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25 July 2025

Ministry for the Environment
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Phase 2 National Direction – Submission from Transpower New Zealand Ltd

Transpower appreciates the Ministry for the Environment's ongoing efforts in developing the Phase 2 National Direction, particularly as it relates to the electricity sector. We acknowledge and welcome the improvements officials have recommended within the proposed National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks (NPS-EN) and the National Environmental Standards for Electricity Network Activities (NES-ENA) documents. These represent positive steps towards a more enabling regulatory framework for electricity transmission, which is crucial for New Zealand's decarbonisation and electrification goals.

While the Phase 2 proposed documents are improved on the current national direction for electricity, they are not a complete solution for accelerating the electrification of New Zealand's economy. Our submissions detail critical areas where tensions between Section 6 (RMA) matters and national direction still exist. These unresolved tensions will continue to perpetuate uncertainty and hinder the pace and scale of electricity transmission development required to meet New Zealand's emission reduction targets. Given the Phase 2 national direction could exist and play a role in resource management decision-making for five years or more as Phase 3 policy is developed, passed into law and then implemented, it is imperative that these conflicts are definitively resolved within the national direction now.

Transpower is committed to enabling New Zealand's energy transition, as highlighted in our "*Te Kanapu*" initiative, which outlines the development of our future grid blueprint to power Aotearoa. Rapid expansion of renewable electricity generation and robust transmission infrastructure are essential to meet increasing demand and achieve our nation's climate change commitments. While we appreciate the progress made, we look forward to continuing our engagement with officials on Phase 3 of the reform programme, which we believe holds the key to truly unlocking the potential for New Zealand's electrification and securing a thriving, sustainable energy future for Aotearoa.

Yours sincerely

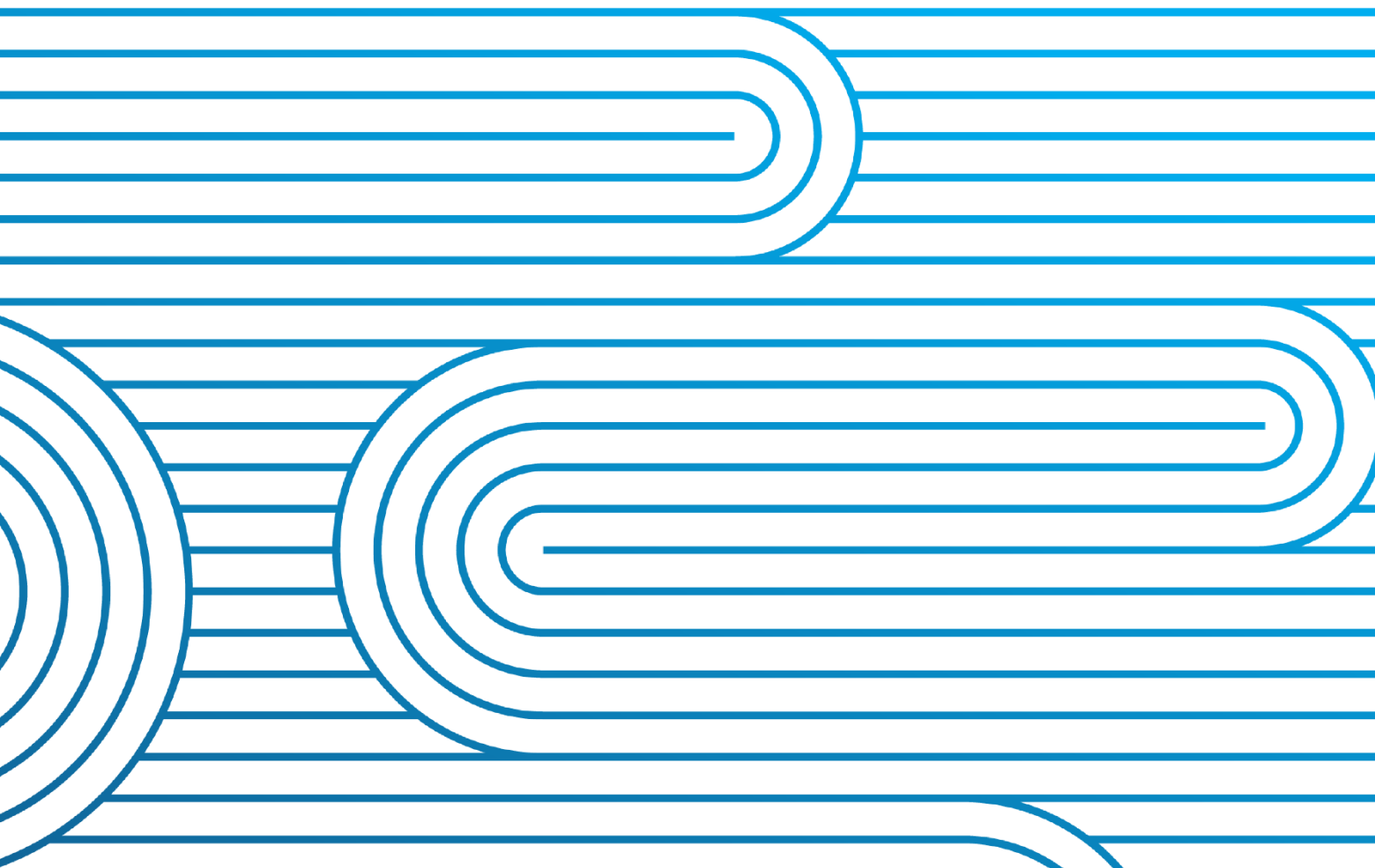
Raewyn Moss
EGM, Customer & External Affairs

