

# Connection Management Framework – Process Document

V3.0 22 December 2025





# Contents page

1. Introduction	3
2. Transpower's connection process	5
3. Connection Management Framework	7
4. Governance and refundability	12
5. Useful links	13
6. Appendix 1: Application Form	14
7. Appendix 2: Guidance Notes	27

# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Purpose of this document

This document sets out the process for Transpower's Connection Management Framework (CMF) for managing the connection of generation or energy storage projects to the National Grid. It includes the most up-to-date Application form and guidance notes in the appendices.

## 1.2 Terms used in this document

In this document, unless the context requires otherwise:

"Access and Occupation Process (A&O Process)" means the process for installing new structures and/or equipment in Schedule 6 of the Default Transmission Agreement Template (as defined in the Electricity Industry Participation Code 2010);

"Application" means a completed Application Form and any supplementary information requesting connection of new generation or storage to the power system;

"Application Fee" means the fee the applicant agrees to pay if the associated Application is accepted by Transpower;

"Application Form" means the form attached as Appendix 1 to this document;

"EDB" means Electricity Distribution Business;

"Guidance Notes" means the guiding information attached as Appendix 2 to this document, to be used for completing the Application Form;

"Investigation" means a Transpower resourced project under a Transpower Services Agreement to investigate connection to the transmission grid;

"Milestone" means an agreed customer deliverable within a Transpower contract, typically related to an Applicant's project;

"Pipeline" means the list of Transpower connection projects in progress or requested, as published on Transpower's [connection-enquiry-information](#) webpage.

## 1.3 The context of the CMF

In accordance with our *Whakamana i te Mauri Hiko* work that began in 2018<sup>1</sup>, we recognise the role Transpower plays in enabling decarbonisation targets to be met. Our customer connections process is a key enabler to our effectiveness in delivering on this objective.

Since 2019, Transpower has seen a significant increase in connection enquiries. In June 2022 Transpower identified that the previous model, under which a very small number of grid connection enquiries could be managed as and when they were received in a relatively informal fashion, was no longer fit for purpose.

Transpower consulted with industry in June 2022 on the introduction of the CMF and consulted with stakeholders again in September 2022 to refine the proposal. The final feedback was used to implement the CMF in November 2022.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.transpower.co.nz/about-us/our-strategy/whakamana-i-te-mauri-hiko-empowering-our-energy-future>

In March 2024 Transpower consulted with industry following a commitment to review the CMF after 12 months of operation. This review suggested improvements to the process and welcomed feedback from industry on the proposed changes.

This document sets out the process following the latest round of feedback<sup>2</sup>. It supersedes the previous CMF related documents:

- Connection Management Framework Decision Document
- Connections Management Framework Process Slide Pack
- Generation and Storage Connection Application Form v1
- Application Form Guidance Notes v2.

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<sup>2</sup> This document supersedes the Connection Management Framework Process Slide Pack (V1.0 – 3/11/2022), Generation and Storage Connection Application Form (V1.0 – 1/11/2022) and Application Form Guidance Notes (V2.0 – 12/1/2023).

## 2. Transpower's connection process

### 2.1 Open access

The electricity market in New Zealand is designed to be competitive, encouraging economic investment in new generation to compete against, and potentially replace existing generation. As a regulated monopoly Transpower operates an open access model to the transmission grid.

Transpower will build any connection that meets Transpower standards and is technically and logistically feasible (e.g. has property rights secured and is consented), where the developer covers all incremental costs associated with the connection, and our ability to operate the power system for the benefit of New Zealand is not compromised. Transpower does not consider the economics of a connection and does not provide advice on whether a project will be financially viable.

With open access there are no guaranteed rights to transmission capacity beyond the use of the dedicated Transpower assets forming the direct connection to the power system.

### 2.2 Connect and manage

The overall connection process is based on a 'connect and manage' approach. Figure 1 illustrates the process from the initial enquiry to Transpower through to a commissioned connection for a standard Transpower-led connection.

The CMF includes an Application stage to manage generation and energy storage connections. To ensure Transpower's resources are managed efficiently, applicants must complete an Application Form and provide relevant information to demonstrate they have undertaken adequate due diligence and project development activity.

The process is designed to be neutral to generation type and size, applicant, and location, and to apply a first-ready, first-served basis to managing Applications in a way that is both objective and administratively simple, while recognising the varying nature of generation connections.

Except as indicated in the Application Form / Guidance Notes all information customers provide to Transpower for the purposes of the CMF will be kept confidential.

Pipeline stage	Contractual arrangements	Notes
1 Initial enquiry	Contract: N/A Response time: 1-2 days Cost: \$0	Transpower KPI: Concept Assessment proposal presented within 5 days of receipt of completed request form
2 Concept Assessment	Contract: <b>Services Agreement</b> Duration: weeks (longer by agreement for complex requests) Indicative cost: \$40k	Transpower KPI: Concept Assessment report delivered in 7 to 9 weeks (dependent on enquiry volumes)
3 Application	Contract: <b>Generation Connection Application</b> Duration: weeks Indicative cost: \$50k to \$400k	Transpower KPI: Assessed by the 10 <sup>th</sup> business day of the following month
4 Investigation	Contract: <b>Services Agreement</b> Duration: weeks to months Indicative cost: \$40k to \$2m	Transpower KPI: 90% of investigations delivered to date advised
5 Delivery (Detailed Design)	Contract: <b>Transpower Works Agreement (TWA)</b> Duration: months to years Indicative cost: \$200k to \$50m	Transpower KPI: 90% of build projects delivered to date advised
6 Delivery (Build & Commission)	Contract: <b>as per TWA</b> Delivery date: as per schedule Cost: included in TWA	Transpower KPI: as per TWA schedule
7 Connection commissioned	Contract: <b>Default Transmission Agreement (DTA)</b> Codified process Cost: \$0	Transpower KPI: as per Part 12 of the Code
8 Operations & Maintenance	Funding: <b>Transpower regulated connection opex</b> Schedule: as per asset health requirements Cost: TPM connection asset <u>opex</u> charges	Transpower KPIs: as per Service Measures Report
9 Replacement & Refurbishment	Funding: <b>Transpower regulated connection capex</b> Schedule: as per asset health requirements Cost: TPM connection asset capex charges	Transpower KPIs: as per Service Measures Report
10 Enhancement & Development	Contract: <b>TWA "incremental investment"</b> Duration: months to years Indicative cost: \$200k to \$10m	Transpower KPI: 90% delivered to date advised

## 3. Connection Management Framework

The following information explains the CMF process from the Application stage through to the delivery stage.

