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4th May 2012

Selwyn District Council
PO Box 90
Rolleston 7643

By email: submissions@selwyn.govt.nz

Dear Sir/Madam

**RE: SUBMISSION BY TRANSPOWER NEW ZEALAND LIMITED ON PROPOSED
PLAN CHANGE 32**

Please find enclosed Transpower New Zealand Limited's Submission on Proposed Plan Change 32 to the Selwyn District Plan.

Please do not hesitate to contact the writer should you require any further information.

Yours faithfully

BURTON CONSULTANTS

Kathryn Lacey

Planner



TRANSPOWER

Submission by Transpower New Zealand Limited on Plan Change 32 (Rural Residential Activities) to the Selwyn District Plan

4th May 2012

Keeping the energy flowing



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APPROVED FOR RELEASE



Mike Hurley – Environmental Advisor
On behalf of the Environment, Strategy and Approvals Manager

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Tel: 04 590 7244

Note: This is not the address for service

**SUBMISSION BY TRANSPOWER NEW ZEALAND LTD ON
PROPOSED PLAN CHANGE 32 (RURAL RESIDENTIAL ACTIVITIES)
TO THE SELWYN DISTRICT PLAN**

1. Introduction to Transpower

- 1.1 Transpower New Zealand Limited (Transpower) is the State Owned Enterprise that plans, builds, maintains and operates New Zealand's high voltage transmission network – the National Grid – which links generators to distribution companies and major industrial users. The grid, which extends from Kaitiaki in the North Island down to Timaru in the South Island, transports electricity throughout New Zealand.
- 1.2 The National Grid comprises some 12,000 km of transmission lines and some 182 substations. This is supported by a telecommunications network of some 300 telecommunication sites, which help link together the components that make up the National Grid.
- 1.3 The following high voltage transmission lines traverse the Selwyn District (refer to Map in Attachment A):
- Benmore - Haywards A - 350kV HVDC double circuit on towers
 - Roxburgh - Islington A - 220kV single circuit on towers
 - Benmore - Islington A - 220kV single circuit on towers
 - Christchurch - Twizel A - 220kV double circuit on towers
 - Islington - Springston A - 66kV double circuit on towers
 - Coleridge - Otira A - 66kV AC double circuit line on poles
 - Coleridge - Brackendale D - 66kV AC double circuit line on poles
 - Brackendale - Hororata A - 66kV AC double circuit line on towers
 - Hororata - Islington E - 110kV AC double circuit line on poles

2. National Policy Statement on Electricity Transmission 2008

The National Policy Statement on Electricity Transmission 2008 (NPSET) confirms the national significance of the resource and the need to appropriately manage activities and development close to it. The NPSET, which was gazetted on 13 March 2008, and took effect on 10 April 2008, establishes national policy direction to recognise the benefits of transmission. The NPSET

recognises the importance of security of supply for the well-being of New Zealand and New Zealanders, and makes it explicit that electricity transmission is to be considered a matter of national significance under the RMA in order to meet the electricity needs of present and future generations of New Zealanders.

The NPSET provides guidance to local government for the management and future planning of the National Grid, in terms of:

- Recognition of the national benefits of transmission;
- Managing the environmental effects of transmission;
- Managing the adverse effects of third parties on the transmission network; and
- Long term strategic planning for transmission assets.

The objective of the NPSET is as follows:

To recognise the national significance of the electricity transmission network by facilitating the operation, maintenance and upgrade of the existing transmission network and the establishment of new transmission resources to meet the needs of present and future generations, while:

- *Managing the adverse environmental effects of the network; and*
- *Managing the adverse effects of other activities on the network.*

The NPSET contains 14 policies. Policy 1 recognises the national benefits of transmission, while policies 2 – 9 guide the management of the environmental effects of transmission. Policies 10 and 11 seek to manage the adverse effects of third party activities on the transmission network. Policy 12 requires District Councils to identify the electricity network on their planning maps. Policy 13 requires decision makers to recognise the designation process as facilitating long-term planning of the infrastructure and Policy 14 requires Regional Councils to include objectives, policies and methods to facilitate long term planning for investment in transmission infrastructure and its integration with land uses.

The preamble to the NPSET makes it clear that decision makers are to be guided by it when drafting plan rules and that it should be taken into account during the hearing and decision making process. Section 75(3) of the RMA requires a District Plan to give effect to a National Policy Statement (NPS).

