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District Plan Hearings Panel
c/o Queenstown Lakes District Council
Private Bag 50072
Queenstown 9348

8 March 2017

Attention: District Plan Hearings Panel

Dear Hearings Panel

Proposed Queenstown Lakes District Plan: Hearing Stream 10 - Chapter 2 Definitions

Transpower New Zealand Limited ("Transpower") have made a submission, and further submissions, on the Proposed Queenstown Lakes District Plan (submitter number 805 and submitter 1301). Transpower's submission requested amendments to definitions within the Proposed District Plan. These amendments were addressed in evidence presented on behalf of Transpower in Hearing Stream 5 (Chapter 30 Utilities and Energy). In order to avoid unnecessary repetition of earlier evidence, Transpower does not wish appear during Hearing Stream 10, rather Transpower wishes to particularly draw the Hearing Panel's attention to the earlier evidence in relation to the definitions of 'minor upgrading' and 'earthworks within the National Grid Yard'.

Minor Upgrading

The relief sought by Transpower is to ensure that definition gives effect to the National Policy Statement on Electricity Transmission 2008 and is consistent with the Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Electricity Transmission Activities) Regulations 2009 is achieved. Transpower seeks that 'minor upgrading' includes a 15% increase to the height of support structures and considers that such a minor increase is consistent with the regulatory approach in the NESETA and enables compliance with the New Zealand Electrical Code of Practice for Electrical Safe Distances (NZECP34:2001). This matter is addressed in paragraphs 38 to 41 inclusive, of the Statement of Evidence in Chief of Ainsley Jean McLeod on behalf of Transpower New Zealand Limited, dated 2 September 2016 for Chapter 30 Utilities and Energy.

Earthworks within the National Grid Yard

Transpower's submission seeks the inclusion of a new definition for 'Earthworks within the National Grid Yard' so that the types of earthworks that are controlled by NZECP34:2001 and Section 237 of the Public Works Act 1981, where they are in the vicinity of the National Grid, are similarly and consistently controlled by the rules that manage earthworks near the National Grid in the District Plan. Transpower's concern is that reliance on the 'earthworks' definition may exclude certain earthworks that are inappropriate near the National Grid for instance the digging of holes for the planting of trees. The Section 42A Report has concluded that the notified rules appropriately addressed earthworks within the National Grid Yard and the exempt activities would be captured under the relevant standards and rules. This approach means exempt activities must fall into the definition of 'structure' in order to be captured by the appropriate standards. Tree planting would not fit the definition of 'structure' and therefore a regulatory gap would arise. This matter is addressed in paragraphs 73 to 75 inclusive, of the Statement of Evidence in Chief of Ainsley Jean McLeod on behalf of Transpower New Zealand Limited, dated 2 September 2016 for Chapter 30 Utilities and Energy.

Should you have any further queries, please contact the undersigned.

Yours sincerely



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Planner

on behalf of

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