

BEFORE THE ENVIRONMENT COURT

ENV-2019-WLN-000108

AT WELLINGTON

I MUA I TE KOOTI TAIAO

O AOTEAROA

IN THE MATTER

of an appeal under clause 14
of Schedule 1 of the Resource
Management Act 1991

BETWEEN

**Transpower New Zealand
Limited**

Appellant

AND

**Wellington Regional
Council**

Respondent

**NOTICE OF WISH TO BE A PARTY TO PROCEEDINGS BY THE
MINISTER OF CONSERVATION**

Dated: 9 October 2019

Department of Conservation
Solicitor acting: K Anton/M Downing
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Telephone: 027 427 5900

Notice of person's wish to be a party to proceedings

Section 274 Resource Management Act 1991

To: The Registrar
Environment Court
WELLINGTON

1. The **Minister of Conservation** (the **Minister**) wishes to be a party to the following proceedings:
 - 1.1. Transpower New Zealand Limited v Wellington Regional Council,
ENV-2019-WLN-000108
2. The Minister made submissions and appeared at the Council hearing on the proposed Natural Resources Plan for the Wellington Region (proposed Plan). The Minister also has an interest greater than the interest the general public has, specifically regarding conservation values and the implementation of the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement.
3. The Minister is not a trade competitor for the purposes of section 308C or 308CA of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA).
4. The Minister is interested in part of the proceedings.
5. The Minister is interested in the following particular issues:
 - 5.1. New Policy 13A: managing environmental effects of new National Grid infrastructure;
 - 5.2. Policy P24 – assessing outstanding natural character;
 - 5.3. Rule R104 – structures in significant natural wetlands – permitted activity;
 - 5.4. Rule R127 – reclamation of beds of lakes and rivers – non-complying.
6. The Minister does not oppose the relief sought in relation to the following, but says:

- 6.1. Proposed new Policy 13A attempts to reconcile the direction from the National Policy Statement for Electricity Transmission with the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement (NZCPS) and other section 6 matters. The Minister wishes to work with the appellant, respondent and other interested parties as this policy and associated implications are refined within the context of the proposed Plan.
7. The Minister opposes the relief sought with respect to the remaining issues referred in paragraph 5 because:
 - 7.1. Policy P24 – assessing outstanding natural character: the amendments are not considered necessary as they are encompassed in proposed new policy P13A;
 - 7.2. Rule R104 – structures in significant natural wetlands – permitted activity – the amendment sought to paragraph (k) would enable new National Grid infrastructure of unlimited dimensions as a permitted activity in a significant wetland which is inconsistent with the Act, the NZCPS and the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management;
 - 7.3. Rule R127 – reclamation of beds of lakes and rivers – non complying – the appellant seeks to make an exception for development of all regionally significant infrastructure in outstanding rivers, lakes and mana whenua sites. This will not give effect to the NPSFM and the proposed change needs to be narrowed, via reference to National Grid infrastructure, if it is to be supported by the NPSET.
8. The Minister agrees to participate in mediation or other alternative dispute resolution of the proceedings.



Katherine Anton/May Downing
Solicitor for the Minister of Conservation
9 October 2019

Address for service of person wishing to be a party:

Minister of Conservation

Department of Conservation
18 Manners Street, Wellington 6011

Contact persons

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Advice

If you have any questions about this notice, please contact the Environment Court in Auckland, Wellington, or Christchurch.