

BEFORE THE BOARD OF INQUIRY

IN THE MATTER of the Resource
Management Act 1991

AND

IN THE MATTER of applications for
resource consent and
notices of requirement
by Transpower New
Zealand Limited for the
North Island Grid
Upgrade Project

STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE OF JULIE MEADE ROSE
FOR TRANSPOWER NEW ZEALAND LIMITED
(Social impact peer review)

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INTRODUCTION

Qualifications

1. **MY** name is Julie Meade Rose. My qualifications include Bachelor of Arts Honours and a Master of Arts in Social Anthropology from Victoria University of Wellington. I am a member of the New Zealand Planning Institute and the Resource Management Law Association. I hold a certificate under the Making Good Decisions Programme, and have undertaken training in Resource Management Mediation.
2. I am a social anthropologist with 30 years experience in social and environmental planning. The focus of my work has been on social assessment. I recently returned to consultancy work having been Environmental Services Manager at Otorohanga District Council for two and a half years. Prior to that, I had a consultancy business for 16 years and worked for Murray North Ltd, an engineering based company, for eight years. During these periods, I worked on social and environmental planning projects for many wide ranging organisations and companies, including Transpower New Zealand Limited (**Transpower**), as well as regional and district Councils.
3. **MY** experience also includes working in 17 countries outside New Zealand over 22 years. The focus of this work was on social assessment of effects of projects and policies on communities in several sectors including energy, roading, infrastructural projects, planning and forestry. Prior to that I undertook post graduate research, was a research assistant for the Huntly monitoring project, and tutored in social anthropology at Waikato University and Victoria University of Wellington.
4. **WORK** I have undertaken for Transpower has included liaison and monitoring work for the extension of the HVDC transmission line in Wellington and Lower Hutt, consultation and giving evidence on the Kaiwharawhara Substation at Wellington, assessing impacts of upgrading Churton Park / Granada transmission lines in Wellington, and assessing social effects of the Pirongia section for the Huntly to Stratford 220kV transmission line.
5. **AS** well as social assessment being an integral part of my project work, I also wrote (and later updated) a Social Impact Assessment Course for a degree

and diploma for the Open Polytechnic of New Zealand and assessed all students assignments over several years. I have also given seminars on Social Assessment at several universities and polytechnics.

6. **CURRENTLY**, I am director and owner of the company Social & Environmental Limited. My responsibilities include undertaking aspects of sociological work and overall management of the consultancy company.
7. **MY** role in relation to the North Island Grid Upgrade Project (**Upgrade Project**) is to undertake a peer review of the social assessment work for the Notice of Requirement (**NOR**) undertaken by Dr Phillips.
8. I confirm that I have read and am familiar with the Code of Conduct for Expert Witnesses in the Environment Court Consolidated Practice Note (2006). I have approached the preparation of this evidence in the same way that I would for the Environment Court.
9. **FOR** preparation of my evidence I have read the social assessment and associated documentation for the NOR. I undertook site visits, including the existing and proposed substations and switching stations on 7 and 14 November 2007 accompanied by Transpower staff and consultants, and the proposed underground cable and overhead line routes on 15 November 2007 accompanied by a Transpower consultant. I have spoken to Dr Phillips, Ms Allan and other project team members to clarify and expand on matters relating to social assessment work undertaken. I have also reviewed some social assessment documentation.

Scope of evidence

10. **MY** evidence will address the following matters:
 - (a) approach used in the social assessment work undertaken;
 - (b) coverage of relevant issues;
 - (c) submissions on the NOR; and
 - (d) conclusions drawn.

11. **THE** main conclusion of my statement is that I consider Dr Phillips has appropriately and adequately undertaken the social assessment process, methodology and coverage of issues for the Upgrade Project.

APPROACH USED IN THE SOCIAL ASSESSMENT WORK UNDERTAKEN

12. **SOCIAL** assessment, a process to identify, address and manage social effects of a proposed change, has several phases and tasks to be worked through. In my evidence I will review the work undertaken by Dr Phillips and consider in my professional opinion if the phases and tasks, methodology and coverage of issues are appropriate and adequate.

Process used

13. **DR** Phillips in the introduction and background of the Social Impact Assessment Report (**social assessment**) summarises key aspects of the social assessment for the Upgrade Project. Firstly, Dr Phillips states that the focus of the social assessment is on a range of personal, household and community effects. Secondly, Dr Phillips states the key aspects of the assessment are people's way of life, their culture, community, health and wellbeing, and fears and aspirations. He then proceeds to indicate that while the social assessment identifies social effects that overlap with other project studies, these effects are dealt with more fully in the other studies. Such studies include archaeology, culture, land use, recreation, tourism and risk. Thirdly, Dr Phillips further indicates that the social assessment is part of a wider environmental assessment undertaken. In my view, these three points which Dr Phillips has made clearly indicate the distinct boundaries of the social assessment work and its link with other studies undertaken for the Upgrade Project. Such boundaries are often not well defined in social assessments undertaken.
14. **CONCERNING** the third point also, Dr Phillips makes it clear that the social assessment as part of the wider environmental assessment contributes to the decision making for the development of the Upgrade Project, and is one discipline in a suite of disciplines that does so. I concur with Dr Phillips on this point.

15. **DR Phillips** proceeds to outline the four stages where social impacts of projects typically occur. These stages are:

- (a) during project planning / consultation;
- (b) implementation / construction;
- (c) operation including maintenance; and
- (d) decommissioning / closure.

He indicates that most attention for this social assessment work is on the first stage, the stage at which the Upgrade Project is currently at. This is because until contracts are let for the next stage, details of the construction programme are still preliminary. Thus a detailed assessment of construction effects is not possible. However a generic assessment can be made now. I concur with Dr Phillips' emphasis on the planning / consultation stage of the process and also his recognition that considering the abandonment of the proposed line, the fourth stage is unnecessary for the reason that any transmission line is intended to be maintained indefinitely.

