relative to one another. This presents councils with an interpretive and administrative challenge, particularly where effect needs to be given to multiple NPS’s. In my experience to date the relationship between the directives contained within the various NPS’s needs to be carefully assessed and a plan related policy framework developed that addresses obvious tensions between policy statements that need to be given effect to. Key to this is understanding the intent that underlies conflicting or competing directives and developing a tailored policy response to help guide decision makers to reconcile identifiable differences.

The National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks 2008 (Amended 2025)

- 5.9. The NPS-EN directs the management of the electricity transmission network under the RMA. As noted earlier, the NPS-EN amends the NPS-ET.
- 5.10. The framework of the NPS-ET is largely retained in that the NPS-EN contains one single objective relating to the national significance of the electricity transmission network, with a series of policies. The policy ‘topics’ within the NPS-EN reflect that of the NPS-EN, in that they address:

- Recognising and providing for benefits
- Māori interests
- Site, route and method selection
- Managing environmental effects of the electricity transmission network
- Managing the effects of third parties on the electricity transmission network
- Long term spatial and strategic planning; and
- Electric and magnetic fields

5.11. The NPS-EN provides greater policy detail and specificity than the NPS-EN. One key difference between the NPS's is that the NPS-EN also applies to electricity distribution networks (whereas the NPS-ET only applied to electricity transmission). I accept this is a significant change in scope and therefore my evidence is confined to the electricity transmission network.

5.12. The following provides a brief overview of the NPS-EN.

5.13. The primary basis and reasoning for the National Grid specific provisions in the PDP is to recognise, protect and provide for the national significance of the National Grid (as provided for in the NPS-EN Objective). This significance applies universally across the country regardless of the nature of the specific National Grid asset, recognising the linear and interconnected nature of the network. The NPS-EN policies give direction on how to achieve the objective by providing for the recognition of the benefits of electricity transmission, as well as the management of the environmental effects of electricity transmission and the adverse effects of other activities on the transmission network. As such, the NPS-EN policies impose obligations on both decision-makers and Transpower itself.

5.14. The sole objective of the NPSET is as follows:

(1) The national significance of the electricity network is recognised, protected and provided for, so that the network:

(a) is upgraded, improved and resilient to provide for the social, economic and cultural wellbeing of present and future generations and their health and safety;

(b) is developed and operated in a timely, efficient and ongoing manner while managing adverse effects from or on the EN; and

(c) supports achievement of New Zealand's climate change mitigation and renewable energy targets.

- 5.15. This objective focuses on the wider significance (and role) of the network.
- 5.16. The NPS-EN's 14 policies have to be applied by both Transpower and decision-makers under the RMA, as relevant and impose obligations on both decision-makers and Transpower itself. A summary of the policies is as follows:

Recognising and providing for benefits

- 5.17. Policy 1 specifies that decision-makers must recognise and provide for the national significance of the network, with benefits to be realised at all levels, relative to any localised effects. Policy 2 lists the wider benefits that are to be recognised.

Māori interests

- 5.18. Policy 3 provides a specific policy directive for recognising and providing for Māori interests. Clause (1)(c) directs to avoiding, where practicable, or otherwise mitigating, the adverse effects of EN activities on sites of significance to Māori.

Site, route and method selection

- 5.19. Policy 4 highlights that it is the role of Transpower to determine the purpose, scope, capacity and technical solutions of its assets, as well as the site, route and methods.

Managing environmental effects of the electricity transmission network

- 5.20. Policies 5 to 10 provides for the policy direction for managing the effects of activities. The NPS-EN applies to all electricity transmission activities with specific policy direction for certain activities (such as development or maintenance), thereby recognising the different nature and effects of the activities, and the need to ensure existing assets are maintained, and upgraded to provide a safe, secure and reliable and resilient network, as well as the development of the network to achieve this and meet the needs of future generations, including through supporting climate change mitigation and electrification of the economy.
- 5.21. Policy 5 is specific to routine activities (a new defined term) and is very directive in that decision makers must provide for the routine activities *"in all locations and environments, provided adverse effects on the environment are, where practicable, avoided, remedied or mitigated, while acknowledging the existing nature of the assets."*

- 5.22. Policy 6 reflects that of Policy 8 of the NPS-ET and directs a 'seek to avoid' adverse effects policy approach for 'non routine' activities in certain higher valued rural environments. The wording of Policy 6 ("should seek to avoid") does not impose an absolute requirement for the National Grid to avoid all adverse effects. Rather, it recognises total avoidance is not always possible given the technical and operational requirements of the National Grid (as recognised in Policy 7) and the matters in Policy 8.
- 5.23. Policy 7 centres on recognition of operational or functional need and directs recognising and providing for a range of matters.
- 5.24. Policy 8 is the specific 'effects consideration' policy and includes a range of matters that decision makers must have regard to, recognise, provide for, consider and adopt. A general 'avoid, remedy or mitigate' directive is provided. Clause (1)(c) refers to RMA Section 6 matters and is very directive in that it requires decision makers must "*provide for EN activities that have an operational need or functional need to be in particular locations and environments, including in areas where section 6 matters apply, even where there may be unavoidable adverse effects on those environments*". The clause does not distinguish between new or existing assets, recognising the linear and interconnected nature of the network.
- 5.25. Urban environments are addressed in Policy 9. The policy as applied to the electricity transmission network is very directive with clause (a) requiring that "*decision-makers must recognise that the EN forms an essential part of well-functioning urban environments that must be provided for*". Clause (b) is confined to historic heritage and clause (c) to (e) are not relevant to the National Grid. The very directive nature of Policy 9 is tempered somewhat by Policy 10.
- 5.26. Policy 10 is specific to non-routine activities and imposes an obligation on Transpower to "consider practicable opportunities and measures to reduce the existing adverse effects of EN assets when considering non-routine EN activities, taking into account the functional need, operational need and the financial implications of any measures to reduce adverse effects."

Managing the effects of third parties on the electricity transmission network

- 5.27. Policies 11 and 12 essentially set the framework to 'protect' the electricity transmission.
- 5.28. Policy 11 is very directive in requiring that adverse effects on the National Grid must be managed and that adverse effects on the National Grid must be avoided (including

reverse sensitivity effects (to the extent reasonably possible)) and that the National Grid is not compromised.

- 5.29. Policy 12 then outlines how Policy 11 will be achieved, including through buffer corridors. Policy 12(1)(b) makes specific reference to buffer corridors provided in any national standards. This reflects the intent to introduce buffer corridors in a revised electricity network national environment standard (to replace the Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Electricity Transmission and Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Activities) Regulations 2009 (Amended May 2026)). Transpower understands the release of the revised NES (being the National Environmental Standards for Electricity Network Activities ("**NES-ENA**")) is imminent.

Long term spatial and strategic planning

- 5.30. Policy 13 provides a policy framework for the long-term recognition of the National Grid including through spatial plans and designations.

Electric and magnetic fields

- 5.31. Policy 14 is specific to electric and magnetic fields and is a continuation of the policy approach in the NPSET.
- 5.32. The NPS-EN provides a very clear and directive policy framework for the National Grid. A key policy theme is the recognition of the national significance of the electricity transmission network and the need to consider a range of matters when providing for and protecting the Grid.

The Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Electricity Transmission and Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Activities) Regulations 2009 (Amended May 2026)

- 5.33. The Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Electricity Transmission and Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Activities) Regulations 2009 (Amended May 2026 ("**NES-ETA**")) addresses the objectives and policies of the NPS-EN, particularly the policies related to the existing transmission network, by providing a national framework of permissions and consent requirements for activities involving existing high voltage electricity transmission lines (but not substations). Activities covered by the NES-ETA are activities relating to the operation, maintenance, upgrading, relocation or removal of an existing transmission line, including:

- a construction activity;
- use of land or occupation of the coastal marine area;
- activities relating to an access track to an existing transmission line; and
- undergrounding an existing transmission line.

5.34. The relationship between the NES-ETA and the district plan is such that the NES-ETA generally prevails. However, for some activities (including earthworks (within a natural area²) and vegetation removal), the NES-ETA defers to the district plan provisions in determining the applicable activity status under the NES-ETA.

5.35. As noted earlier in my evidence, the government is proposing to replace the NES-ENA with a revised NES-ENA that will include a variety of amendments including standards to manage the activities of third parties in proximity of the National Grid. I am cognisant of the relationship between corridor provisions in the PDP and any changes through an amended NES. However, on the basis Section 43B of the RMA applies (which states the NES provisions prevails unless otherwise specified in the NES) (which I understand is the intent), while not ideal, the provisions will not be in direct conflict. Should the NES corridor provisions be gazetted prior to decisions being released on the PDP (which I understand is the intent), I would support removal of the PDP corridor protection provisions. I am happy to work with council on this matter.

6. Regional Direction under the RMA

6.1. The National Grid is included in the definition of regionally significant infrastructure under both the Greater Wellington Regional Policy Statement (“RPS”) and the Natural Resources Plan (“NRP”).

6.2. Relevant objectives and policies in the RPS include:

- Objective 10, which provides that the social, economic, cultural and environmental benefits of regionally significant infrastructure are recognised and protected;
- Policy 7, which requires that regional plans include policies and/or methods that recognise the benefits from renewable energy and regionally significant infrastructure;

² The NES-ETA defines a Natural area as “an area that is protected by a rule because it has outstanding natural features or landscapes, significant indigenous vegetation, or significant habitats of indigenous fauna”.

- Policy 8, which requires that regional plans include policies and/or methods that protect regionally significant infrastructure from incompatible use and development; and
 - Policy 39, which requires recognition of the benefits from renewable energy and regionally significant infrastructure.
- 6.3. Transpower is cognisant of Proposed Change 1 to the RPS which amends policies 7 and 39. Both the policies are subject to appeal. Policy 39 was subject to an Environment Court hearing in early May, and Policy 7 is subject to a consent order presently before the court.

7. Transpower Submission on the Proposed Hutt City District Plan

- 7.1. Given this is the first substantive hearing appearance by Transpower, and the interconnected nature and breadth of all of Transpower's submission points, I consider it helpful to briefly summarise the general nature of Transpower's submission on the PDP.
- 7.2. While Transpower supported many aspects of the PDP as notified, numerous submission points were made. Many of the submission points sought to amend many of the provisions in terms of specific wording or activity status, and clarify the relationship between and application of numerous chapters of the PDP. The submission points can be summarised as follows:

Definitions

- The definitions are largely supported with discrete changes sought, mainly to the definitions of the National Grid assets in the City, and replacement of the definition of reverse sensitivity with that in the RPS (heard at Hearing Stream 2).

Strategic Direction

- Inclusion of specific National Grid provisions into the strategic direction chapter.

Infrastructure Chapter

- General support for the chapter but in order to provide clarity to plan users, Transpower seeks amendment to the wording to clarify the Infrastructure Chapter is largely stand alone, with those exemptions clearly identified. The most significant policy changes are to the National Grid specific policy INF-P8. The primary changes sought to the Infrastructure Chapter rules are to amend the activity status within INF-R18 and R19 from non-complying to discretionary, and deletion of INF-R17.

Protection of Infrastructure Chapter

- The chapter is largely supported with confined amendments sought.

Earthworks Chapter

- The Earthworks Chapter is largely supported. Changes are sought to the National Grid Yard earthworks rule to capture 'Minor earthworks' and amend the default activity status from restricted discretionary to non-complying.

Subdivision Chapter

- The Subdivision Chapter is largely supported with minimal changes sought.

Financial Contributions Chapter

- Transpower raises concerns with how offsetting and financial contributions would be required within the chapter framework.

7.3. Submission points were also made to the overlay chapter provisions in the PDP relating to the **Coastal Environment and Natural Environment Values, Ecosystems and Indigenous Biodiversity, and Historic Heritage and Sites of Significance to Māori**. On the basis these chapters have been has been withdrawn in accordance with section 80Q of the Resource Management Act 1991, they are not addressed in my evidence.

8. Response to the Section 42A Report Recommendations

- 8.1. Prior to the release of the S42A Report, Council officers provided³ a copy of the Infrastructure chapter which has been modified to remove those parts which have been withdrawn from the PDP. This revised chapter provides the basis for the S42A Report recommendations.
- 8.2. The following section responds to the S42A Report recommendations on Transpower's submission points. For clarity, attached as **Appendix A** is a table outlining all the original submission points relevant to Hearing Stream 6 and my response to the recommendations. I also include an evaluation of the scope to give effect to the NPS-EN.
- 8.3. The reporting officer has largely retained the plan framework as notified, a position which I support.

³ 26 June 2026

8.4. My response to the S42A Report recommendations are addressed under the following topics (which reflect the topics within the Transpower submission), with a particular focus on those submission points not accepted or that in my opinion require clarification, as opposed to all the submission points.

- Definitions (related to Infrastructure)
- Strategic Direction – Infrastructure
- Infrastructure
- Protection of Infrastructure
- Mapping

Definitions

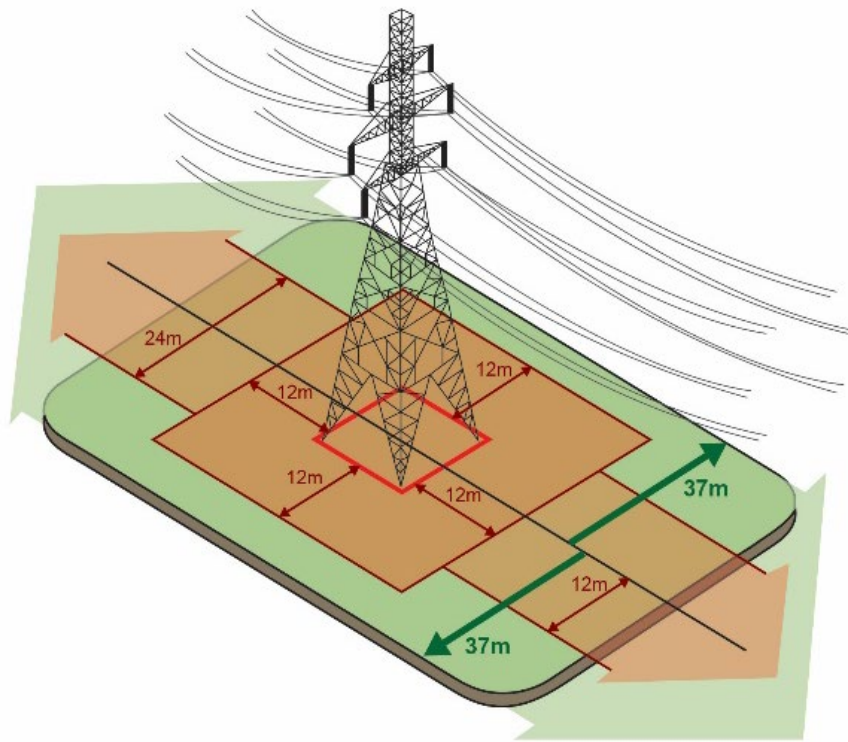
8.5. Noting the confined relief sought in the Transpower submission, I accept the S42A Report recommendations on the majority of the definitions. However, I recommend amendment to the National Grid specific definitions as follows:

8.5.1. **Definition: National Grid.** I recommend amendment to the definition to refer to that of the ‘electricity transmission network’ as defined in the NPS-EN, as follows, thereby reflecting the updated NPS (refer [blue](#) text):

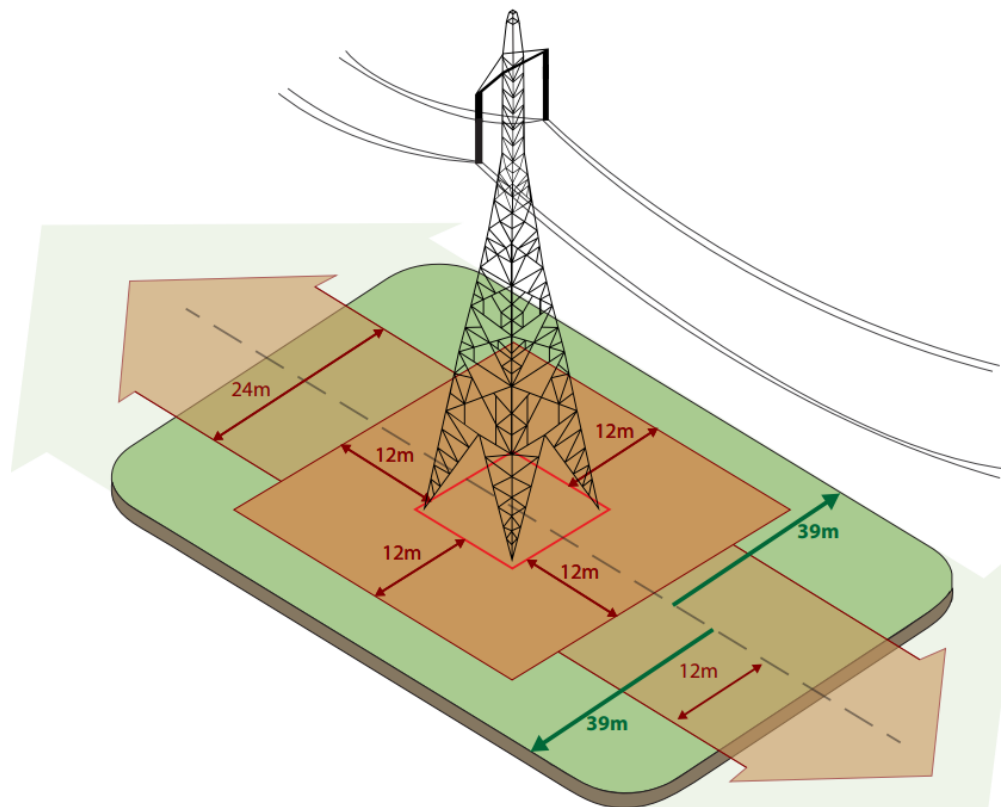
National Grid

has the same meaning as in section [1.4.3 electricity transmission network \(ETN\)](#) of the National Policy Statement [on for Electricity Transmission Networks 2008](#) ~~(as set out below)~~ means the assets used or owned by Transpower NZ Limited.

8.5.2. **Definition: National Grid Subdivision Corridor:** I accept in part the recommendation (in that it amends the text as sought in the Transpower submission) but I recommend clarification that the two images below (for the 220kV and 350kV lines) are also included (on the basis the setbacks shown in the images differ depending on the kV rating of the transmission line and the amended text in Appendix 2 of the Section 42A Report only shows the image for the 110kV line): I note I have included an updated image of the 350kV tower to depict a more ‘likely’ tower type. The distances remain unchanged.



Steel Lattice Towers 220kV Transmission Line



Steel Lattice Tower 350kV Transmission Line

- 8.5.1. **Definition: Transmission Line:** I accept the reasoning to not amend the definition as sought in the Transpower submission. However, I do recommend amendment to refer to the updated NES, as follows (refer [blue text](#)):

transmission line

has the same meaning as in section 3 of the Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Electricity Transmission [and Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure](#) Activities) Regulations 2009 [\(Amended May 2026\)](#) as set out below

- a. means the facilities and structures used for, or associated with, the overhead or underground transmission of electricity in the National Grid; and*
- b. includes transmission line support structures, telecommunication cables, and telecommunication devices to which paragraph a) applies; but*
- c. does not include an electricity substation.*

Strategic Direction – Infrastructure

- 8.6. In its submission Transpower supported Strategic Objective INFSD-03 but sought an amendment to include reference to ‘recognised and provided for’. Two new objectives were also sought, one recognising the significance of the National Grid, and one relating to effects on significant infrastructure.
- 8.7. The officer has recommended amendment to INFSD-03 and provision of a new objective to give effect to the NPS-EN. I support the officer recommendations, noting that while the new objective INFSD-08 could be further refined⁴ to reflect Policy 1 and Policy 2 of the NPS-EN, I am comfortable with the overall framing of the objective and that it gives effect to the NPS-EN, noting it is a strategic objective.

Infrastructure Chapter

- 8.8. The Infrastructure Chapter is the primary chapter in the PDP for managing the National Grid. In addition to the relationship between chapter in the PDP, Transpower’s submission on the chapter has two primary areas of focus:

⁴ To require that the national significance and benefits also be provided for.

- Amendment to INF-P8 *Upgrading and developing the National Grid*, to give effect to the NPS-ET and
 - Amendment to the rules to remove any non-complying activity status.
- 8.9. The partial withdrawal of the PDP has amended key components of the relief sought in the Transpower submission, and the 'updated' plan provisions as provided by the reporting officer form the basis of my evidence.

Objective and Policies

- 8.10. Transpower lodged a submission on multiple objectives and policies. These are addressed in turn. I note policies INF-P10, INF-P11, INF-P12 and INF-P13 have been withdrawn as part of the partial plan withdrawal and no longer form part of the PDP.
- 8.11. **Introduction:** In its submission Transpower sought amendment to the Introduction section to clarify the relationship between plan chapters. The Plan Exemption changes have removed much of the ambiguity (in that many other potential applicable chapters are removed and the application of other rules is clarified). The Section 42A Report has recommended further changes, specifically to clarify the application of objectives and rules. I am comfortable with the relationship in terms of the application and relevance of 'other' objectives and rules but consider the absence of reference to policies means the relationship to other policies is not clear. Specific to other district wide policies, while I understand based on commentary⁵ in the Section 42A Report that the intent is "*the policy direction within the INF chapter is sufficient to support achieving these objectives, whereby the policies of other district-wide chapters need not apply*", I do not believe this is clear within the recommended text. In relation to area wide chapter policies, the Section 42A Report provides⁶ "*objectives and policies in area-wide chapters are only relevant if specified in a provision of the INF chapter, and other policies do not apply*". Again, I do not consider this intent is made clear in the recommended wording or has been accurately captured. In order to clarify (my understanding of) the intent of the Section 42A recommendation, I recommend the following amendments (refer blue text) (red text is that recommended by the reporting officer):

⁵ Paragraph 180

⁶ Paragraph 182

Relationship with other chapters

The Infrastructure chapter includes provisions for operating, maintaining, repairing, developing, upgrading and decommissioning infrastructure. These infrastructure activities are excluded from most rules in other chapters of the District Plan (details on which other rules apply to infrastructure are given at the beginning of the rules section of this chapter). The provisions of the INF chapter should be read in conjunction with the objectives of other district-wide chapters, where relevant. Policies of other district-wide policies are not relevant. The objectives and policies of zone chapters are only relevant where specified within a provision of the INF chapter; however objectives and policies in other chapters may be relevant.