### 3.1 Eligibility

The CMF process applies to onshore generation connections of up to 500 MW requiring new Transpower assets or upgrades.

Connections larger than 500 MW and offshore projects will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

The CMF excludes distributed generation projects where the EDB confirms it can connect the new generation with no more than minor new or upgraded Transpower assets or deployment of Transpower resources. This includes where all thermal, harmonic, dynamics and voltage issues can be managed within the EDB's existing operating limits and allocations. Projects connecting to an EDB that do require Transpower involvement in any of these issues, need to apply via the CMF. We recommend EDBs discuss this with their Transpower Relationship Manager.

All generation and storage projects wishing to connect directly to Transpower need to apply via the CMF.

### 3.2 Overview

The CMF requires customers to complete an Application for Transpower's consideration prior to being placed in the Pipeline. Applicants will need to:

- provide evidence of project readiness via an Application Form;
- agree to Transpower publishing certain project information on its website; and
- if their Application is accepted, pay the first \$50,000 (plus GST) of an Application Fee.

Once in the Pipeline, projects wait for Transpower's resource to become available. The remainder of the Application Fee will be invoiced three months before Transpower's project resources are estimated to become available, and must be paid by the invoice due date to remain in the Pipeline. Provided the Application Fee is paid, and once resourced, an Investigation starts. Applicants must meet project Milestones to demonstrate progress during the Investigation and delivery stages.

### 3.3 Application

Applicants will need to submit information on a project by completing the Application Form in Appendix 1. The Application Form is designed to elicit sufficient information to assure Transpower that a project is ready to progress to Investigation.

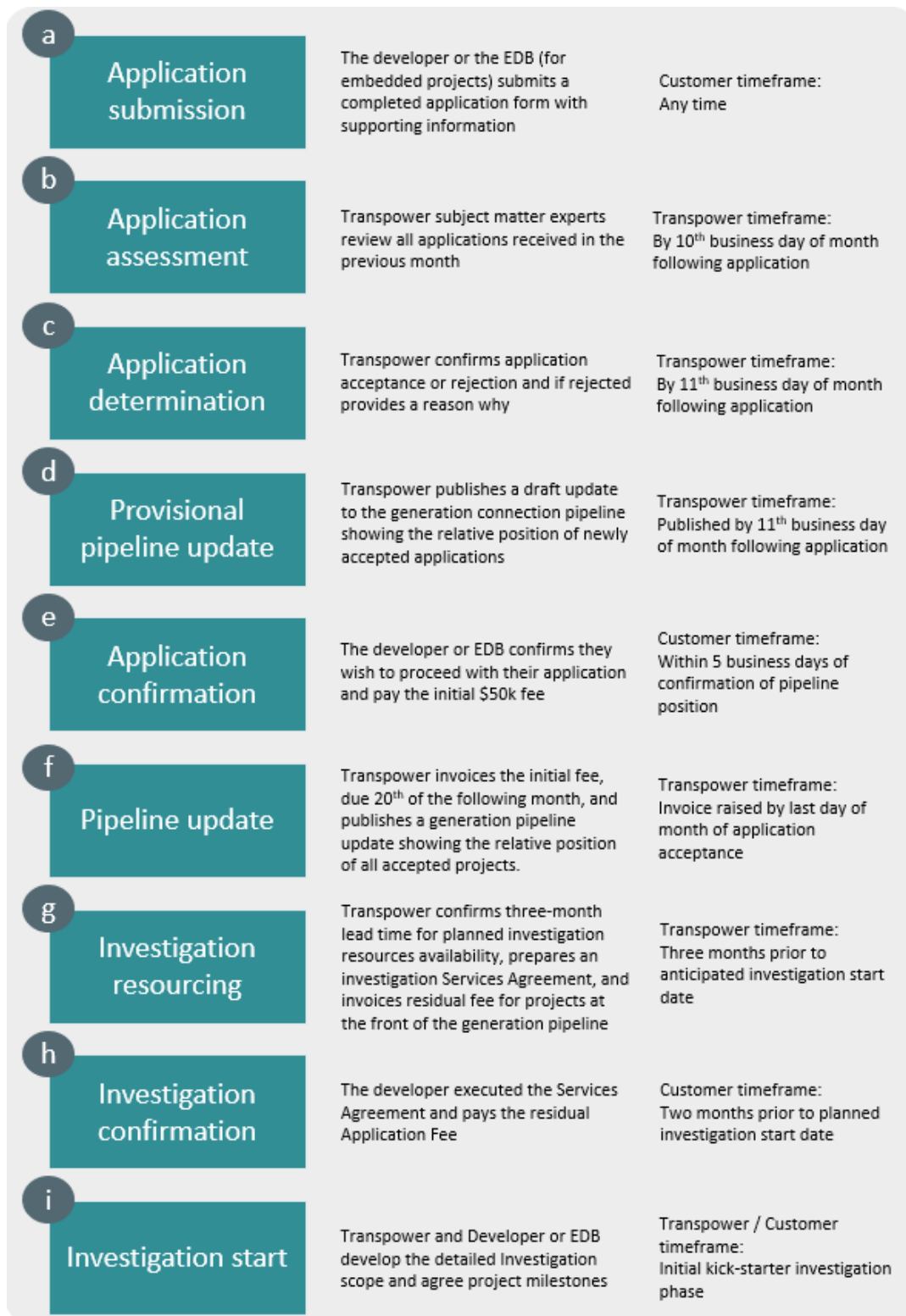


Figure 2: The process for the Application



Guidance Notes in Appendix 2 further explain the requirements for Applications. Applications can be submitted at any time along with supporting information by email to [customer.solutions@transpower.co.nz](mailto:customer.solutions@transpower.co.nz).

Applications must be made by the party proposing to connect to Transpower's transmission network: this will either be the developer of a project connecting directly to Transpower's transmission network, or an EDB for a project proposed to be embedded within a distribution network. If an Application is being made by an agent of a developer, please also provide the name of the developer.

Applications will normally be reviewed by Transpower by the 10<sup>th</sup> business day of the month following receipt of the Application. Transpower will notify the applicant directly if additional review time is required.

Following the review, Transpower will inform the applicant whether their Application has been accepted or is unsuccessful.

If an Application is unsuccessful, an applicant may submit a revised Application at any time which addresses the previous deficiency.

### 3.4 The Pipeline and Application Fee

Successful applicants are notified of the likely sequence of their project in the Pipeline and given 5 business days to confirm they would like to proceed with the process.