16. **PRE-CONSULTATION** social assessment work was undertaken by Ms Allan and Transpower staff / consultants through use of the ACRE process. This point was established from the documentation content and clarified in discussion with Dr Phillips and Ms Allan. The ACRE process was used to avoid a range of different effects as far as practicable and then to minimise effects when implementing the preferred option. Dr Phillips undertook the social assessment work once consultation with affected people and the public began.

17. **STATING** the social context of the social assessment, which began prior to Dr Phillips involvement, was thus of considerable importance to be summarised in Dr Phillips' report. The summary indicates several factors in which the Upgrade Project was developed in the early stages. These factors include justification of the need for the work, the transmission options considered so far including tower positioning and heights of towers, and how social effects are being planned to be, and could be, minimised throughout the remaining stages of the process. In my view, it was important that Dr Phillips stated the

social context of the Upgrade Project as it summarises Transpower's work undertaken so far, and highlights Transpower's priorities to avoid, remedy and minimise social effects of the Upgrade Project.

18. **TIMING** of social assessment work undertaken in relation to the Electricity Commission approval process has been highlighted by Dr Phillips. This is important as it helps our understanding of the complexity of the Upgrade Project. In my view, Dr Phillips clearly distinguishes work undertaken for the Original Proposal and, after the Electricity Commission's notice of intention not to accept the proposal, work undertaken for the Amended Proposal.
19. **SCOPING** the range of possible social effects has been done through use of a checklist. This checklist, which is set out in "Table 1 Social effects assessment framework" in the social assessment, covers the key aspects mentioned above in paragraph 13. I confirm from discussion with Dr Phillips that this checklist was formulated to report data gained from consultation after consultation took place and was not pre-formulated beforehand. I consider the checklist accurately and adequately categorises data gained during consultation and that the checklist was formulated at the appropriate time.
20. **THROUGH** further scoping of the assessment, Dr Phillips identifies social effects that are considered in other NOR assessments, social effects arising from overseas experience (noting their limited relevance to the Upgrade Project), and social effects raised that are not relevant to this NOR process, but are relevant to related processes such as the Electricity Commission decision. I wish to emphasise the latter point because effects in this transmission line process have sometimes been compounded due to confusion with effects in related processes. I have discussed this matter with Dr Phillips and can confirm that this confusion and compounding of effects has occurred.
21. **SCOPING** the assessment in terms of identifying potentially (and actually) affected people, and the geographical area covered, has been done through use of the ACRE process, consultation and use of Census data. Dr Phillips, in my opinion, clearly indicates this scoping in his report.
22. **WHILE** I note there is no information about communities to which these people belong, the connectivity of these people to neighbouring larger centres, or the

capacity of these people to absorb the proposed change, Dr Phillips has stated on page 10 of the social assessment that it was not possible to survey individual households within the route due to the level of opposition to the Upgrade Project. Now there is a greater understanding of the Upgrade Project because of on-going communication which is currently on a one to one level in most cases with people in the easement.

23. **THE** social assessment outlines the characteristics of the affected population including the structure and size of the affected population, the distribution of the people along the line and highlights demographic features that may be important to the social effects of the proposed line. Dr Phillips provides detailed statistical analysis for each segment of the affected population using 2006 mesh block Census data. In my view Dr Phillips has provided a comprehensive and thorough analysis of the population along the proposed transmission line route bearing in mind the limitations noted, these being the inability at earlier stages to talk to people due to negative reaction and/or their unwillingness to engage.
24. **THE** assessment of effects is set in the current institutional and political context. Dr Phillips identifies the background of opposition particularly to the overhead line and the proposed works in the Brownhill Road area. He also discusses other energy related processes occurring at the same time, namely the Electricity Commission processes. These contexts are complex and have resulted in situations where there is misunderstanding, lack of clarity, non acceptance of the need for the Upgrade Project, and complications with understanding of the processes involved. However, knowledge of these contexts is important because it indicates a starting point for which appropriate assessments need to be made. In my view, Dr Phillips has appropriately and adequately acknowledged these contexts and starting points, and has proceeded to make his assessment of effects accordingly.
25. **DR** Phillips discusses the assessment of social effects at three stages of the project, and comments as appropriate on the main elements of the project being the substations, underground sections, transition / substation at Brownhill Road and the overhead section. Dr Phillips also notes the staging of the Amended Proposal with the proposed project being staged over a much longer timeframe than in the Original Proposal. Limitations to data, at each of these stages, are also noted. Bearing in mind the limitations to data

particularly at the construction and operation stages, I consider that the assessment of social effects has been comprehensive and appropriate.

26. **MITIGATION** and avoidance of adverse effects have been ongoing throughout the social assessment process as Dr Phillips indicates throughout the report. From my review of relevant reports and background material, avoidance of significant adverse effects has been an integral part of the ACRE process. Since consultation commenced, avoidance (where possible) has continued along with mitigation during the more detailed planning stage. Dr Phillips has proposed measures that would assist Transpower with the on-going management of social effects and specific measures to mitigate adverse effects arising in preparation for construction and operation. I consider these measures to be sound and of utmost importance to have in place as soon as practical.
27. I have had discussions with Transpower management, and Transpower, as per good industry practice, will prepare a series of management plans to manage and mitigate effects of the Upgrade Project. At community level these management plans will include a stakeholder management plan and a communications plan. At landowner and household level, management plans will include a landowner management plan, construction management plan and site works plans. A range of other associated management plans will also be developed to mitigate effects as Mr Rasul has indicated in his evidence.
28. **THE** management plans will include working closely with communities, landowners, stakeholders, businesses, households, and individuals to keep them informed, consult with them, and work through construction programmes and ensure that communities gain maximum benefits where possible from the Upgrade Project. The latter includes establishing liaison mechanisms locally to ensure local labour, accommodation, work related resources and services, and training programmes are used where practical. A range of indicators and a set of performance measures would be developed to monitor and manage construction.
29. **TO** conclude, in my opinion, Dr Phillips has covered what I consider are the key phases and tasks of social assessment for the Upgrade Project. He has done this by appropriately and adequately addressing:

- (a) the initial issues phase through the tasks of establishing the purpose/focus of the social assessment, identifying relevant social priorities and critical social issues including boundaries, links and relationships with other work, contexts under which the work was undertaken, and stages of the process at which effects typically occur;
- (b) the scoping phase through the tasks of identifying timeframes involved, the range of social effects emerging, and an assessment of concerns, needs and wants;
- (c) the profiling baseline data phase through the tasks of compiling and analysing characteristics of the affected population;
- (d) consideration of alternatives phase through detailing alternatives and developing and applying social criteria for preferred options / locations;
- (e) the assessing community / social effects phase through the tasks of detailing the preferred option, assessing the social effects and acknowledging related effects;
- (f) the mitigate and manage phase through the tasks of identifying mitigation measures and devising a management plan. This work will be done through Transpower's preparation of a wide range of best practice management plans to manage and mitigate construction effects; and
- (g) that further mitigation and management, and the monitoring phase, would proceed immediately should the project proceed.

Methodology used

30. **DR Phillips** reports using two methods in ascertaining information for the social assessment report. These methods are use of existing data and key informant interviews. Existing data was from three main sources: statistical information from Census data at mesh block level; notes from meetings, correspondence and phone calls; and written submissions and associated oral

presentations. Key informant interviews with doctors, representatives of schools and real estate agencies, although few in number, were undertaken also and have provided some valuable insights into effects of the project on community members. I note that Dr Phillips states their limitations.

31. I note the absence of community surveys as a tool used in the route areas, especially to establish community belonging and connectivity, and people's capacity to absorb the project. Dr Phillips rightly, in my view, indicates that due to widespread negativity towards the Upgrade Project, it is unlikely that surveying these communities would have been possible and / or fruitful and may have been counterproductive. I note also from discussion with Dr Phillips that observation, which is a very powerful tool, was undertaken although use of this method was not specifically mentioned in the social assessment.
32. **IN** my opinion, valuable information has been gained from all sources that have been used. Data from one source has been checked against another which is important for every project undertaken in assessing methods used and data gained. In my opinion, due to the negative reaction from several individuals and groups to the project, the methods that have been used are appropriate. These methods have been applied appropriately and provide adequate information for an assessment of effects to be made.
33. **OVERALL**, I consider the methodology used by Dr Phillips to be sound.

COVERAGE OF ISSUES

Actual, anticipated and enduring social effects

34. **DR** Phillips, in my view, correctly points out that during the planning / consultation phase many effects have actualised and will continue in a revised form during this stage. These effects are mostly stress and anxiety. Many of these effects, which are characteristic of the planning stage, are caused by uncertainty in this project.
35. **UNCERTAINTY** about whether the Upgrade Project will proceed or not will continue until a confirmed designation is in place. Dr Phillips notes that stress and anxiety caused by uncertainty was identified during consultation among households in the vicinity of the proposed transition station / substation, the

overhead line and, in the Original Proposal, around the transition station and the small section of the Otahuhu cable route between Jeffs Road and the transition station. Sources of uncertainty related to:

- (a) which route would be chosen before the west option was chosen on 14 July 2005;
 - (b) the location of the alignment after that date;
 - (c) the consultation process before and after that date;
 - (d) the Electricity Commission turning down the Original Proposal and later issuing a Notice of Intention to Approve the Amended Proposal; and
 - (e) the NOR and Resource Management Act 1991 (**RMA**) proceedings.
36. **THE** uncertainty, while causing stress and anxiety now, is also closely linked to effects anticipated in the future.
37. I have discussed the matter of stress and anxiety related to the Upgrade Project with Transpower and of offering counselling / stress relief assistance to help those directly affected for a defined period should the project proceed. Transpower has considered this matter and, due to the magnitude of this particular project, has committed itself to consulting with communities and bodies representing communities. It will seek to define and provide counselling assistance to manage undue stress related to this project as a mitigatory measure.
38. **CONCEPTUALLY**, such a plan would ensure counselling services would be offered to those directly affected in the easement as soon as practicable until six months after the Board of Inquiry decision is made. As at the date of finalising my evidence, I am working with Transpower to make initial contact with community bodies to set up such a service. As an example, those affected could ring an 0800 number for the service and should the person affected want counselling at home, this could be provided as would a follow-up service including further home visits if required. The exact details would be developed with the affected communities representing affected people.

39. **EFFECTS** are anticipated by people in all sections of the proposed project during the planning stage, but mostly in relation to the overhead section and in the vicinity of the proposed transition station / substation at Brownhill Road. Anticipated effects relating to the overhead line include possible health and annoyance effects, disruption of patterns of daily living for some households, and on people's expectations and aspirations. Refer to **Appendix 1** for a sample of anticipated effects from sections of the proposed overhead line. While the fear of EMF effects has been addressed by Dr Black in his report, Dr Phillips recognises that there will be annoyance and daily disruption occurring for some during the construction stage but these effects will be for a limited period only and effects will be managed when this work is underway. I accept Dr Phillips' assessment that the disruption to people's lives by the proposed project has been considerable. I also consider that while many anticipated effects will occur, such as construction activities that are temporary, others will dissipate, or not occur.
40. I understand that it is generally accepted that anticipated effects are not to be considered unless there is evidence that they are likely to occur and endure.
41. **DURING** post confirmation of the NOR, social effects will arise from the activity itself. These post-confirmation social effects will arise from construction over a long term but at distinct locations as construction proceeds and for specified time periods.
42. **TIMING** of construction work is in three stages over approximately two decades. As Dr Phillips indicates in his social assessment report, the first stage will involve construction of the overhead section, the Brownhill Road transition station, the cable route from Brownhill Road to Pakuranga, and the Pakuranga Substation upgrade for commissioning around 2011. The second stage of construction will involve upgrading the Brownhill Road transition station to a switching yard, and construction of the cable route to Otahuhu Substation, as well as installation of new equipment at the Otahuhu Substation, by 2023. The third stage will involve upgrading the switchyard at Brownhill Road to a full 400/220kV substation, and energising the line at 400kV, around 2034. I concur with Dr Phillips' conclusion that construction work will be a one-off effect at all locations but at Brownhill Road where it will occur in three steps about a decade apart, albeit that the majority of physical