- 8.12. Transpower also submitted in support reference to the other “Regulatory Requirements”. I support the updated reference to the May 2026 NESETA.
- 8.13. **INF-O1, INF-O2:** Transpower’s submission supported the objectives and I support their retention.
- 8.14. **INF-P1, INF-P2, INF-P3, INF-P4, INF-P5, and INF-P9:** Transpower’s submission supported the policies and I support their retention (accepting the recommended amendments to INF-P1, INF-P4 and INF-P9). While INF-P5 is very broad in its application (in that it applies to all ‘natural and physical resources’ and ‘amenity values’), I support its retention on the basis it has an ‘avoid, remedy or mitigate, as far as practicable’ policy directive.
- 8.15. **INF-P6:** Given the partial plan withdrawal, the amended policy is supported and I do not recommend any further amendments.
- 8.16. **INF-P8:** INF-P8 *Upgrading and developing the National Grid* is of key relevance to the electricity transmission network and the subject of a substantial re-write as sought through the Transpower submission. Given changes introduced by the NPS-EN and the partial plan withdrawal, I recommend a revised policy. The basis for changes are outlined, with specific recommended wording provided in Table 1 below.

Partial PDP withdrawal:

The partial removal of provisions from the PDP has a number of implications for the relief sought in the Transpower submission. The Transpower sought framework in INF-P8 was based on providing a policy approach that reflected those valued areas (spatially) identified in overlays. The removal of the overlays themselves and all

references, means much of the relief sought is no longer relevant or appropriate. This then leads me to ponder what happens to these higher valued areas (which are addressed in Part 2 of the RMA or other national direction such as the NZCPS). There are essentially three options in my opinion which I address in turn:

Option 1: Include general references to values previously covered in the overlays: One option I have considered is to include a general statement as to values to be protected. However, without spatial identification in the PDP, such an approach would have implications for all plan users (particularly for restricted discretionary activities (which refer back to policies as a matter of discretion), discretionary and non complying activities. This would require applicants to assess whether their activity impacts on unidentified values and areas. The policy approach to apply to such unidentified values and areas is also problematic. Given the wider application issues for all plan users, I question whether such an approach is a) within scope of submissions, b) raises serious natural justice issues and c) is within the parameters of the granted Plan Exemption. To include general references for the National Grid only within INF-P8 is not supported and would be inconsistent with the approach for other plan users. On this basis I do not support this option.

Option 2: Rely on the operative District Plan provisions: Without the benefit of seeing a draft integrated plan, I remain unclear as to if and how parts of the Operative District Plan will be retained to merge in with the PDP version. Given that the Operative District Plan does not identify the Coastal Environment, Sites and Areas of Significance to Māori, Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes, Natural Character, or Significant Natural Areas, the ability to rely on the Operative District Plan provisions is limited. While I note Significant Natural Resource areas are identified, these are limited and to my understanding, questionable in terms of alignment with current national direction. On that basis I consider that reliance or references in the operative plan provide little guidance or benefit. The process provides no ability to amend or update the operative plan provisions.

Option 3: Rely on general policy directives in the PDP: Given the Plan exemption decision (as granted by the Minister) and limited ability to include overlay provisions in the PDP, the most viable and practicable option is to rely on a general policy approach to manage effects on areas previously identified as overlays. Policies INF-P5 – INF-P9 are the key policies to achieve this. While not ideal, it gives effect to the Plan Exemption and provides certainty for all plan users. For these reasons, this is my

preferred approach. I note that INF-P8 stipulate that other policies in the chapter also apply and I accept the retention of that clarification.

NPS-EN:

Changes to the NPS-EN provide a more comprehensive policy framework for the electricity transmission network. Of specific relevance are policies 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10. Policy 6 is specific to the rural environment, Policy 9 is specific to the urban environment and policies 7, 8 and 10 could be framed as 'consideration' policies. For the reasons outlined in the above commentary on the partial PDP withdrawal, the above policies have to be considered within context of the provisions removed as part the Plan Exemption.

Paragraph 158⁷ of the S42A Report raises natural justice considerations in attempting to address updated natural policy direction after the submissions stage. While I understand the concerns raised, I do not agree that it is appropriate (or would be giving effect to Section 75(3)(a) of the RMA) to continue supporting provisions in the PDP which do not give effect, or are even potentially contrary to the NPS-EN. While I appreciate some parties may be concerned with provisions that 'protect the electricity transmission network' (as provided in the S42A Report), this ignores the reality that the NPS-EN is in effect and must be given effect to (regardless of what any submissions may have sought in any submissions contrary to the NPS). I have not recommended any amendments in my evidence that I consider go beyond the NPS-EN within context of the matters covered by the PDP (as amended by the Plan Exemption). I am also mindful that only two submitters lodged submission points to INF-P8. The submission from DoC 405.14 relates to natural values and sought "*to achieve better balance in giving effect to the RMA, NZCPS and NPS-ET*". I also note the further submission by Forest and Bird (F23.14) to the Transpower submission which seeks "*proposed replacement text be considered against the original policy to ensure no unnecessary weakening of the policy*". Reference is made to alignment with the NPS-ET in the submission reasoning.

- 8.17. I do note that new National Grid line assets would require consent as a discretionary activity (Rule INF-R18) and substations as a restricted discretionary activity (Rule INF-R19) thereby allowing for a full evaluation of the effects. The upgrade of existing assets

⁷ S42A Report Paragraph 158: There are also natural justice considerations in attempting to address updated natural policy direction after the submissions stage. The updated NPS-EN is less directive (than the previous) with regard to managing the adverse effects of electricity network activities. If this direction was to be incorporated into the PDP, this may be of concern to parties adjacent the electricity network, particularly those who may be affected by provisions in the PINF chapter to protect the electricity transmission network.

is regulated by the NES-ETA, with consent defaulting to a discretionary activity where standards and regulations are not complied with.

- 8.18. Based on the above, the amendments I recommend to policy INF-P8 are outlined below. To assist the Panel in understanding the scope for the recommended changes, below is a table (Table 2) outlining changes sought by Transpower through its submission, the policy as amended by the Plan Exemption and recommended in the S42A Report, and amendments recommended through this evidence (based on the S42A Report recommendations). The final column outlines the reasoning for the changes sought through my evidence.
- 8.19. I appreciate the extensive amendments to the policy. However, I reiterate the strong policy directive in the NPS-EN. In my opinion it would be counterproductive to introduce a policy framework which does not give effect to the NPS-EN. I am also very aware that as a result of the Plan Exemption and amended scope of the PDP, the policy framework for the National Grid as recommended by the reporting officer in the S42A Report is more onerous in a policy sense than that for all other infrastructure in relation to urban areas. In my opinion this would be an anomaly given the national significance of the National Grid and strong policy directive in the NPS-EN.

Table 1. INF-P8 Recommended Evidence Amendments

Relief sought through Transpower submission (shown as red text) (Replaced the entire policy INF-P8 with the following)	Policy INF-P6 as amended by Plan Exemption (text removed as part of Plan Exemption is shown as grey shaded text) and recommended by the S42 Report (refer red text)	Recommended Evidence Amendments shown as blue text (based on the S42A Report recommendations shown in red)	Reasons for changes (to the S42A Recommended version as sought though this evidence
INF-P8 Upgrading and developing the National Grid In providing for upgrading (that is not a minor upgrade) and developing of the National Grid: <u>Have regard to the extent to which any adverse effects have been avoided, remedied or mitigated, including by the route, site and method selection and techniques and measures proposed;</u> <u>Recognise the constraints arising from the operational needs and functional needs of the National Grid, and the existing nature of the assets, when considering measures to avoid, remedy or mitigate any adverse effects;</u> <u>Recognise the potential benefits of upgrades and development to people and communities;</u> <u>In relation to upgrading of the National Grid (that is not a minor upgrade):</u> <u>Where appropriate, consider opportunities to reduce existing adverse effects of the National Grid as part of any substantial upgrade; and</u> <u>Remedying or mitigating, to the extent practicable, any adverse effects which cannot be avoided or minimised;</u> <u>In relation development of the National Grid:</u> <u>In urban zones and open space zones within an urban area: and</u> <u>adverse effects on urban amenity should be minimised; and</u> <u>adverse effects on the Metropolitan Centre Zone, City Centre Zone, areas of high recreational or amenity value, and existing sensitive activities should be avoided;</u> <u>Seek to avoid the adverse effects of the National Grid within areas identified in SCHED4 - Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes outside of the Coastal Environment, SCHED1 – Heritage Buildings and structures, SCHED2 – Heritage Areas, and SCHED6 – Sites and Areas of Significance to Māori.</u> <u>Allow development to proceed where the National Grid has a functional or operational need to locate within the Coastal Environment and</u> <u>It is not practicable to avoid adverse effects within areas identified in, SCHED4 - Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes inside of the Coastal Environment, SCHED5 - Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Areas and High and Very High Coastal Natural Character Areas, and indigenous biodiversity values that meet the criteria in Policy 11(b) of the NZCPS 2010, provided satisfactory measures are taken to remedy or mitigate the residual adverse effects; and</u> <u>Seek to avoid significant adverse effects on other areas of natural character, natural attributes and character of other natural features and landscapes, and indigenous biodiversity values that meet the criteria in Policy 11(b) of the NZCPS 2010, and avoiding, remedying or mitigating other adverse effects to the extent practicable.</u> <u>Remedying or mitigating, to the extent practicable, any adverse effects which cannot be avoided or minimised; and</u> <u>In the event of conflict, Policy INF-P8 prevails over other provisions in the Plan.</u>	INF-P8 Upgrading <u>(other than minor upgrading)</u> and developing the National Grid Provide for upgrading <u>(other than minor upgrading)</u> and developing of the National Grid while: <u>To the extent practicable Avoiding adverse effects on:</u> <u>Avoiding adverse effects on t</u>The City Centre Zone, and e Existing activities sensitive to the National Grid where located within urban areas, The identified values of Outstanding Natural Features, and [to be removed due to plan stop requirements] The identified values of Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Areas. [to be removed due to plan stop requirements] b. <u>Seeking to avoid adverse effects on:</u> Existing activities sensitive to the National Grid where located within rural environments, The identified values of Outstanding Natural Landscapes, and [to be removed due to plan stop requirements] The identified values of High and Very High Coastal Natural Character Areas. [to be removed due to plan stop requirements] c. <u>Minimising adverse effects on urban amenity where located within urban areas,</u> d. <u>Remedying or mitigating, to the extent practicable, any adverse effects which cannot be avoided or minimised, and</u> 5. <u>Having regard to the following matters while considering any adverse effects:</u> Enabling upgrades which have minor adverse effects on the environment, Except where clause 1 of this policy applies, considering <u>the constraints arising from the operational needs, functional needs, and technical requirements of the National Grid, on the ability to avoid, remedy of mitigate adverse effects,</u> e. <u>Whether any adverse effects have been avoided, remedied or mitigated by the route, site and method selection, and</u> f. <u>Opportunities provided by any substantial upgrades to reduce existing adverse effects of the National Grid, including on activities sensitive to the National Grid.</u> Note: Upgrading and developing the National Grid is excluded from: INF-P11: New or upgraded infrastructure in Coastal Natural Character Areas, [to be removed due to plan stop requirements] INF-P12: New or upgraded infrastructure in Outstanding Natural Features and Outstanding Natural Landscapes, and [to be removed due to plan stop requirements] INF-P14: New or upgraded infrastructure in the Active Street Frontage Overlay. But must be read in conjunction with the other relevant policies in this chapter.	INF-P8 Upgrading <u>(other than minor upgrading)</u> and developing the National Grid Provide for upgrading <u>(other than minor upgrading)</u> and developing <u>segment</u> of the National Grid while: <u>a. To the extent practicable Avoiding adverse effects on:</u> Seeking to a<u>Avoiding adverse effects on t</u>The City Centre Zone, and e Existing activities sensitive to the National Grid where located within urban areas, The identified values of Outstanding Natural Features, and [to be removed due to plan stop requirements] The identified values of Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Areas. [to be removed due to plan stop requirements] <u>b. Consider practicable opportunities and measures provided by any substantial upgrades to reduce existing adverse effects of the National Grid, including on activities sensitive to the National Grid. Seeking to avoid adverse effects on:</u> Existing activities sensitive to the National Grid where located within rural environments, The identified values of Outstanding Natural Landscapes, and [to be removed due to plan stop requirements] The identified values of High and Very High Coastal Natural Character Areas. [to be removed due to plan stop requirements] c. <u>Minimising adverse effects on urban amenity where located within urban areas,</u> d. <u>Remedying or mitigating, to the extent practicable, any adverse effects which cannot be avoided or minimised, and</u> e. <u>Demonstrating a functional or operational need to locate within the Coastal Environment, and</u> f. <u>Avoiding, where practicable, or otherwise mitigating, the adverse effects on sites of significance to Māori; and</u> 5. <u>Having regard to the following matters while considering any adverse effects:</u> Enabling upgrades which have minor adverse effects on the environment, Except where clause 1 of this policy applies, considering <u>the constraints arising from the operational needs, functional needs, and technical requirements of the National Grid, on the ability to avoid, remedy of mitigate adverse effects,</u> e. <u>Whether any adverse effects have been avoided, remedied or mitigated by the route, site and method selection, and</u>	- Amendment (as a grammatical correction) to the Chapeau to refer to development as opposed to developing. - Amendment to clause 1 as the avoid policy directive (even with the qualifier of ‘where practicable’) is contrary to the policy intent of the NPS-EN and in particular Policy 9 which is specific to urban environments. However acknowledging the importance of the City Centre and its confined nature, I support a ‘seek to avoid’ qualifier. I have removed clause relating to <i>existing activities sensitive to the National Grid where located within urban areas</i>, as such a policy directive is not within the NPS-EN and in some respects is contrary to NPS-EN Policy 8(1)(f) and Policy 9. Instead I have proposed a new clause b. to give effect to Policy 10 of the NPS-EN (and which I have moved up from the bottom of the notified policies, and with the insertion of the words ‘practicable’ and ‘measures’. - For the above reasons I have deleted the clauses relating to “<i>Seeking to avoid adverse effects on:</i> <i>Existing activities sensitive to the National Grid where located within rural environments,</i> <i>Minimising adverse effects on urban amenity where located within urban areas</i>” and instead rely on my recommended clause 1.b. which gives effect to Policy 10 of the NPS-EN. I also note that no submitter specifically submitted on these provisions. No submissions were received on the ‘activities sensitive to the National Grid’ and ‘urban amenity values’. The submission from DoC 405.14 relates to natural values and sought “<i>to achieve better balance in giving effect to the RMA, NZCPS and NPS-ET</i>”. Given the plan exemption, I do not consider this submission affected by the above amendments. I also note the further submission by Forest and Bird (F23.14) to the Transpower submission which seeks “<i>proposed replacement text be considered against the original policy to ensure no unnecessary weakening of the policy</i>”. Reference is made to alignment with the NPS-ET in the submission reasoning. In my opinion, what I have proposed is aligned with the NPS-EN, which is the gazetted national direction on this matter within scope of the PDP as amended through the Plan Exemption. - I support the retention of clause 1.c “<i>Remedying or mitigating, to the extent practicable, any adverse effects which cannot be avoided or minimised</i>” as notified, noting it gives effect to the intent of NPS-EN policy 8(1)(b). - Insertion of a new clause 1d. to give effect to the NZCPS, accepting that the Coastal Environment is not defined or identified (either in the PDP or ODP).

		<u>6. d. Opportunities provided by any substantial upgrades to reduce existing adverse effects of the National Grid, including on activities sensitive to the National Grid.</u> <u>3. In the event of conflict, Policy INF-P8 prevails over other provisions in the Plan.</u> Note: Upgrading and developing the National Grid is excluded from INF-P14: New or upgraded infrastructure in the Active Street Frontage Overlay. But must be read in conjunction with the other relevant policies in this chapter.	- Insertion of a new clause 1e. to give effect to NPS-EN Policy 3(1)(c). While I accept such sites are not identified in the PDP, Transpower would engage with Iwi prior to any upgrade to development and based on the information from the withdrawn SASM provisions of the PDP, would be able to respond accordingly to the policy directive. - I support the deletion of former clause 5(a) as an upgrade which has minor adverse effects would likely constitutes a minor upgrade and is addressed within Policy INF-P1. The corresponding amendment to the rule title and chapeau to exclude minor upgrades is also supported. - I support the officer recommended deletion of the first part of renumbered clause 2(a) as the consideration of constraints, operational need and ability to avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse effects, are managed in NPS-EN policies 8, (and including 8(1)(d)) and Policy 7, and are not excluded from consideration in the NPS-EN within urban environments (Policy 9). - No changes are recommended to renumbered clause 2(b) noting it gives effect to NPS-EN Policy 8(1)(a). - Relocation and amendment to renumbered clause 2(c) to give effect to NPS-EN Policy 10. - At the time of drafting this evidence I have not recommended insertion of a ‘prevail in the event of conflict’ clause (as sought in the Transpower submission) to address any potential areas of conflict in the PDP. This is on the basis of the Plan Exemption and S42A Report recommended changes to the Infrastructure Chapter. However, I am cognisant that the integration with any operative District Plan provisions is unclear and therefore my position may change.
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- 8.21. A 'clean copy' of the recommended policy is as follows (noting I accept the numbering could be refined such that clause 1. a. to e. could be renumbered as 1. to 5.):

INF-P8 Upgrading (other than minor upgrading) and developing the National Grid

Provide for upgrading (other than minor upgrading) and development of the National Grid while:

- 1. a. Seeking to avoid adverse effects on the City Centre Zone.*
 - b. Consider practicable opportunities and measures provided by any substantial upgrades to reduce existing adverse effects of the National Grid, including on activities sensitive to the National Grid.*
 - c. Remedying or mitigating, to the extent practicable, any adverse effects which cannot be avoided or minimised,*
 - d. Demonstrating a functional or operational need to locate within the Coastal Environment, and*
 - e. Avoiding, where practicable, or otherwise mitigating, the adverse effects on sites of significance to Māori; and*
- 2. Having regard to the following matters while considering any adverse effects:*
- a. The constraints arising from the operational needs, functional needs, and technical requirements of the National Grid, on the ability to avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse effects,*
 - b. Whether any adverse effects have been avoided, remedied or mitigated by the route, site and method selection, and*

Note:

Upgrading and developing the National Grid is excluded from INF-P14: New or upgraded infrastructure in the Active Street Frontage Overlay.

But must be read in conjunction with the other relevant policies in this chapter.

Rules

8.22. Transpower lodged a submission on multiple rules⁸ and standards. These are addressed in turn.

8.22.1. **Introductory text:** Given the removal of clauses a. and c. as a result of the partial plan withdrawal, I support the amended introductory text and the relief sought in the Transpower submission is no longer required.

8.22.2. **INF-R4:** Given the partial plan withdrawal, the amended rule is supported.

8.22.3. **INF-R10:** Given the partial plan withdrawal, the amended rule is supported (in that the notified non complying activity status is removed).

8.22.4. **INF-R17:** The rule relates to Upgrading. Given there are no existing National Grid assets within the City that are: a) not regulated by the NES-ETA; or b) not subject to a designation, the rule is confusing in its application and interpretation. If the intent of the rule is to manage the upgrading of any new future lines, Transpower submits that this is best addressed as part of the resource consent or designation process. On this basis I recommend deletion of the entire rule (and therefore reliance on the NES-ETA and any future designations or consent conditions).

~~INF-R17 Upgrading of transmission lines above 110kV, including associated support structures (not regulated by the NESETA)~~

.....

8.22.5. **INF-R18:** The rule relates to new transmission line assets. The rule has been substantially amended as a result of the partial plan withdrawal and as amended through the S42A Report. In particular I support deletion of the non complying activity status for new assets within the City Centre Zone and Active Street Frontage Overlay. Such an activity status does not give effect to Policy 8 or Policy 9 of the NPS-EN. Policy 8 is very directive, noting that Policy 8(1)(c) provides that decision makers must 'provide for EN activities that have an operational or functional need to be in particular locations and environments....', even where there may be unavoidable adverse effects on

⁸ INF-R4, INF-R10, INF-R17, INF-R18, INF-R19, and standards INF-S14, S16, S17 S18 and S21 (noting S19 and S20 have been withdrawn).

those environments”. Policy 9 is even more directive in that within urban environments “decision-makers must recognise that the EN forms an essential part of well-functioning urban environments that must be provided for”.

8.22.6. **INF-R19:** Given the partial plan withdrawal, the amended rule is supported (in that the notified non complying activity status is removed) and the Active Street Frontage Overlay clause is removed.

8.22.7. **INF-S14, S16, S17, and S18:** I support the retention of standards INF-S14, S16, S17, and S18, as sought in the Transpower submission.

8.22.8. **INF-S21:** I do not support the officer recommendation for the retention of INF-S21. The standard relates to rule INF-R17 (which I also oppose). As outlined in Transpower’s submission, there are no existing National Grid assets within the City that are not:

a) regulated by the NES-ETA or

b) subject to a designation.

8.22.9. The application of the standard (and associated rule) is confusing in its application and interpretation. It is not clear if the ‘new’ within the proposed standard allows for replacement structures. The standard is also contrary to the NES-ETA which allows for the relocation and replacement of support structures, and ignores the reality of upgrading works and the existing nature of the assets.

8.22.10. If the intent of the standard and associated rule is to manage the upgrading of any new future lines, I submit that this is best addressed as part of the resource consent or designation process. I recommend deletion of the standard.

~~INF-S21 Upgrading of transmission lines not regulated by the NESETA~~

~~All Zones 1. The upgrade must not include any new or relocated support structures.~~

~~There are no matters of discretion if the standard is breached~~

Protection of Infrastructure

8.23. In its submission Transpower supported the Protection of Infrastructure Chapter, with specific submissions points lodged against the Introduction, PINF-O1, PINF-P3, and Rules PINF-R3 and R4 and Standard S21. These provisions are addressed in turn.

