
Consenting approach for customer projects

As customer project numbers continue to increase, we have developed a preferred approach to consenting to better support our customers in obtaining their environmental approvals in a timely manner. This new approach will empower our customers to lead the consenting process and have greater control over project timeframes, while still enabling Transpower to build, operate and maintain our assets.

This approach has been developed for typical customer projects including new Grid Injection Point (GIP), fixed term and perpetual, new Grid Exit Point (GXP) and new lines, which are summarised below:

New GIP (fixed term):

The customer obtains a resource consent in their name for the GIP.

New GIP (perpetual):

The customer obtains a resource consent in their name for the GIP. Transpower lodges a Notice of Requirement (NoR) to designate our portion of the site as soon as possible after construction.

New GXP:

A new GXP will require a designation in Transpower's name. This process can be led by either Transpower or a local lines company customer, where appropriate.

Transpower-owned new line:

The customer obtains a resource consent in their name for the new Transpower-owned line. Where deemed necessary, Transpower lodges a NoR to designate the new line as soon as possible after construction.

Changes to existing substations or transmission lines

Where Transpower is required to undertake works within our existing substations or on existing transmission lines in order to connect a new customer connection, Transpower will generally arrange any consents or approvals required.

Where customers lead the consenting for assets that Transpower will either construct and/or own and maintain, there will be a number of touch points during the process to ensure approvals will be fit for purpose and meet our minimum requirements.

There should continue to be flexibility in our consenting approach. From time to time, it may be appropriate to agree to an approach outside of our preferred approach. Any deviation from our preferred approach will be treated as an exception.

Where customers are leading consenting for assets that Transpower will construct and/or own or maintain, consenting agreements will be utilised at the start of the project to define the consenting approach, roles and responsibilities, as well as Transpower's minimum requirements.

Transpower support for customer's consenting activities is normally provided during a Transpower investigation project. If you are planning to progress your consenting prior to a Transpower project starting, our ability to provide support may be limited and the risk of inadequacy of any consents obtained will sit with you. If this is the path you are planning, please talk to us first to see what support or advice we can provide.

Please contact Transpower's environment group at environment@transpower.co.nz to discuss this consenting approach.