An accepted Application means the project is placed in the Pipeline with a sequence number denoting its resourcing sequence. Except as noted below, accepted Applications will be allocated Transpower project Investigation resources in the order Applications are received.

The Application Fee has a cap and ceiling and is calculated on a per MW basis:

- Minimum fee \$50,000.
- Up to 100 MW: \$2,000 per MW
- From 101 to 200 MW: \$1,000 per additional MW
- From 201 to 300 MW: \$500 per additional MW
- From 301 to 500 MW: \$250 per additional MW
- Maximum fee: \$400,000.

EDB Applications will incur a variable Application Fee depending on the new Transpower assets required to enable each project, as follows:

- No new Transpower assets: usually managed outside of the Pipeline in which case an Application is not required
- New Transpower protection and automation assets: 50% of the above \$/MW, minimum of \$50,000 (exc GST)
- New Transpower primary assets: the same as for non-EDB Applications

MW is defined as the requested maximum generation injection capacity in MW of the generation provided in section 2.2 of the Application Form.

GST will be added to Application Fee invoices.

Transpower issues an invoice for the initial Application Fee payment of \$50,000 (exc GST) and when this is paid, a project enters the Pipeline.

A project is allocated Transpower resources for an Investigation according to its place in the Pipeline subject to the limited circumstances in section 3.6 below where Transpower may accelerate certain projects.

Applicants remain in the Pipeline until Transpower resources become available to begin an Investigation.

Three months prior to the estimated start date for an Investigation, Transpower will issue a Services Agreement for the Investigation and invoice the applicant for the remainder of the Application Fee. The Application Fee must be paid by the invoice due date for the project to remain in the Pipeline.

There are some circumstances where projects are exempt from paying the Application Fee or are liable to pay a reduced amount.

- There is no fee [and no Application] required for EDB-connected generation projects requiring no new Transpower assets.
- Fees are reduced by 50 % with a \$50,000 minimum for EDB Applications requiring only new special protection schemes to release N-security injection capacity for embedded generation projects.

The \$50,000 initial payment to be placed in the Pipeline is non-refundable if the project is subsequently withdrawn or cancelled.

The Application Fee can be used to offset the cost of works and services provided by Transpower for the delivery of the project (for example, under a Transpower Works Agreement (TWA), Transpower Performance of Works Agreement (PoW) or Transpower Development Agreement (TDA)) for the same connection. Transpower will offset the Application Fee at the time it calculates its charge after commissioning. The Application Fee cannot be used to offset the costs of an Investigation.

If a Services Agreement for an Investigation is assigned or novated to a third party in accordance with its terms, the unpaid portion of the Application Fee will be paid by the incoming party. The Application Fee cannot generally be transferred to a different connection project by the same applicant.

For projects that are cancelled, there are limited circumstances in which part of the Application Fee above \$50,000 may be refunded. These are set out in section 4.3.

All terms and conditions relating to the Application Fee are appended to the Application Form.

### 3.5 Investigation and Milestones

On entering the Investigation stage<sup>3</sup>, applicants work with a dedicated Transpower project manager and team of subject matter experts. Milestones reflecting the unique circumstances of the applicant's project will be agreed with the applicant. Milestones will be included in contracts with Transpower to enable Transpower to measure the progress of the customer's project against the scheduled connection date.

The Milestones will represent key steps in the Investigation and delivery stages of projects. An applicant will be responsible for providing suitable evidence to demonstrate that they have met

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<sup>3</sup> At this point, a project that has been in the Pipeline has moved beyond sequence number #1; it remains in the Pipeline but without a sequence number, because through the Investigation stage, the rate of progress of each project is determined by a range of factors including its scope, context, resource availability and need date. Hence the use of Milestones that reflect these unique circumstances.

the relevant Milestones within agreed timeframes. We expect applicants to work with their project manager to provide this evidence and be in early discussion if it appears likely they may not be met.

We recognise that projects are all different and some things are outside an applicant's control. Accordingly, Transpower will consider the circumstances leading to delays and may seek to agree new timeframes if appropriate. Nevertheless, Milestones will form part of the contract(s) between the applicant and Transpower, and Transpower reserves the right to cancel the relevant contract(s) and remove a project from the Pipeline if an applicant fails to meet agreed Milestones.

Transpower will publish monthly status updates of the Pipeline. This status update for each project will include an indicative "percent complete" alongside the Pipeline information already published so that customers can understand how close a project is to completing its Investigation. We acknowledge that project scopes may change during the Investigation stage as more information comes available.

### 3.6 Transpower may accelerate projects under limited circumstances

Transpower reserves the right to accelerate projects in the Pipeline under the following limited circumstances:

- a project is deemed to be significant for the security of the power system (the power system need would be identified by the System Operator);
- a project that shares scope with other work<sup>4</sup> that is scheduled to be resourced earlier than the relevant project, where Transpower determines that both projects can be delivered more efficiently if they are bundled together;
- where this enables workforce and/or resource efficiencies (for example, where we have resources available at a particular location);
- a project that requires no more than minor new Transpower capital assets or resources, and that may be progressed without having a significant impact on the other projects already in the Pipeline seeking to connect at the same location, may be accelerated to the Investigation stage. If, however, during the course of the project Transpower obtains further information or determines that any of these circumstances have materially changed (for example if the scope increases to require more than minor new Transpower capital assets), Transpower may require the project to return to its original position in the Pipeline.

Transpower will apply the second and third points above only in relation to Applications received from 8 July 2024 and will not accelerate these projects ahead of projects in the Pipeline prior to 8 July 2024. We will aim to ensure that any adverse effects on other projects are minimal.

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<sup>4</sup> Where there are multiple projects at a particular location, and we consider there to be value in a combined connection, we will facilitate discussions with applicants to explore pursuing a joint connection.

## 4. Governance and refundability

### 4.1 Governance group

Transpower's CMF is governed by the Transpower Executive General Managers of Customer and External Affairs, Grid Development, Grid Delivery and Strategy, Regulation & Governance.

### 4.2 Removal from the Pipeline

An Application may be removed from Transpower's Pipeline if:

- An applicant fails to pay an invoice for an Application Fee by the due date on the invoice or fails to pay for their Investigation. The applicant may reapply at a later date with a new Application.
- An applicant fails to meet its Milestones and agreement cannot be reached on an extension. In this situation Transpower may cancel the relevant contract(s) and remove the project from the Pipeline. The applicant may reapply at a later date with a new Application.