3. Transpower's Submission on Proposed Plan Change 32 to the Selwyn District Plan

Proposed Plan Change 32 seeks to incorporate more detailed and prescriptive Living 3 Zone objectives and policies to inform the assessment of privately requested plan changes seeking a Living 3 Zone. It also proposes a number of general default rules to manage the effects of rural residential activities within the Greater Christchurch Urban Development Strategy area of the District.

Plan Change 32 replaces Plan Change 17 which sought to rezone 170 rural residential allotments in close to Rolleston, Lincoln, Prebbleton and West Melton to a new "Living 4 Zone". It is noted that no sites will be rezoned as part of this Plan Change.

Transpower does not currently have any assets in the Living Three Zone, as identified on the Selwyn District Planning Maps and therefore Transpower is not seeking the inclusion of rules to provide a transmission buffer corridor through this process. Furthermore, the Council is currently preparing a Plan Change to give effect to the NPSET which will address the issues relating to development within high voltage transmission corridor more comprehensively throughout the entire Selwyn District.

In the meantime, Transpower will be monitoring any private plan changes to rezone land (where a transmission line is present) into the Living 3 Zone as a result of Plan Change 32 to ensure that appropriate controls are included to provide a transmission buffer corridor until such time as the Plan Change to give effect to the NPSET is operative. Transpower does support the recognition of high voltage transmission network in the policy framework for Plan Change 32. Transpower seeks that the following objectives, policies and explanations are retained in the Plan Change without modification:

Retain Objective B3.4.6 and in particular the reference to high voltage transmission lines as follows:

To manage rural residential activities by facilitating a maximum of 200 households in each of the periods to 2016, 2017 to 2026 and 2027 to 2041 through the Living 3 Zone, which are to be located outside the Urban Limits but adjoining Townships in the Greater Christchurch Urban Development Strategy area to:

.....

Avoid significant reverse sensitivity effects with strategic infrastructure, including quarrying activities, Transpower High Voltage Transmission Lines and associated infrastructure, Burnham Military Camp, Council's Rolleston Resource Recovery Park and wastewater treatment plants in Rolleston and Lincoln, West Melton Military Training Area, agricultural research farms associated with Crown Research Institutes and Lincoln University.

Retain the new 5th paragraph to the Explanation and Reasons for the Quality of Environment Objectives and in particular the reference to high voltage transmission lines as follows:

.....
.....It is important to ensure that the provision of rural residential living environments do not impose unnecessary constraints on the use of rural land for primary production and other strategic and nationally important facilitates operating within the eastern area of the District, such as agricultural research farms associated with Crown Research Institutes and Lincoln University, Council's Rolleston Resource Recovery Park and wastewater treatment plants in Lincoln and Rolleston, Transpower High Voltage Transmission lines and associated infrastructure, Burnham Military Camp and West Melton Military Training Area. Additional provisions in the Rural Volume of the District Plan address these issues. The location, timing and number of rural residential households in the Greater Christchurch Urban Development Strategy area must give effect to the Regional Policy Statement.

Retain Policy B3.4.3(b) and in particular the reference to high voltage transmission lines as follows:

Policy B3.4.3 (b)

To facilitate rural residential living environments through the Living 3 Zone. Where new Living 3 Zone areas are proposed, such areas are to adjoin the Urban Urban Limits identified in the Regional Policy Statement and are to meet the following strategic outcomes:

- avoid identified constraints, including strategic and nationally important facilitates operating within the eastern area of the District, such as agricultural research farms associated with Crown Research Institutes and Lincoln University, Council's Rolleston Resource Recovery Park and wastewater treatment plants in Lincoln and Rolleston, Transpower High Voltage Transmission lines and associated infrastructure,

.....

