

Transpower
Evidence 10
Sub 195 FS 92.

Transpower New Zealand Limited (Submitter ref 195 and further submitter reference FS92)

Hearing Streams 1 and 2 – Speaking Notes for Rebecca Eng, Technical Lead – Policy

Tuesday 16 May 2023 – 1.45pm

Good afternoon chair and commissioners, thank you for the opportunity to speak to Transpower's submission points on Hearing Streams 1 and 2. I am Rebecca Eng, Technical Lead – Policy in Transpower's Environmental Regulatory Team. I am joined by Transpower's expert planning witness, Ms Ainsley McLeod.

I understand from Minute 1 and earlier hearing sessions that the Panel has pre-read evidence so I will not repeat mine.

The main purpose of my evidence was to introduce Transpower and the National Grid, and its role in New Zealand's electricity system. I have also provided some local context to the National Grid assets in the Waimakariri District, along with our currently active projects.

Transpower's ability to effectively and efficiently operate, maintain, upgrade and develop the National Grid is essential to the social and economic wellbeing of New Zealanders. All local authority policies and plans are critical to facilitating this, including by providing an appropriate planning framework that contemplates construction of new National Grid assets. This includes connecting to sources of demand and renewable electricity generation, as the economy is electrified in pursuit of its carbon zero aspirations. The Waimakariri District is no exception.

You'll hear further planning and engineering evidence from Transpower in upcoming hearings to support Transpower's submissions. In the meantime, I am happy to take any questions that the panel may have. Thank you.