### 4.3 Fee refundability

The first \$50,000 (plus GST) of the Application Fee is non-refundable. The balance of the Application Fee is also non-refundable except for limited circumstances where Transpower will consider refunding part or all of it, prior to execution of a contract between the applicant and Transpower for delivery of the project. Refer to Appendix A: Application Fee Terms and Conditions of the Application Form for more information.

The scenarios in the table below are examples only and do not identify all circumstances when Transpower will retain the balance of the Application Fee.

Application or project withdrawal scenario	Refundability % of balance of the Application Fee
Transpower's connection Investigation identifies that a project is infeasible, or has a new cost estimate exceeding the upper range of the associated Transpower concept assessment estimate by more than 50%, and the applicant chooses to terminate any contracts and withdraws the project from the Pipeline.	100%
The applicant chooses to terminate the Investigation services agreement due to Transpower's non-performance or breach, and withdraws the project from the Pipeline.	100%
The applicant withdraws the Application or the project from the Pipeline due to materially adverse change in the project's value directly attributable to unforeseen regulatory changes.	100%
The applicant fails to obtain the required resources or Overseas Investment Office approval, and the applicant withdraws the Application or the project from the Pipeline.	0%
Transpower terminates the Investigation services agreement due to non-performance or breach by the applicant, applicant's agent or developer.	0%



All disputes including fee payment issues and missed Milestones will be escalated to Transpower's governance group. Applicants should, in the first instance, discuss issues with their Relationship Manager.

## 5. Useful links:

**Contract information:** <https://www.transpower.co.nz/contract-information>

**Connecting to the grid:** <https://www.transpower.co.nz/connect-grid>

**Grid pricing:** <https://www.transpower.co.nz/our-work/industry/grid-pricing>

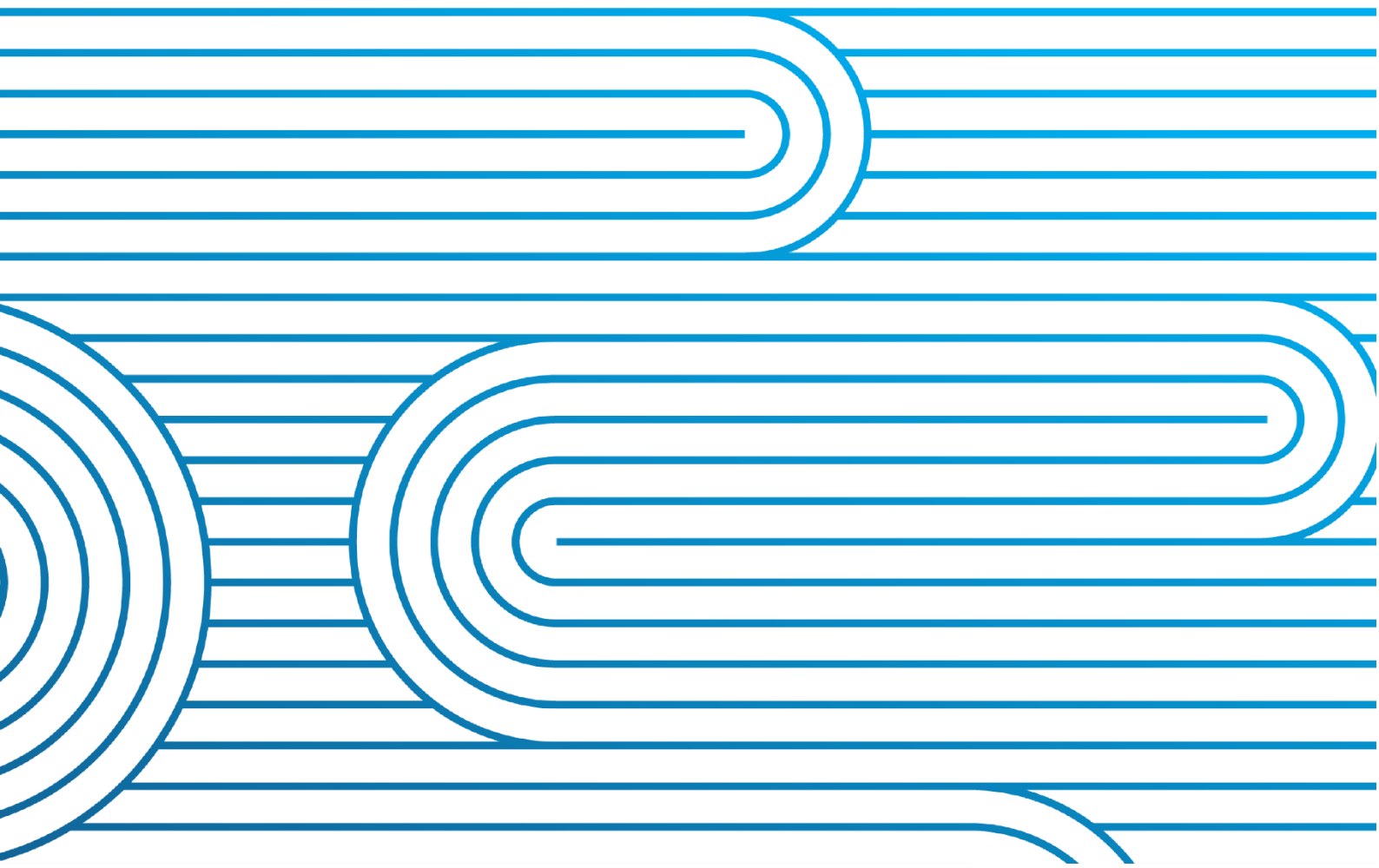
**System Operator generation guidance:** <https://www.transpower.co.nz/system-operator/information-industry/asset-owner-requirements/connecting-generation>

## 6. Appendix 1: Application Form

# Generation Connection Investigation Pipeline – Application Form

Version: 3.0

Date: 22/12/2025



## 1.1 Introduction

This **Generation Connection Investigation Pipeline – Application Form** details the information required for Transpower to progress an Application to investigate connection to the transmission grid, as per the Connections Management Framework.

Please refer to the **Generation Connection Investigation Pipeline – Application Guidance Notes** (Guidance Notes) for help in completing this document.

- Please complete all fields in this form.
- Contact [customer.solutions@transpower.co.nz](mailto:customer.solutions@transpower.co.nz) if there are any questions about this form.
- Submit this form and all supporting information by email to [customer.solutions@transpower.co.nz](mailto:customer.solutions@transpower.co.nz).