Submission by Transpower New Zealand Limited

Amendments to the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2010

National direction consultation – Package 2: Primary sector

25 July 2025



Amendments to the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2010

Ministry for the Environment

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1.0 Introduction

Introduction to Transpower New Zealand Limited

Transpower is a State-Owned Enterprise that plans, builds, maintains, owns, and operates New Zealand’s high voltage electricity transmission network – the National Grid. The National Grid links generators to distribution companies and major industrial users. It extends from Kaikohe in the North Island to Tiwai in the South Island and carries electricity throughout New Zealand.

Transpower’s main role is to ensure the reliable supply of electricity to the country. Transpower is not a generator of electricity and has no retail sales of electricity. It can be considered a ‘freight company’ for electricity, in that it carries bulk electrical energy from where it is generated to the local distribution companies and some major users of electricity. Transpower plays a significant part in New Zealand’s economy, with all major industries, cities and communities being reliant on a secure and reliable supply of electricity. Figure 1 is a schematic of the electricity industry in New Zealand, with the National Grid assets being represented as ‘Transmission’ and ‘Substations’.

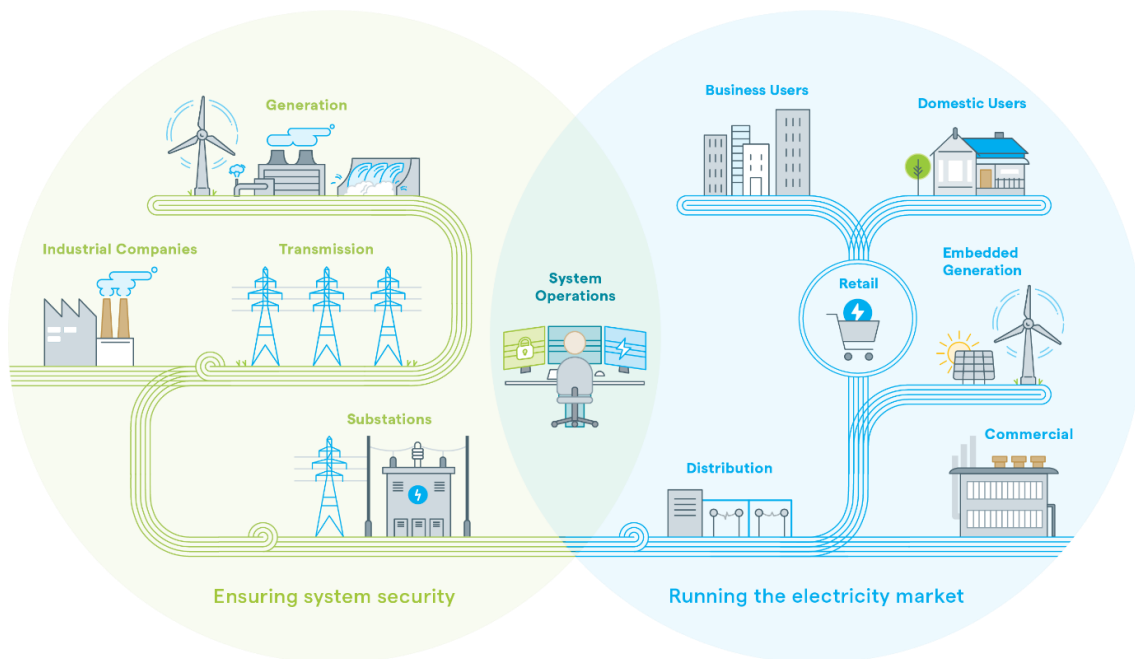


Figure 1. Electricity Industry in New Zealand.