works (e.g. earthworks for the substation platform and road widening) will occur during stage 1.

43. **DR** Phillips indicates that typically construction of a project has the greatest actual social effect. For this reason Dr Phillips points out the need for the construction phase to be carefully and positively managed to limit social disruption and strain on social services, and for local communities to reap temporary benefits of increased skills and stimulated local economies.
44. **THE** detailed forward planning approach that I have discussed with Transpower is designed to mitigate effects on all aspects of construction to best modern practice. The management plans will include several opportunities for communities to engage with the Alliance contractor, the collaborative working group that will be contracted to undertake the construction work for Transpower, and to receive benefits that would accrue and avoid, remedy or mitigate disruption to a minimal level. In my opinion, adequate processes are in place at this stage to mitigate social effects.
45. **IN** the long term, once the works are established, social effects will arise from ongoing operation and, as Dr Phillips has indicated, such effects are likely to be minimal or non-existent. Maintenance and management will be required from time to time but for defined periods, and effects are likely to be modest and more locally focussed. I agree with Dr Phillips' assessment that while stress may be enduring for some, it is expected that other people will either adapt or be resigned to the line, or move away.

Avoid, remedy, mitigate and manage

46. **DURING** the planning / consultation stage, social issues were identified at both pre-consultation and consultation periods with affected people and communities.
47. **IN** the pre-consultation period, avoidance of key social issues was of prime importance. The key social issues considered were concentrations of population and social infrastructure. Thus the focus of social assessment in the ACRE process was to avoid these key social issues in decision making about possible areas, corridors, routes and easements. As indicated above Ms Allan undertook this work.

48. **DURING** the consultation period, the philosophy of avoidance continued along with remedying, mitigating and managing key social issues. In the social assessment report, Dr Phillips provides a detailed analysis of key issues identified from consultation and other sources during the planning phase for each of the main elements of the project; that is the substations, underground sections, transition station / substation and overhead section. He also distinguishes in his commentary consultation undertaken for the Original Proposal and for the Amended Proposal. In my view Dr Phillips' provides a very clear commentary of key issues identified for the main elements of the project and the Original and Amended Proposals, and how they have been and can be managed. His emphasis on the importance of consultation and direct guidance of the project by the community, disclosure of information to the community and re-assessment of information should not be underestimated especially for the on-going management of the project.
49. **THE** preliminary assessments of construction and operation effects provide clear indications that avoidance will continue where possible but most emphasis at these stages will be on management and mitigation.
50. I concur with Dr Phillips' assessment of avoidance, remedying, mitigating and managing effects throughout the Upgrade Project.

Equity issues

51. **DR** Phillips points out that the project has challenged the cultural value of equity. He states that perceived inequality has arisen in various forms:
- (a) benefits of secure power received by Auckland compared to the effects of lines crossing properties;
 - (b) people who do not currently have a line on their property / nearby but will have a new overhead line compared to people who will have the ARI-PAK A line removed; and
 - (c) another equity issue raised related to compensation, the subject of which is outside the scope of this inquiry.

52. **IN** my opinion, these equity issues identified by Dr Phillips are reasonable and valid.
53. **CONCERNING** the first point, the decision to have lines crossing properties has been a joint decision between experts in several discipline areas and not just from a social perspective. While it may be desirable to have cables underground, thus avoiding transmission lines crossing over properties, the ultimate decision is not just from one perspective alone. While Auckland will benefit from security of a power supply, the intention / possibility to supply other areas which could include the Waikato has frequently been recorded in documents I have reviewed.
54. **CONCERNING** the second point, the new line more or less follows the existing ARI-PAK A line from Pakuranga to Arapuni where the line stops. This means that, in general, there will be two areas where the new line crosses, where there is no existing line. These areas are Whitford Towers 5 and 6 (where the line will link into the new Brownhill Road transition / substation), and parts of the line from Arapuni to Whakamaru (where the new line will not be following another existing line). I understand from Ms Allan that for social and environmental reasons, as well as other discipline reasons, and taking into account public interest, the new line route became the preferred option.
55. **OTHER** locations for the transition station / substation were considered but (especially for social and environmental reasons), the Brownhill site was preferred. There is a deviation of the new line from the ARI-PAK A line at Hunua where the new line parallels another existing line thus getting the new line out of the valley where there would be significantly greater environmental and social costs. Ms Allan has indicated there is sufficient justification from a social perspective to place the proposed line in the preferred positions.
56. **THERE** are three sections where the ARI PAK A line will be dismantled and there will be no new line. The first is north of Brookby from the existing tunnel at Dannemora to south of Brookby Road. The second is south of Hunua through the Happy Valley – Paparimu area. The third is at the south end from near Pohara Marae to Arapuni.

57. I consider that for both equity issues, for some people equity effects will be enduring and will not be limited to just those from the transmission areas but throughout New Zealand.