## 1.2 Purpose

Transpower introduced an Application Stage to its generation connection process in November 2022. All onshore generation connections under 500 MW must follow this process. We require this Application Form to be completed and supporting information provided to demonstrate an appropriate level of readiness prior to beginning an Investigation.

## 1.3 Process

Applications can be submitted at any time. Transpower will review Applications by the 10<sup>th</sup> business day of the month following receipt of Application or notify the applicant if more time is required. Following completion of the review process, Transpower will inform the applicant whether their Application is successful.

## 1.4 Requirements of Application

### Application Fee

The Application Fee amount will be confirmed by Transpower upon notification of a successful Application. If an Application is successful, the first \$50,000 (plus GST) of the Application Fee must be paid for the project to be placed in Transpower's Generation Connection Investigation Pipeline (the Pipeline). The remaining portion of the Application Fee must be paid before an Investigation can start.

Please refer to Appendix A: Application Fee Terms and Conditions and the Connection Management Framework – Process Document for more information on the Application Fee.

### Agreement to publication

By submitting an Application, the applicant consents (if the Application is successful) to Transpower publishing, on its website on an ongoing basis, the following information about the project:

- Maximum connection injection capacity (MW)
- Maximum generation injection (MW)
- Maximum storage injection (MW) and storage capacity (MWh)
- Generation technology type
- Transpower connection voltage
- Transpower connection location

The relevant Pipeline stage and estimated progress (as a percentage) through that stage (refer to section 2.2 of the Guidance Notes for more information on Transpower's Pipeline stages).



## 2.1 Details of applicant

Full Name of Applicant

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Address of Applicant

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Contact Person Name

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Contact Person Position

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Contact Phone Number

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Contact Email

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### 2.1.1 If another party is paying the Application Fee, please enter the details

Full Name of Party

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Address of Party

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Contact Person Name

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Contact Person Position

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Contact Phone Number

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Contact Email

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## 2.2 High-level project details

Please note information in this section will be published on Transpower's website.

Please provide the maximum generation + storage injection capacity of the connection (MW).



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Please provide the maximum injection (MW) for any generation component.

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Please provide the maximum injection (MW) and capacity (MWh) for any storage component.

Will the generation be developed in more than one stage?

Yes ☐

No ☐

If yes, please describe the stages of connection including timeline, technology and MW for each stage.

Please enter answer here

Please advise the Transpower substation or Transpower line(s) that the generation or storage would like to connect to.

Please enter answer here

What voltage is the generation or storage plant intending to connect at?

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Please provide the land parcels / address / GPS coordinates that the generation or storage will be developed on.

Please select all types of generation forming part of the project:

Solar ☐

Wind (onshore) ☐

Wind (offshore) ☐

Geothermal ☐

Hydro ☐

BESS ☐

Gas ☐

Other ☐

If other, please detail the type of generation.

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If an Application is successful, the scope of the connection may not be changed without Transpower's prior written approval.

## 2.3 Technical support

Has the applicant engaged expert electrical engineering support, or have in-house technical expertise, for the design of the generation or storage plant?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, please provide details.

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## 2.4 Conceptual design

Has the applicant included a report of preliminary design of the project, including indicative site layout as a part of the Application?

Yes ☐ No ☐

Please specify the distance between the proposed connection location and the generation or storage.

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Please describe the ownership and demarcation of assets if known.

Please enter answer here

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## 2.5 Connection feasibility and transmission capacity assessment

Does the Application include a report considering connection feasibility, and connection and transmission capacity, for the proposed connection (for example, a Transpower Concept Assessment or equivalent consultant's report)?

Yes ☐ No ☐

## 2.6 Property rights

Has the applicant acquired land or other property rights for the project including any land required for Transpower greenfield assets?



Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, has the applicant submitted supporting information and plans setting out these property rights, including:

Location	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Access and Area	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Form and term of tenure	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

For the property rights that have been obtained, describe the owner/beneficiary of the property rights and, if this is a third party, their relationship to the applicant. Please leave blank if not applicable.

Please enter answer here

Please provide relevant detailed information setting out the proposed land/property rights acquisition strategy. If the applicant believes all the required property rights have been secured, please state this in lieu of a strategy.

Please enter answer here

## 2.7 Environmental approvals

Has the applicant submitted a consenting strategy and timeline addressing the minimum requirements outlined in section 2.7 of the Guidance Notes as part of the Application?

Yes ☐ No ☐

Please detail what role the applicant would like Transpower to take in obtaining any necessary environmental approvals for the Transpower assets required for the connection of the applicant's project to the transmission network (Transpower led / applicant led / hybrid).

Please enter answer here



## 2.8 Stakeholder engagement

Please detail what community groups and stakeholders the applicant has or will be engaging with and when, or note this is included with the Application as a separate document.

Please enter answer here

Please detail what role the applicant would like Transpower to take in terms of stakeholder engagement for the connection component of this project (Transpower lead / applicant lead / hybrid).

Please enter answer here

## 2.9 Mana whenua engagement

Please detail what iwi or hapū the applicant has or will be engaging with and when, or note this is included with the Application as a separate document.

Please enter answer here

## 2.10 Timing

When is the expected commissioning date of the generation or storage?

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When is construction expected to begin?

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What are the key long lead time items, and how and when does the applicant plan to procure these?

Please enter answer here

2.11 Overseas Investment Office approval

Will this project require Overseas Investment Office (OIO) approval?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, provide the OIO approval strategy and timeline.

Please enter answer here

## Signature page

By signing below and submitting this Application to Transpower, if this Application is successful the applicant:

- agrees to pay (or otherwise be liable for payment of) the Application Fee, as determined in accordance with the Generation Connection Investigation Pipeline – Application Guidance Notes and confirmed by Transpower on notification of a successful Application;
- acknowledges and agrees to the Application Fee Terms and Conditions in Appendix A;
- consents to Transpower publishing, on its website on an ongoing basis, the project information listed in section 1.4.2; and
- acknowledges that failure to provide required information, or to meet any requirements of this Application, may result in an unsuccessful Application.

Signed by authorised representative of the applicant:

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Name(s):

Position(s):

Date:

## Appendix A: Application Fee Terms and Conditions

The following terms and conditions apply to all Generation Connection Investigation Pipeline Applications.

1. Definitions

In these terms and conditions:

**Application Fee** means the fee determined in accordance with the Generation Connection Investigation Pipeline – Application Guidance Notes and confirmed by Transpower on notification of a successful Application.

**Application Form** means the Generation Connection Investigation Pipeline – Application Form submitted by the applicant in respect of the Project.