Transpower is the backbone of New Zealand's energy future. As the owner and operator of the nation's 11,000 km high-voltage electricity transmission network – our National Grid – we are responsible for powering every home, business, and industry from Kaikohe to Tiwai Point. This extensive, interconnected system, supported by nearly 200 substations and a sophisticated telecommunications network, is more than just infrastructure: it's a strategic national asset.

Operating such a vast and linear network presents unique challenges. The Grid must often traverse sensitive environments, connecting fixed points like energy generators to towns and major industries. While route flexibility can be limited, Transpower is committed to maintaining and developing this vital asset sustainably.

Crucially, the National Grid is at the heart of New Zealand's climate response. Our nation's ambition to achieve climate change objectives, including net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, hinges on the rapid electrification of the economy, a shift that will see electricity demand more than double by 2050. This transformation demands a resilient and reliable electricity system, making Transpower's role more critical than ever.

To meet this unprecedented demand, we face a significant undertaking: strengthening the National Grid to support massive growth in renewable electricity generation. This includes an estimated 60-70 new Grid connections over the next 15 years, alongside 10-20 major core Grid upgrades by 2035. These are not minor adjustments; they are foundational projects essential for New Zealand's social, economic, and environmental wellbeing for decades to come. The resource management system must become more enabling of rapid electrification if we are to support a secure supply as we electrify and grow Aotearoa.

2.0 Submission Overview

Transpower acknowledges the release of the Phase 2 national direction documents within the broader context of the ongoing Resource Management (RM) system reform. We understand these Phase 2 documents, including amendments to the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2010 (NZCPS), serve as an interim measure. This is consistent with messaging received from Ministry for the Environment (MfE) officials, indicating that the Phase 2 national direction will be "lifted, sifted and shifted" into the subsequent Phase 3 legislation. We recognise that Phase 3 of the RM reform will introduce entirely new legislation to replace the RMA – the Planning Act and the Natural Environment Act – each with its own comprehensive suite of national direction.

A number of the Phase 2 national direction documents have relevance to Transpower. Of primary relevance are the proposed National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks (NPS-EN) and the amendments to the Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Electricity Transmission Activities) Regulations 2009 (NES-ENA). Transpower has provided separate submissions on these documents, largely in support. In particular Transpower supports the 'benefits' and 'consideration/recognition' policies. However, while Transpower is

supportive of the proposed amendments, it has broader concerns with the lack of reconciliation of matters subject to Section 6 of the RMA and other national direction, including the NZCPS.

Given New Zealand's ambitious electrification goals and the commitment to achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2050, it is critical that the Phase 2 national direction documents—and subsequent Phase 3 legislation—provide a clear and enabling pathway for the ongoing operation, maintenance, upgrade, and development of this vital infrastructure. The current regulatory settings have, at times, led to complex, lengthy, costly, and uncertain consenting processes that hinder necessary grid development. Therefore, it is paramount that these new legislative frameworks recognise the national significance of the Grid, reconcile conflicts with other environmental policies, and streamline approval processes to ensure the timely and efficient expansion required to support a renewable energy future for Aotearoa.

Within this context, while Transpower supports the intent of the amendments to Policy 6 of the NZCPS, it considers the amendments do not go far enough in addressing the objectives in the discussion document and remains concerned with the lack of reconciliation both within the NZCPS and between the national direction instruments.

Transpower understands that reconciliation of the major tensions will occur as part of the replacement of the RMA, and therefore the policy 'gap' is an interim issue. Transpower also understands that the form of the national direction may change under the Phase 3 Reforms and therefore welcomes ongoing discussion with officials as to how the NPS-EN and NES-ENA will be transposed into the new Phase 3 legislation. While Transpower supports this intent, it remains concerned as to lack on reconciliation in the interim. Transpower would support the issue being addressed as soon as possible to provide as much certainty as possible for all users (particularly given the fact that the Phase 2 national direction could be around for up to five years, as part of the transition to the new Phase 3 legislation and will therefore have an impact on the consenting processes for National Grid projects during this time).

Transpower's comments are confined to Policy 6 of the NZCPS. It has no comments on amendments to Policy 8 relating to Aquaculture.

Amendments requested through this submission are provided throughout this submission (shown as blue text). Edits proposed as part of the consultation material are shown as red text.

To assist officials in understanding the relief sought in the Transpower submissions on the various national direction instruments, Appendix A provides a summary of the submissions and amendments requested.