8.23.1. **PINF Introduction:** I support the minor amendment sought in the Transpower submission to recognise the effects on infrastructure can extend beyond the City. This is particularly relevant for linear infrastructure such as the National Grid. The national significance of the electricity transmission network is recognised throughout the NPS-EN. Given the interconnected nature of the network, the effects of activities on the National Grid can have adverse effects that extend beyond the Hutt City. The other S42A Report recommended changes to the introduction are consistent with the NPS-EN.

8.23.2. **PINF-O1:** The objective has been redrafted by the S42A Report. While the word 'incompatible' was not sought in the Transpower submission, I accept its insertion on the basis the policy and rule framework clearly outline and articulate what is 'incompatible' and the framework is aligned with the NPS-EN.

8.23.3. **PINF-P3:** Transpower's submission supported the National Grid specific policy. I support its retention (noting the definition of reserve sensitivity is still outstanding) and also recommend the insertion of an amendment to give effect to NPS-EN Policy 11(1)(b), as follows (refer **blue** text) (**red** text is that recommended by the reporting officer):

PINF-P3 Adverse effects on the National Grid

Protect the safe and efficient operation, maintenance and repair, upgrading and development of the National Grid from adverse effects by:

1. *Avoiding land uses (including Activities sensitive to the National Grid and any increase in their scale and intensity) and buildings and structures within the National Grid Yard that may directly affect or otherwise compromise the National Grid,*
2. *Avoiding reverse sensitivity ~~effects~~ on the National Grid, to the extent reasonably possible.*

3. *Maintaining ongoing access to National Grid conductors and support structures for maintenance and upgrading works, and*
4. *Achieving compliance with the New Zealand Electrical Code of Practice for Electrical Safe Distances (NZECP 34:2001)*

- 8.23.4. **Rules introduction:** Transpower’s submission supported the Introduction to the rules and I support its retention as notified.
- 8.23.5. **PINF-R3:** Transpower supported PINF-R3 on the basis it gives effect to Policy 10 and Policy 11 of the NPS-ET. Notwithstanding the support for the rule, a confined amendment was sought to clarify that changes of land use to a defined ‘activity sensitive to the National Grid’ is a non complying activity. The rule remains aligned with the NPS-EN policies 11 and 12. The Section 42A Report (at paragraph 813) has rejected the relief sought on the basis the rule is already sufficiently clear and the amendment is not required. I accept the reasoning and recommendation and do not recommend any amendment to the rule.
- 8.23.6. **PINF-R4:** As with PINF-R3, Transpower supported Rule PINF-R4 but sought confined amendments. The Section 42A Report has rejected the relief sought. As with the recommendation on PINF-R3, I accept the reasoning and recommendation and do not recommend any amendment to the rule in relation to the Transpower relief. I do note the S42A Report has recommended an amendment to the rule title (“Construction of Buildings and structures...”), in response to the Heavy Haulage submission points 429.03 and 429.08. I understand this was addressed at Hearing Stream One⁹. On the basis the definition of ‘Construction’ is amended¹⁰ as recommended to make it clear construction includes relocated buildings, I accept the recommended change.

⁹ [file:///C:/Users/pauline/Downloads/Hearing%201%20-%20s42A%20Report%20\(with%20appendices\)%20-%2026%20March%202026%20\(3\).pdf](file:///C:/Users/pauline/Downloads/Hearing%201%20-%20s42A%20Report%20(with%20appendices)%20-%2026%20March%202026%20(3).pdf) Para 476 – 484

¹⁰

Construction or construction activity	means undertaking or carrying out any of the following <u>construction</u> building works: 1. erection of new buildings and structures; 2. alterations and additions to existing buildings or structures; 3. demolition or removal of an existing building or structure, including total or partial demolition or removal; and 4. relocation of a building; <u>or</u> 5. <u>construction of infrastructure and network utilities.</u>
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8.23.7. **PINF-S21:** As with the above rules, Transpower supported Rule PINF-S21 but sought confined amendments to clause 3. I support the recommended amendments sought to clarify that:

- network utilities can be located closer than 12m to the support structure, and
- any permitted buildings and structures can be located closer than 12m where Transpower has provided its written approval.

8.24. No further amendments are sought through this evidence.

Mapping features

8.25. In its submission Transpower sought deletion of the informational map layers for the National Grid Yard and National Grid Subdivision Corridor, and their replacement by a new informational layer which shows the centre-line only of transmission lines and coloured to be more clearly visible when layered over aerial photographs.

8.26. I accept the Section 42A Report recommendation, noting I would support the suggestion by the reporting officer for the council to explore “the opportunity to explore utilising higher contrast colours so that the layers appear more visible”.

8.27. In response to the recommendation to retain the lines depicting the National Grid Yard and National Grid Subdivision Corridor, I am comfortable with their retention on the basis of the definition which as the reporting officer has commented, are the actual means for determining the setbacks and the lines are for information/guidance purposes.

9. Conclusion

9.1. The National Grid is recognised as a matter of national significance through the NPS-EN, which seeks to ensure a nationally consistent approach to managing this important national resource.

9.2. Specific to Hearing Topic 6, Transpower lodged an extensive number of submission points.

9.3. The Section 42A reports have comprehensively assessed the submission points of Transpower with the majority of the relief sought accepted or accepted in part.

- 9.4. I support or accept the majority of the recommendations (attached as Appendix A to my evidence is a table outlining all the submission points relevant to Hearing Stream 6 and my position on the recommendations). Notwithstanding the general acceptance, there are eight officer recommendations that I do not fully support and to which I recommended amendment to provisions. These matters are generally confined in nature and in my opinion can readily be resolved, accepting that reframing of the National Grid specific policy INF-P8 is sought to give effect to the NPS-EN.

Pauline Mary Whitney

4 September 2026

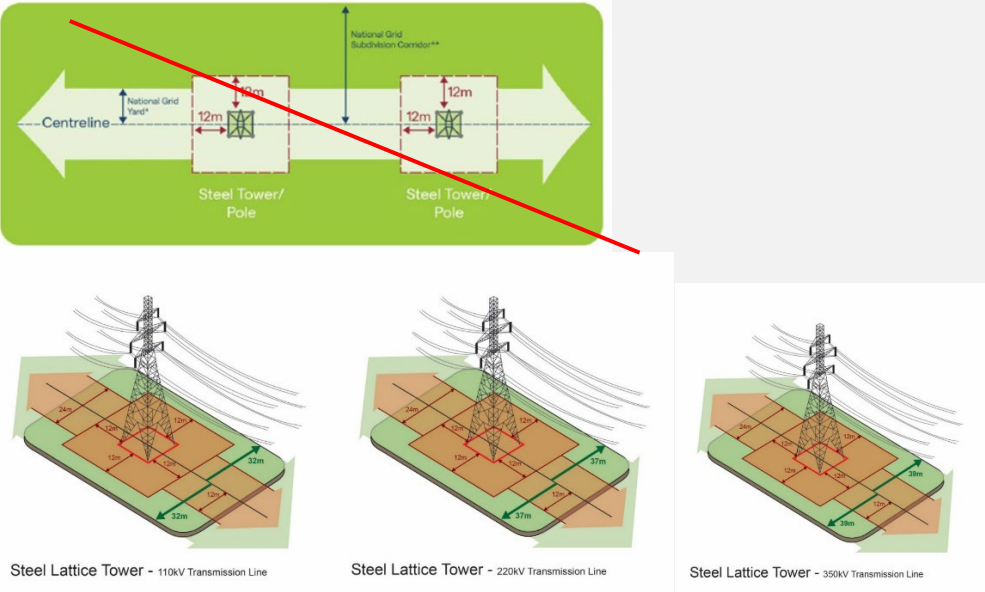
Appendix A

Summary Table - Response to s42A Report Officer Recommendations

The submission points highlighted grey are recommendations that have not been accepted (in full) by the reporting officer and to which I recommended amendments.

Sub point	Summary of Submission	Scope to give effect to NPS-EN	Section 42A Report Recommendation	Response to Section 42A Report
504.1	General Submission Point Relief sought: Amend Amend the PDP as appropriate to give effect to the NPS-ET. Reasoning: Section 75(3)(a) of the RMA requires that District (City) Plans must ‘give effect’ to a National Policy Statement. Case law has established that the words "give effect to" means to implement, which is a strong directive, creating a firm obligation on the part of those subject to it.	NPS-ET Policy: All NPS-EN Policy: All Scope to give effect to NPS-EN: Partial scope, provision by provision.	Infrastructure S42A Report Recommendation: Accept in part Recommended amendment: None specific	On the basis of amendments recommended through this evidence, accept the recommendation.
	Definitions			
504.2	Definition: Activity sensitive to the national grid Relief sought: Amend A minor amendment is sought to include papakāinga in the definition to clarify the National Grid Yard and Subdivision Corridor provisions apply to these activities. Amend the definition as follows: Activity sensitive to the national grid <i>Means a:</i> 1. residential activity, or 2. retirement village, or 3. supported residential care facility, or 4. marae / <u>papakāinga</u>, or 5. healthcare activity, or 6. education activity, or 7. community facility, or 8. commercial activity, or 9. custodial corrections facility, or 10. visitor accommodation, or 11. place of assembly. Reasoning: Transpower supports the provision of a definition specific to the National Grid in that it provides clarity for plan users and gives effect to the NPS-ET.	NPS-ET Policy: Definition of sensitive activities NPS-EN Policy: Definition of sensitive activities Scope to give effect to NPS-EN: Yes. The reference to Papakainga is included in the submission. Specific reference is included in the NPS-EN. No changes are recommended through this evidence beyond that sought in the submission.	Infrastructure S42A Report Recommendation: Accept Recommended amendment: Activity sensitive to the National Grid means a: 1. residential activity, or 2. retirement village, or 3. supported residential care facility, or 4. marae / <u>papakāinga</u>, or 5. healthcare activity, or 6. education activity, or	Accept the S42A Report recommendation to amend the definition as sought in the Transpower submission.
504.4	Definition: Infrastructure Relief sought: Support Retain the definition as notified Reasoning: The definition reflects that provided in the RMA and is therefore supported.	NPS-ET Policy: N/A NPS-EN Policy: N/A Scope to give effect to NPS-EN:	Infrastructure S42A Report Recommendation: Accept Recommended amendment: None	Accept the S42A Report recommendation on the basis the definition is retained as supported in the Transpower submission

Sub point	Summary of Submission	Scope to give effect to NPS-EN	Section 42A Report Recommendation	Response to Section 42A Report
		Not relevant as the term is not defined in either NPS. No changes are recommended through this evidence.		
504.6	Definition: National Grid Relief sought: Support Retain the definition as notified National Grid <i>has the same meaning as in section 3 of the National Policy Statement on Electricity Transmission 2008 (as set out below) means the assets used or owned by Transpower NZ Limited.</i> Reasoning: The definition is supported on the basis it will assist with plan interpretation in providing clarity as to the assets forming part of the National Grid.	NPS-ET Policy: Definition of national grid NPS-EN Policy: Definition of electricity transmission network Scope to give effect to NPS-EN: The term National Grid is used throughout the PDP. Given the NPS-ET no longer exists, it recommended the definition be amended to refer to the definition used in the NPS-EN (being electricity transmission network). Given the amendment would not expand the range or nature of activities captured, there are no natural justice issues.	Infrastructure S42A Report Recommendation: Accept Recommended amendment: None	Reject (in part) the S42A Report recommendation on the basis the NPS has been amended and therefore I recommend amendment to the definition to refer to the ‘electricity transmission network’ as defined in the NPS-EN, as follows: National Grid <i>has the same meaning as in section 1.4 3 electricity transmission network (ETN) of the National Policy Statement on for Electricity Transmission Networks 2008 (as set out below) means the assets used or owned by Transpower NZ Limited.</i>
504.7	Definition: National Grid Subdivision Corridor Relief sought: Amend Amend the definition as follows: National Grid Subdivision Corridor <i>means, as depicted in by the green arrow in the diagrams below, Diagram 1, the area measured either side of the centre line of any above ground electricity transmission line as follows:</i> <i>a. 32m of a 110kV transmission line on towers; and</i> <i>b. 37m of a 220kV transmission line; <u>and</u></i> <i>c. <u>39m of a 350kV transmission line.</u></i> <i>The measurement of setback distances from the National Grid shall be undertaken from the centre line of the National Grid transmission line and the outer edge of any support structure. The centre line at any point is a straight line between the centre points of the two support structures at each end of the span.</i> Note: <i>The National Grid Subdivision Corridor does not apply to underground cables or any transmission lines (or sections of line) that are designated.</i> <i>Diagram 1: National Grid Yard and National Grid Subdivision Corridor.</i>	NPS-ET Policy: Policy 11 NPS-EN Policy: Policy 11 and 12. Scope to give effect to NPS-EN: No changes are recommended through this evidence beyond that sought in the submission.	Infrastructure S42A Report Recommendation: Accept Recommended amendment:	Accept in part the S42A Report recommendation but clarify that the two images below (for the 220kV and 350kV lines) are also included (on the basis the setbacks shown in the images differ depending on the kV). I have recommended updated images but the same setbacks apply:



Reasoning:

The inclusion of a National Grid Subdivision Corridor definition is supported on the basis that it gives effect to the NPS-ET and specifically policies 10 and 11 which establish the mandate for the National Grid Yard and National Grid Subdivision Corridor promoted by Transpower for the National Grid.

Notwithstanding the support, Transpower submits that minor amendments to the definition text are necessary to:

- Recognise the Oteranga Bay - Haywards A 350kV line (OTB-HAY A)
- Replace the diagrams to provide clear direction to District Plan users on how the National Grid Subdivision Corridor is to be measured. Transpower considers these an improvement on the notified diagrams.

National Grid Subdivision Corridor

means, as depicted ~~in Diagram 1, by the green arrow in the diagrams below~~, the area measured either side of the centre line of any above ground electricity transmission line as follows:

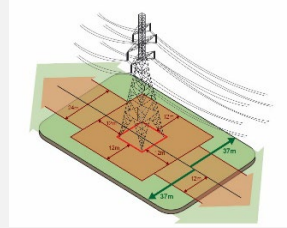
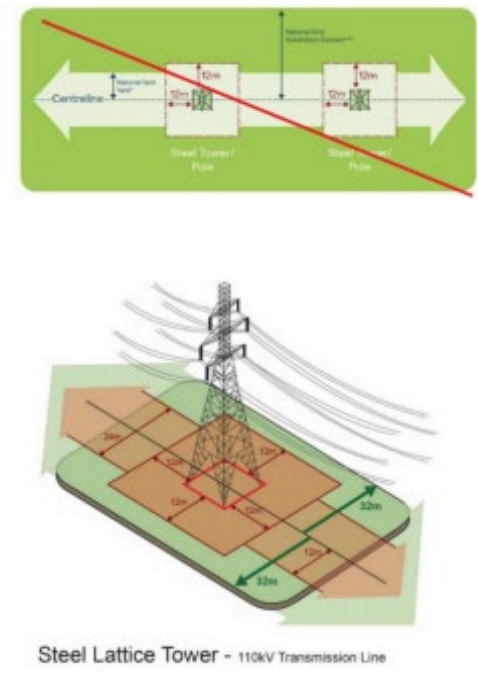
- a. 32m of a 110kV transmission line on towers, ~~and~~
- b. 37m of a 220kV transmission line, ~~and~~
- c. 39m of a 350kV transmission line

The measurement of setback distances from the National Grid shall be undertaken from the centre line of the National Grid transmission line and the outer edge of any support structure. The centre line at any point is a straight line between the centre points of the two support structures at each end of the span.

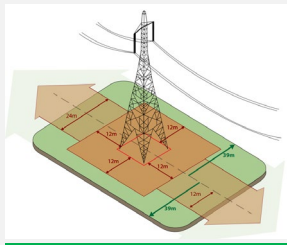
Note:

The National Grid Subdivision Corridor does not apply to underground cables or any transmission lines (or sections of line) that are designated.

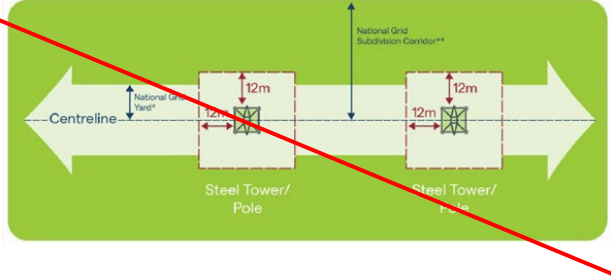
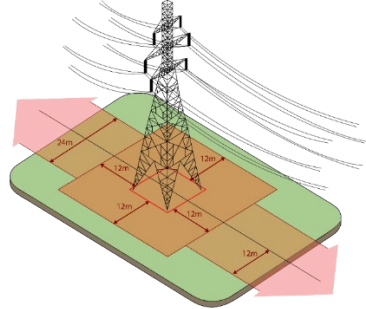
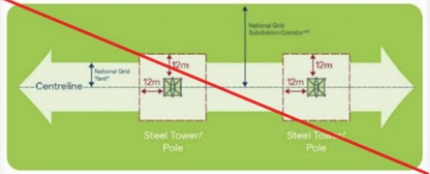
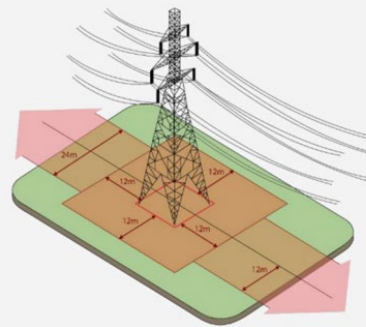
Diagram 1: National Grid Yard and National Grid Subdivision Corridor.



Steel Lattice Tower – 220kV Transmission Line



Steel Lattice Tower – 350kV Transmission Line

Sub point	Summary of Submission	Scope to give effect to NPS-EN	Section 42A Report Recommendation	Response to Section 42A Report
504.8	Definition: National Grid Yard Relief sought: Amend Amend the definition as follows: National Grid Yard means as depicted in <u>the area in orange in</u> Diagram 1: - the area located within 12m either side of the centreline of an above ground transmission line on that is 110kV or greater, and - the area located within 12m in any direction from the outer visible edge of an electricity transmission support structure, associated with a line which is 110kV or greater. The measurement of setback distances from the National Grid must be undertaken from the centre line of the National Grid transmission line and the outer edge of any support structure. The centre line at any point is a straight line between the centre points of the two support structures at each end of the span. Note: The National Grid Yard does not apply to underground cables or any transmission lines (or sections of line) that are designated. Diagram 1: National Grid Yard and National Grid Subdivision Corridor.   Steel Lattice Tower Reasoning: The provision of a National Grid Yard definition is supported on the basis that it gives effect to the NPS-ET and specifically policies 10 and 11 which establish the mandate for the National Grid Yard and subdivision corridor approach promoted by Transpower for the National Grid. Notwithstanding the support, Transpower seeks a change in the diagram to provide clear direction to District Plan users on how the National Grid Yard is to be measured. Transpower considers these an improvement on the notified diagrams.	NPS-ET Policy: Policy 11 NPS-EN Policy: Policy 11 and 12. Scope to give effect to NPS-EN: No changes are recommended through this evidence beyond that sought in the submission.	Infrastructure S42A Report Recommendation: Accept Recommended amendment: National Grid Yard means as depicted in <u>the area in orange in</u> Diagram 1: - the area located within 12m either side of the centreline of an above ground transmission line on that is 110kV or greater, and - the area located within 12m in any direction from the outer visible edge of an electricity transmission support structure, associated with a line which is 110kV or greater. The measurement of setback distances from the National Grid must be undertaken from the centre line of the National Grid transmission line and the outer edge of any support structure. The centre line at any point is a straight line between the centre points of the two support structures at each end of the span. Note: The National Grid Yard does not apply to underground cables or any transmission lines (or sections of line) that are designated. Diagram 1: National Grid Yard and National Grid Subdivision Corr   Steel Lattice Tower	Accept the S42A Report recommendation on the basis it gives effect to the relief sought in the Transpower submission

Sub point	Summary of Submission	Scope to give effect to NPS-EN	Section 42A Report Recommendation	Response to Section 42A Report
504.9	Definition: regionally significant infrastructure Relief sought: Support Retain the definition as notified regionally significant infrastructure <i>means regionally significant infrastructure including:</i> ... d. the National Grid, Reasoning: Transpower supports the provision of a definition for RSI that makes specific reference to the National Grid.	NPS-ET Policy: N/A NPS-EN Policy: N/A Scope to give effect to NPS-EN: Not relevant as the term is not defined in either NPS. No changes are recommended through this evidence.	Infrastructure S42A Report Recommendation: Accept in part Recommended amendment: Regionally significant infrastructure means regionally significant infrastructure including: a. pipelines for the distribution or transmission of natural or manufactured gas or petroleum, including any associated fittings, appurtenances, fixtures or equipment, h. the local authority wastewater and stormwater networks and systems, including treatment plants and storage and discharge facilities, and i. the Strategic Transport Network <u>including rail corridors, core bus routes, strategic roads and regional cycling network,</u> as identified in the Wellington Regional Land Transport Plan 2021; j. <u>Silverstream Landfill, and</u> k. <u>Infrastructure associated with port related activities and adjacent land used in association with the movement of cargo and passengers including bulk fuel supply infrastructure, and storage tanks for bulk liquids, and associated wharflines.</u>	Accept the S42A Report recommendation noting the amendments do not affect the National Grid or the NPS-EN.
504.11	Definition: sensitive activities Relief sought: Support Retain the definition as notified sensitive activities <i>means, as the context requires:</i> - activities most sensitive to natural hazards, - activities potentially sensitive to natural hazards, - activities sensitive to gas transmission infrastructure, - activities sensitive to hazardous substance risks, - activities sensitive to industry, - activities sensitive to light, - activities sensitive to noise, - activities sensitive to privacy intrusion, or - activities sensitive to the National Grid. Reasoning: Transpower supports the definition on the basis it references the definition “activities sensitive to the National Grid”.	NPS-ET Policy: Definition of sensitive activities NPS-EN Policy: Definition of sensitive activities Scope to give effect to NPS-EN: No changes are recommended through this evidence.	Infrastructure S42A Report Recommendation: No specific commentary Recommended amendment: None	Accept the S42A Report recommendation on the basis the definition is retained as supported in the Transpower submission
504.12	Definition: transmission line Relief sought: Amend	NPS-ET Policy: Not defined NPS-EN Policy:	Infrastructure S42A Report Recommendation: Reject Recommended amendment:	Reject (in part) the S42A Report recommendation. Based on how the definition is applied in the

