
From: Logan [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 23 May 2025 10:53 am
To: Grid Investments
Subject: Support for Option 3 – Replacement with Increased Capacity in the Undersea Cables

Dear Transpower,

I am writing to express my strong support for Option 3 in your HVDC Link Upgrade Programme: replacing the existing undersea cables with higher-capacity cables that support up to 1400 MW of electricity transfer, alongside necessary upgrades to the control system and cable termination stations.

Aligning with Aotearoa's Renewable Energy Future

The proposed upgrade aligns with Aotearoa New Zealand's commitment to a sustainable, low-carbon future. By enhancing the capacity of the HVDC link, we can facilitate the integration of renewable energy sources, such as wind and solar, into the national grid. This will enable more efficient transmission of surplus renewable energy from the South Island to the North Island, reducing reliance on fossil fuels and supporting the transition to a decarbonised energy system .

Enhancing Energy Equity and Resilience

Upgrading the HVDC link will improve the resilience of our electricity system, ensuring a more reliable and equitable distribution of energy across both islands. This is particularly crucial for communities in the South Island, which are more dependent on hydroelectric power and vulnerable to fluctuations in water storage levels. A more robust inter-island connection will help balance supply and demand, reducing the risk of energy shortages and price volatility .

Future-Proofing for Climate Change and Technological Advancements

The existing undersea cables are nearing the end of their operational life, with Transpower's analysis indicating significant risks of failure during the 2030s if not replaced . Upgrading to higher-capacity cables will not only mitigate these risks but also accommodate future technological advancements and increased electricity demand driven by electrification and population growth. This proactive approach ensures that our energy infrastructure remains robust and adaptable in the face of climate change and evolving energy needs.

Economic and Social Benefits

The proposed upgrade is expected to deliver a net benefit of \$3.07 billion over its expected life . These economic gains will translate into lower electricity prices for consumers, reduced greenhouse gas emissions, and the creation of green jobs in the renewable energy sector. By investing in sustainable infrastructure now, we can build a more equitable and resilient economy for future generations.

In conclusion, replacing the existing undersea cables with higher-capacity cables is a necessary step towards achieving a sustainable, equitable, and resilient energy future for Aotearoa New Zealand. I urge Transpower to proceed with Option 3 and to continue engaging with stakeholders to ensure that the HVDC Link Upgrade Programme meets the needs of all communities and aligns with our collective environmental and social goals.

Thank you for considering this submission.

Sincerely,
Logan Fenton