

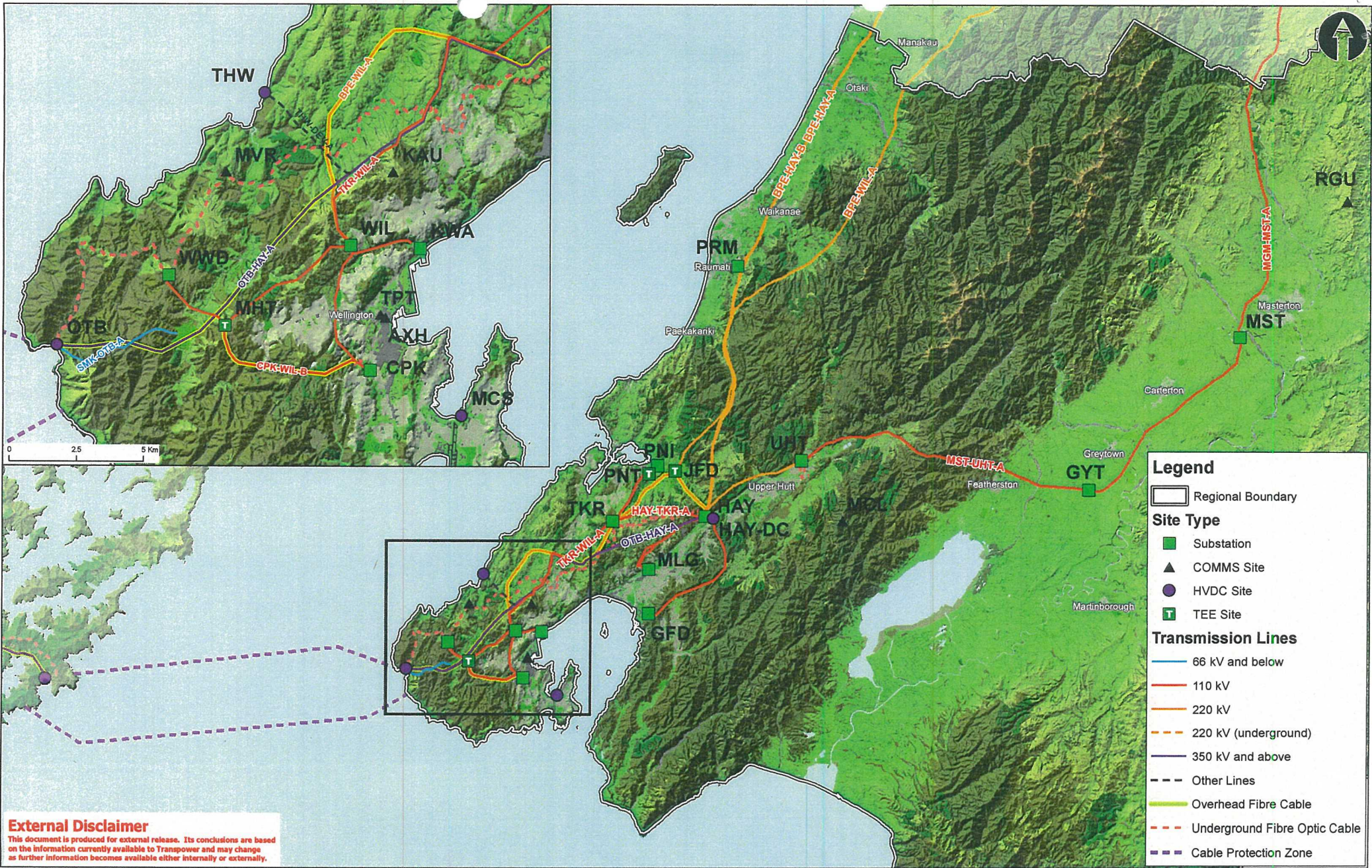
# Speaking Notes - Summary of evidence of Pauline Mary Whitney on Submission points by Transpower NZ Ltd S165