**Delivery Contract** means a contract entered into between the applicant and Transpower for delivery of the Project.

**Pipeline** means Transpower's Generation Connection Investigation Pipeline.

**Project** means the project described in the Application Form.

2. Failure to pay any portion of the Application Fee by the due dates specified in Transpower's invoices means that the Project does not enter the Pipeline or if already in the Pipeline, will be removed. In both cases a new Application Form would be required to enter or re-enter the Pipeline.
3. The initial portion of the Application Fee (\$50,000 plus GST) is non-refundable.
4. Subject to clause 5 below, the balance of the Application Fee (the remaining portion above \$50,000 plus GST) is also non-refundable.
5. Subject to clause 8 below, the balance of the Application Fee may be refunded in part or in full, at Transpower's sole discretion, prior to execution of a Delivery Contract, in the following circumstances:
- (a) Transpower's connection investigation identifies that the Project is infeasible;
  - (b) the applicant notifies Transpower that it does not wish to progress the Project because the cost to connect to the grid exceeds the upper range of the estimate in Transpower's concept assessment for the Project by more than 50%;
  - (c) the applicant notifies Transpower that it does not wish to progress the Project due to materially adverse change in the Project's value directly attributable to unforeseen regulatory changes;
  - (d) unforeseen legal or regulatory change, or other events beyond the applicant's reasonable control, mean that the Project and/or its connection to the grid cannot proceed; or
  - (e) the applicant terminates the services agreement for the investigation due to Transpower's non-performance or breach.
6. For the purposes of clause 5(d) above, the applicant acknowledges and agrees that it is not beyond its reasonable control to obtain the following for the Project:
- (a) funding;
  - (b) property rights;
  - (c) Overseas Investment Office approval;
  - (d) environmental approvals; and/or
  - (e) other regulatory approvals or permissions.
7. The Application Fee paid may be used to offset charges payable to Transpower under a Delivery Contract. Transpower will offset the Application Fee at the time it calculates the



charges payable after commissioning. The Application Fee may not be used to offset the costs of an investigation.

8. Where the Project is removed from the Pipeline for any reason, Transpower may apply any paid portion of the Application Fee towards any amounts owing in relation to the Project, before considering any refund under clause 5 above.
9. The Application Fee applies specifically to the Project and cannot be applied to another project. However, if the Project is transferred to another person or entity (without changes to its nature or scope) the Application Fee does not need to be paid again.

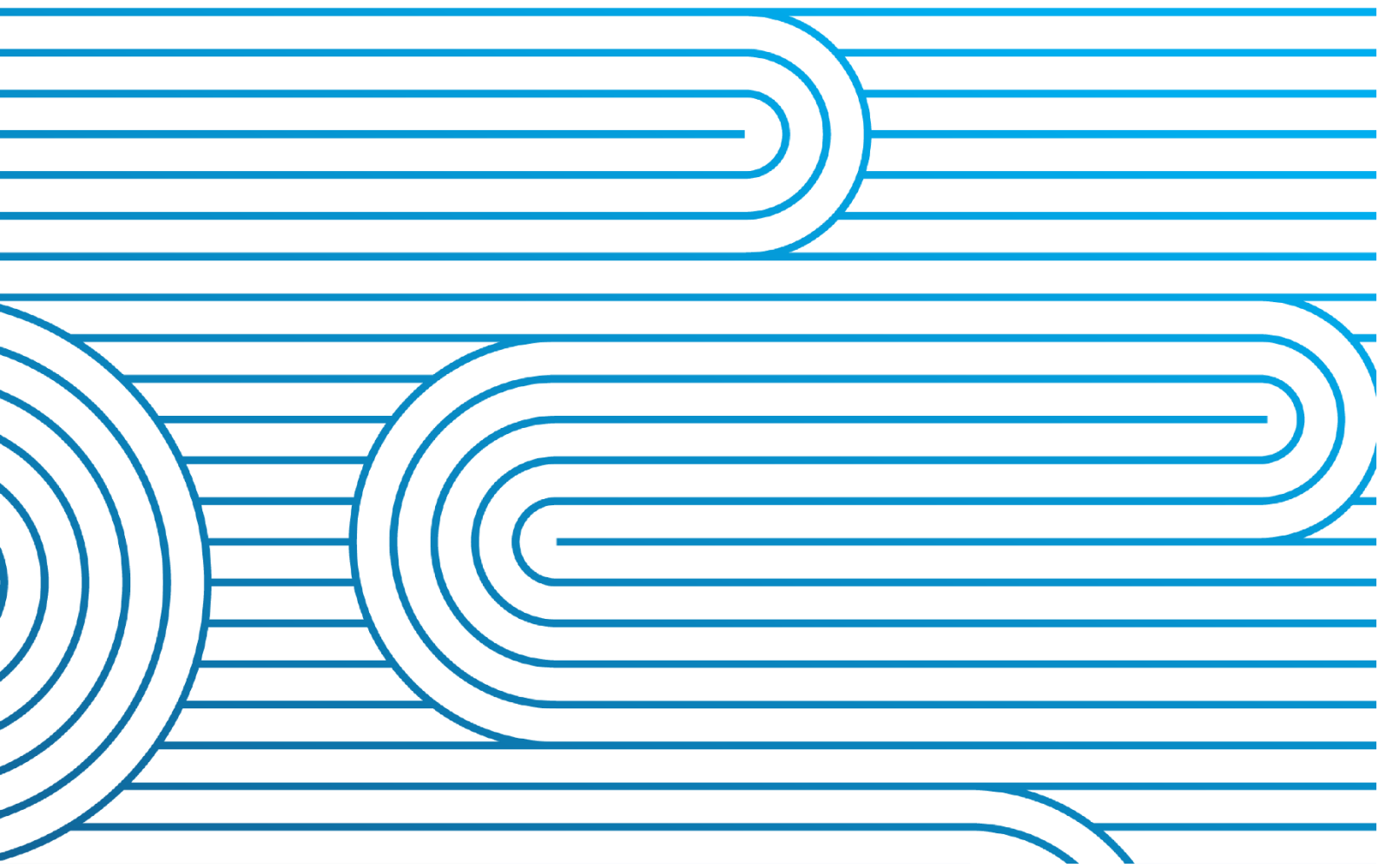


## 7. Appendix 2: Guidance Notes

# Generation Connection Investigation Pipeline – Application Guidance Notes

Version: 3.0

Date: 08/7/2024



## 1.1 Introduction

This document accompanies the **Generation Connection Investigation Pipeline – Application Form** (Application Form) to provide guidance to applicants who wish to progress an Application to investigate connection to the transmission grid, as per the Connections Management Framework.