Sub point	Summary of Submission	Scope to give effect to NPS-EN	Section 42A Report Recommendation	Response to Section 42A Report
	Amend the definition to include substations or amend INF-P8 clause 7. To also refer to substations. The amendment to the definition could be as follows: transmission line <i>has the same meaning as in section 3 of the Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Electricity Transmission Activities) Regulations 2009 as and includes the National Grid (as defined).set out below</i> a. means the facilities and structures used for, or associated with, the overhead or underground transmission of electricity in the National Grid; and b. includes transmission line support structures, telecommunication cables, and telecommunication devices to which paragraph a) applies; but c. does not include an electricity substation. Reasoning: Throughout the PDP, the term “transmission lines’ is used (primarily in rules) to assist in plan interpretation, Transpower therefore supports the term being defined as some plan users may not be aware the term applies to the National Grid. However, Transpower has concerns the exclusion of substations would have policy implications for the upgrade of any existing substation in that INF-P8 clause 7 refers to ‘transmission lines’ when recognising the benefits of upgrades.	Not defined Scope to give effect to NPS-EN: Not relevant as the term is not defined in either NPS. While the term is defined in the NES-ETA, should this be replaced, the reference to the ‘National Grid’ future proofs the definition. The only change sought beyond that in the submission is to give effect to the May 2026 updated NES.	None	PDP, I accept the reasoning to not amend the definition as sought in the Transpower submission. However, I do recommend amendment to refer to the updated NES, as follows: transmission line <i>has the same meaning as in section 3 of the Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Electricity Transmission <u>and Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure</u> Activities) Regulations 2009 <u>(Amended May 2026)</u> as set out below</i> <i>a. means the</i>
504.13	Definition: Upgrading Relief sought: Neutral Retain the definition as notified. Upgrading <i>as it applies to infrastructure, means the improvement, relocation, replacement, or increase in carrying capacity, operational efficiency, size, pressure, security or safety of existing infrastructure, but excludes maintenance and repair.</i> Reasoning: On the basis the NES-ETA regulates the upgrade of existing National Grid assets, Transpower is neutral on the definition.	NPS-ET Policy: Not defined NPS-EN Policy: Defined Scope to give effect to NPS-EN: The term is defined in the NPS-EN.	Infrastructure S42A Report Recommendation: Accept Recommended amendment: None	Accept the recommendation. While the term is defined in the NPS-EN, I am comfortable the definitions are aligned with the NPS-EN definition taking precedence in the event of conflict.
	Strategic direction			
504.14	INFSD-O3 National and Regional Significance Relief sought: Amend Amend as follows: <i>INFSD-O3 National and Regional Significance Infrastructure of national and regional significance is supported and protected, <u>recognised and provided for.</u></i> Reasoning:	NPS-ET Policy: Objective, Policy 1 NPS-EN Policy: Objective, Policy 1 Scope to give effect to NPS-EN: The reference to ‘recognise and provide for’ in context of	Infrastructure S42A Report Recommendation: Reject Recommended amendment: <i>INFSD-O3 <u>Regionally Significant Infrastructure National and Regional Significance</u></i> <i><u>Regionally Significant</u> Infrastructure of national and regional significance is supported and protected.</i>	Accept the S42A Report recommendation on the basis of the recommended new objective INFSD-O8

Sub point	Summary of Submission	Scope to give effect to NPS-EN	Section 42A Report Recommendation	Response to Section 42A Report
	While Transpower supports INFSD-O3, it seeks amendment to include ‘recognised and provided for’ to give effect to the NPS-ET. The term ‘supported’ is not widely used or understood within context of the objective. It is also not clear what infrastructure constitutes ‘national or regional importance’ given the terms are not defined. As an alternative, Transpower would support a National Grid specific strategic direction as outlined in the submission point below.	significance is terminology used in the NPS-EN. No changes are recommended through this evidence.		
504.15	New Strategic Objective Relief sought: Amend Insert a new National Grid specific strategic objective as follows: <u>INFSD-O7: National Grid</u> <u>The significance of the National Grid is recognised, and sustainable, secure and efficient electricity transmission is provided through and within the city</u> Reasoning: Transpower supports the provision of a new strategic objective specific to the National Grid on the basis it gives effect to the NPS-ET and provides specific recognition in the PDP of the national significance of the National Grid.	NPS-ET Policy: Objective, Policy 1 NPS-EN Policy: Objective, Policy 1, Policy 2 Scope to give effect to NPS-EN: No changes are recommended through this evidence.	Infrastructure S42A Report Recommendation: Accept in part Recommended amendment: <u>INFSD-O8: Electricity Networks</u> <u>The national significance of the electricity transmission network and electricity distribution network is recognised, and sustainable, secure and efficient electricity is provided through and within the city.</u>	Support the S42A Report recommendation to insert the objective as sought in the submission
504.16	New Strategic Objective Relief sought: Amend Insert a new specific strategic direction relating to the effects on significant infrastructure as follows: <u>INFSD-O8: Effects on Significant infrastructure</u> <u>Infrastructure of national and regional significance (which includes the National Grid), operates efficiently and safely and is protected from incompatible development and activities that may compromise the operation, maintenance and upgrade of significant infrastructure, and may create reverse sensitivity effects</u> Reasoning: Transpower supports the provision of a new strategic objective specific to the effects of activities on significant infrastructure on the basis it gives effect to the NPS-ET and provides specific direction on the ‘protection’ reference within INFSD-O3.	NPS-ET Policy: Policies 10 and 11 NPS-EN Policy: Objective, Policies 11 and 21 Scope to give effect to NPS-EN: The concept of protection is provided in the NPS-EN Objective. The balance of the sought objective are referenced in the above policies. No changes are recommended through this evidence.	Infrastructure S42A Report Recommendation: Reject Recommended amendment: None.	Accept the S42A Report recommendation on the basis of the recommended amendments to objective INFSD-O3 (which uses the word ‘protection’).
	Infrastructure Chapter			
504.19	Introduction Relief sought: Support Retain the introductory text Introduction <i>This chapter outlines the provisions of the District Plan that relate to the operation and development of infrastructure.</i> <i>Infrastructure enables a community to undertake its everyday activities and functions and allows people to provide for their social and economic wellbeing, and their health and safety. The</i>	NPS-ET Policy: Not relevant NPS-EN Policy: Not relevant Scope to give effect to NPS-EN:	Infrastructure S42A Report Recommendation: Accept (by default in that the text is retained) Recommended amendment: None	Support the S42A Report recommendation to retain the text as notified.

Sub point	Summary of Submission	Scope to give effect to NPS-EN	Section 42A Report Recommendation	Response to Section 42A Report
	<i>infrastructure managed through this chapter include those defined as infrastructure under section 2 of the Resource Management Act.</i> <i>The successful functioning of the city depends on infrastructure. It is important that construction, maintenance, upgrade and operation of these services be provided for, that technical and geographical constraints on the operation of networks are acknowledged, and that the benefits derived from them are recognised. However, infrastructure can also have adverse effects on the environment resulting from their construction, operation or associated maintenance activities.</i> Reasoning: Transpower supports the provision of an Infrastructure Chapter and the introductory text	Not relevant as it is not a matter addressed in the NPS's. No changes are recommended through this evidence.		
504.20	Introduction - Other regulatory requirements Relief sought: Support Retain the introductory text “Other regulatory requirements.” Introduction Other regulatory requirements <i>Additional regulatory requirements, which are separate to the District Plan or Regional Council planning documents, but are relevant to infrastructure include:</i> <i>The Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Electricity Transmission Activities) Regulations 2009 (NESETA),</i> <i>The Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Telecommunication Facilities) Regulations 2016 (NESTF),</i> <i>The National Code of Practice for Utility Operators’ Access to Transport Corridors,</i> <i>The New Zealand Electrical Code of Practice for Electrical Safe Distances (NZECP 34:2001), and</i> <i>Electricity (Hazards from Trees) Regulations 2003.</i> Reasoning: Transpower supports the introductory text which outlines other regulatory requirements, and in particular the NESETA.	NPS-ET Policy: Not relevant NPS-EN Policy: Not relevant Scope to give effect to NPS-EN: Not relevant as it is not a matter addressed in the NPS's. The only change sought not sought in the submission is to give effect to the updated NES name.	Infrastructure S42A Report Recommendation: Accept Recommended amendment: The Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Electricity Transmission <u>and Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure</u> Activities) Regulations 2009 (NESETA),	Support the S42A Report recommendation to amend the text to reflect the recent amendment to the NE-ETA.
504.21	Introduction - Relationship with other chapters Relief sought: Amend Amend as follows: Relationship with other chapters <i>The Infrastructure chapter includes provisions for operating, maintaining, repairing, developing, upgrading and decommissioning infrastructure. <u>As many infrastructure assets are linear and traverse many parts of the district, it is considered appropriate that a single set of rules, objectives and policies be provided that apply to Infrastructure across the City. As such, the Infrastructure chapter is stand alone as it applies to Infrastructure and Network Utility Operators. These infrastructure activities are excluded from most rules in other chapters of the District Plan (details on which other rules apply to infrastructure are given at the beginning of the rules section of this chapter), however objectives and policies in other chapters may be relevant.</u></i> <i><u>The exceptions to this are The Infrastructure chapter does not include</u> provisions which address the following:</i>	NPS-ET Policy: Not relevant NPS-EN Policy: Not relevant Scope to give effect to NPS-EN: Not relevant as the PDP structure is not a matter addressed in the NPS's. No changes are recommended through this evidence beyond that sought in the submission, noting the Historic Heritage Chapter and	Infrastructure S42A Report Recommendation: Accept in part Recommended amendment:	Accept in part the S42A Report recommendation on the basis of the clarification provided. However as outlined in evidence, I do not believe the relationship to other area and district wide chapter policies is sufficiently clear. I recommend further amendment as follows (refer blue text): <i><u>The provisions of the INF chapter should be read in conjunction with the</u></i>

Sub point	Summary of Submission	Scope to give effect to NPS-EN	Section 42A Report Recommendation	Response to Section 42A Report
	<i>Notable Trees (Notable Trees Chapter)</i> <i>Historic Heritage (Historic Heritage Chapter)</i> <i>Ecosystems and Indigenous Biodiversity (Ecosystems and Indigenous Biodiversity Chapter)</i> <i>Green infrastructure and flood mitigation works (Natural Hazards chapter),</i> <i>Hard engineering coastal hazard mitigation works (Coastal Hazards chapter),</i> <i>Vehicle crossings (Transport chapter),</i> <i>Subdivision which creates allotments for infrastructure purposes (Subdivision chapter), and</i> <i>Protection of infrastructure from adverse effects of land use and development, including:</i> <i>Protection of gas transmission infrastructure and the National Grid from activities and buildings and structures (Protection of Infrastructure chapter),</i> <i>Earthworks within the National Grid Yard (Earthworks chapter),</i> <i>Subdivision within the Gas Transmission Pipeline Corridor and the National Grid Subdivision Corridor (Subdivision chapter), and</i> <i>Activities sensitive to noise within the Highway and Railway Noise Overlay (Noise chapter).</i> As an alternative to the above sought wording applying to Infrastructure, Transpower would support the sought wording being specific to the National Grid. Reasoning: While the chapter is supported, Transpower requests that the chapter largely be standalone (at the very least in relation to the National Grid) and that this be made explicitly clear within the introduction to the chapter. Transpower notes the INF Chapter provides for a specific policy direction for infrastructure within overlay areas (Policies INF-P9 – P14) and therefore Transpower assumes the intent is that the INF Chapter be standalone. This intent is further demonstrated in lack of reference to Infrastructure activities within policies within the specific overlay chapters In order to provide clarity to plan users, Transpower would support amendment to the wording to clarify the Infrastructure Chapter is largely stand alone, with those exemptions clearly identified.	Ecosystems and Indigenous Biodiversity Chapter's have been deleted as part of the exemption process.	The Infrastructure chapter includes provisions for operating, maintaining, repairing, developing, upgrading and decommissioning infrastructure. These infrastructure activities are excluded from most rules in other chapters of the District Plan (details on which other rules apply to infrastructure are given at the beginning of the rules section of this chapter). The provisions of the INF chapter should be read in conjunction with the objectives of other district-wide chapters, where relevant. The objectives of zone chapters are only relevant where specified within a provision of the INF chapter however objectives and policies in other chapters may be relevant. The Infrastructure chapter does not include provisions which address the following: Green infrastructure and additional infrastructure (except those components which are part of a stormwater network). F-flood mitigation works (Natural Hazards chapter), - Hard engineering coastal hazard mitigation works (Coastal Environment Hazards chapter), - Vehicle crossings (Transport chapter), - Subdivision which creates allotments for infrastructure purposes (Subdivision chapter), and - Protection of infrastructure from adverse effects of land use and development, including: - Protection of gas transmission infrastructure and the National Grid from activities and buildings and structures (Protection of Infrastructure chapter), - Earthworks within the National Grid Yard (Earthworks chapter), - Subdivision within the Gas Transmission Pipeline Corridor and the National Grid Subdivision Corridor (Subdivision chapter), and - Activities sensitive to noise within the Highway and Railway Noise Overlay (Noise chapter).	objectives of other district-wide chapters, where relevant. Policies of other district-wide policies are not relevant. The objectives and policies of zone chapters are only relevant where specified within a provision of the INF chapter, however objectives and policies in other chapters may be relevant.
504.22	INF-O1 Benefits of infrastructure Relief sought: Support Retain the objective as notified INF-O1 Benefits of infrastructure <i>The national, regional and local benefits of infrastructure are recognised and provided for</i> Reasoning: Transpower supports the objective. While the objective is not specific to the National Grid, the reference to 'recognised and provided for' gives effect to the NPS-ET. The objective is given effect to primarily through policies INF-P1 and INF-P2.	NPS-ET Policy: Policy 1 NPS-EN Policy: Policies 1 and 2 Scope to give effect to NPS-EN: Both NPS's require that benefits be recognised and provided for. No changes are recommended through this evidence.	Infrastructure S42A Report Recommendation: Accept Recommended amendment: None	Accept the S42A Report recommendation to retain the objective as sought in the Transpower submission.

Sub point	Summary of Submission	Scope to give effect to NPS-EN	Section 42A Report Recommendation	Response to Section 42A Report																				
504.23	INF-O2 Adverse effects of infrastructure Relief sought: Support Retain the objective as notified INF-O2 Adverse effects of infrastructure <i>The adverse effects of infrastructure on the environment are effectively managed while recognising the functional needs and operational needs of infrastructure.</i> Reasoning: Transpower supports the objective. In particular Transpower supports the reference that effects are ‘managed’ and the recognition of operational needs.	NPS-ET Policy: Policies 2 – 9 set the policy framework for managing the effects of the National Grid. NPS-EN Policy: Policies 5 – 10 set the policy framework for managing the effects of the National Grid. Scope to give effect to NPS-EN: No changes are recommended through this evidence, noting the policy is generic and not specific to the National Grid.	Infrastructure S42A Report Recommendation: Accept Recommended amendment: None	Accept the S42A Report recommendation to retain the objective as sought in the Transpower submission.																				
504.24	INF-P1 Recognise benefits of infrastructure Relief sought: Support Retain the policy as notified INF-P1 Recognise benefits of infrastructure <i>Recognise the social, economic, cultural and environmental benefits that infrastructure provide, including:</i> <i>1. Enabling enhancement of the quality of life and standard of living for people and communities,</i> <i>2. Providing for public health and safety,</i> <i>3. Enabling businesses to function,</i> <i>4. Enabling growth and development,</i> <i>5. Enabling the transportation of freight, goods and people,</i> <i>6. Providing a lifeline during emergencies, and</i> <i>7. Enabling the effective, safe, secure and efficient transmission of electricity.</i> Reasoning: Transpower supports the policy directive to recognise benefits. Notwithstanding the policy is not specific to the National Grid, the recognition gives effect to NPS-ET Policy 1. While the policy does not refer to ‘provide for’ as provided in NPS-ET Policy 1, the ‘enable’ directive within clause 7. gives effect to the NPS-ET, and INF-P2 has a clear policy directive to ‘enable’ existing infrastructure and ‘provide’ for major upgrades and the development of new infrastructure.	NPS-ET Policy: Policy 1 NPS-EN Policy: Polices 1 and 2 Scope to give effect to NPS-EN: No changes are recommended through this evidence, noting the policy is generic with only clause 7. being specific to electricity transmission.	Infrastructure S42A Report Recommendation: Accept in part Recommended amendment: <table><tr><th>INF-P1</th><th>Recognise benefits of infrastructure</th></tr><tr><td colspan="2">Recognise the social, economic, cultural and environmental benefits that infrastructure provide, including:</td></tr><tr><td>1.</td><td>Enabling enhancement of the quality of life and standard of living for people and communities,</td></tr><tr><td>2.</td><td>Providing for public the health and safety and resilience of people and communities.</td></tr><tr><td>3.</td><td>Enabling businesses to function,</td></tr><tr><td>4.</td><td>Enabling growth, access and development,</td></tr><tr><td>5.</td><td>Enabling the transportation of freight, goods and people,</td></tr><tr><td>6.</td><td>Providing a lifeline during emergencies, and</td></tr><tr><td>7.</td><td>Enabling the effective, safe, secure and efficient transmission of electricity, and</td></tr><tr><td>8.</td><td>Improving the quality of water, air or soil, and ecosystem health, resilience and indigenous biodiversity, where natural or semi-natural features or processes are incorporated into stormwater networks.</td></tr></table>	INF-P1	Recognise benefits of infrastructure	Recognise the social, economic, cultural and environmental benefits that infrastructure provide, including:		1.	Enabling enhancement of the quality of life and standard of living for people and communities,	2.	Providing for public the health and safety and resilience of people and communities.	3.	Enabling businesses to function,	4.	Enabling growth, access and development,	5.	Enabling the transportation of freight, goods and people,	6.	Providing a lifeline during emergencies, and	7.	Enabling the effective, safe, secure and efficient transmission of electricity, and	8.	Improving the quality of water, air or soil, and ecosystem health, resilience and indigenous biodiversity, where natural or semi-natural features or processes are incorporated into stormwater networks.	Accept the S42A Report recommendation to largely retain the policy as sought in the Transpower submission, noting the S42A Report recommended amendments are not relevant to the Transpower submission or impact on the NPS-EN.
INF-P1	Recognise benefits of infrastructure																							
Recognise the social, economic, cultural and environmental benefits that infrastructure provide, including:																								
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7.	Enabling the effective, safe, secure and efficient transmission of electricity, and																							
8.	Improving the quality of water, air or soil, and ecosystem health, resilience and indigenous biodiversity, where natural or semi-natural features or processes are incorporated into stormwater networks.																							
504.25	INF-P2 Provide for infrastructure Relief sought: Support Retain the policy as notified INF-P2 Provide for infrastructure <i>Provide for infrastructure by:</i> <i>1. Enabling safe, resilient, effective, and efficient operation, maintenance, repair, minor upgrade, or decommissioning of infrastructure,</i>	NPS-ET Policy: Policies 2 and 5 NPS-EN Policy: Policies 2, 5, 6, 7 and 8. Scope to give effect to NPS-EN:	Infrastructure S42A Report Recommendation: Accept Recommended amendment: None	Accept the S42A Report recommendation to retain the policy as sought in the Transpower submission.																				

Sub point	Summary of Submission	Scope to give effect to NPS-EN	Section 42A Report Recommendation	Response to Section 42A Report														
	2. Providing for other upgrades to, and the development of new infrastructure, and 3. Enabling investigation and monitoring activities associated with infrastructure operations. Reasoning: Transpower supports the policy directive to provide for infrastructure. Transpower notes the clause 1 of the policy is the primary policy in relation to existing National Grid assets, and on the basis of the ‘enabling’ directive within the policy, is supported. While the policy is not specific to the National Grid, it gives effect to NPS-ET Policy 2 and Policy 5. On the basis of other more specific policies in relation to the National Grid, Transpower supports the retention of the policy as notified.	No changes are recommended through this evidence, noting the policy is generic and not specific to the National Grid.																
504.26	INF-P3 Planning and delivery of infrastructure Relief sought: Support Retain the policy as notified INF-P3 Planning and delivery of infrastructure Ensure that infrastructure planning and delivery is coordinated and responsive by: 1. Ensuring development of infrastructure is integrated with other land use, subdivision, development, and urban growth. 2. Enabling infrastructure to be delivered at a rate which is responsive to the reasonably foreseeable needs of Lower Hutt, including with consideration to population growth. 3. Ensuring that infrastructure is resilient or adaptable to impacts of natural hazards and climate change. 4. Ensuring that infrastructure is able to adapt to changing user requirements and technologies. 5. Encouraging the co-location of infrastructure, including the utilisation of existing designations and the use of roads as infrastructure corridors. 6. Ensuring the provision and operation of infrastructure that cross jurisdictional boundaries is managed in an integrated manner. Reasoning: Transpower supports the policy, in particular the ‘encourage’ element in clause 5. (thereby recognising that co- location is not always possible or appropriate), and the integrated directive within clause 6.	NPS-ET Policy: Not specifically relevant NPS-EN Policy: Not specifically relevant Scope to give effect to NPS-EN: No changes are recommended through this evidence, noting the policy is generic and not specific to the National Grid.	Infrastructure S42A Report Recommendation: Accept Recommended amendment: None	Accept the S42A Report recommendation to retain the policy as sought in the Transpower submission.														
504.27	INF-P4 Technological advances Relief sought: Support Retain the policy as notified. INF-P4 Technological advances Provide flexibility to adopt new technologies for infrastructure that: 1. Allow for the re-use of redundant services and structures, or 2. Increase resilience, safety, efficiency or reliability of networks and services, or 3. Facilitate a transition to renewable electricity, or 4. Result in environmental benefits or enhancements, or 5. Promote environmentally sustainable outcomes. Reasoning: Transpower supports the policy and the recognition of technological advances.	NPS-ET Policy: Not specifically relevant NPS-EN Policy: Not specifically relevant Scope to give effect to NPS-EN: No changes are recommended through this evidence, noting the policy is generic and not specific to the National Grid.	Infrastructure S42A Report Recommendation: Accept in part Recommended amendment: <table><tr><th>INF-P4</th><th>Technological advances</th></tr><tr><td colspan="2">Provide flexibility to adopt new technologies for infrastructure that:</td></tr><tr><td>1.</td><td>Allow for the re-use of redundant services and structures, or</td></tr><tr><td>2.</td><td>Increase resilience, safety, efficiency or reliability of networks and services, or</td></tr><tr><td>3.</td><td>Facilitate a transition to renewable electricity and other energy sources which are renewable and have low emissions, or</td></tr><tr><td>4.</td><td>Result in environmental benefits or enhancements, or</td></tr><tr><td>5.</td><td>Promote environmentally sustainable outcomes.</td></tr></table>	INF-P4	Technological advances	Provide flexibility to adopt new technologies for infrastructure that:		1.	Allow for the re-use of redundant services and structures, or	2.	Increase resilience, safety, efficiency or reliability of networks and services, or	3.	Facilitate a transition to renewable electricity and other energy sources which are renewable and have low emissions , or	4.	Result in environmental benefits or enhancements, or	5.	Promote environmentally sustainable outcomes.	Accept the S42A Report recommendation to largely retain the policy as sought in the Transpower submission, noting the recommended amendments are not relevant to the Transpower submission or impact on the NPS-EN.
INF-P4	Technological advances																	
Provide flexibility to adopt new technologies for infrastructure that:																		
1.	Allow for the re-use of redundant services and structures, or																	
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5.	Promote environmentally sustainable outcomes.																	