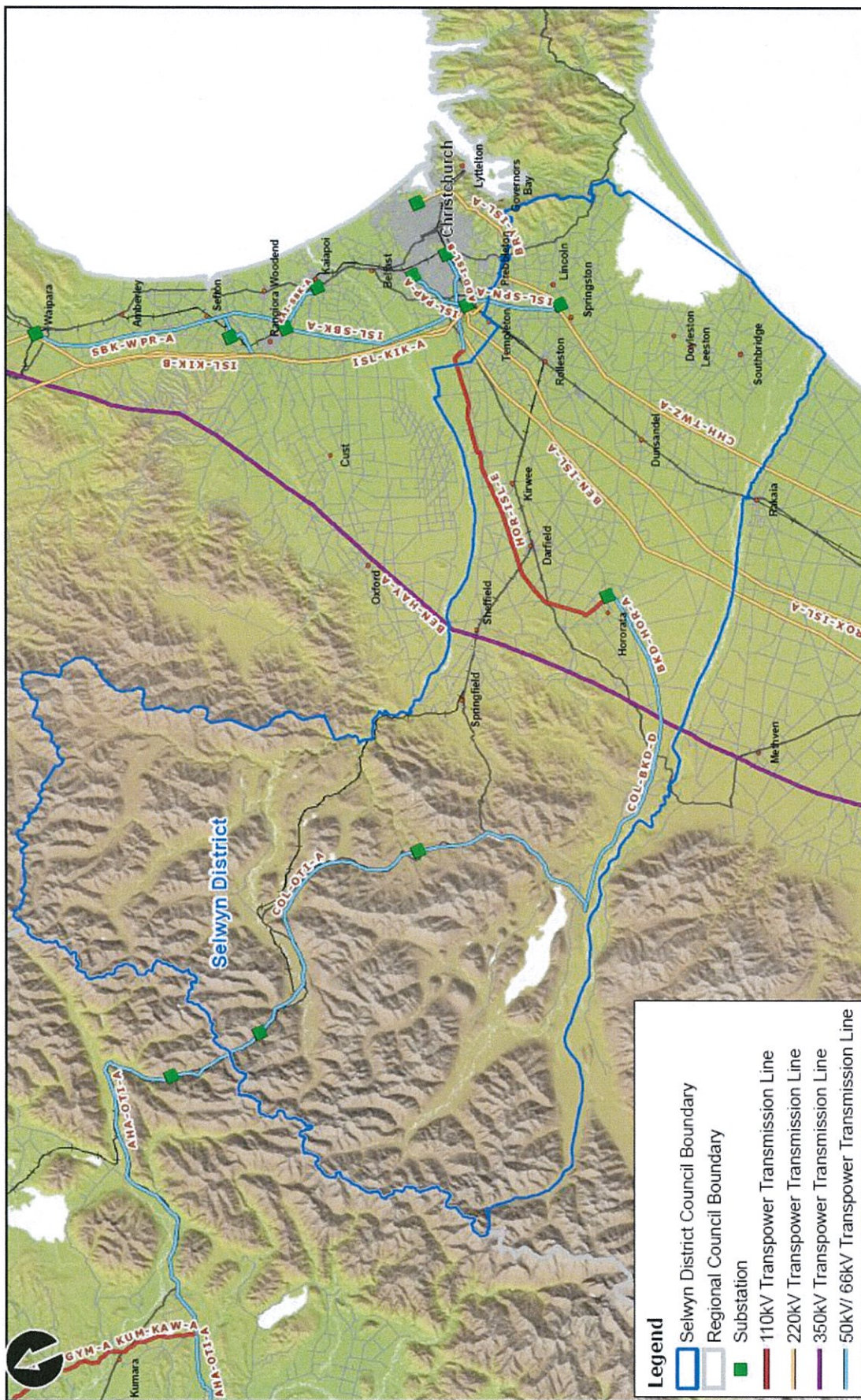
Retain the new 10th paragraph to the Explanation and Reasons for Policy B3.4.3(b) and in particular the reference to high voltage transmission lines as follows:

.....Policy B3.4.3 (b) seeks to avoid amenity conflicts and to protect rural based activities and strategic infrastructure from operating without unnecessary constraint by ensuring rural residential activities are established in appropriate locations and are able to co-exist with activities taking place on neighbouring properties on a long term basis. For example, quarrying, Transpower High Voltage Transmission lines and associated infrastructure, Burnham Military Camp, West Melton Military Training Area, Council's Rolleston Resource Recovery Park and wastewater treatment plants in Lincoln and Rolleston, agricultural research farms associated with the Crown Research Institutes and Lincoln University and other strategic infrastructure, whose on going operations are vital on a local, regional and national basis.....

4. TRANSPOWER WISHES TO BE HEARD IN SUPPORT OF THIS SUBMISSION.

5. IF OTHERS MAKE A SIMILAR SUBMISSION, TRANSPOWER WOULD NOT BE PREPARED TO CONSIDER PRESENTING A JOINT CASE AT ANY HEARING.

Attachment A
Transpower Assets in the Selwyn District



Legend

- Selwyn District Council Boundary
- Regional Council Boundary
- Substation
- 110kV Transpower Transmission Line
- 220kV Transpower Transmission Line
- 350kV Transpower Transmission Line
- 50kV/66kV Transpower Transmission Line

TRANSPOWER

Projection: NZTM 2000 Scale: 1:658,782 Plan Size: A4L

Transpower Assets located within the Selwyn District Council Boundary

0 4 8 16 24 32 Kilometers

Prepared by: **ems** energy market services

16/06/2009

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