## Before Greater Wellington Regional Council

### Proposed Natural Resource Plan Hearings Panel Hearing Stream One

- 1 My name is Pauline Mary Whitney. I am a Senior Planner: Principal of Boffa Miskell Limited. I am a Full Member of the New Zealand Planning Institute, and have over 19 years' experience as a resource management planner.
- 2 I would like to highlight the following key points of my primary evidence:
  - 2.1 The national importance of the National Grid is recognised in the National Policy Statement on Electricity Transmission 2008 ("NPSET"), the Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Electricity Transmission Activities) Regulations 2009 and the operative Regional Policy Statement for the Wellington Region 2013 ("RPS") (as regionally significant infrastructure).
  - 2.2 The PRNP has adopted the approach of the RPS in that the National Grid is included in the term of Regionally Significant Infrastructure. While in my experience this is a common approach and acceptable in principle, the plan has to be sure that it gives effect to the NPSET, and the provisions relevant to the National Grid are not diluted because the policy framework groups the National Grid with all other Regionally Significant Infrastructure.
  - 2.3 Relevant to Hearing Stream 1, Transpower lodged 15 original submission points and 12 further submission points.
  - 2.4 I would like to note two typographical errors in my evidence. The wording "in the coastal marine area" as shown in the box within paragraph 77, page 21 of my primary evidence, should be shown as strikethrough text as opposed to underline. The supporting explanatory text supports the removal of this text. The second error relates to Policy 4, page 24, para 90 of my evidence. The sought text reference (b) should actually read (f) and the last part of the sentence "and the means by which any identified adverse effects can be practically avoided, remedied or mitigated" should be removed (reflecting the relief sought in paragraph 89 and within scope of the submission point).
  - 2.5 I would also like to note an update to the map of the National Grid assets in the region. This new map shows the recent removal of the MHO-PKK line that runs through Kapiti (resulting from Transmission Gully). This line has been removed since the PNRP was notified.
  - 2.6 Upon reviewing other experts predicated evidence, I support the amended definition of "upgrade" as outlined in paragraph 36 of Ms Fosters evidence pertaining to submission points of Meridian Energy Ltd. (TP submission point S165/050).
  - 2.7 In terms of the officer's overview presented on 22 May 2017, there were not many changes put forward as a result of all the expert evidence. The one change relevant to Transpowers submission points relates to

- Policy 4. and involves removal of clause b). While I support the removal of clause b); along with numerous other submitters, I have concerns with Policy 4. In context of minimizing adverse effects, I support amendments recognising the benefits and costs, and functional and operational needs of RSI.
- 2.8 As a result of listening to the questions by the panel to the officers on Monday 22 May, I have relooked at the nature of the objectives put toward in my primary evidence. I am satisfied that the changes outlined in my evidence reflect the purpose of an objective, which is to be outcome focused, and a statement about what is to be achieved. The addition of "provided for" to Objective 12 helps make the objective more measurable.
- 2.9 However, I am of the opinion the new objective proposed by NZTA "*To recognise that regionally significant infrastructure represents appropriate use and development in all environments where there are functional needs or operational requirements*". which Transpower supported, may be best placed as a policy, as by recognising the constraints, you would be achieving Objectives 12 and 13.
- 2.10 The remaining relief in relation to definition of National Grid Yard, Objectives 12, 13 and 33, and Policies 4, 7, 12, 14 and new policy 13A stand.
- 2.11 Apart from Objective 33, all the above provisions relate to regionally significant infrastructure, and in large seek that the NPSET is given effect to in the PRNP. In my opinion, the sought provisions would ensure the national significance of the National Grid is reflected in the policy framework for the PNRP.
- 2.12 At subsequent hearings Transpower will be presenting evidence on rules as well as the policy framework, with the main focus on contaminated land, works in waterbodies and the Cook Strait Cable.



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