Sub point	Summary of Submission	Scope to give effect to NPS-EN	Section 42A Report Recommendation	Response to Section 42A Report																		
504.28	INF-P5 Adverse effects of infrastructure Relief sought: Support Retain the policy as notified. INF-P5 Adverse effects of infrastructure Avoid, remedy, or mitigate the adverse effects of infrastructure, as far as practicable, including effects on: 1. Natural and physical resources, 2. Amenity values, 3. Natural hazard and climate change risks, 4. Identified features and values within any specified overlay (Removed as a result of plan exemption) 5. Any other matter of national importance, 6. The safe and efficient operation of other infrastructure, and 7. The health, well-being and safety of people and communities. Reasoning: Policy INF-P4 is general in nature in that it provides a ‘avoid, remedy or mitigate’ directive within context of a range of effects. The policy directive is supported, noting that more specific policies are provided for a number of the clauses. Given the policy applies to existing and new assets, the reference to ‘as far as practicable’ is supported.	NPS-ET Policy: No specific policy reference to ‘practicable’. NPS-EN Policy: Policies 5 and 8 specifically reference ‘as far as /where practicable’. Scope to give effect to NPS-EN: No changes are recommended through this evidence, noting the policy is generic and not specific to the National Grid.	Infrastructure S42A Report Recommendation: Accept Recommended amendment: None	Accept the S42A Report recommendation to retain the policy, as was sought in the Transpower submission.																		
504.29	INF-P6 Consideration of the adverse effects of infrastructure Relief sought: Amend Amend policy INF-P6 as follows: INF-P6 Consideration of the adverse effects of infrastructure When considering the adverse effects of infrastructure on the environment, have regard to the following: 1. The time, duration and frequency of adverse effects, 2. Recognising that <u>subject to operational constraints</u>, co-location of infrastructure, shared use of infrastructure corridors and undergrounding of infrastructure provide opportunities for avoiding and minimising adverse effects, 3. Where adverse effects cannot be avoided due to the functional needs and operational needs of the infrastructure to be in that location, then the extent to which those adverse effects are minimised by the infrastructure design or operation, 4. Where adverse effects cannot be avoided or minimised, then the extent to which those adverse effects can be remedied, mitigated or offset, <u>and</u> 5. Anticipated outcomes for the receiving environment and the degree to which past modifications have compromised the achievement of those outcomes, and 6. Where located in a specified overlay, the degree to which the identified features and values of locations in the overlay, or site or area of significance will be protected from adverse effects and preserved, including with consideration to whether adverse effects on these values and features are avoided due to being: a. No more than minor or transitory, or b. Remedied, mitigated or offset. The benefits derived from the infrastructure at a local, regional and national scale. (Removed as a result of plan exemption)	NPS-ET Policy: No specific policies NPS-EN Policy: No specific policies Scope to give effect to NPS-EN: No changes are recommended through this evidence, noting the policy is generic and not specific to the National Grid.	Infrastructure S42A Report Recommendation: Accept in part Recommended amendment: <table><tr><th>INF-P6</th><th>Consideration of the adverse effects of infrastructure</th></tr><tr><td colspan="2">When considering the adverse effects of infrastructure on the environment, have regard to the following:</td></tr><tr><td colspan="2">1. The time, duration and frequency of adverse effects,</td></tr><tr><td colspan="2">2. Whether it is practicable to reduce adverse effects through the <u>Recognising that</u> co-location of infrastructure, shared use of infrastructure corridors <u>or and</u> undergrounding of infrastructure provide opportunities for avoiding and minimising adverse effects,</td></tr><tr><td colspan="2">3. Whether <u>Where</u> adverse effects cannot be avoided due to the functional needs and operational needs of the infrastructure to be in that location,</td></tr><tr><td colspan="2">4. then-t <u>The extent to which these</u> adverse effects <u>that cannot be avoided</u> are minimised by the infrastructure design or operation,</td></tr><tr><td colspan="2">5. Where adverse effects cannot be avoided or minimised, then the extent to which those adverse effects can be remedied, mitigated or offset, <u>and</u></td></tr><tr><td colspan="2">6. Anticipated outcomes for the receiving environment and the degree to which past modifications have compromised the achievement of those outcomes. , and</td></tr><tr><td colspan="2">7. <u>[to be removed due to plan stop requirements]</u></td></tr></table>	INF-P6	Consideration of the adverse effects of infrastructure	When considering the adverse effects of infrastructure on the environment, have regard to the following:		1. The time, duration and frequency of adverse effects,		2. Whether it is practicable to reduce adverse effects through the <u>Recognising that</u> co-location of infrastructure, shared use of infrastructure corridors <u>or and</u> undergrounding of infrastructure provide opportunities for avoiding and minimising adverse effects,		3. Whether <u>Where</u> adverse effects cannot be avoided due to the functional needs and operational needs of the infrastructure to be in that location,		4. then-t <u>The extent to which these</u> adverse effects <u>that cannot be avoided</u> are minimised by the infrastructure design or operation,		5. Where adverse effects cannot be avoided or minimised, then the extent to which those adverse effects can be remedied, mitigated or offset, <u>and</u>		6. Anticipated outcomes for the receiving environment and the degree to which past modifications have compromised the achievement of those outcomes. , and		7. <u>[to be removed due to plan stop requirements]</u>		Accept the S42A Report recommendation on the basis the amendments largely give effect to the relief in the Transpower submission, and the retention of INF-P2, and recommended amendments to INF-P8.
INF-P6	Consideration of the adverse effects of infrastructure																					
When considering the adverse effects of infrastructure on the environment, have regard to the following:																						
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5. Where adverse effects cannot be avoided or minimised, then the extent to which those adverse effects can be remedied, mitigated or offset, <u>and</u>																						
6. Anticipated outcomes for the receiving environment and the degree to which past modifications have compromised the achievement of those outcomes. , and																						
7. <u>[to be removed due to plan stop requirements]</u>																						

Sub point	Summary of Submission	Scope to give effect to NPS-EN	Section 42A Report Recommendation	Response to Section 42A Report		
	Reasoning: Policy INF-P6 is broad in its application in that it would apply to both existing and new National Grid infrastructure. Transpower is not opposed in principle to the policy but seeks amendment to the policy to allow consideration of the benefits of the activity, as well as deletion of clause 6. on the basis overlays are addressed in subsequent specific policies.					
504.30	INF-P8 Upgrading and developing the National Grid Relief sought: Amend Amend policy INF-P8 as follows: <u>INF-P8 Upgrading and developing the National Grid</u> <u>In providing for upgrading (that is not a minor upgrade) and developing of the National Grid:</u> 1. <u>Have regard to the extent to which any adverse effects have been avoided, remedied or mitigated, including by the route, site and method selection and techniques and measures proposed;</u> 2. <u>Recognise the constraints arising from the operational needs and functional needs of the National Grid, and the existing nature of the assets, when considering measures to avoid, remedy or mitigate any adverse effects;</u> 3. <u>Recognise the potential benefits of upgrades and development to people and communities;</u> 4. <u>In relation to upgrading of the National Grid (that is not a minor upgrade):</u> a. <u>Where appropriate, consider opportunities to reduce existing adverse effects of the National Grid as part of any substantial upgrade; and</u> b. <u>Remedying or mitigating, to the extent practicable, any adverse effects which cannot be avoided or minimised;</u> 5. <u>In relation development of the National Grid:</u> a. <u>In urban zones and open space zones within an urban area: and</u> i. <u>adverse effects on urban amenity should be minimised; and</u> ii. <u>adverse effects on the Metropolitan Centre Zone, City Centre Zone, areas of high recreational or amenity value, and existing sensitive activities should be avoided;</u> b. <u>Seek to avoid the adverse effects of the National Grid within areas identified in SCHED4 - Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes outside of the Coastal Environment, SCHED1 – Heritage Buildings and structures, SCHED2 – Heritage Areas, and SCHED6 – Sites and Areas of Significance to Māori.</u> c. <u>Allow development to proceed where the National Grid has a functional or operational need to locate within the Coastal Environment and</u> i. <u>It is not practicable to avoid adverse effects within areas identified in, SCHED4 - Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes inside of the Coastal Environment, SCHED5 - Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Areas and High and Very High Coastal Natural Character Areas, and indigenous biodiversity values that meet the criteria in Policy 11(b) of the NZCPS 2010, provided satisfactory measures are taken to remedy or mitigate the residual adverse effects; and</u> ii. <u>Seek to avoid significant adverse effects on other areas of natural character, natural attributes and character of other natural features and landscapes, and indigenous biodiversity values that meet the criteria in Policy 11(b) of the NZCPS 2010, and avoiding, remedying or mitigating other adverse effects to the extent practicable.</u> d. <u>Remedying or mitigating, to the extent practicable, any adverse effects which cannot be avoided or minimised; and</u>	NPS-ET Policy: Policies 2 - 8 NPS-EN Policy: Policies 2 – 10 Scope to give effect to NPS-EN: There is considered to be scope for change to give effect to the NPS-EN given: - Parts of the policy have been withdrawn as part of the partial plan withdrawal - The policy directive in the NPS-EN (in relation to urban areas) is a significant shift from that within the NPS-ET - In its submission Transpower sought significant changes to the policy. - Councils are required to give effect to NPS’s. - No submissions were received on the ‘activities sensitive to the National Grid’ and ‘urban amenity values’.	Infrastructure S42A Report Recommendation: Accept in part Recommended amendment: <table><tr><td>INF-P8</td><td>Upgrading (other than minor upgrading) and developing the National Grid</td></tr></table> Provide for upgrading (other than minor upgrading) and developing of the National Grid, while: 1. <u>To the extent practicable Avoiding adverse effects on:</u> a. <u>Avoiding adverse effects on tThe City Centre Zone, and e Existing activities sensitive to the National Grid where located within urban areas,</u> b. <u>[to be removed due to plan stop requirements]</u> c. <u>[to be removed due to plan stop requirements]</u> <u>2. b. Seeking to avoid adverse effects on:</u> a. <u>existing activities sensitive to the National Grid where located within rural environments,</u> b. <u>[to be removed due to plan stop requirements]</u> c. <u>[to be removed due to plan stop requirements]</u> <u>3. c. Minimising adverse effects on urban amenity where located within urban areas,</u> <u>4. d. Remedying or mitigating, to the extent practicable, any adverse effects which cannot be avoided or minimised, and</u> <u>2. 5. Having regard to the following matters while considering any adverse effects:</u> a. <u>Enabling upgrades which have minor adverse effects on the environment, ab. Except where clause 1 of this policy applies, considering The constraints arising from the operational needs, functional needs, and technical requirements of the National Grid, on the ability to avoid, remedy of mitigate adverse effects,</u> b. <u>e. Whether any adverse effects have been avoided, remedied or mitigated by the route, site and method selection, and</u> c. <u>d. Opportunities provided by any substantial upgrades to reduce existing adverse effects of the National Grid, including on activities sensitive to the National Grid.</u> Note: Upgrading and developing the National Grid is excluded from [removed] INF-P14: New or upgraded infrastructure in the Active Street Frontage Overlay. But must be read in conjunction with the other relevant policies in this chapter.	INF-P8	Upgrading (other than minor upgrading) and developing the National Grid	Accept in part the S42A Report recommendation but as outlined in evidence, I recommend amendments to the policy to give effect to the NPS-EN and the Transpower submission. Refer to evidence.
INF-P8	Upgrading (other than minor upgrading) and developing the National Grid					

Sub point	Summary of Submission	Scope to give effect to NPS-EN	Section 42A Report Recommendation	Response to Section 42A Report
	<i>6. In the event of conflict, Policy INF-P8 prevails over other provisions in the Plan.</i> <i>1. Avoiding adverse effects on:</i> <i>a. The City Centre Zone;</i> <i>b. Existing activities sensitive to the National Grid where located within urban areas;</i> <i>c. The identified values of Outstanding Natural Features, and (Removed as a result of plan exemption)</i> <i>d. The identified values of Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Areas. (Removed as a result of plan exemption)</i> <i>2. Seeking to avoid adverse effects on:</i> <i>a. Existing activities sensitive to the National Grid where located within rural environments;</i> <i>b. The identified values of Outstanding Natural Landscapes, and (Removed as a result of plan exemption)</i> <i>c. The identified values of High and Very High Coastal Natural Character Areas. (Removed as a result of plan exemption)</i> <i>3. Minimising adverse effects on urban amenity where located within urban areas;</i> <i>4. Remedying or mitigating, to the extent practicable, any adverse effects which cannot be avoided or minimised, and</i> <i>5. Having regard to the following matters while considering any adverse effects:</i> <i>a. Enabling upgrades which have minor adverse effects on the environment;</i> <i>b. Except where clause 1 of this policy applies, considering the constraints arising from the operational needs, functional needs, and technical requirements of the National Grid, on the ability to avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse effects;</i> <i>c. Whether any adverse effects have been avoided, remedied or mitigated by the route, site and method selection, and</i> <i>d. Opportunities provided by any substantial upgrades to reduce existing adverse effects of the National Grid, including on activities sensitive to the National Grid.</i> <i>Note:</i> <i>Upgrading and developing the National Grid is excluded from:</i> <i>INF-P11: New or upgraded infrastructure in Coastal Natural Character Areas;</i> <i>INF-P12: New or upgraded infrastructure in Outstanding Natural Features and Outstanding Natural Landscapes, and (Removed as a result of plan exemption)</i> <i>INF-P14: New or upgraded infrastructure in the Active Street Frontage Overlay.</i> Reasoning: It is evident the PDP has attempted to capture the various policies of the NPS-ET. However Transpower has concerns the intent of the NPS-ET has been lost through the drafting. In terms of context and how the policy as drafted would be applied to existing and new National Grid assets, there are no existing assets within any of the following overlays: Outstanding Natural Features, Outstanding Natural Landscapes, Outstanding Coastal Natural Characters Areas, High and Very High Coastal Natural Character areas, the Coastal Environment. There are also no identified Significant Natural Areas in the PDP. The existing assets do extend over a number of zones being the Medium Density Residential Zone, Large Lot Residential Zone, General Industrial Zone, Light Industrial Zone, Open Space Zone, Natural Open Space Zone, General Rural Zone, Rural Lifestyle Zone, Sport and Active Recreation Zone, and Quarry zone. Existing assets are also within the Flood Hazard Overlays, Slope assessment overlay, and Sites and Areas of Significance to Māori.			

Sub point	Summary of Submission	Scope to give effect to NPS-EN	Section 42A Report Recommendation	Response to Section 42A Report										
504.31	INF-P9 Upgrading and developing infrastructure in natural hazard overlays Relief sought: Support Retain the policy as notified. INF-P9 Upgrading and developing infrastructure in natural hazard overlays Provide for new or upgraded infrastructure in natural hazard overlays where: 1. There is a functional need or operational need for the infrastructure to be in that location, 2. Related buildings, structures or earthworks are of a scale and design that do not significantly increase natural hazard risk in High Flood Hazard Overlays and Medium Flood Hazard Overlays, and 3. Increases in natural hazard risk in identified high natural hazard overlays are avoided. Reasoning: Transpower supports the policy in so far as it provides a policy pathway for National Grid assets (both existing and new) within hazard overlay areas.	NPS-ET Policy: No specific policy reference NPS-EN Policy: Policy 7 (f) refers to location within hazard areas. Scope to give effect to NPS-EN: No changes are recommended through this evidence, noting the policy is generic and not specific to the National Grid.	Infrastructure S42A Report Recommendation: Accept Recommended amendment: <table><tr><td>INF-P9</td><td>Upgrading and developing infrastructure in natural hazard overlays</td></tr><tr><td colspan="2">Provide for new or upgraded infrastructure in natural hazard overlays where:</td></tr><tr><td colspan="2">1. There is a functional need or operational need for the infrastructure to be in that location,</td></tr><tr><td colspan="2">2. Related buildings, structures or earthworks are of a scale and design that do not significantly increase natural hazard risk in the High Flood Hazard Overlays and Medium Flood Hazard Overlays do not impede the conveyancing of floodwaters or cause floodwaters to be diverted to adjacent properties, and</td></tr><tr><td colspan="2">3. Increases in natural hazard risk to people and property, other than activities least sensitive to natural hazards, in identified high natural hazard overlays are avoided.</td></tr></table>	INF-P9	Upgrading and developing infrastructure in natural hazard overlays	Provide for new or upgraded infrastructure in natural hazard overlays where:		1. There is a functional need or operational need for the infrastructure to be in that location,		2. Related buildings, structures or earthworks are of a scale and design that do not significantly increase natural hazard risk in the High Flood Hazard Overlays and Medium Flood Hazard Overlays do not impede the conveyancing of floodwaters or cause floodwaters to be diverted to adjacent properties, and		3. Increases in natural hazard risk to people and property, other than activities least sensitive to natural hazards, in identified high natural hazard overlays are avoided.		Accept the S42A Report recommendation. While the officer recommended amendments were not sought by Transpower, the amended policy is supported.
INF-P9	Upgrading and developing infrastructure in natural hazard overlays													
Provide for new or upgraded infrastructure in natural hazard overlays where:														
1. There is a functional need or operational need for the infrastructure to be in that location,														
2. Related buildings, structures or earthworks are of a scale and design that do not significantly increase natural hazard risk in the High Flood Hazard Overlays and Medium Flood Hazard Overlays do not impede the conveyancing of floodwaters or cause floodwaters to be diverted to adjacent properties, and														
3. Increases in natural hazard risk to people and property, other than activities least sensitive to natural hazards, in identified high natural hazard overlays are avoided.														
504.32a – 32c	INF-P10 Upgrading and developing infrastructure in coastal margins or riparian margins	Not addressed as assessed as out of scope given the Plan Exemption												
504.33	INF-P11 Upgrading and developing infrastructure in coastal natural character areas	Not addressed as assessed as out of scope given the Plan Exemption												
504.34	INF-P12 Upgrading and developing infrastructure in Outstanding Natural Features and Outstanding Natural Landscapes	Not addressed as assessed as out of scope given the Plan Exemption												
504.35a – 35b	INF-P13 Upgrading and developing infrastructure in sites and areas of significance to Māori, heritage areas and sites containing heritage buildings or heritage structures	Not addressed as assessed as out of scope given the Plan Exemption												
504.36	Rules Relief sought: Amend Amend the Introduction as follows: Rules The rules of this chapter address the operation, maintenance, repair, removal, upgrading and development of infrastructure undertaken by network utility operators. Operating, maintaining, repairing, upgrading, developing and decommissioning of infrastructure is excluded from all provisions <u>(including rules)</u> in area-specific and other district-wide chapter, except for: a. Provisions for infrastructure activities which involve additions, alterations, relocation, or demolition of heritage buildings, heritage structures, or contributing buildings in heritage areas (located in the Historical Heritage chapter), (Removed as a result of plan exemption) b. Provisions for infrastructure activities which involve trimming or removal of Notable Trees (located in the Notable Trees chapter), c. Provisions for the removal of indigenous vegetation in the Natural Open Space Zone and residential zones (located in the Ecosystems and Indigenous Biodiversity chapter), (Removed as a result of plan exemption)	Rules are not addressed in the NPS’s. Scope to give effect to NPS-EN: No changes are recommended through this evidence beyond that sought in the submission, noting that the Plan Exemption has amended the introductory text as notified.	Infrastructure S42A Report Recommendation: Accept Recommended amendment:	Accept the S42A Report recommendation. The amendments to delete clauses a. and c. give effect to the relief sought in the Transpower submission. The amendments to the chapeau are in response to other submissions but are accepted.										