Substations and transition station

58. DR Phillips reported that the main issue during the preparation / consultation phase related to the proposed new transition / substation proposed at Brownhill Road. Effects occurring during this time mainly relate to stress and unanticipated changes to people's expectations. The main concern at Pakuranga Substation is health effects particularly for children attending a future primary school. Dr Black has addressed this issue in his evidence. No effects have been noted at Otahuhu and Whakamaru and Whakamaru North Substations.
59. **CONSTRUCTION** activities will be mostly noticed at Brownhill Road, as noted by Dr Phillips because the project will be new to the area and undertaken in three stages as mentioned earlier. I understand the substation will be GIS, thus it will be a barn-like structure. I concur with Dr Phillips that the use of this structure will reduce or eliminate the effects that people may have otherwise expected. The construction effects will create a range of effects including road upgrading and bringing in new equipment that can be managed to mitigate potential nuisance including noise, dust and vibration.

Underground sections

60. **CONCERNING** the cable route from Pakuranga Substation to the transition station, as Dr Phillips indicates, the main effect during the planning / consultation stage has been on one household in the Dunvegan Rise to Caldwell Road section, over concern of the potential effects of compromised property development due to the underground cable. In the Caldwell Road area, from Point View Drive to the transition site, a household has concerns about the selection of sites. There are no concerns in the section from the Pakuranga Substation to Dunvegan Rise where the cable will follow the same tunnel route as the 110kV line to Arapuni.
61. I agree with Dr Phillips that the location of the cable route limits the number of households exposed to the nuisance of construction.

62. **IN** the cable route, Dr Phillips has indicated that during the planning / consultation stage from Otahuhu Substation to the transition station, several households had concerns about anticipated construction effects, an individual household about health effects, and another relating to the project infrastructure on their property. In the Kaitawa Street to Jeffs Road section two houses may need to be moved. In the Jeffs Road to the transition station section, there are four properties with dwellings within 100 metres of the cable route. However, Transpower owns the houses at 26 and 28 Kaitawa Street, and 38 and 40 Gilbert Road, giving it the opportunity to remove four houses if needed in order to install the cables. I note that Dr Phillips states the easement for the underground cable is 15 – 20 metres either side of the centreline, which is considerably less than for the overhead section at 65 metres.
63. I agree with Dr Phillips that effects during construction will need to be managed especially in relation to nearby homes, schools, business and other public services, and particularly Sir Edmund Hillary Collegiate and access between Franklyne and Johnstones Roads via the Otara Creek footbridge.

Overhead Section

Dwellings in the vicinity of the centreline

64. **THE** social assessment report provides an indication of the number of dwellings and their closeness to the centreline. Dr Phillips indicates that the total number of dwellings within 500 metres either side of the centreline is around 389. There are six sections of line where there are 15 or more dwellings within 500 metres either side of the centreline as shown in **Appendix 2** and four sections (of 15 sections) of line where there are no dwellings within 100 metres either side of the centreline as shown in **Appendix 3**. Several applications to purchase properties have been received by Transpower as reported and after discussing this matter with Dr Phillips, I understand over 70 have been purchased.
65. I note Dr Phillips' conclusion that before construction work begins there will be no dwellings in the easement area. Through reconsideration and refinement

of the easement area, the number of dwellings within the easement to be removed has been reduced to six.

Schools

66. **DR** Phillips has paid particular attention to schools in the vicinity of the overhead line. I agree with Dr Phillips that schools are important social infrastructure in our communities. The four schools nearby the overhead line are Brookby, Hunua, Whitehall and Horahora. Health effects are of particular concern at all schools. Dr Black has discussed this issue in his evidence. Another concern is the possibility of school rolls falling. At Brookby school some effects have already occurred that can be attributed to the Upgrade Project. While the school has benefited from people talking to each other, there is uncertainty and concern about the possible impact on the school roll. Dr Phillips notes that to the date of the social assessment (April 2007) the proposed project had no effect on the roll.
67. **AT** Hunua the centreline is proposed approximately 270 metres from the school boundary and 350 metres from the nearest school building. The new line will be further away from the school than the existing ARI-PAK A line that will be dismantled. The reasons for staff moving on and difficulty with staff recruitment have already been attributed to the Upgrade Project. There are already four lines through this area and a sense of unfairness has emerged of having a bigger line nearby. At Whitehall school the new line (centreline) will be approximately 435 metres from the boundary of the school property. There are no changes to the school roll to the date of the social assessment, but some families anticipate taking their children away when the line is built.
68. **AT** Horahora school the new line (centreline) will be approximately 354 metres from the nearest school building. Again the new line will be further away from the school than the ARI PAK A line which is 227 metres from the nearest school building (but will be dismantled). There is a lot of concern about potential effects of the line at Horahora school. Concern has also been expressed about the playcentre, which is on the school grounds.
69. I concur with Dr Phillips coverage of issues concerning schools in the overhead section of the line. I note that a review of the effects of cell sites and power lines on school rolls was undertaken for the NOR. Results of the review

suggest any impact from the new transmission line in the Upgrade Project on schools would be minor and if it did occur it would be temporary. I agree with the results drawn from the research undertaken.

Limited or no interaction with Transpower

70. **SOME** people in the overhead line section and particularly in Section 11 (Chepmill Road to north of State Highway 1) have decided not to communicate or to limit communication with Transpower during the planning / consultation stage. I concur with Dr Phillips assessment that it is in their best interest to communicate with Transpower and its consultants to ensure that towers and lines are practically placed should the project proceed. People's unwillingness to engage will limit Transpower's ability to mitigate.

ISSUES RAISED IN SUBMISSIONS

71. A number of submissions raise issues in relation to social effects and consultation. I discuss a representative selection of those issues below.

