

14 September 2026

Joel Cook
Head of Strategy and Regulation
Transpower New Zealand Limited
22 Boulcott Street
Wellington 6140

Dear Joel,

Re: Notice of intention to initiate Stage 2 of the Waikato and Upper North Island Upgrade staged major capex project.

Thank you for your *Notice of intention to initiate Stage 2 of the Waikato and Upper North Island Upgrade staged major capex project* letter of 8 December 2025.

We appreciate the helpful context provided on Transpower New Zealand Limited's (**Transpower**) intention to plan a subsequent stage of Waikato and Upper North Island Upgrade staged major capex project (**WUNI (stage 2) MCP**), particularly in respect of the following matters we need to agree for WUNI (stage 2) MCP under clause 3.3.1(3) of the Capex IM:

- (a) a consultation programme for the transmission investment or non-transmission solution, in accordance with clause 8.1.3;
- (b) an approach to ensure appropriate consideration of non-transmission solutions to meet the investment need giving rise to the major capex project in accordance with clause 8.1.3;
- (c) an application submission date; and
- (d) an approval timeframe.

We had approved WUNI (stage 1) MCP on 23 September 2020 and you have mentioned that WUNI Stage 1 is now largely complete .

In terms of non-transmission solutions (**NTS**) you have mentioned that the approach will be similar to that undertaken in recent Bay of Plenty and Upper South Island MCPs and will be outlined during the short-list consultation.

We are comfortable with Transpower's approach to NTS.

The table below sets out our view on the matters we must agree with Transpower, as required by clause 3.3.1(3) of the capex IM.

Matters for agreement with Transpower under clause 3.3.1(3) of the Capex IM

Process step	Timing
Short-list consultation	January 2026
Transpower submits major capex proposal to Commission	October 2026
Commission publishes and consults on draft decision on major capex proposal	February 2027
Commission publishes final decision on major capex proposal	April 2027

We have based our approval timeframe on past major capex projects and expected work programme during this period. We will be better placed to refine the timeframe, if necessary, when Transpower submits its proposal for the project.

Please let me know if you have any queries with this letter. Otherwise, please confirm that you agree to the matters specified above in accordance with clause 3.3.1(3).

Yours sincerely



Matthew Clark
Acting Head of Energy and Airports