Sub point	Summary of Submission	Scope to give effect to NPS-EN	Section 42A Report Recommendation	Response to Section 42A Report		
	<i>d. Provisions for Noise, including for infrastructure activities (located in the Noise chapter), and</i> <i>e. Provisions for the Protection of Infrastructure,</i> Reasoning: Specific to the National Grid, Transpower largely supports the text but as sought in other submission points, seeks further clarification the rules in other chapters (not listed) do not apply. It is noted the text refers to ‘provisions’ which includes objectives, policies and rules and yet this section of text is within the rules section of the chapter. Clarification on what is captured by ‘provisions’ would assist in plan interpretation. Within submission points, Transpower has also sought amendment such that the Historic Heritage rules do not apply (given the specific references (and rules) for Infrastructure within historic heritage sites/areas within the Infrastructure Chapter). Transpower submits the clarification will assist in plan interpretation and application.		Rules The rules of this chapter address the operation, maintenance, repair, removal, upgrading, and development and decommissioning of infrastructure undertaken by network utility operators. The rules of this chapter address: • General activities (INF-R1 to INF-R10), including: ○ Infrastructure involving radiofrequency fields (INF-R1), ○ Operation, maintenance, repair and decommissioning of infrastructure (INF-R2), ○ Upgrading (INF-R3), ○ Vehicle access tracks (INF-R4), ○ Temporary infrastructure (INF-R5), ○ Signs for the purpose of infrastructure (INF-R6), ○ Cabinets (INF-R7), ○ Infrastructure located within existing buildings (INF-R8), and ○ Underground pipelines and other structures (INF-R9 and INF-R10), • Aboveground telecommunications, radiocommunications and electricity distribution infrastructure (INF-R11 to INF-R14), • Gas transmission infrastructure (INF-R15 to INF-R16), • Electricity transmission infrastructure (INF-R17 to INF-R19), • Aboveground water infrastructure (INF-R20), • Transport infrastructure (INF-R21 to INF-R24), and • Infrastructure not otherwise provided for (INF-R25). Operating, maintaining, repairing, upgrading, developing and decommissioning of infrastructure is excluded from all provisions rules in area-specific and other district-wide chapter, except for: a. [to be removed due to plan stop requirements] b. Provisions for infrastructure activities which involve trimming or removal of Notable Trees (located in the Notable Trees chapter), c. [to be removed due to plan stop requirements] d. Provisions for Noise, including for infrastructure activities (located in the Noise chapter), and e. Provisions for the Protection of Infrastructure, including from other infrastructure activities (located in the Protection of Infrastructure chapter). [How to use the rule tables – to be removed due to plan stop requirements]			
504.37a – 37b	General — operation, maintenance, repair and decommissioning INF-R4 (Amended as a result of plan exemption) Relief sought: Neutral On the basis the rule does not apply to the National Grid, retain as notified. General — operation, maintenance, repair and decommissioning INF-R4 <i>New vehicle access tracks and extensions to existing vehicle access tracks ancillary to infrastructure</i> <table><tr><td>INF-R4</td><td>New vehicle access tracks and extensions to existing vehicle access tracks ancillary to infrastructure</td></tr></table>	INF-R4	New vehicle access tracks and extensions to existing vehicle access tracks ancillary to infrastructure	Rules are not addressed in the NPS’s. Scope to give effect to NPS-EN: No changes are recommended through this evidence.	Infrastructure S42A Report Recommendation: Accept Recommended amendment: None (noting the rule is amended through the plan exemption)	Accept the S42A Report recommendation noting the rule is retained as supported in the Transpower submission.
INF-R4	New vehicle access tracks and extensions to existing vehicle access tracks ancillary to infrastructure					

Sub point	Summary of Submission		Scope to give effect to NPS-EN	Section 42A Report Recommendation	Response to Section 42A Report			
	<table><tr><td>All zones</td><td> 1. Activity status: Permitted Where: a. Compliance is achieved with: i. INF-S16: Earthworks — Slope, height, depth and location; ii. INF-S17: Earthworks — Area limit, including trenching; and iii. INF-S18: Earthworks — reinstatement. </td></tr><tr><td>All zones</td><td> 2. Activity status: Restricted discretionary Where: a. Compliance is not achieved with INF-R4.1. Matters of discretion are restricted to: 1. The matters in INF-P1 to INF-P6. 2. The degree of non-compliance and matters of discretion of any infringed standard. 3. The functional needs, operational needs, and technical requirements of the infrastructure. 4. Any positive effects that can only be achieved through non-compliance with a rule or standard. 5. For transport network infrastructure, the matters in INF-P7. 6. For National Grid infrastructure, the matters in INF-P8. 7. For infrastructure (other than National Grid infrastructure) located within the Active Street Frontage Overlay, effects on pedestrian amenity, comfort, and safety, and visual amenity. 8. For infrastructure located within a High Natural Hazard Overlay, the change to risks from natural hazards as a result of the activity being undertaken </td></tr></table> Reasoning: On the basis the NESETA regulates access tracks associated with existing National Grid assets (and determines the activity status), Transpower is neutral on the rule. However, should the rule apply to the National Grid, Transpower opposes the non complying activity status within ONF, ONL and ONC within the CE.	All zones	1. Activity status: Permitted Where: a. Compliance is achieved with: i. INF-S16: Earthworks — Slope, height, depth and location; ii. INF-S17: Earthworks — Area limit, including trenching; and iii. INF-S18: Earthworks — reinstatement.	All zones	2. Activity status: Restricted discretionary Where: a. Compliance is not achieved with INF-R4.1. Matters of discretion are restricted to: 1. The matters in INF-P1 to INF-P6. 2. The degree of non-compliance and matters of discretion of any infringed standard. 3. The functional needs, operational needs, and technical requirements of the infrastructure. 4. Any positive effects that can only be achieved through non-compliance with a rule or standard. 5. For transport network infrastructure, the matters in INF-P7. 6. For National Grid infrastructure, the matters in INF-P8. 7. For infrastructure (other than National Grid infrastructure) located within the Active Street Frontage Overlay, effects on pedestrian amenity, comfort, and safety, and visual amenity. 8. For infrastructure located within a High Natural Hazard Overlay, the change to risks from natural hazards as a result of the activity being undertaken			
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504.38	General — operation, maintenance, repair and decommissioning INF-R10 (Amended as a result of plan exemption) Relief sought: Amend Amend the rule to clarify how it applies to new underground structures when it relates to the existing assets. General — operation, maintenance, repair and decommissioning INF-R10 New underground structures other than pipelines <table><tr><td>INF-R10</td><td>New underground structures other than pipelines</td></tr></table>		INF-R10	New underground structures other than pipelines	Rules are not addressed in the NPS’s. Scope to give effect to NPS-EN: No changes are recommended through this evidence beyond that sought in the submission.	Infrastructure S42A Report Recommendation: Accept Recommended amendment: None (noting the rule is amended through the plan exemption)	Accept the S42A Report recommendation noting the rule is retained as supported in the Transpower submission. The application of the rule to new infrastructure (whereas the title to the rule section refers to ‘operation, maintenance, repair and decommissioning’) has clarified the application of the rule and is supported.	
INF-R10	New underground structures other than pipelines							

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	<table><tr><td>All zones</td><td>1. Activity status: Permitted Where: a. Compliance is achieved with: i. INF-S3: Underground infrastructure; ii. INF-S17: Earthworks — Area limit, including trenching; and iii. INF-S18: Earthworks — reinstatement.</td></tr><tr><td>All zones</td><td>2. Activity status: Restricted discretionary Where: a. Compliance is not achieved with INF-R10.1. Matters of discretion are restricted to: 1. The matters in INF-P1 to INF-P6. 2. The degree of non-compliance and matters of discretion of any infringed standard. 3. The functional needs, operational needs, and technical requirements of the infrastructure. 4. Any positive effects that can only be achieved through non-compliance with a rule or standard. 5. For transport network infrastructure, the matters in INF-P7. 6. For National Grid infrastructure, the matters in INF-P8. 7. For infrastructure (other than National Grid infrastructure) located within the Active Street Frontage Overlay, effects on pedestrian amenity, comfort, and safety, and visual amenity. 8. For infrastructure located within a High Natural Hazard Overlay, the change to risks from natural hazards <u>as a result of the activity</u> being undertaken</td></tr></table> Reasoning: The rule is under the general rules section operation, maintenance, repair and decommissioning. It is therefore not clear how the rule applies to new underground structures. Clarification would assist with rule interpretation.	All zones	1. Activity status: Permitted Where: a. Compliance is achieved with: i. INF-S3: Underground infrastructure; ii. INF-S17: Earthworks — Area limit, including trenching; and iii. INF-S18: Earthworks — reinstatement.	All zones	2. Activity status: Restricted discretionary Where: a. Compliance is not achieved with INF-R10.1. Matters of discretion are restricted to: 1. The matters in INF-P1 to INF-P6. 2. The degree of non-compliance and matters of discretion of any infringed standard. 3. The functional needs, operational needs, and technical requirements of the infrastructure. 4. Any positive effects that can only be achieved through non-compliance with a rule or standard. 5. For transport network infrastructure, the matters in INF-P7. 6. For National Grid infrastructure, the matters in INF-P8. 7. For infrastructure (other than National Grid infrastructure) located within the Active Street Frontage Overlay, effects on pedestrian amenity, comfort, and safety, and visual amenity. 8. For infrastructure located within a High Natural Hazard Overlay, the change to risks from natural hazards <u>as a result of the activity</u> being undertaken					
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504.39	Electricity transmission INF-R17 (Amended as a result of plan exemption) Relief sought: Oppose Delete Rule INF-R17 Reasoning: Transpower opposes INF-R17 as there are no existing National Grid assets within the City that are a) not regulated by the NESETA or b) not subject to a designation. There are also no existing assets within ONC, and ONFL areas. The rule is confusing in its application and interpretation. If the intent of the rule is to manage the upgrading of any new future lines, Transpower submits that this is best addressed as part of the resource consent or designation process. In principle Transpower opposes a non complying activity status in that it does not give effect to the NPS-ET or the policy direction within INF-P8 (as sought to be amended by Transpower). Electricity transmission INF-R17 Upgrading of transmission lines above 110kV, including associated support structures (not regulated by the NESETA)	Rules are not addressed in the NPS’s. Scope to give effect to NPS-EN: No changes are recommended through this evidence beyond that sought in the submission.	Infrastructure S42A Report Recommendation: Accept in part Recommended amendment: <table><tr><th colspan="2">Electricity transmission</th></tr><tr><th>INF-R17</th><th>Upgrading of transmission lines above 110kV, including associated support structures (not regulated by the NESETA)</th></tr><tr><td>All zones</td><td>1. Activity status: Permitted Where: a. Not located in the Active Street Frontage Overlay; b. Not located in the High Natural Hazard Overlay; and c. Compliance is achieved with: i. INF-S14: Buildings or structures, other than cabinets or support structures; ii. INF-S16: Earthworks — Slope, height, depth and location; iii. INF-S17: Earthworks — Area limit, including trenching; iv. INF-S18: Earthworks — reinstatement; and v. INF-S21: Upgrading of transmission lines.</td></tr></table>	Electricity transmission		INF-R17	Upgrading of transmission lines above 110kV, including associated support structures (not regulated by the NESETA)	All zones	1. Activity status: Permitted Where: a. Not located in the Active Street Frontage Overlay; b. Not located in the High Natural Hazard Overlay; and c. Compliance is achieved with: i. INF-S14: Buildings or structures, other than cabinets or support structures; ii. INF-S16: Earthworks — Slope, height, depth and location; iii. INF-S17: Earthworks — Area limit, including trenching; iv. INF-S18: Earthworks — reinstatement; and v. INF-S21: Upgrading of transmission lines.	Reject the S42A Report recommendation. The rule relates to Upgrading. Given there are no existing National Grid assets within the City that are: a) not regulated by the NESETA; or b) not subject to a designation, the rule is confusing in its application and interpretation. I recommend deletion of the rule.
Electricity transmission										
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504.40	Electricity transmission INF-R18 (Amended as a result of plan exemption) Relief sought: Amend Amend the default activity status to make the default activity status discretionary at worst INF-R18 New transmission lines including associated support structures, that convey electricity over 110kV or above (Refer rule below)	Rules are not addressed in the NPS's. Scope to give effect to NPS-EN: No changes are recommended through this evidence beyond that sought in the submission, noting that	Infrastructure S42A Report Recommendation: Accept Recommended amendment:	Accept the S42A Report recommendation on the basis the non-complying activity status has been removed.																																																											

Sub point		Summary of Submission		Scope to give effect to NPS-EN		Section 42A Report Recommendation		Response to Section 42A Report																																																																													
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504.41	Electricity transmission INF-R19 (Amended as a result of plan exemption) Relief sought: Amend Amend the default activity to make the default activity status discretionary at worst. Electricity transmission INF-R19 New substations, transformers, switching stations and ancillary buildings for the National Grid	Rules are not addressed in the NPS's. Scope to give effect to NPS-EN: No changes are recommended through this evidence beyond that sought in the submission, noting that	Infrastructure S42A Report Recommendation: Accept in part Recommended amendment:	Accept the S42A Report recommendation on the basis the non-complying activity status and Active Street Frontage overlay reference have been removed.																																																																																	

INF-R19	New substations, transformers, switching stations and ancillary buildings for the National Grid
All zones	1. Activity status: Permitted Where: a. Not located in the Active Street Frontage Overlay; b. Not located in the High Natural Hazard Overlay; and c. Compliance is achieved with: i. INF-S14: Buildings or structures, other than cabinets or support structures; ii. INF-S16: Earthworks — Slope, height, depth and location; iii. INF-S17: Earthworks — Area limit, including trenching; and iv. INF-S18: Earthworks — reinstatement.
All zones	2. Activity status: Restricted discretionary Where: a. Compliance is not achieved with INF-R19.1(c). Matters of discretion are restricted to: 1. The matters in INF-P1 to INF-P6. 2. The degree of non-compliance and matters of discretion of any infringed standard. 3. The functional needs, operational needs, and technical requirements of the infrastructure. 4. Any positive effects that can only be achieved through non-compliance with a rule or standard. 5. For National Grid infrastructure, The matters in INF-P8.
All zones	3. Activity status: Restricted discretionary Where: a. Located in the High Natural Hazard Overlay.
	Matters of discretion are restricted to: 1. The matters in INF-P1 to INF-P6. 2. The functional needs, operational needs, and technical requirements of the infrastructure. 3. Any positive effects that can only be achieved through non-compliance with a rule or standard. 4. For National Grid infrastructure, the matters in INF-P8. 5. For infrastructure located within a High Natural Hazard Overlay, The change to risks from natural hazards as a result of the activity being undertaken
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Reasoning:

Transpower supports the provision of a specific rule for new National Grid assets but does not support the non complying activity status. The non-complying activity status does not give effect to the NPS-ET or the policy directive of INF-P8 (as sought to be amended in the Transpower

the Plan Exemption has amended the rule as notified.

INF-R19	New substations, transformers, switching stations and ancillary buildings for the National Grid
All zones	1. Activity status: Permitted Where: a. Not located in the Active Street Frontage Overlay; b. Not located in the High Natural Hazard Overlay; and c. Compliance is achieved with: i. INF-S14: Buildings or structures, other than cabinets or support structures; ii. INF-S16: Earthworks — Slope, height, depth and location; iii. INF-S17: Earthworks — Area limit, including trenching; and iv. INF-S18: Earthworks — reinstatement.
All zones	2. Activity status: Restricted discretionary Where: a. Compliance is not achieved with INF-R19.1(c). Matters of discretion are restricted to: 1. The matters in INF-P1 to INF-P6.
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504.42	Standards – INF-S14, INF-S16, INF-S17, INF-S18, INF-S19 and INF-S20 (Withdrawn) Relief sought: Support Retain standards INF-S14, INF-S16, INF-S17, INF-S18, INF-S19 and INF-S20 Reasoning: The standards will be relevant for activities regulated by INF-R19 within ONLs and High and Very High NC. On the basis of the default activity status, Transpower is supportive of the standards as notified.	Rules are not addressed in the NPS's. Scope to give effect to NPS-EN: No changes are recommended through this evidence beyond that sought in the submission. noting the Plan Exemption has amended the standards as notified through the deletion of INF-S19 and INF-S20.	Infrastructure S42A Report Recommendation: Accept in part Recommended amendment: Various amendments – refer S42A Report	Accept the S42A Report recommendation on the basis of changes to the rules.																																																																																								
504.43	INF-S21 Upgrading of transmission lines not regulated by the NESETA (Amended as a result of plan exemption) Relief sought: Oppose Delete Standard INF-S21. INF-S21	Rules are not addressed in the NPS's. Scope to give effect to NPS-EN: No changes are recommended through this	Infrastructure S42A Report Recommendation: Reject Recommended amendment: None	Reject the S42A Report recommendation. I do not support the officer recommendation for the retention of INF-S21. The standard relates to rule INF-R17 (which I																																																																																								

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	There are no matters of discretion if the standard is breached.									
	Protection of Infrastructure									
504.44	PINF – Protection of Infrastructure Relief sought: Support in part Retain the provisions in the General Approach, with a minor amendment as follows: PINF – Protection of Infrastructure <i>Adverse effects from land use and development can adversely affect the operation and development of infrastructure and can thereby impact the successful functioning of the city <u>and beyond</u>. This includes direct adverse effects from buildings and structures which have potential to obstruct access to infrastructure as well as reverse sensitivity effects, where an activity sensitive to the effects of infrastructure are established nearby, leading to constraints and additional costs for the operation or development of the infrastructure.</i> Reasoning: Transpower supports the provision of a specific chapter to ‘protect’ infrastructure, and specifically the National Grid. In particular Transpower supports the references and provisions for the National Grid on the basis they give effect to the NPS-ET, and specifically policies 10 and 11. Notwithstanding the support, an amendment is sought to recognise that any adverse effects on infrastructure (in particular linear infrastructure such as the National Grid) can have effects that extend beyond the city.	NPS-ET Policy: Polices 10 and 11 NPS-EN Policy: Policies 11 and 12 Scope to give effect to NPS-EN: No changes are recommended through this evidence beyond that sought in the submission.	Infrastructure S42A Report Recommendation: Accept Recommended amendment: <u>Adverse effects from I-L</u> and use and development can adversely affect the operation and development of infrastructure <u>and regionally significant infrastructure</u> and can thereby impact the successful functioning of the city <u>and beyond</u>. This includes direct adverse effects from buildings and structures which have potential to obstruct access to infrastructure as well as reverse sensitivity <u>effects</u>, where an activity sensitive to the effects of infrastructure are established nearby, leading to constraints and additional costs for the operation or development of the infrastructure. This chapter includes provisions which are intended to protect the Gas Transmission Network and the National Grid from adverse effects arising from land use and development. Other chapters of the District Plan also play a role in managing adverse effects on infrastructure. In particular: • The Earthworks chapter, which controls earthworks near gas transmission infrastructure and the National Grid, • The Hazardous Substances chapter, which includes provisions to protect gas and petroleum infrastructure, • The Noise chapter, which includes provisions to control activities sensitive to noise near state highways and rail corridors, and • The Subdivision chapter, which controls subdivision near gas transmission infrastructure and the National Grid.	Accept the S42A Report recommendation. The changes give effect to the relief sought in the Transpower submission, and wider changes are accepted.						
504.45	PINF-O1 Adverse effects on infrastructure Relief sought: Support Retain the objective as notified. PINF-O1 Adverse effects on infrastructure <i>The adverse effects of subdivision, use, and development do not compromise the operation and development of infrastructure.</i>	NPS-ET Policy: Polices 10 and 11 NPS-EN Policy: Policies 11 and 12 Scope to give effect to NPS-EN:	Infrastructure S42A Report Recommendation: Accept in part Recommended amendment:	Accept the S42A Report recommendation. While the word ‘incompatible’ was not sought in the Transpower submission, I accept its insertion on the basis the policy and rule framework clearly outlines						

Sub point	Summary of Submission	Scope to give effect to NPS-EN	Section 42A Report Recommendation	Response to Section 42A Report				
	Reasoning: Transpower supports the directive language within the objective, noting the directive to ‘do not compromise’ gives effect to NPS-ET Policy 10.	No changes are recommended through this evidence.	<table><tr><td>PINF-O1</td><td>Adverse effects on <u>regionally significant infrastructure and other infrastructure</u></td></tr><tr><td colspan="2">The adverse effects of subdivision, use, and development do not compromise the operation and development of infrastructure. <u>The safety, maintenance, operation, upgrade or development of infrastructure and regionally significant infrastructure is not compromised by incompatible subdivision, land use or development.</u></td></tr></table>	PINF-O1	Adverse effects on <u>regionally significant infrastructure and other infrastructure</u>	The adverse effects of subdivision, use, and development do not compromise the operation and development of infrastructure. <u>The safety, maintenance, operation, upgrade or development of infrastructure and regionally significant infrastructure is not compromised by incompatible subdivision, land use or development.</u>		and articulate what is ‘incompatible’, and the intent of the objective is aligned with the NPS-EN.
PINF-O1	Adverse effects on <u>regionally significant infrastructure and other infrastructure</u>							
The adverse effects of subdivision, use, and development do not compromise the operation and development of infrastructure. <u>The safety, maintenance, operation, upgrade or development of infrastructure and regionally significant infrastructure is not compromised by incompatible subdivision, land use or development.</u>								
504.46	<i>PINF-P3 Adverse effects on the National Grid</i> Relief sought: Amend Retain the policy as notified. <i>PINF-P3 Adverse effects on the National Grid</i> <i>Protect the safe and efficient operation, maintenance and repair, upgrading and development of the National Grid from adverse effects by:</i> <i>Avoiding land uses (including Activities sensitive to the National Grid and any increase in their scale and intensity) and buildings and structures within the National Grid Yard that may directly affect or otherwise compromise the National Grid,</i> <i>Avoiding reverse sensitivity effects on the National Grid,</i> <i>Maintaining ongoing access to National Grid conductors and support structures for maintenance and upgrading works, and</i> <i>Achieving compliance with the New Zealand Electrical Code of Practice for Electrical Safe Distances (NZECP 34:2001).</i> Reasoning: Transpower supports the provision of a separate National Grid specific policy to give effect to the NPS-ET (and specifically Policies 10 and 11). NPS-ET Policies 10 and 11 are to be read together and reflect the National Grid corridor management approach supported by Transpower throughout NZ.	NPS-ET Policy: Policies 10 and 11 NPS-EN Policy: Policies 11 and 12 Scope to give effect to NPS-EN: Yes. The policy gives effect to both NPS’s. An amendment is sought to clause 2. to give effect to NPS-EN Policy 11(1)(b). This is considered within scope noting the NPS-EN policy 11 contains the same reference/qualifier.	Infrastructure S42A Report Recommendation: Accept Recommended amendment: <table><tr><td>PINF-P3</td><td>Adverse effects on the National Grid</td></tr><tr><td colspan="2">Protect the safe and efficient operation, maintenance and repair, upgrading and development of the National Grid from adverse effects by: - Avoiding land uses (including Activities sensitive to the National Grid and any increase in their scale and intensity) and buildings and structures within the National Grid Yard that may directly affect or otherwise compromise the National Grid, - Avoiding reverse sensitivityeffects on the National Grid, - Maintaining ongoing access to National Grid conductors and support structures for maintenance and upgrading works, and - Achieving compliance with the New Zealand Electrical Code of Practice for Electrical Safe Distances (NZECP 34:2001). </td></tr></table>	PINF-P3	Adverse effects on the National Grid	Protect the safe and efficient operation, maintenance and repair, upgrading and development of the National Grid from adverse effects by: - Avoiding land uses (including Activities sensitive to the National Grid and any increase in their scale and intensity) and buildings and structures within the National Grid Yard that may directly affect or otherwise compromise the National Grid, - Avoiding reverse sensitivityeffects on the National Grid, - Maintaining ongoing access to National Grid conductors and support structures for maintenance and upgrading works, and - Achieving compliance with the New Zealand Electrical Code of Practice for Electrical Safe Distances (NZECP 34:2001).		Accept in part the S42A Report recommendation. I support its retention (noting the definition of reserve sensitivity is still outstanding) and also recommend the insertion of an amendment to clause 2. to give effect to NPS-EN Policy 11(1)(b), Recommended text is as follows: 2. <i>Avoiding reverse sensitivity effects on the National Grid, to the extent reasonably possible,</i>
PINF-P3	Adverse effects on the National Grid							
Protect the safe and efficient operation, maintenance and repair, upgrading and development of the National Grid from adverse effects by: - Avoiding land uses (including Activities sensitive to the National Grid and any increase in their scale and intensity) and buildings and structures within the National Grid Yard that may directly affect or otherwise compromise the National Grid, - Avoiding reverse sensitivityeffects on the National Grid, - Maintaining ongoing access to National Grid conductors and support structures for maintenance and upgrading works, and - Achieving compliance with the New Zealand Electrical Code of Practice for Electrical Safe Distances (NZECP 34:2001).								
504.47	Rules: Relief sought: Support Retain the introductory text to the rules section. Reasoning: Transpower supports the clarification as to the application of the rules within this chapter, as it will assist with plan interpretation and application. In particular Transpower supports the provisions relating to earthworks and subdivision within proximity of the National Grid.	Rules are not addressed in the NPS’s. Scope to give effect to NPS-EN: No changes are recommended through this evidence.	Infrastructure S42A Report Recommendation: Accept Recommended amendment: None	Accept the S42A Report recommendation noting in its submission Transpower sought retention of the introductory text as notified.				
504.48	<i>PINF-R3 Activities in the National Grid Yard</i> Relief sought: Amend Amend the rule as follows: <i>PINF-R3 Activities in the National Grid Yard</i> <i>All Zones:</i> Activity status: Permitted Where: <i>a. The activity is not one of the following:</i>	Rules are not addressed in the NPS’s. Scope to give effect to NPS-EN: No changes are recommended through this evidence.	Infrastructure S42A Report Recommendation: Reject Recommended amendment: None	Accept the reasoning and S42A Report recommendation to reject the submission point relief. I agree the sought activity is already captured by the rule and no change is				