Any questions can be sent to [customer.solutions@transpower.co.nz](mailto:customer.solutions@transpower.co.nz).

## 1.2 Purpose

In November 2022 Transpower introduced an Application stage to the process for new generation and storage connections under 500 MW. Applicants must submit a completed Application Form along with supporting information, to demonstrate that the applicant has undertaken sufficient due diligence to understand all aspects of the connections process.<sup>5</sup> The purpose of this document is to provide guidance notes to assist with completing the Application Form.

## 1.3 Process

Refer to the Connection Management Framework Decision Paper and Process Document.

## 1.4 Requirements of Application

Transpower recognises that information will be commensurate with the scale and nature of the project. Supporting information for larger or more complex projects is expected to be more well-developed and comprehensive, but may also include some unresolved components to be determined within the Investigation scope. In all other cases, failure to provide the required information or to meet any requirements for the Application may result in an unsuccessful Application.

### Agreement to publication

The applicant's agreement to ongoing publication of certain project details is a requirement of the Application.

Once Transpower confirms a project is successful and the first \$50,000 (plus GST) of the Application Fee is paid, Transpower will publish the following information on its website as part of the Pipeline:

Maximum generation injection capacity in MW	As provided in section 2.2 of the Application Form
Maximum storage capacity in MWh	As provided in section 2.2 of the Application Form
Generation technology type	As provided in section 2.2 of the Application Form
Transpower connection voltage	As provided in section 2.2 of the Application Form
Transpower connection location	As provided in section 2.2 of the Application Form

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<sup>5</sup> See the diagram in Appendix A for the stages of the connections process.

Project stage in Transpower process	As identified in section 2 of the Connection Management Framework – Process Document
Percentage complete (Investigation & Delivery stages)	Indicative “percent complete” as assessed by Transpower with any caveats also noted

Details of the proposed specific location of the project (e.g. land parcels, address) will not be published.

## 2.1 Details of applicant

The applicant is the entity Transpower will contract with for the proposed connection. This will typically be either a generation developer or an EDB.

The applicant’s details may be updated if ownership of the project changes. Any changes need to be provided in writing to Transpower.

### 2.1.1 If another party is paying the Application Fee, please enter their details

This section is optional. It is only required to be completed if another party will be responsible for paying the Application Fee. If the Application is successful, the party specified in this section will be invoiced for, and required to pay, the Application Fee detailed in the Connection Management Framework – Process Document.

## 2.2 High-level project details

The purpose of this section is to identify the high-level features of the applicant’s project. Data provided in this section will be published on Transpower’s website as per section 1.4.2.

Due to the potential for interest from multiple parties at points of connection to the transmission network, an applicant cannot, at a later date, change the Application scope in relation to generation type, increase the size of the project’s generation, or change voltage, from the details listed in section 2.2. Any changes to a project’s generation type, size or voltage will require a new Application and fee (unless Transpower agrees otherwise in writing). If a change to project details is requested, Transpower will consider, among other things, resourcing implications, and any potential negative impact on other projects in the Pipeline. Any negative impacts which are deemed by Transpower to be more than minor will normally result in Transpower not agreeing to the requested change.

Maximum coincident generation and storage injection capacity in MW is the greatest MW the project is expected to inject, even if it is built over different phases.

More than one connection location or voltage may be provided if there is a short list of connection options to be further explored during a subsequent Investigation. For example, if two Transpower

lines cross a site and there is a choice of which one to connect to; in this situation Transpower will consult with you on what details will be published.

If the development includes storage the maximum MW and the MWh for the storage component must be included.

If the development includes multiple technologies the applicant must specify if those diverse technologies will be developed during a single phase, or if over multiple phases which technology will be developed first.

## 2.3 Technical Support

Grid scale generation projects are complex, requiring an understanding and assessment of numerous technical challenges. To be successful, projects must have access to appropriate technical expertise to stress test the viability of the concept prior to proceeding with an Investigation.

Details of the project's key in-house or externally engaged technical support should be provided. This can be in the form of individuals, including their qualifications and experience, or consultancies and their contracted services.

Answering 'No', or 'Yes' without providing sufficient personnel (either staff and/or consultants) information, will result in an unsuccessful Application.

## 2.4 Conceptual design

Transpower requires a level of preliminary technical work to have been completed for a generation project before commencing an Investigation for a generation project.

The applicant will need to submit a report detailing the conceptual design of generation /storage and the associated connection to Transpower's transmission network where there is a single preferred connection option. If a conceptual design for the connection is unavailable, the applicant will need to list its considerations for the design of the connection. An indicative map of the site with details of the connection (or connection options) to Transpower's transmission network is required. The details need to demonstrate sufficient project development to begin an Investigation.

If the information is deemed inadequate it may result in an unsuccessful Application.

Please also describe the anticipated ownership and demarcation of assets if known. This information is not evaluated as a pass / fail item.

## 2.5 Connection feasibility and transmission capacity assessment

To be financially viable, new generation must successfully compete for dispatch in New Zealand's wholesale electricity market, for which transmission capacity at the point of connection, and from the point of connection to the interconnected grid, is a key factor. Transpower requires preliminary assessment of connection feasibility, including connection and interconnection capacity considerations, to be completed for a generation project before commencing an Investigation for a generation project.



This may be in the form of a Transpower Concept Assessment completed by Transpower no more than six months before the Application is submitted (unless agreed otherwise by Transpower).

An equivalent report prepared by an expert consultant may also be acceptable. To be considered 'equivalent' the consultant's report must include:

- The anticipated connection configuration, security, and capacity
- An assessment of any spatial constraints for the Transpower point of connection
- An assessment of potential connection constraints including the impact of other proposed generation developments already in Transpower's generation Pipeline at the same connection location
- An assessment of potential interconnection constraints, including the impact of other proposed generation developments already in Transpower's generation Pipeline within the same electrical region
- Identification of other risks and issues (e.g. system stability, protection, property, environmental considerations)
- Estimated cost ranges for the connection to Transpower's transmission network
- Estimated development timeframes, considering critical path activities

Failure to provide a report as set out above, or providing a report that Transpower deems inadequate, will result in an unsuccessful Application.

## 2.6 Property rights

Applicants must provide details of secured property rights and/or the strategy to secure the necessary property rights yet to be secured. If the applicant believes all the required property rights have been secured, please state this in lieu of a strategy.

