
Waikato and upper North Island (WUNI) stage 2 project short-list consultation

From Karen Boyes <karen@meug.co.nz>

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To Grid Investments <Grid.Investments@transpower.co.nz>

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Good afternoon,

MEUG has only been able to briefly review the material for the Waikato and upper North Island (WUNI) stage 2 project short-list consultation. However, we note that:

- This project is of importance to many of MEUG's members, with a considerable number of businesses located within the WUNI region.
- We agree with the need for the investment, given the operational changes in the power system resulting from the decommissioning of thermal plant in the area, alongside the forecast in electricity demand across a number of sectors.
 - We encourage Transpower to monitor the level of demand in the region in the coming 2 - 3 years, to see if it aligns with forecasts. While there is an expected growth in demand, and an electrification of process heat / transport, some of this growth could be tempered by the increasing cost of electricity, which is negatively impacting many businesses and consumers.
- We are comfortable with Transpower's preferred options, noting the similar level of benefits from Options 4a and 4b.
- We support Transpower pursuing Non-transmission solutions, to help possibly defer the commencement of this project where cost-effective.
- We acknowledge that the majority of the project costs will be covered by those within the region. Members may provide further feedback on TPM allocations, as the project progresses.

If it would be beneficial, we are happy to host the Transpower team at an upcoming MEUG meeting, where they could discuss this project directly with our members,

Kind regards,



**Major Electricity
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