3.0 Policy 6 Amendments

Policy 6 Activities in the coastal environment

6(1) In relation to the coastal environment:

- a) recognise that the provision of infrastructure, the supply and transport of energy, including the generation and transmission of electricity, and the extraction of minerals are activities ~~important to~~ which may be required for the social, economic and cultural well-being of people and communities;
- b)
- e) consider where and how built development on land should be controlled so that it does not compromise activities of national or regional importance that have a functional need to operate in the coastal marine area; ...
- g) ~~take into account~~ recognise the potential of renewable resources in the coastal environment, such as energy from wind, waves, currents and tides, to meet the reasonably foreseeable needs of current and future generations; ...
- k) in relation to (1)(e) recognise that Infrastructure, renewable electricity, electricity transmission, aquaculture and resource extraction activities may have a functional need or operational need to locate in the coastal marine area.

6(2) Additionally, in relation to the coastal marine area:

- l) recognise potential contributions to the social, economic and cultural wellbeing of people and communities from use and development of the coastal marine area, including the potential for renewable marine energy to contribute to meeting the energy needs of current and future generations;
- f) in relation to (2)(c) and (d), recognise that infrastructure, renewable electricity, electricity transmission, aquaculture and resource extraction activities may have a functional need or operational need to locate in the coastal marine area.

Transpower has existing assets in the coastal environment, including above and below ground assets, and submarine assets. Of particular note in this regard are the high voltage direct current ('HVDC') cables that cross Cook Strait and that connect electricity transmission between the North and South Islands. Given the coastal environment can extend a significant way inland¹, the NZCPS is of relevance to electricity transmission with both national policy statements (i.e. the NZCPS and NPS-EN) applying and having to be 'read together'.

Transpower supports the reasons behind the proposed amendments to policy 6 of the NZCPS set out in the Package 2 Primary Sector Discussion Document² ('Discussion Document') and Attachment 2.3 to the Discussion Document. In particular, Transpower supports the 'Reasons' for the amendments to Policy 6 which are that "*Strengthening the language in Policy 6 for priority activities should elevate the importance of priority activities in decision-making and*

¹ For example, the Kapiti District Plan has a 4 km coastal environment identified in some areas, the proposed Wellington City Plan has common coastal environment setbacks of 500-1140 m, the proposed Porirua City Plan has many in the range of 350-1080 m, and the Far North Proposed District Plan has many in the range of 890-1869 m.

² <https://environment.govt.nz/assets/publications/RMA/package-2-primary-sector-discussion-document.pdf>.

*soften how the ‘avoid’ policies are applied”.*³ Transpower also supports the need to “*make it easier to consent priority activities in the coastal environment, including in areas with important coastal values*”.⁴

Transpower supports the amendments to Policy 6 to recognise that electricity transmission (as a priority activity) may have an operational need to locate in the coastal marine area. The amendments would reflect and be consistent with Policy P2 and Policy P4 of the NPS-EN. Transpower suggests further amendments to ensure operational need is treated consistently within Policy 6.

Notwithstanding its support for the general reasons for the proposed changes as outlined above, Transpower is cognisant that while Policy 6 of the NZCPS recognises a number of activities within the coastal environment, the NZCPS requires the *avoidance* of all adverse effects in valued areas, and the avoidance of significant adverse effects in all other areas (referred to as the ‘protection policies’ within the Discussion Document). The amendments proposed to the NZCPS and in the NPS-EN (which is proposed to apply to the coastal environment and coastal marine area) neither recognise or reconcile these tensions, nor provide a policy pathway for recognised activities when read alongside the protective NZCPS policies, despite the recognition of ‘operational need’ within the NZCPS or how ‘enabling’ the NPSET/NPS-EN policies are expressed to be.

It is noted that the Discussion Document (on page 29) states that:

“The combined impact of these changes for priority activities should elevate the importance of such developments in decision-making. It could soften how the ‘avoid’ requirements in the protection policies are applied, in a similar way to the Port Otago decision.”

Transpower has concerns the proposed amendments will not achieve the outcomes sought and notes the use of the words ‘should’ and ‘could’ in the commentary – which aren’t at all definitive. On this basis Transpower would support a more definitive approach, noting that while the amendments to Policy 6 would provide a pathway, the argument would remain that locating within the NZCPS ‘protective policy’ areas/values may not be appropriate and therefore should be avoided.

Further amendments to Policy 6 to address this concern are proposed below.

While Transpower understands that reconciliation of the major tensions between national direction documents under the RMA will occur as part of the replacement of the RMA, and therefore the policy ‘gap’ and tensions are an interim issue, given the significance of the issue and need to enable electricity transmission (and renewable electricity generation) as soon as possible, Transpower is firmly of the view that the policy gap should be addressed in the interim to provide certainty. This is given increased weight due to the fact that, as noted earlier, messaging from officials has suggested the national direction documents could remain

³ Attachment 2.3 to the Discussion Document, page 2.

⁴ Attachment 2.3 to the Discussion Document, page 2.