Issues raised by Dr Laura Bennet and Mr Adrian Kinsler (Submission No. 1085 and 1091)

72. **DR** Bennet raises issues in relation to social effects. Mr Kinsler's submission is separate but identical to Dr Bennet's submission. They assert that:
- (a) the community affected by the 400 kV capable line was not consulted about transmission options;
 - (b) there were no public workshops to allow public input; and
 - (c) the line was decided without public consultation.
73. **DR** Phillips in his report states the several opportunities provided for communities to have their say. In consultation with Dr Phillips, I confirm that Dr Bennet and Mr Kinsler, both of 108 Highridge Road Clevedon, were initially notified of the project in the mailing on Wednesday 27 October 2004, which was the very first public notification about the proposed project. Community meetings were held nearby, principally in Whitford, Clevedon and Hunua. Three meetings were held at these locations. They involved information days held between 8-16 November 2004; progress meetings held between

22 February and 2 March 2005; and drop-in sessions on 6 and 7 April 2005. An additional meeting was also held at Hunua on 17 March 2005 which was community initiated. The line was decided in consultation with participants at these and other consultation opportunities provided. Outside the RMA process, I understand that the Electricity Commission consulted on matters relevant to its statutory role.

Issues raised by Jacqueline Maree Colliar (Submission No. 1185)

74. **MS** Colliar's submission relates to all NORs and resource consent applications. She opposes the Upgrade Project due to the "*Health effects – actual and potential, mental and physical*".
75. **DR** Black has addressed the issue of EMF effects. If Ms Colliar is referring to other health related effects such as stress effects, I understand that Ms Colliar is not directly affected by the project, in that the easement does not cross her property. Accordingly, she will not be eligible for Transpowers' offer of stress relief assistance/counselling as discussed above.

Issues raised by Roger Everson (Submission No. 0429)

76. **MR** Everson's submission relates to the NORs in Manukau City. He submits that he was not consulted. He seeks that he be consulted given the proximity of his property to the proposed line.
77. **AGAIN** I have checked with Dr Phillips who confirms that Mr Everson of 104 Highridge Road Clevedon was also initially notified of the project in the mailing on Wednesday 27 October 2004. The same meetings that were available to Dr Bennet and Mr Kinsler were available to Mr Everson for him and other residents to have their say.

Issues raised by Franklin District Council (Submission No. 1048)

78. **FRANKLIN** District Council's submission relates to the Upgrade Project in its entirety. The Council submits that alternatives must be subject to a consultation process that enables the Franklin community to make a meaningful contribution to decision-making.

79. **HAVING** discussed matters with Dr Phillips I can confirm that Franklin District Council, as a stakeholder, has been provided by Transpower with at least eleven lots of information about the proposed project and given opportunities to respond. Information provided by Transpower has been provided to the Mayors/Chairs Forum in October 2004 and May 2005, and included letters to the Mayor, Mr Mark Ball, in May 2005 about the interim route decision and in October 2006 regarding the amended Upgrade Project, as well as five letters and two bulk mailouts to the then Chief Executive, Ms Philippa Wilson, between February 2005 and June 2006.
80. **MEETINGS** were also held in the District and included information days between 8-16 November 2004 at Whitford, Clevedon, Hunua and Mangatangi, progress meetings between 22 February and 3 March 2005 at Whitford and Clevedon, and drop in sessions on 6-7 April 2005 at Whitford, Clevedon and Hunua. Submissions were not received by Transpower from Franklin District Council, the Mayor, or its Chief Executive during the route investigations, when information submissions were received from a number of other councils. Nor were there submissions from the Council on the interim decision when the preliminary route decision was tested. There was no written submission from Franklin District Council to the Electricity Commission draft decision or in relation to the Amended Proposal. However, the Mayor did make an oral submission to the Electricity Commission Public Hearings.
81. **IN** my opinion, Franklin District Council and the Franklin community have had sufficient information and opportunities to engage with Transpower in a meaningful way about alternative technical options.

Issues raised by John Howard Gibson (Submission No. 0324)

82. **MR** Gibson raises issues in relation to social impacts. His submission relates to the overhead line NORs in Manukau, Franklin, Waikato, Matamata-Piako, Waipa, South Waikato and Taupo Districts, and to the Whakamaru and Whakamaru North Substation NOR and the Environment Waikato resource consent applications. Mr Gibson submits that the installation of the new line is causing emotional stress.
83. **DR** Phillips has addressed this matter in his report and I fully concur with what he says. I note he states that stress and related effects are real and

unavoidable when change occurs. Even though public input and having a say in decision making is an expected and integral part of the development process, it does take up the public's valuable time and resources with inevitable and unavoidable consequences, such as stress. I have spoken with Transpower as indicated above and should the project proceed the company will be offering counselling / stress relief assistance to those directly affected, such as Mr Gibson, for a period after the decision to proceed. Details of this mitigatory measure would be made known to those eligible should they wish to take up the opportunity.

Issues raised by Dennis and Christine Hale (Submission No. 0934)

84. **MR AND MRS** Hale raise social impact issues. Their submission relates to all NORs and resource consent applications. Mr and Mrs Hale submit that:

(a) EMF issues have made them reconsider building on their property;
and

(b) they are unable to sell their property in a fair market environment due to EMF issues associated with the property.

85. **AS** indicated above, Dr Black has addressed EMF and health issues, which should assist Mr and Mrs Hale with their future plans. Concerning the selling of Mr and Mrs Hale's property, valuation and compensation issues will need to be addressed but they are outside the scope of this inquiry.

Issues raised by Marie Morgan Trust Incorporated (Submission No. 0987)

86. **MARIE** Morgan Trust incorporated raises issues in relation to consultation for the property at 189 Jeffs Road. Its submission relates to the Otahuhu to Brownhill underground cable NOR. The Trust submits that there has been no consultation concerning the underground cable to be laid down the centre of Jeffs Road in approximately 15 years time when the area will be fully developed.