Transpower's typical high-level property rights requirements<sup>6</sup> for a new generation connection (subject to further detail of station and connection design) are:

- A long-term registered lease or outright ownership of the land for the Transpower switchyard area and associated buffer areas;
- Perpetual registered easements for;
  - o Right of way access to the new Transpower switchyard;
  - o any new or modified transmission lines or cables;
  - o the addition of earth-peaks and earth-wire to the existing transmission line (usually 1km either side of Grip Injection Point);
  - o low voltage local electricity substation supply or water/drainage easements if required;
  - o earth potential rise mitigations, if required;
  - o diverse telecommunications fibre cable routes over any property between the switchyard and the nearest legal road;
- Facilities & Services Agreement (a licence to occupy) to address any facilities or services that may be required; and
- A registered Land Covenant to secure the Facilities & Services Agreement.

The acquisition/provision of these property rights will be specified as conditions in the Transpower Works Agreement (TWA) and need to be secured before construction commences. Property rights

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<sup>6</sup> Please note that these are provided as guidance only and is not a definitive or exhaustive list of Transpower's property rights requirements.

will be acquired by the Customer at no cost to Transpower, to dimensions, and on terms and conditions specified by Transpower in the TWA.

The property rights section in a completed connection Application Form will be reviewed by Transpower's Property team.

Applicants should submit information and plans detailing the proposed site for the generation project and the proposed connection point to Transpower's transmission network. If property rights and/or agreements have already been obtained or entered into, a summary must be included in the Application Form.

A strategy should set out a plan to obtain the applicant's and Transpower's typical high-level property requirements as stated above. Where property rights are still to be secured a strategy should include sufficient details to set out the owner/beneficiary of the property rights and, if this is a third party, their relationship to the applicant. Where a project requires a long line connection and route selection is yet to take place Transpower does not require detailed property right information for the long line connection as this will be established during the route selection process. In this instance Transpower would still expect the applicant to provide evidence of at least a firm property right option for the proposed generation site.

Acceptable information will include details of:

- Location or location options
- Ownership status of land
- Status of any negotiations
- Property rights to be sought
- Timeframes
- Any identified land acquisition challenges or risks and how the applicant proposes to address these.

As a minimum, for an Application to be successful Transpower expects the developer to include evidence it has secured at least an exclusive option to negotiate the required property rights, within the development timeframe, for the proposed generation site.

Failure to demonstrate a clear strategy may result in an unsuccessful Application. Note that a project with complex issues and risks would not of itself be a reason for an unsuccessful Application.

## 2.7 Environmental approvals

This section of a completed Application will be reviewed by Transpower's Environment Team. Applicants will need to have identified, though may not yet have secured, necessary environmental approvals for the generation development. The approvals for the associated connection should also be identified.

Information should include detail on what consents have been secured or may need to be secured. Please include timeframes for approvals for consents yet to be secured.

If relevant note any sensitive environments at the generation or connection site and the need for the line connection to pass through or avoid these. A full alternatives assessment would not be required at this stage.

Failure to demonstrate sound knowledge of the issues and a strategy to address these may result in an unsuccessful Application. Note, a project with complex issues and risks would not of itself be a reason for an unsuccessful Application.

If known, please detail what role the applicant would like Transpower to take in obtaining any necessary approvals for the Transpower assets required for the connection of the applicant's project to the transmission network (Transpower led / applicant led / hybrid). This information is not evaluated as a pass / fail item.

The customer must submit a consenting strategy that demonstrates that the customer has considered what necessary environmental approvals are required for the generation development and the associated connection and has a sound knowledge of any consenting issues and how they will be addressed.

As a minimum, the consenting strategy must include the following matters:

- The type of activities at the generation and connection site (including Transpower works) that will trigger consent, and the likely activity status;
- Identifying any sensitive environments at the generation or connection site and the need for the line connection to pass through or avoid these;
- The likely effects of the project;
- Consideration of the need for an alternatives assessment;
- The consenting timeline;
- The intended consenting pathway (e.g. standard council process, direct referral to the Environment Court, fast-track consenting);
- The consultation and engagement already undertaken or planned (see also section 2.9 below);
- The planning consultant and environmental specialists engaged to assist with the project (if any).

Transpower has developed a preferred consenting approach for typical Customer projects - [Preferred consenting approach for new connections](#).

## 2.8 Stakeholder engagement

Applicants will need to have identified and have a plan for engaging with relevant stakeholders for the generation project and the associated connection.

Provide information on stakeholders including within the local community the developer will engage with, including a timeframe for how they will be engaged with and when.

Failure to demonstrate sound knowledge of the issues and a strategy to address these may result in an unsuccessful Application. Note that a project with complex issues and risks would not of itself be a reason for an unsuccessful Application.

Failure to provide information will result in an unsuccessful Application.

If relevant, please detail what role the applicant would like Transpower to take (Transpower led / applicant led / hybrid) in terms of stakeholder engagement for the transmission network connection component of this project. This information is not evaluated as a pass / fail item.

## 2.9 Mana whenua engagement

For engagement with mana whenua, enduring connections and relationships are important. Transpower represents at least 100 years of operating transmission in New Zealand and has an enduring connection with the places and the people where its network is located.

Accordingly, to ensure integrity to iwi/hapū engagement and provide a good relationship foundation, Transpower requires that it is invited to be part of the applicant's engagement with mana whenua about the project from the outset. By the time of submission of the Connection Application, it is expected that at least one hui involving Transpower and mana whenua will have been had. Typically, interactions are expected at the hapū level as that is where mana over the whenua is held (unless the hapū have arrangements with the iwi to work on their behalf).

Transpower will not lead an applicant's engagement, but it is important that we are seen by mana whenua given the expectation that our assets will continue to be in the landscape long after the applicant has built and possibly divested itself of its generation project.

## 2.10 Timing

This section requests information associated with Milestones for the applicant's project (these may be subject to discussion when a project is allocated project Investigation resource).

Provide information associated with a procurement strategy; identify the long lead items that may be required and the timeframe these are subject to.

Provide information for when the applicant expects to begin construction.

Provide information for when the applicant expects to commission the generation.

All information must be completed, incomplete information will result in an unsuccessful Application.

## 2.11 Overseas Investment Office approval

Some applicants may require Overseas Investment Office approval. All information must be completed to clarify timeframes. Incomplete information will result in an unsuccessful Application.

The applicant is not expected to have already received Overseas Investment Office approval at the Application stage.



TRANSPower