‘in play’ in their current form for at least five years – that means the Phase 2 policy framework will continue to have an impact on a large number of National Grid RMA approvals processes.

Discussion Document Questions		Transpower Response
22.	Would the proposed changes achieve the objective of enabling more priority activities and be simple enough to implement before wider resource management reform takes place?	To a very limited degree. As outlined above Transpower has concerns the amendments do not reconcile the fundamental policy tensions, and do not soften the “avoid” requirements, and therefore the objective is unlikely to be achieved.
23.	Would the proposed changes ensure that wider coastal and marine values and uses are still appropriately considered in decision-making?	Yes – the policy does not change the framework of the NZCPS that all the policies are to be read together.
24.	Are there any further changes to the proposed provisions that should be considered?	Yes – refer to commentary in Section 3 and Section 4 of this submission. These changes relate to Policy 6, and wider changes relating to the relationship between the NZCPS and NPS-EN.

Amendments requested

The Discussion Document (at page 29) states that it is proposed to amend Policy 6(1)(a) and (g) *“in relation to the Government’s priority activities to make the wording more directive (i.e. more like the wording of policy 9 on ports)”* and *“soften how the ‘avoid’ requirements in the protection policies are applied, in a similar way to the Port Otago decision.”*

Transpower supports these intentions. However, the current amendments do not in fact strengthen Policy 6(1)(a) in relation to electricity transmission or soften the ‘avoid’ requirements. The current proposed direction in Policy 6(1)(a) that the transmission of electricity “may be required” for well-being significantly understates the importance of the electricity transmission network to the well-being of people and communities. The electricity transmission network (not just the transmission of electricity) is required for the well-being of people and communities.

Amending Policy 6 in relation to the electricity transmission network to be consistent with Policy 9 would achieve the intentions set out in the discussion document (see page 29 which specifically refers to making Policy 6 more like Policy 9). Aligning the wording of Policy 6 with Policy 9 would strengthen Policy 6 and allow it to “have a directive character” in the same way as the NZCPS avoidance policies, as was the finding of the Supreme Court in the *Port Otago* decision in relation to Policy 9 and the NZCPS avoidance policies.⁵ In particular, the Supreme Court found that *“the directive nature of the ports policy arises from the two verbs [“requires”*

⁵ *Port Otago Limited v Environmental Defence Society Incorporated* [2023] NZSC 112 at para [71]

and “recognise”] taken together”.⁶ Those two verbs are included in Transpower’s proposed drafting below.

The proposed changes below adopt language from Policy 9 of the NZCPS and combine it with the relevant matters in Policy 6(1) of the NZCPS and language from the proposed NPS-EN (noting that language in the NZCPS should ultimately align with the final form of the NPS-EN). The NPS-EN and NZCPS need to be consistent as both documents would apply to the electricity transmission network in the coastal environment, including the coastal marine area.

Transpower’s proposed amendments also implement the existing NZCPS objectives, in particular the direction in Objective 6 that “*functionally some uses and development can only be located on the coast or in the coastal marine area*”. Transpower’s assets in the coastal environment such as the HVDC Cable need to traverse the coastal environment to provide an efficient and interconnected transmission network.

Transpower’s proposed amendments to Policy 6 are shown below in blue text below.

In relation to Policy 6(1)(a), Transpower considers that the “transmission of electricity” needs to be broadened to “electricity transmission network activities” to ensure that all the activities that enable the “transmission of electricity” can be captured. Transpower also considers that amending Policy 6(1)(a) to reflect that electricity transmission network activities “are required” to support well-being will better achieve the objectives in the Discussion Document.

Transpower proposes adding a new clause (x) to make Policy 6 more directive and soften how the avoid policies are applied. Clause (x) is drafted in a similar manner to Policy 9 and recognises the importance of Transpower’s assets in the coastal environment.

Transpower suggests adding ‘operational need’ to Policy 6(1)(e) for consistency with the proposed new Policy 6(1)(k). Transpower also suggests the words “in relation to Policy 6(1)(e)” are deleted from Policy 6(1)(k), as this subclause should apply independently of Policy 6(1)(e) (which is primarily directed at avoiding reverse sensitivity effects and other compromising activities).

One option within scope of the amendments proposed within the National Direction consultation on the NZCPS (shown as red text) is to amend Policies 6(1)(k) and 6(2) to specifically reference the ‘protection policies’ in the NZCPS, and that avoidance may not be practicable. This would also ensure consistency with the scope of amendments to the proposed NPS-EN, in particular Policy 2 which recognises that electricity transmission activities have an operational or functional need to be located in particular environments, including areas with section 6 RMA values (such as those covered by the NZCPS avoid policies).