87. I can confirm after discussion with Dr Phillips that Ms Marie Morgan and Trustees of the Conquer Trust (JD & CM & ND Conquer & Morgan & Hanley), the former an interested party and the latter the owner of the property at 189

Jeffs Road, have been sent a letter and information about the proposed project. This information has included the Underground Newsletter, 400kV Underground Cable Section information sheet, information regarding Traffic management during construction of the 400kV Underground Cable Section, a "Have Your Say" Form in August 2005, a letter about the Final Announcement of the Underground Electricity Cable Route, and the Underground Cable Newsletter number 2 – November 2005. Public meetings were also held in the area.

88. **IN** my opinion, the Marie Morgan Trust has been given ample opportunities to consult with Transpower concerning the underground cable.

Issues raised by Beverley Jane Seales (Submission No. 0247)

89. **MRS** Seales raises issues regarding Transpower's dealings with the public. Her submission relates to all NORs and resource consent applications. Mrs Seales raises concerns about three years of:

- (a) unanswered questions;
- (b) ignored phone calls requesting information; and
- (c) bullying tactics employed by Transpower and its agents.

90. **HAVING** discussed this submission with Dr Phillips I can confirm that, of the 52 communications on file for Mr and Mrs Seales, all queries from the Seales have been answered. This response includes leaving messages on the answerphone on a few occasions when the Seales' could not be contacted.

91. **THE** only other way "ignored calls" might arise is if the incoming call was not properly logged by the call centre. There is no way to test this but Dr Phillips considers it is unlikely to have happened on many occasions. I note that once a call is logged then it is readily available to be tracked.

92. **THERE** has been no reference to bullying by Transpower or its agents in the incoming communications from the Seales. From reviewing the files, including an onsite meeting with the Seales about tower positions, no unusual circumstances were noted.

Issues raised by Waipa District Council (Submission No. 0919)

93. **WAIPA** District Council's submission relates to all NORs. The Council states that it commissioned a report:
- (a) to evaluate non-market and social costs in the context of the Upgrade Project; and
 - (b) to assess whether electricity produced as a result of the Upgrade Project was produced in an environmentally sustainable manner, in line with the Resource Management Act 1991.
94. **THE** Council submits that:
- (a) Transpower claims to have carried out such an evaluation in opting for the NOR to be notified;
 - (b) its report confirms that Transpower has taken a narrow and partial approach to the analysis of the Upgrade Project costs and benefits;
 - (c) the analysis by Transpower has focused on a narrow group of costs faced by Transpower while ignoring significant costs that will be imposed on other groups; and
 - (d) the analysis ignored the indirect costs of large scale utility infrastructure compromising New Zealand's "clean and green" image.
95. **WHEN** Transpower undertook its evaluation of non-market and social costs for the NOR, its approach and costs were considered within the context of its mandate. This evaluation thus included non-market and social costs anticipated as a result of the proposed project. In my opinion, throughout the preparation of the proposed project, there has been repeated confusion as to the responsibilities of Transpower and other agencies in consideration of alternatives and costs. This is clearly indicated by Waipa District Council when it commissioned a report to assess whether electricity "produced" as a result of the Upgrade Project was produced in an environmentally sustainable

manner. It is Transpower's mandate to "transmit" electricity, rather than to "produce it".

96. **WITH** regard to the indirect cost of compromising New Zealand's "clean and green" image, the structures proposed are not of a different nature to what is already in Waipa District and other parts of New Zealand. In New Zealand we expect to have electricity when we turn on the switch and so do visitors when they come to New Zealand. Transmission lines in New Zealand are part of the electricity system, as they are in most countries.

Issues raised by Mary Whitehouse (Submission No. 1079)

97. **MS** Whitehouse raises issues in relation to the Clevedon, Brookby area. Ms Whitehouse submits that the Upgrade Project:
- (a) impacts upon the entire community; and
 - (b) has upset the well-being of many residents on the proposed route, who have sold their homes and farms due to the uncertainty the proposal has produced.
98. **MS** Whitehouse may, or may not, be accurate in her statement that the Upgrade Project impacts upon the entire community. I note that Dr Phillips states about people who are affected that "*the extent and type of impact has been strongly influenced by personal and community characteristics and circumstances vis a vis the location and nature of the various elements of the proposal.*" He also notes that social impacts of stress "*are real and unavoidable when change occurs*" and that public involvement in decision making results in social impacts as discussed earlier.
99. **TRANSPOWER** has bought around 70 properties affected by the Upgrade Project as indicated above. I consider that uncertainty is a valid reason for selling and one reason among others including the opportunity for families to move at this time.

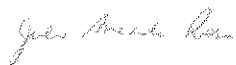
Issues raised by Jill and Marinus Van Het Bolscher (Submission No. 0810)

100. **MR AND MRS** Van Het Bolscher's submission relates to the Manukau Overhead line NOR and the Otahuhu to Brownhill underground cable NOR. Mr and Mrs Van Het Bolscher submit that consultation with Transpower has been meaningless.
101. **CONSULTATION** with Mr and Mrs Van Het Bolscher of 568 Ormiston Road began when the Upgrade Project was initially notified. They were notified of the project in the mailing on Wednesday 27 October 2004, as was Dr Bennet, Mr Kinsler and Mr Everson as stated above. Again, Mr and Mrs Van Het Bolscher have had the opportunity to attend the four meetings as stated above. I can confirm this matter after consulting with Dr Phillips.
102. **MR AND MRS** Van Het Bolscher also raise an issue in relation to changes made to the Upgrade Project regarding their property as a result of reconsideration of the content of overhead reticulation and undergrounding. They submit that they have found this stressful and expect compensation. I understand that shortly after Mr and Mrs Van Het Bolscher were informed that they would not be affected by the overhead line they were informed they would be affected by the underground cable. They have had opportunities to discuss their situation in relation to the Upgrade Project. The situation for Mr and Mrs Van Het Bolscher in relation to the Upgrade Project is unusual, but regrettably unavoidable.
103. **AS** stated above, stress resulting from change and in this case the proposed development is real but unavoidable. Although stress is not a compensatory matter, Mr and Mrs Van Het Bolscher will be offered by Transpower the mitigatory measure of assistance for stress relief as discussed above because their property is directly affected by the easement.