Sub point	Summary of Submission	Scope to give effect to NPS-EN	Section 42A Report Recommendation	Response to Section 42A Report

Sub point	Summary of Submission	Scope to give effect to NPS-EN	Section 42A Report Recommendation	Response to Section 42A Report				
	b. Compliance is achieved with PINF-S1: Setbacks and separation distances for buildings and structures located within the National Grid Yard. Note: Compliance with the New Zealand Electrical Code of Practice for Electrical Safe Distances (NZECP34:2001) is mandatory under the Electricity Act 1992. All activities regulated by NZECP34:2001, including buildings, structures, earthworks, and the operation of mobile plant, must comply with that regulation. All Zones: 2. Activity status: Non-complying Where: a. Compliance is not achieved with PINF-R4.1; <u>or</u> b. <u>Establishing activities sensitive to the National Grid in an existing building or a new building that involves an increase in the building height or footprint, or within a new building; or</u> c. <u>Wintering barns, Commercial greenhouses, Immoveable protective canopies, Produce packing facilities, Milking sheds; or</u> d. <u>Buildings or structures for the handling or storage of Class 1-4 hazardous substances with explosive or flammable intrinsic properties (except that this does not apply to the accessory use and storage of hazardous substances in domestic scale quantities); or</u> e. <u>Any building or structure not otherwise provided for.</u> Notification: An application under this rule is precluded from being publicly notified in accordance with section 95A of the RMA. Notice of any application for resource consent under this rule must be served on Transpower New Zealand Limited in accordance with Clause 10(2)(i) of the Resource Management (Forms, Fees, and Procedure) Regulations 2003. Reasoning: For the reasons outlined in relation to PINF-R3, Transpower supports PINF-R4 on the basis it gives effect to Policy 10 and Policy 11 of the NPS-ET. Notwithstanding the support for the rule, amendments are sought as follows: - To clarify network utilities are as defined in the RMA, and - Provide a clear suite of non-complying activities that will assist in plan interpretation and application and remove any avoidance of doubt. Given the specific nature of the National Grid Yard rules and significance of the National Grid, the clarification is considered beneficial and prudent.		<table><tr><td>All Zones</td><td> 1. Activity status: Permitted Where: a. The building or structure is for one of the following: i. For the purpose of network utility operations or any part of electricity generation that connects to the National Grid, or ii. A non-habitable farm or horticulture structure or building or a stockyard, or iii. A fence, or iv. An accessory building that is associated with an existing residential activity and is less than 10m² in area and a maximum height of 2.5m above ground level, or v. Alterations to an existing building or structure that is used for activities sensitive to the National Grid and which does not increase the building or structure height or footprint, and b. Compliance is achieved with PINF-S1: Setbacks and separation distances for buildings and structures located within the National Grid Yard. Note: Compliance with the New Zealand Electrical Code of Practice for Electrical Safe Distances (NZECP34:2001) is mandatory under the Electricity Act 1992. All activities regulated by NZECP34:2001, including buildings, structures, earthworks, and the operation of mobile plant, must comply with that regulation. </td></tr><tr><td>All Zones</td><td> 2. Activity status: Non-complying Where: a. Compliance is not achieved with PINF-R4.1 Notification: An application under this rule is precluded from being publicly notified in accordance with section 95A of the RMA. Notice of any application for resource consent under this rule must be served on Transpower New Zealand Limited in accordance with Clause 10(2)(i) of the Resource Management (Forms, Fees, and Procedure) Regulations 2003. </td></tr></table>	All Zones	1. Activity status: Permitted Where: a. The building or structure is for one of the following: i. For the purpose of network utility operations or any part of electricity generation that connects to the National Grid, or ii. A non-habitable farm or horticulture structure or building or a stockyard, or iii. A fence, or iv. An accessory building that is associated with an existing residential activity and is less than 10m² in area and a maximum height of 2.5m above ground level, or v. Alterations to an existing building or structure that is used for activities sensitive to the National Grid and which does not increase the building or structure height or footprint, and b. Compliance is achieved with PINF-S1: Setbacks and separation distances for buildings and structures located within the National Grid Yard. Note: Compliance with the New Zealand Electrical Code of Practice for Electrical Safe Distances (NZECP34:2001) is mandatory under the Electricity Act 1992. All activities regulated by NZECP34:2001, including buildings, structures, earthworks, and the operation of mobile plant, must comply with that regulation.	All Zones	2. Activity status: Non-complying Where: a. Compliance is not achieved with PINF-R4.1 Notification: An application under this rule is precluded from being publicly notified in accordance with section 95A of the RMA. Notice of any application for resource consent under this rule must be served on Transpower New Zealand Limited in accordance with Clause 10(2)(i) of the Resource Management (Forms, Fees, and Procedure) Regulations 2003.	Hearing Stream One ¹ . On the basis the definition of ‘Construction’ is amended ² as recommended to make it clear construction includes relocated buildings, I accept the recommended change.
All Zones	1. Activity status: Permitted Where: a. The building or structure is for one of the following: i. For the purpose of network utility operations or any part of electricity generation that connects to the National Grid, or ii. A non-habitable farm or horticulture structure or building or a stockyard, or iii. A fence, or iv. An accessory building that is associated with an existing residential activity and is less than 10m² in area and a maximum height of 2.5m above ground level, or v. Alterations to an existing building or structure that is used for activities sensitive to the National Grid and which does not increase the building or structure height or footprint, and b. Compliance is achieved with PINF-S1: Setbacks and separation distances for buildings and structures located within the National Grid Yard. Note: Compliance with the New Zealand Electrical Code of Practice for Electrical Safe Distances (NZECP34:2001) is mandatory under the Electricity Act 1992. All activities regulated by NZECP34:2001, including buildings, structures, earthworks, and the operation of mobile plant, must comply with that regulation.							
All Zones	2. Activity status: Non-complying Where: a. Compliance is not achieved with PINF-R4.1 Notification: An application under this rule is precluded from being publicly notified in accordance with section 95A of the RMA. Notice of any application for resource consent under this rule must be served on Transpower New Zealand Limited in accordance with Clause 10(2)(i) of the Resource Management (Forms, Fees, and Procedure) Regulations 2003.							

¹ [file:///C:/Users/paulinew/Downloads/Hearing%201%20-%20s42A%20Report%20\(with%20appendices\)%20-%2026%20March%202026%20\(3\).pdf](file:///C:/Users/paulinew/Downloads/Hearing%201%20-%20s42A%20Report%20(with%20appendices)%20-%2026%20March%202026%20(3).pdf) Para 476 – 484

²

Construction or construction activity	means undertaking or carrying out any of the following <u>construction</u> <u>building</u> works:
	- erection of new buildings and structures; - alterations and additions to existing buildings or structures; 3. demolition or removal of an existing building or structure, including total or partial demolition or removal; and - relocation of a building; <u>or</u> <u>construction of infrastructure and network utilities.</u>

Sub point	Summary of Submission	Scope to give effect to NPS-EN	Section 42A Report Recommendation	Response to Section 42A Report				
504.50	Standards PINF-S1 Setbacks and separation distances for buildings and structures located within the National Grid Yard Relief sought: Amend Amend the standards within PINF-S1 as follows: <i>Standards</i> <i>PINF-S1 Setbacks and separation distances for buildings and structures located within the National Grid Yard</i> <i>There is no minimum setback for buildings and structures which are part of the National Grid.</i> <i>Fences not exceeding a maximum height of 2.5m above ground level must be setback a minimum 6m from the outer visible edge of a foundation of a National Grid support structure.</i> <i>All other buildings and structures must be setback a minimum 12m from the outer visible edge of a foundation of a National Grid support structure. <u>except where it is:</u></i> <u><i>is a network utility or any part of electricity infrastructure that connects to the National Grid; or</i></u> <u><i>a building or structure where Transpower has given written approval in accordance with clause 2.4.1 of NZECP34: 2001.</i></u> <i>Buildings and structures must not permanently physically impede vehicular access to a National Grid support structure.</i> <i>All buildings and structures in the National Grid Yard must comply with the New Zealand Electrical Code of Practice for Safe Electrical Distances (NZECP 34:2001) ISSN 0114-0663 under all transmission line and building operating conditions.</i> <i>There are no matters of discretion if the standard is breached.</i> Reasoning: Notwithstanding the support for PINF-S1, Transpower seeks a confined amendment to clause 3 to clarify: that network utilities can be located closer than 12m to the support structure, and that any permitted buildings and structures can be located closer than 12m where Transpower has provided its written approval.	Rules are not addressed in the NPS's. Scope to give effect to NPS-EN: No changes are recommended through this evidence.	Infrastructure S42A Report Recommendation: Accept Recommended amendment: None Standards <table><tr><th>PINF-S1</th><th>Setbacks and separation distances for buildings and structures located within the National Grid Yard</th></tr><tr><td colspan="2"> - There is no minimum setback for buildings and structures which are part of the National Grid. </td></tr></table> - Fences not exceeding a maximum height of 2.5m above ground level must be setback a minimum 6m from the outer visible edge of a foundation of a National Grid support structure. - All other buildings and structures must be setback a minimum 12m from the outer visible edge of a foundation of a National Grid support structure. <u>except where it is:</u> <u>is a network utility or any part of electricity infrastructure that connects to the National Grid; or</u> <u>a building or structure where Transpower has given written approval in accordance with clause 2.4.1 of NZECP 34: 2001.</u> - Buildings and structures must not permanently physically impede vehicular access to a National Grid support structure. - All buildings and structures in the National Grid Yard must comply with the New Zealand Electrical Code of Practice for Safe Electrical Distances (NZECP 34:2001) ISSN 0114-0663 under all transmission line and building operating conditions. There are no matters of discretion if the standard is breached.	PINF-S1	Setbacks and separation distances for buildings and structures located within the National Grid Yard	There is no minimum setback for buildings and structures which are part of the National Grid.		Accept the S42A Report recommendation. The changes give effect to the relief sought in the Transpower submission.
PINF-S1	Setbacks and separation distances for buildings and structures located within the National Grid Yard							
There is no minimum setback for buildings and structures which are part of the National Grid.								
	Planning Maps							
504.100a – 100c	District Plan maps generally Relief sought: Support Retain the mapping of the National Grid on the planning maps but amend as follows: - Mapping of the centreline only; - That that the Grid be identified as 'National Grid lines' on the planning maps; and The map layer be coloured so it is easier to detect and identify. Reasoning: The National Grid is identified by two features on the planning maps, as follows: - National Grid Yard (Informational) - National Grid Subdivision Corridor (Informational)	NPS-ET Policy: Policy 11 NPS-EN Policy: Policy 12(1)(a) Scope to give effect to NPS-EN: No changes are recommended through this evidence.	Infrastructure S42A Report Recommendation: Accept Recommended amendment: None	Accept the recommendation as outlined in evidence.				

Sub point	Summary of Submission	Scope to give effect to NPS-EN	Section 42A Report Recommendation	Response to Section 42A Report
	Transpower supports the mapping of the National Grid, acknowledging the mapping is 'Informational' only. However it has the following concerns (which are depicted in the screenshot below): - The mapping layer is very hard to distinguish and hard to detect when the zone layer is removed. Only the National Grid Yard layer is detectable when the map is viewed with the aerial basemap provided. - While only informational, Transpower has concerns with the spatial identification of the Yard and Corridor setbacks on the maps as the aerial mapping cannot always be relied upon and the spatial extent as identified does not reflect the centreline. To address the above concerns, Transpower supports the mapping of the centreline only on the planning maps, and that the Grid be identified as 'National Grid lines' on the planning maps. This would also give effect to the National Planning Standards.			

Appendix B

National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks 2008 (“NPS-EN”)
(Amended December 2025)

National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks 2008

Amended December 2025

[Previously National Policy Statement on Electricity Transmission 2008]



Ministry for the
Environment
Manatū Mō Te Taiao



**MINISTRY OF BUSINESS,
INNOVATION & EMPLOYMENT**
HĪKINA WHAKATUTUKI



Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Government

Authority

This National Policy Statement was approved by the Governor-General under section 52(2) of the Resource Management Act 1991 on 10 March 2008, and is published by the Minister for the Environment under section 52(3) of that Act.

This version of the National Policy Statement incorporates the following amendments:

1. amendments made by the Minister for the Environment under section 53(1) of the Resource Management Act 1991 regarding the title, objective and policies.

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Part 1: Preliminary provisions

1.1 Title

- (1) This is the National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks 2008 (previously named National Policy Statement on Electricity Transmission 2008).

1.2 Commencement

- (1) This National Policy Statement came into force on 10 April 2008.
- (2) See [Part 3](#) for timeframes for giving effect to this National Policy Statement.

1.3 Application

- (1) This National Policy Statement applies to electricity network activities, including all electricity transmission and distribution networks and ancillary electricity network activities.
- (2) This National Policy Statement applies across the whole of New Zealand.

1.4 Interpretation

- (1) In this National Policy Statement:

Act means the Resource Management Act 1991

ancillary electricity network activities (ancillary EN activities) mean all supporting and subsidiary activities necessary to provide for the EN and EN assets, including, but not limited to:

- (a) vegetation clearance and tree trimming;
- (b) earthworks and land disturbance;
- (c) construction, maintenance, repair and upgrading of access tracks, accessways, bridges and culverts; and
- (d) construction, maintenance, repair and upgrading of power supply, telecommunication cables and devices

decision-maker means any person exercising functions or powers under the Act

electricity distribution network (EDN) means all assets and activities that provide electricity distribution and that:

- (a) is owned or used by a person or body who is both an electricity distributor and an electricity operator;
- (b) comprise the network of distribution lines, cables (overhead, underground or submarine), switching stations, support structures, substations, transformers, kiosks, cabinets, connections to grid exit points, customer connections, and works used to distribute electricity from the electricity transmission network or generation activities; and
- (c) includes ancillary EN activities

The EDN does not include the electricity transmission network (ETN).

electricity distribution network provider (EDN provider) means an electricity distributor and/or electricity operator

electricity distributor as defined in section 2 of the Electricity Act 1992

electricity network (EN) means the electricity transmission network (ETN) and the electricity distribution network (EDN)

electricity network activities (EN activities) means the construction, operation, maintenance, development, upgrading, replacement, decommissioning or removal of electricity network assets, and includes ancillary EN activities

electricity network assets (EN assets) means the physical components of the EN and any physical components of ancillary EN activities that support operation of the EN

electricity network line (EN line) means EN assets in the form of lines or cables that are used for, or associated with, the overhead, underground or submarine transmission or distribution of electricity, including where attached to a structure or bridge, but does not include an EN substation

electricity network resilience (EN resilience) means the capacity of the EN to absorb and recover from a shock or disruption, or adapt to changing conditions, while retaining an appropriate level of service as determined by the EN provider

electricity operator as defined in section 2 of the Electricity Act 1992

electricity transmission network (ETN) means all assets and activities that provide electricity transmission and that:

- (a) comprise the network of transmission lines, and cables (overhead, underground and submarine, including the high-voltage direct current link), stations and substations, support structures, facilities and works;
- (b) includes ancillary EN activities;
- (c) includes other works necessary to connect grid injection points and grid exit points to convey electricity;
- (d) is owned or used by Transpower New Zealand Limited; and
- (e) is commonly known as the National Grid

The ETN does not include the electricity distribution network (EDN).

functional need has the meaning set out in the National Planning Standards 2019

local authority has the meaning set out in the Act

national environmental standard means a standard prescribed by regulations made under the Act

non-routine electricity network activities (non-routine EN activities) means:

- (a) the upgrading, rebuilding or replacement of, or changes to, EN assets or EN activities that are not defined as routine EN activities; or

- (b) the construction of new EN assets not carried out on or related to EN lines, or at an EN substation, that exist at the time of construction; or
- (c) new connections to electricity generation or demand activities upon request of a third party (other than Transpower New Zealand Limited or an electricity distributor); or
- (d) relocation or undergrounding of assets to enable urban or infrastructure development upon request of a third party (other than Transpower New Zealand Limited or an electricity distributor)

operational need has the meaning set out in the National Planning Standards 2019

routine electricity network activities (routine EN activities) mean:

- (a) activities required for, or associated with, the operation of existing EN assets; or
- (b) activities that replace an existing EN asset with a modern equivalent or substitute, where the replacement will not result in an increase in the nature, scale or intensity of the activity; or
- (c) maintenance, repair and upgrading of existing EN assets necessary to continue to deliver the same or a similar level of service; or
- (d) upgrading of existing EN assets necessary to improve resilience, where the upgrade will not result in an increase in the nature, scale or intensity of the activity; or
- (e) the removal, decommissioning or dismantling of EN assets; or
- (f) all activities identified as a permitted or controlled activity in any national environmental standards for electricity networks or similar standards; and
- (g) related ancillary EN activities to (a)–(f)

sensitive activities mean activities that are susceptible to actual or potential adverse effects (such as noise, vibration, odour, glare or emissions) generated by adjacent or nearby activities. In relation to the EN, this means residential units (including visitor accommodation and retirement accommodation), care facilities, childcare facilities, schools, hospitals, custodial or supervised accommodation where residents are detained on site, papakāinga, marae or place of worship

upgrading means improving the capacity, level of service, efficiency, safety, security, resilience, effectiveness or longevity of existing EN assets and includes the replacement, renewal, addition, expansion and intensification of existing EN assets.

1.5 Incorporation by reference

- (1) Clause 2(1) of Schedule 1AA of the Act does not apply to any material incorporated by reference in this National Policy Statement.

Part 2: Objectives and policies

2.1 Objective

- (1) The national significance of the electricity network is recognised, protected and provided for, so that the network:
 - (a) is upgraded, improved and resilient to provide for the social, economic and cultural wellbeing of present and future generations and their health and safety;
 - (b) is developed and operated in a timely, efficient and ongoing manner while managing adverse effects from or on the EN; and
 - (c) supports achievement of New Zealand's climate change mitigation and renewable energy targets.

2.2 Policies

National significance and benefits of the EN

Policy 1

- (1) Decision-makers on EN activities must:
 - (a) recognise and provide for the national significance of the EN; and
 - (b) provide for the ongoing benefits of the EN to be realised at national, regional and local scales, relative to any localised adverse effects.

Policy 2

- (1) Decision-makers must recognise that the benefits of the EN include:
 - (a) providing for the social, economic and cultural wellbeing of people and communities to meet the needs of present and future generations and their health and safety;
 - (b) providing services that are essential to support human life and the development, growth and functioning of districts, regions, New Zealand and the economy;
 - (c) providing safe, secure, reliable and resilient electricity supply that is responsive to demand from homes, communities and businesses at a local, regional and national scale;
 - (d) efficient storage and transfer of electricity;
 - (e) supporting climate change mitigation and the electrification of the economy, including by:
 - (i) supporting new, expanded or increased renewable electricity generation;
 - (ii) increasing and improving network capacity; and
 - (iii) providing direct connections for industry and commercial development; and
 - (f) enhancing supply of electricity through the ETN by removing points of congestion.

Māori interests

Policy 3

- (1) Decision-makers must recognise and provide for Māori interests in relation to EN activities, including by:
 - (a) taking into account the outcomes of any engagement with tangata whenua on any relevant resource consent, notice of requirement or private plan change;
 - (b) recognising the opportunities tangata whenua may have in developing and operating their own EDN assets at any scale or in partnership;
 - (c) avoiding, where practicable, or otherwise mitigating, the adverse effects of EN activities on sites of significance to Māori; and
 - (d) local authorities:
 - (i) providing opportunities for tangata whenua involvement where EN activities may affect a site of significance or issue of cultural significance to Māori; and
 - (ii) operating in a way that is consistent with any relevant iwi participation legislation or Mana Whakahono ā Rohe.

Site, route and method selection for EN activities

Policy 4

- (1) Decision-makers must recognise that it is the role of Transpower New Zealand Limited or the EDN provider to:
 - (a) determine the purpose, scope, required capacity and technical solution for proposed EN activities; and
 - (b) consider sites, routes and methods, where appropriate, and identify the preferred site, route and method for EN activities, ancillary EN activities and EN assets.