The changes proposed below will better achieve the intention of the proposed NZCPS amendments to “better enable development of priority activities” and “make it easier to give consent” to electricity network activities in the coastal environment, including in areas with important coastal values.

⁶ *Port Otago Limited v Environmental Defence Society Incorporated* [2023] NZSC 112 at para [69].

Policy 6 Activities in the coastal environment

6(1) In relation to the coastal environment:

- a) recognise that the provision of infrastructure, the supply and transport of energy, including the generation ~~and transmission~~ of electricity, electricity transmission network activities and the extraction of minerals are activities ~~important to which may be that are~~ required for the social, economic and cultural well-being of people and communities;
- b)
- x) Recognise that a sustainable electricity system requires the operation, maintenance, upgrade and development of an efficient, safe and inter-connected network of generation, transmission and distribution, including across the Cook Strait and in other coastal environment locations;
- c) ...
- d) ...
- e) consider where and how built development on land should be controlled so that it does not compromise activities of national or regional importance that have a functional need or operational need to operate in the coastal ~~environment~~ marine area; ...
- f) ...
- g) ~~take into account~~ recognise the potential of renewable resources in the coastal environment, such as energy from wind, waves, currents and tides, to meet the reasonably foreseeable needs of current and future generations; ...
- h)
- i)
- j)
- k) ~~in relation to (1)(e)~~ recognise that Infrastructure, renewable electricity, the electricity transmission network, aquaculture and resource extraction activities may have a functional need or operational need to locate in the coastal ~~environment~~ marine area, including in areas/values subject to Policy 11, Policy 13, Policy 15, Policy 16 and Policy 17, with unavoidable adverse effects on those environments.
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6(2) Additionally, in relation to the coastal marine area:

- a) recognise potential contributions to the social, economic and cultural wellbeing of people and communities from use and development of the coastal marine area, including the potential for renewable marine energy to contribute to meeting the energy needs of current and future generations;
- b) ...
- c) Recognise that there are activities that have a functional need or operational need to be located in the coastal marine area, and provide for those activities in appropriate places;
- d) recognise that activities that do not have a functional need or operational need for location in the coastal marine area generally should not be located there; and
- ...
- f) in relation to (2)(c) and (d), recognise that infrastructure, renewable electricity, the electricity transmission network, aquaculture and resource extraction activities may have a

functional need or operational need to locate in the coastal marine area, including in areas/values subject to Policy 11, Policy 13, Policy 15, Policy 16 and Policy 17, with unavoidable adverse effects on those environments.

Section 4 below further provides commentary to address the policy tensions – either as an interim measure or part of the Phase 3 Reforms.

4.0 Further Amendments – Either as part of Phase 2 or as part of Phase 3

Beyond Policies 6 and 8, no other changes are proposed to the NZCPS as part of the Phase 2 National Direction consultation. While Transpower is supportive of the amendment to the recognition policies to provide for operational need, the tensions with the avoid directives in the NZCPS are not resolved and the NPS-EN will not provide a sufficient pathway or reduce complexity. Transpower’s suggested amendments discussed in Section 3 above are designed to address this.

As outlined in its June 2023 submission on ‘*Strengthening National Direction on Renewable Energy Generation and Electricity Transmission*’ (‘June 2023 submission’), the constraints afforded by the avoid policies in the NZCPS are cumulative; if it is necessary to completely avoid all areas of significant environment value (including wetlands, SNAs, and outstanding landscapes), very quickly it is impossible to locate anywhere. While this applies to new National Grid assets, it equally applies to existing assets in the coastal environment which need to be maintained and upgraded.

In its June 2023 submission⁷, Transpower sought the NPS-ET prevail over the NZCPS. This was on the basis:

- a. *The ETN is a matter of national significance, a vital public good, and has a key role in responding to the existential crisis of climate change by enabling greater utilisation of renewable electricity generation. It is also linear infrastructure with limited scope to avoid effects (particularly visual, landscape, or amenity affects). In that context it is not appropriate for ETN activities to be subject to the same restrictions that apply to private development or other discretionary ‘everyday’ activities that might seek to locate in the coastal environment.*
- b. *The revised NPS-ET is intended to fill the ‘gaps’ in the existing NPS-ET so that effects on environmental values (including in the coastal environment) are appropriately considered. An important function of the NPS-ET is to reconcile the tension between the need to enable ETN activities and the need to appropriately provide for environmental values, including in the coast, and provide clear policy direction. As*

⁷ Paragraph 16.19

such, it is appropriate for the NPS-ET to operate as a complete 'code' with respect to ETN.

For the above reasons, Transpower remains supportive of an amendment to the NPS-EN to say that it prevails over the NZCPS. This would ensure the NPS-EN (as sought to be amended through the Transpower submission on the NPS-EN) provides a comprehensive framework for the management of the effects associated with EN activities.

