

**In the Environment Court of New Zealand
Wellington Registry**

**I Te Kooti Taiao O Aotearoa
Te Whanganui-a-Tara Rohe**

ENV-2019-WLG-130

Under the Resource Management Act 1991 (the Act)

In the matter of an appeal under clause 14(1) of the First Schedule of the Act

Between **The Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand Incorporated**
Appellant

And **Wellington Regional Council**
Respondent

Notice of Transpower New Zealand Limited's wish to be party to proceedings

Dated 9 October 2019

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To The Registrar
 Environment Court
 Wellington

- 1 Transpower New Zealand Limited (**'Transpower'**) wishes to be a party to an appeal by The Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand Incorporated (**'Forest and Bird'**) against the decisions of the Wellington Regional Council (the **'Respondent'**) on the proposed Natural Resources Plan for the Wellington Region (the **'Proposed Plan'**) (Court reference ENV-2019-WLG-130).
- 2 Transpower made a submission about the subject matter of the proceedings.
- 3 Transpower also has an interest in the proceedings that is greater than the interest the general public has. This is in relation to the regionally significant infrastructure addressed in Policy P13, Policy P102 and Policy P138. The Proposed Plan defines 'regionally significant infrastructure' as including the National Grid. Transpower owns and operates the National Grid, and its assets across the Wellington Region include 12 substations, 25 transmission lines, three submarine cables, four high voltage direct current links, five overhead fibre cables, and seven communications sites.
- 4 Transpower is not a trade competitor for the purposes of section 308C or 308CA of the Resource Management Act 1991.
- 5 Transpower is interested in part of the proceedings, being those aspects of the appeal that are set out below at paragraph 6 of this notice.
- 6 Transpower is interested in the following particular issues:
 - a Royal Forest and Bird seeks to reinstate the notified version of Policy P13 and add a requirement that 'adverse effects are avoided, remedied or mitigated';
 - b Royal Forest and Bird seeks to replace Policy P102 with a policy focussed on the extent and ecosystem health of rivers and streams in the region; and
 - c Royal Forest and Bird seeks to amend Policy P138 to require effects to be managed in accordance with Policy 39A of the Proposed Plan.
- 7 Transpower takes the following positions on the relief sought:
 - a Opposes the amendment to Policy P13 as the notified version of Policy P13:

- i Only applied to 'existing' regionally significant infrastructure and does not include the 'development' of regionally significant infrastructure; and
 - ii Did not 'provide for' regionally significant infrastructure;
 - b Conditionally supports the amendment to Policy P102, to the extent that it recognises the requirements of nationally significant infrastructure activities; and
 - c Opposes the amendment to Policy P138 as it would require adverse effects within the coastal marine area to be avoided, even where the structure is necessary to enable the development, operation, maintenance and upgrade of regionally significant infrastructure.
- 8 Transpower agrees to participate in mediation or other alternative dispute resolution of the proceedings.

Dated 9 October 2019



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