

7 May, 2009

Manukau City Council
Transpower NZ Ltd for underground
transmission lines (Proposal No 35983)
- Pakuranga to Penrose 220kV Underground
Cable Project.
By email: submissions@manukau.govt.nz

NZCID Submission on Transpower's proposed North Auckland and Northland Upgrade Project

The New Zealand Council for Infrastructure Development appreciates the opportunity to submit on Transpower's proposed North Auckland and Northland Upgrade Project.

NZCID is fully supportive of the project in particular the reinforcement of the security of supply for the region. With constraints on the Henderson-Otahuhu line almost realised and projected growth for the region indicating that the existing transmission line will reach constraint by 2013, it is essential that this upgrade takes place.

The Electricity Commission cautions that there is an unacceptably high level risk in the continued reliance on the existing transmission line for the Auckland and Northland region, we believe that this project is essential to help prevent a reoccurrence of power outages that have occurred in recent years, these have been caused by many different and sometime simple reasons, but due to our reliance on the on transmission scheme their impact has been wide and varied.

The future risk of the constraint and the current risk of loss of transmission due to accident or emergency have a considerable economic impact on the region as well as social, environmental and health implications. The retail and business sectors suffer from closure during periods of outage which can last for hours and potentially days in the case of substantial failure, beaches can be closed or polluted due to the impact on sewage pump stations, traffic networks can be disabled due to these outages which is a major concern for the safety of communities.

NZCID believes that the benefits of the proposed project; security of supply, undergrounding of high voltage transmission lines in suburban areas of the plan and building future capacity for the region, outweighs the short term impact of the work involved. It is our opinion that the short term negative impacts on traffic congestion and disturbance to local communities has been mitigated by the early involvement of utility operators in the project and the advance community

consultation which has taken place over the previous year. As well as the planned traffic management and continued communication with the affected stakeholders as appropriate.

Yours faithfully,



Stephen Selwood
Chief Executive