Providing for EN activities and managing the effects of proposed EN activities on the environment

Policy 5

- (1) Decision-makers must provide for routine EN activities to occur in all locations and environments, provided adverse effects on the environment are, where practicable, avoided, remedied or mitigated, while acknowledging the existing nature of the assets.

Policy 6

- (1) In rural environments, decision-makers should ensure that non-routine EN activities seek to avoid adverse effects on outstanding natural features and landscapes, areas of high natural character, and areas of high recreation value and amenity.

Policy 7

- (1) Decision-makers must recognise and provide for the operational need or functional need of the EN to operate in, be located in, or traverse environments, including:
 - (a) the need for EN assets to convey electricity over long distances and in all locations and environments, including:

- (i) within and across urban and rural environments;
- (ii) within the coastal environment, including the coastal marine area; and
- (iii) across jurisdictional boundaries within and across districts and regions; and
- (b) the need for the EN to operate effectively and efficiently as an interconnected system across New Zealand;
- (c) recognition that the ETN and EDN are separate networks that have differing functional needs and operational needs;
- (d) the requirement for regular maintenance and upgrading of the EN due to its age, the need to improve EN resilience, and the need to increase and improve capacity to meet changing demand and supply;
- (e) the need for the EN to connect to electricity generation, and to respond to demand, wherever located; and
- (f) the functional need for the EN to locate in areas at risk from natural hazards, where Transpower New Zealand Limited or the EDN provider have considered and managed potential natural hazard risks.

Policy 8

- (1) When considering the environmental effects of EN activities and ancillary EN activities, including measures to avoid, remedy or mitigate any adverse effects on the environment, decision-makers must:
 - (a) have regard to the extent to which any adverse effects have been avoided, remedied or mitigated through the selection of route, site or method of undertaking the work;
 - (b) recognise that there may be unavoidable adverse effects, regardless of the route, site and method chosen, with adverse effects reduced as far as practicable;
 - (c) provide for EN activities that have an operational need or functional need to be in particular locations and environments, including in areas where section 6 matters apply, even where there may be unavoidable adverse effects on those environments;
 - (d) consider the constraints imposed on achieving those measures by any operational need of the EN;
 - (e) recognise that development, upgrading and improvement of the EN will be necessary to maintain and improve the capacity and delivery of the EN over time;
 - (f) recognise that EN activities may result in changes in amenity that are unavoidable and necessary to achieve an effective, efficient, safe, secure, reliable and resilient EN, and that such changes may not constitute adverse effects under the Act;
 - (g) adopt relevant international standards (that have been adopted for use in New Zealand), national standards, and recognised best practice standards and methodologies to assess and manage adverse effects; and
 - (h) consider the financial and timing implications of mitigation measures and any consent conditions to ensure these are proportionate to the adverse effects of the EN or particular EN activities.

Policy 9

- (1) In urban environments:
 - (a) decision-makers must recognise that the EN forms an essential part of well-functioning urban environments that must be provided for;
 - (b) decision-makers must recognise that the effective and efficient development, operation, maintenance and upgrading of the EN may be appropriate use and development when protecting historic heritage;
 - (c) decision-makers must ensure, wherever practicable, that new EDN lines are placed underground, particularly within new subdivisions, while recognising the financial and technical constraints of undergrounding;
 - (d) decision-makers must ensure that, where development will result in an increase in demand for electricity, sufficient on-site space is provided for EDN assets to meet demand; and
 - (e) local authorities must consult with EDN providers to determine an appropriate method or means for identifying when EDN assets are required to meet increasing demand.

Policy 10

- (1) Transpower or the EDN provider must consider practicable opportunities and measures to reduce the existing adverse effects of EN assets when considering non-routine EN activities, taking into account the functional need, operational need and the financial implications of any measures to reduce adverse effects.

Managing the effects of third parties on the EN

Policy 11

- (1) Decision-makers and local authorities must manage adverse effects of activities undertaken by third parties on the EN, including by:
 - (a) avoiding direct effects on the EN;
 - (b) avoiding reverse sensitivity effects on the EN, to the extent reasonably possible; and
 - (c) ensuring that the effective operation, maintenance, upgrading and development of the EN is not compromised.

Policy 12

- (1) To manage adverse effects of activities undertaken by third parties on the EN:
 - (a) local authorities must identify and map the ETN and other EN assets of national or regional significance within their district, whether or not these are designated;
 - (b) decision-makers, as relevant, must engage with the operator of the ETN to implement the buffer corridors, provided in any national environmental standards for electricity networks or similar standards, within which it can be expected that sensitive activities, buildings, earthworks, subdivision and other activities that have the potential to compromise the ETN are to be generally avoided;
 - (c) decision-makers, as relevant, must engage with EDN providers to implement the provisions of any national environmental standards for electricity networks or similar standards that protect the EDN from adverse effects of third parties;

- (d) decision-makers must ensure that buildings, structures, earthworks, subdivision and land use activities are designed and located to maintain safe distances from, and allow sufficient space for access to, and maintenance, construction, development and upgrading of EN assets; and
- (e) decision-makers must ensure the nature and location of any proposed trees or vegetation to be planted around the EN do not compromise its function and operation.

Long-term spatial and strategic planning for the EN

Policy 13

- (1) When undertaking long-term spatial and strategic planning:
 - (a) local authorities must engage with EN operators to facilitate the medium- to long-term strategic planning for the construction, operation, maintenance and upgrading of the EN;
 - (b) local authorities should utilise regional and district spatial plans and future development strategies as tools to identify existing and future EN asset needs and to make provision for sufficient space for EN assets to be developed as far as practicable;
 - (c) local authorities and decision-makers, as relevant, must recognise that the designation process can facilitate long-term planning for construction, operation, maintenance, upgrading and development of the EN; and
 - (d) local authorities must recognise that not all EN activities and EN assets can be spatially identified in advance.

Electric and magnetic fields

Policy 14

- (1) Local authorities must manage electric or magnetic fields associated with the EN based on recommendations from the World Health Organization monograph Environmental Health Criteria (No 238, Extremely low frequency fields) and International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection 'Guidelines for limiting exposure to time-varying electric and magnetic fields (1 Hz to 100 kHz)' (*Health Physics* 99(6): 818–836; 2010) (ICNIRP Guidelines) or their revisions, or any other applicable New Zealand standards.

Part 3: Timing

3.1 Timing

- (1) Decision-makers must give effect to this National Policy Statement on and from the commencement date.

Made at Wellington on 15 December 2025.

Hon Chris Bishop
For the Minister for the Environment

Explanatory note

This note is not part of the National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks but is intended to indicate its general effect.

This National Policy Statement amends the National Policy Statement on Electricity Transmission 2008.

This National Policy Statement recognises the electricity network as a matter of national significance under the Resource Management Act 1991 (the Act).

New Zealand needs to invest in electricity networks to support growth of the economy, support new housing development, provide for the wellbeing of people and communities, improve resilience and achieve better environmental outcomes, including support for achievement of climate change and renewable energy targets.

This National Policy Statement applies to all decisions made under the Act affecting the development of new electricity networks and the operation, maintenance, renewal and upgrade of existing electricity networks, including all electricity transmission and distribution networks.

This National Policy Statement acts in parallel with the National Policy Statement for Infrastructure 2025 and the National Policy Statement for Renewable Electricity Generation 2011, which have interfaces with, but do not overlap with, this statement.

The National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity 2023 does not apply to the development, operation, maintenance or upgrade of electricity transmission network assets and activities.

No national policy statement overrides another. Each national policy statement must be applied to the relevant decision-making process.

In relation to managing the effects of EN activities, this national policy statement must be read alongside other national direction and local authority planning documents that govern RMA section 6 matters. The protection of section 6 RMA matters is achieved through Policy 6 'seek to avoid' and Policy 7(1) 'functional and operational need' which set a high bar for EN activities to be located in section 6 environments. However, this NPS acknowledges that for linear network infrastructure required to connect to demand and supply, avoidance of all section 6 values along the length of a route is not always possible.

This National Policy Statement is to be applied by all persons exercising powers and functions under the Act. The objective and policies are intended to guide decision-makers in making decisions on the determination of resource consent applications, in considering a requirement for a designation or a heritage order, in considering an application for a water conservation

order and when exercising other relevant powers as required by the Act. The objective and policies will also provide guidance for local authorities in relation to plan making.

In applying this National Policy Statement, local authorities should be aware of their obligations with regard to other legislation, including Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1993, the Local Government Act 2002, Treaty settlement legislation, iwi participation legislation and the Treaty of Waitangi. Local authorities should also be aware of their obligations in any Mana Whakahono ā Rohe agreement they may have with relevant hapū and iwi.

In August 2025, the Government passed an amendment to the Act that introduced a requirement to stop most plan making under the Act, unless it was subject to an exemption. This 'plan stop' amendment suspends the requirement to review plans and policy statements and prevents notification of new plan or policy statement changes or variations until the end of 2027, when the new resource management system will be in effect.

Due to the plan stop amendment, plans and policy statements will not be updated to give effect to this amendment (unless a relevant exemption applies).

For the avoidance of doubt, plan and policy statement content that implements the original National Policy Statement on Electricity Transmission does not require amendment.

This is secondary legislation issued under the authority of the [Legislation Act 2019](#).

Title	National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks 2008
Principal or amendment	N/A
Consolidated version	Yes
Empowering Act and provisions	Resource Management Act 1991, section 52(2)
Replacement empowering Act and provisions	N/A
Maker name	Minister for the Environment
Administering agency	Ministry for the Environment
Date made	10 March 2008
Publication date	13 March 2008
Notification date	13 March 2008
Commencement date	10 April 2008
End date (when applicable)	N/A
Consolidation as at date	15 January 2026
Related instruments	National Policy Statement on Electricity Transmission 2008 [as made] National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Amendment 2025

Appendix C

Amendments sought through this evidence (4 September 2026)

Appendix C

Amendments sought through this evidence (4 September 2026)

Amendments sought through this evidence are shown as **blue** text.

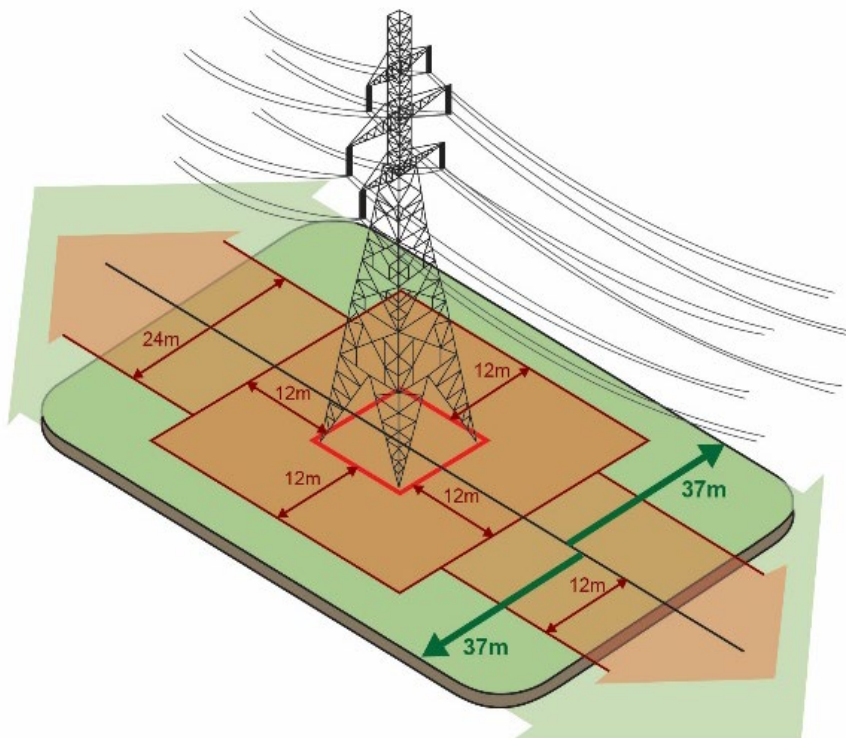
Amendments recommended in the S42A Report and which I accept are shown as **red** text.

Definition National Grid: Amend as follows

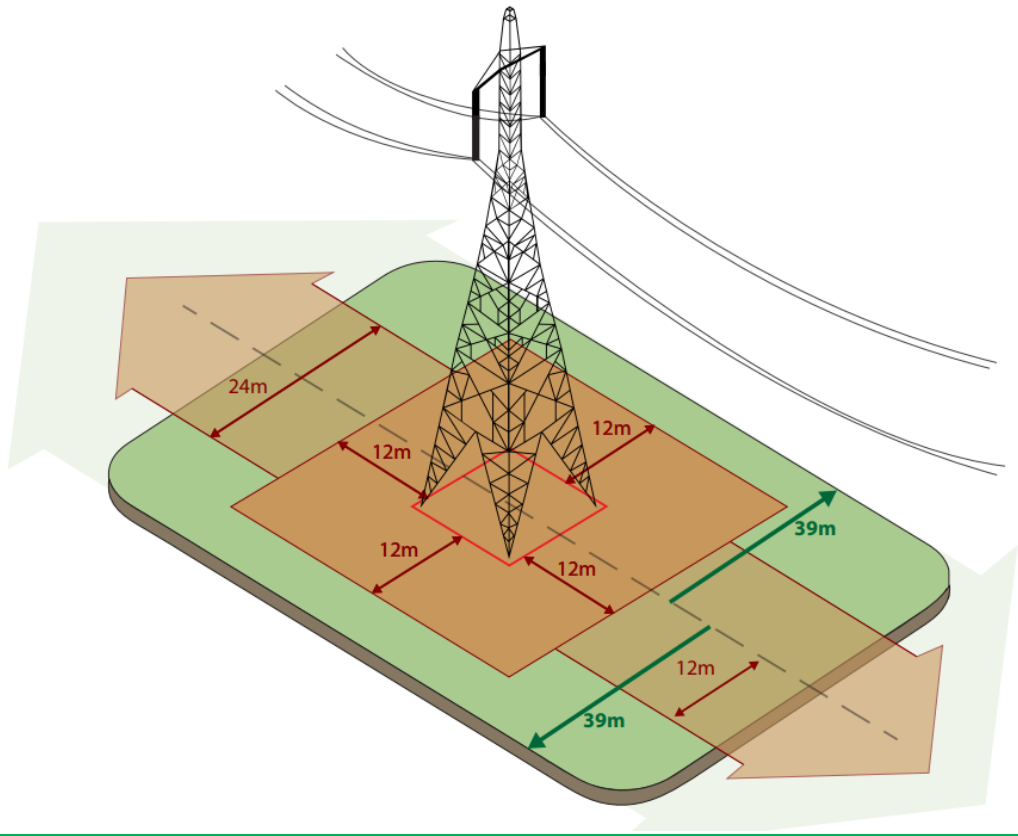
National Grid

has the same meaning as in section 1.4 & electricity transmission network (ETN) of the National Policy Statement ~~on for~~ Electricity Transmission Networks 2008 ~~(as set out below)~~ means the assets used or owned by Transpower NZ Limited.

Definition National Grid Subdivision Corridor: Insert the two additional diagrams.



Steel Lattice Towers 220kV Transmission Line



Steel Lattice Tower 350kV Transmission Line

Definition Transmission Line: Amend as follows

transmission line

has the same meaning as in section 3 of the Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Electricity Transmission [and Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Activities](#)) Regulations 2009 ([Amended May 2026](#)) as set out below

- a. means the facilities and structures used for, or associated with, the overhead or underground transmission of electricity in the National Grid; and*
- b. includes transmission line support structures, telecommunication cables, and telecommunication devices to which paragraph a) applies; but*
- c. does not include an electricity substation..*

Infrastructure Chapter: Introduction Amend as follows

Relationship with other chapters

The Infrastructure chapter includes provisions for operating, maintaining, repairing, developing, upgrading and decommissioning infrastructure. These infrastructure activities are excluded from most rules in other chapters of the District Plan (details on which other rules apply to infrastructure are given at the beginning of the rules section of this chapter). The provisions of the INF chapter should be read in conjunction with the objectives of other district-wide chapters, where relevant. Policies of other district-wide policies are not relevant. The objectives and policies of zone chapters are only relevant where specified within a provision of the INF chapter, however objectives and policies in other chapters may be relevant.

INF-P8: Amend as follows

INF-P8 Upgrading (other than minor upgrading) and developing the National Grid

Provide for upgrading (other than minor upgrading) and development of the National Grid while:

1. ~~a. To the extent practicable Avoiding adverse effects on:~~ Seeking to avoid adverse effects on t
~~The City Centre Zone, and e Existing activities sensitive to the National Grid where located within urban areas,~~

~~b. The identified values of Outstanding Natural Features, and [to be removed due to plan stop requirements]~~

~~c. The identified values of Outstanding Coastal Natural Character Areas. [to be removed due to plan stop requirements]~~

~~2. b. Consider practicable opportunities and measures provided by any substantial upgrades to reduce existing adverse effects of the National Grid, including on activities sensitive to the National Grid. Seeking to avoid adverse effects on:~~

~~a. Existing activities sensitive to the National Grid where located within rural environments,~~

~~b. The identified values of Outstanding Natural Landscapes, and [to be removed due to plan stop requirements]~~

~~c. The identified values of High and Very High Coastal Natural Character Areas. [to be removed due to plan stop requirements]~~

~~3. c. Minimising adverse effects on urban amenity where located within urban areas,~~

~~4. d. c Remedying or mitigating, to the extent practicable, any adverse effects which cannot be avoided or minimised, and~~

~~d. Demonstrating a functional or operational need to locate within the Coastal Environment, and~~

~~e. Avoiding, where practicable, or otherwise mitigating, the adverse effects on sites of significance to Māori; and~~

~~2. 5. Having regard to the following matters while considering any adverse effects:~~

~~a. Enabling upgrades which have minor adverse effects on the environment,~~

~~a. b. Except where clause 1 of this policy applies, considering T~~the constraints arising from the operational needs, functional needs, and technical requirements of the National Grid, on the ability to avoid, remedy of mitigate adverse effects,

~~b. c.~~ Whether any adverse effects have been avoided, remedied or mitigated by the route, site and method selection, and

~~c. d. Opportunities provided by any substantial upgrades to reduce existing adverse effects of the National Grid, including on activities sensitive to the National Grid.~~

3. In the event of conflict, Policy INF-P8 prevails over other provisions in the Plan.

Note:

Upgrading and developing the National Grid is excluded from INF-P14: New or upgraded infrastructure in the Active Street Frontage Overlay.

But must be read in conjunction with the other relevant policies in this chapter.

INF-R17: Delete

INF-R17	Upgrading of transmission lines above 110kV, including associated support structures (not regulated by the NESETA)
- All zones	1. Activity status: Permitted Where: a. Not located in the Active Street Frontage Overlay; b. Not located in the High Natural Hazard Overlay; and c. Compliance is achieved with: i. INF-S14: Buildings or structures, other than cabinets or support structures; ii. INF-S16: Earthworks Slope, height, depth and location; iii. INF-S17: Earthworks Area limit, including trenching; iv. INF-S18: Earthworks reinstatement; and v. INF-S21: Upgrading of transmission lines.
- All zones	2. Activity status: Restricted discretionary Where: a. Located in the Active Street Frontage Overlay; and b. Compliance is achieved with: i. INF-S14: Buildings or structures, other than cabinets or support structures; ii. INF-S16: Earthworks Slope, height, depth and location; iii. INF-S17: Earthworks Area limit, including trenching; iv. INF-S18: Earthworks reinstatement; and v. INF-S21: Upgrading of transmission lines. Matters of discretion are restricted to: 1. The matters in INF-P1 to INF-P6. 2. The functional needs, operational needs, and technical requirements of the infrastructure. 3. Any positive effects that can only be achieved through non-compliance with a rule or standard.

	4. For National Grid infrastructure, the matters in INF-P8. 5. For infrastructure (other than National Grid infrastructure) located within the Active Street Frontage Overlay, effects on pedestrian amenity, comfort, and safety, and visual amenity.
All zones	3. Activity status: Restricted discretionary Where: a. Located in the High Natural Hazard Overlay; and b. Compliance is achieved with: i. INF-S14: Buildings or structures, other than cabinets or support structures; ii. INF-S16: Earthworks — Slope, height, depth and location; iii. INF-S17: Earthworks — Area limit, including trenching; iv. INF-S18: Earthworks — reinstatement; and v. INF-S21: Upgrading of transmission lines. Matters of discretion are restricted to: 1. The matters in INF-P1 to INF-P6. 2. The functional needs, operational needs, and technical requirements of the infrastructure. 3. Any positive effects that can only be achieved through non-compliance with a rule or standard. 4. For National Grid infrastructure, the matters in INF-P8. 5. For infrastructure located within a High Natural Hazard Overlay, the change to risks from natural hazards as a result of the activity being undertaken
All zones	4. Activity status: Discretionary Where: a. Compliance is not achieved with INF-R17.3(c).
All zones	5. Activity status: Discretionary Where: a. Located in the High Natural Hazard Overlay; and b. Compliance is not achieved with INF-R17.3(b).
All zones	6. Activity status: Non-complying Where: a. Located in the Active Street Frontage Overlay; and b. Compliance is not achieved with INF-R17.2(b).

INF-S21: Delete

INF-S21	Upgrading of transmission lines not regulated by the NESETA
All Zones	1. The upgrade must not include any new or relocated support structures. There are no matters of discretion if the standard is breached.

PINF-P3: Amend as follows

PINF-P3 Adverse effects on the National Grid

Protect the safe and efficient operation, maintenance and repair, upgrading and development of the National Grid from adverse effects by:

- 1. Avoiding land uses (including Activities sensitive to the National Grid and any increase in their scale and intensity) and buildings and structures within the National Grid Yard that may directly affect or otherwise compromise the National Grid,*
- 2. Avoiding reverse sensitivity ~~effects~~ on the National Grid, to the extent reasonably possible.*
- 3. Maintaining ongoing access to National Grid conductors and support structures for maintenance and upgrading works, and*
- 4. Achieving compliance with the New Zealand Electrical Code of Practice for Electrical Safe Distances (NZECP 34:2001)*