CONCLUSIONS DRAWN

104. **IN** my opinion, effects from the planning phase have been considerable. Many of these impacts have been unavoidable due to the large scale and complex nature of the proposed project, associated processes involved and considerable public involvement. The level of public involvement is typical of expectations in current times in New Zealand.

105. **SHOULD** the decision be made for the project to proceed, considerable uncertainty about the project would be removed from people's minds enabling them to move on and forward plan.
106. **EFFECTS** from the construction phase are anticipated to be manageable. Impacts from the construction phase will be temporary and for defined periods at specified sites. Transpower will develop a wide and comprehensive range of management plans representing best practice that will seek to manage and mitigate effects. Working with landowners, stakeholders and communities to avoid, remedy and mitigate adverse effects and maximise positive outcomes where appropriate is a strong focus of these management plans.
107. **EFFECTS** from the operations phase, mainly the on-going maintenance of the transmission lines, are anticipated to be minor or negligible.
108. **THE** submissions put forward are valid and represent issues of varying degrees of concern by individuals and groups. The consultation and mitigation measures already in place and those planned will enable concerns to be worked through and, where appropriate, mitigated.
109. **THE** Upgrade Project is a complex project. Dr Phillips has clearly analysed this project and separated out the issues. I consider his approach and judgement of coverage of issues is sound and therefore appropriate and adequate.
110. **OVERALL**, in my professional opinion, I consider that Dr Phillips has appropriately and adequately undertaken the social assessment process, methodology and coverage of issues for the Upgrade Project.



Julie Meade Rose

31 January 2008

APPENDIX 1 OVERHEAD LINE: ANTICIPATED EFFECTS

| SECTION | Name | Towers | Anticipated Effects |
|----------------|--|---------------|---|
| 1 | Whitford Valley | 6-12 | Noise, health issues, financial jeopardy |
| 2 | Brookby Area | 12-17 | Aircraft hazard, safety, ability to subdivide, land value |
| | | 17-21 | Personal health issues, lifestyle |
| 4 | Hunua Basin | 33-42 | Ability to use horse arena, heritage issues, financial difficulty if subdivision doesn't sell, safety |
| | | 42-46 | Health threat for school |
| 5 | South of Hunua Township to South of Lyons Road | 46-61 | Property |
| | | 61-72 | Health issues, organisations may not use property for community activities |
| 6 | South of Lyons Road to Kopuku | 72-78 | Transpower's contractors damaging culverts and introducing gorse, personal safety |
| | | 78-92 | Health concerns, threat to livelihood |
| 7 | Kopuku to Te Hoe | 102-112 | Health concerns |
| | | 112-122 | Devaluation of properties, farm operations, health, farm business, visual, construction, valued vegetation, heritage values |
| | | 122-132 | Employment issues |
| | | 132-151 | Health issues, family disruption |
| | | 155-161 | Staff recruitment |
| 9 | Flaxmill Road to Tauhei Road | 181-200 | Physical/safety issues, loss of livelihood, personal financial |

| | | | |
|----|---|---------|---|
| | | | loss |
| 10 | Tauhei Road to Chepmill Road | 200-213 | Health, property related plans, development of the Morrinsville community, ability to find work |
| | | 213-224 | Health, not being able to replicate situation elsewhere |
| | | 224-232 | Health, safety |
| | | 232-245 | Health, effects on plans and expectations |
| 11 | Chepmill Road to North of State Highway 1 | 245-253 | Health, lifestyle and property enjoyment |
| | | 253-262 | Hazardous to planes, microlights, handgliders and balloonists, health, staff retention and recruitment |
| | | 262-277 | School nearby and concerns about health, recruiting staff, hall losing income |
| | | 283-289 | Health |
| 13 | South of the Waikato River to Arapuni | 293-302 | Health effects on school and playcentre, falling roll |
| | | 313-320 | Effect on on-site leisure activity |
| 14 | Arapuni to Wiltsdown Road | 332-341 | Effects on waterfall and picnic area |
| | | 341-353 | Health |
| 15 | Wiltsdown Road to Whakamaru North | 353-407 | Attracting/retaining staff |

APPENDIX 2: SECTIONS WITH FIFTEEN OR MORE DWELLINGS WITHIN 500 METRES EITHER SIDE OF CENTRELINE

| Section | Name | Towers | No. of Dwellings |
|----------------|--|--------------------|-------------------------|
| 3 | Ardmore Basin | 21-33 | 34 |
| 4 | Hunua Basin | 33-42 | 46 |
| 5 | South of Hunua Township to South of Lyons Road | 46-61 | 41 |
| 7 | Kopuku to Te Hoe | 122-132 | 18 |
| 8 | Te Hoe to Flaxmill Road | 161-181 | 21 |
| 10 | Tauhei Road to Chepmill Road | 200-213 213-224 | 16 30 |

**APPENDIX 3: SECTIONS WITH NO DWELLINGS WITHIN 100 METRES EITHER
SIDE OF CENTRELINE**

| Section | Name | Towers |
|----------------|--|--------------------|
| 7 | Kopuku to Te Hoe | 151-155 |
| 10 | Tauhei Road to Chepmill Road | 224-232 |
| 11 | Chepmill Road to North of State Highway 1 | 283-289 |
| 13 | South of the Waikato River to Arapuni | 313-320 407-427 |