An alternative to the above would be for a clause within the NPS-EN that in the event of conflict with other national direction, the NPS-EN prevails. This approach would allow for the consideration of both pieces of national direction but that the NPS-EN prevails in the event of conflict.

Given the above, Transpower requests that this submission, and the amendments sought within it, be read alongside Transpower's submission on the NPS-EN, specifically in relation to Policy P7.

Appendix A

To assist officials in understanding the relief sought in the Transpower submission on the various national direction instruments, the following provides a general summary of the submissions and amendments requested.

Package 1 Infrastructure and development

National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks - NPS-EN

Transpower is generally supportive of the NPS-EN and in particular the ‘benefits’ and ‘consideration/recognition’ policies and the introduction of P10 for the protection of the electricity network (‘EN’). However, it has concerns with the lack of reconciliation of matters subject to Section 6 of the RMA and other national direction in the interim, until the Phase 3 changes are enacted and the transition to the new system is complete. Transpower supports in principle the inclusion of the electricity distribution network.

The primary points and amendments requested by Transpower are:

- Clear implementation requirements and inclusion of ‘readymade’ provisions for inclusion in plans.
- Confined refinement to definitions for *Customer driven projects*, *Decision makers*, *EN assets*, *EN line*, *Routine EN activities*, *Sensitive activities*, and *Upgrading*, and inclusion of a definition of *Transmission line or distribution line*).
- Support for the objective, with confined amendment requested to clause b. and e. and rewording of clause f.
- P1 - amendment to clause 2) e) i) to recognise expanded or increased REG, and inclusion of reference to the broader issue of climate change mitigation.
- P2 - amendment to clause 2) b) to recognise the different needs, technical requirements and therefore scale of the EDN and ETN, and a new clause to recognise the need for EN to locate in hazard areas.
- P3 – confirmation as to how clause a) will be given effect to.
- P4 and P5 – support with minor amendments.
- P6 – amendment to apply the policy to significant adverse effects, and amendment to the avoid, remedy or mitigate where practicable policy directive.
- P8 – amendment to the chapeau to replace ‘upgrades’ with ‘non-routine’, and insertion of ‘where appropriate’ at the start of the policy.
- P9 – support.
- P10 – confined amendments to clause 1) to refer to activities.
- P11 – amendment to refer to strategic planning documents.
- P12 – amendment to broaden application (‘Electric and magnetic fields’ policy).

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- Significant amendments are requested to P7 to provide a complete policy framework for non-routine and new development ET activities that would apply to all environments, including matters subject to Section 6 and other national direction.

National Environmental Standards for Electricity Network Activities - NES-EN

Transpower supports the amendment and updating of the NESETA to respond to the increasing challenges of enabling electrification.

The primary points and amendments requested by Transpower are:

- Refinement and correction to some definitions, including ensuring consistency with the NPS-EN.
- Reframing of Regulation 4 to reflect requested amendments and clarify application of the NES-ENA.
- Refinement of the noise standards within Regulations 6 and 10, and inclusion of a definition for 'Assessment point'.
- Expansion of Regulation 23 to permit signage within the bed of a lake, river, stream or coastal marine area.
- Amendment to Regulations 30-32 relating to Trimming, felling, and removing trees and vegetation.
- Amendment to Regulations 33-35 relating to earthworks, including removing the exclusion of regional earthworks rules within Regulation 4.
- Amendment to Regulation 36 to manage soil disturbance on contaminated land, and removing the application of the NES-CS.
- Inclusion of regional rules for Waterway Crossings, Groundwater take and use, dewatering; Structures and works in the coastal marine area; and Works within the bed of a lake or river.
- Minor amendments (corrections) to the Part 4 Rules for the National Grid Yard and Corridor, and insertion of inclusion of the yard and corridor provisions from the AUP.

National Policy Statement for Infrastructure - NPS-I

Noting the NPS-I does not apply to the ETN, Transpower generally supports the proposed direction outlined in the NPS-I. Notwithstanding the general support, Transpower prefers the wording within the NPS-EN in so far as the application of any policies to the ETN. As with the NPS-EN, a principal concern of Transpower is the lack of reconciliation between the enabling provisions of the NPS-I and other 'protective' forms of national direction (and Section 6 RMA matters in general).

The primary points and amendments requested by Transpower are:

- Refinement and correction to some definitions, including ensuring consistency with the NPS-EN.
- Amendment to clause f) of the objective to reflect the 'proportionate' approach under the NPS-EN.
- Support for policies, with amendment to policies P1, P3, P6 and P7.

- Significant amendments are requested to P8 to provide clear guidance on the expectations for management of effects, particularly in relation to Section 6 RMA values such as for landscapes, indigenous biodiversity and historic heritage.
- Concerns if P9 and P10 were applied to the ETN.

National Policy Statement for Renewable Electricity Generation - NPS-REG

While Transpower's main role is to ensure the reliable supply of electricity to the country, Transpower is also responsible for managing the power system in real time, a role referred to as the 'System Operator'. As part of this role, Transpower operates the electricity market to ensure electricity transmitted through the Grid is delivered whenever and wherever it is needed, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. In this way, we balance electricity demand and supply. To ensure this balance, Transpower is responsible for providing information and forecasting to the industry about security of electricity supply.

Transpower is cognisant that while it has a strong interest in the NPS-REG, its actual application to the ETN is limited. As such Transpower recognises that the electricity generators are best placed to comment on specific wording and concerns with the NPS-REG. At a high level, Transpower is concerned that the intent of the amendments to the NPS-REG will not address the problems articulated in the discussion document. On this basis, Transpower has requested limited amendments to the NPS, with those sought confined to refinement and correction to the definitions of *REG activities* and *REG assets*.

National Environmental Standards for Telecommunication Facilities - NES-TF

Noting Transpower's confined use and interaction with the NES-TF, in principle Transpower is supportive of the proposed changes to the NES in so far as it applies to the ETN, acknowledging that other users of the NES may have broader concerns. In particular Transpower supports the new state of emergency provisions. Transpower requested clarification as whether the NES-ENA or NES-TF manage Optical Ground Wire ('OPGW'), with specific wording requested to address the issue.

National Environmental Standards for Granny Flats - NES-GF

Transpower is neutral on the overall objective and the majority of provisions in the NES-GF. However, Transpower requests clarity on the relationship to the NES-ENA. It is requested that the NES-GF is amended by adding reference to Part 4 of the NES-ENA (the corridor provisions).

National Environmental Standards for Papakāinga - NES-P

Transpower is neutral on the overall objective and the majority of provisions in the NES-P. However, Transpower requests clarity on the relationship to the NES-ENA (noting ET is not

included within *PAS3 Applicable rules of the underlying zone*). It is requested that the NES-P is amended by adding reference to Part 4 of the NES-ENA (the corridor provisions).

National Policy Statement for Natural Hazards - NPS-NH

Transpower supports the NPS-NH not applying to infrastructure. However, despite this exclusion, the NPS-NH states this NPS does not limit local authorities from managing natural hazard risk beyond the application of the NPS. Transpower is concerned this non-limitation could mean local authorities could apply provisions for infrastructure (including the National Grid) despite the specific exclusion in the NPS-NH. Transpower seeks this non-limitation be clarified/confined.

Package 2 and 3 - Primary Sector, and Freshwater

National Policy Statement for Freshwater and National Environmental Standards for Freshwater

Acknowledging the confined scope of the proposed amendments within Package 2, Transpower has provided general comments on the discussion points for Package 3, including concerns with any delay in the identification of wetlands; that Regulations 46(4)(b), 46(4)(c) and 46(4)(d) of the NES-F not apply in relation to altering, relocation and replacing support structures, transmission line removal, tree trimming and earthworks; and that 'operational need' be included for specified infrastructure (as is proposed for quarries as part of Package 2). Other matters to be addressed relate to how upgrading is managed within the NES, the lack of provision for Specified Infrastructure ancillary activities, the ability for councils to impose more stringent rules, and the offsetting and compensation principles when applied to existing electricity transmission assets.

New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement - NZCPS

Transpower supports the amendments to Policy 6, and specifically the amendment to recognise that electricity transmission (as a priority activity) may have an operational need to locate in the coastal marine area. Notwithstanding its support and the proposed changes to Policy 6, Transpower is cognisant the NZCPS requires the avoidance of all adverse effects in valued areas, and the avoidance of significant adverse effects in all other areas (referred to as the 'protection policies' within the discussion document). The amendments proposed to the NZCPS and in the NPS-EN neither recognise or reconcile these tensions, or provide a policy pathway for recognised activities when read alongside protective NZCPS policies, despite the recognition of 'operational need' within the NZCPS or how 'enabling' the NPSET/NPS-EN policies are expressed to be. While Transpower understands that reconciliation of the major tensions will occur as part of the replacement of the RMA in Phase 3 of the reform, and therefore the policy 'gap' and tensions are an interim issue, given the significance of the issue and need to enable electricity transmission (and renewable electricity generation) as soon as possible, Transpower would support the policy gap being addressed in the interim to provide certainty. Suggested additional wording to Policy 6 is requested in the Transpower submission.