

## Project Overview

### TE AWAMUTU ELECTRICITY REINFORCEMENT

#### New Transmission Line

Waipa Networks is planning to develop a new transmission line to reinforce electricity to the wider Te Awamutu area. The new line will provide an alternate supply when the existing line is removed from service for repairs and maintenance or by a fault on the line.

Many businesses, farmers and other customers have, over a number of years, lobbied for an alternate supply; this is it. The new line will connect the existing 110 kV substations at Te Awamutu and Hangatiki providing a diversity of line route and energy source.

#### Transmission line ownership and benefits

It makes sense for Waipa Networks to construct, own and operate the transmission line, as it directly benefits Waipa Networks' electricity consumer's experience. Waipa Networks is 100% owned by the Waipa Networks Trust (WNT), which holds the company's shares on behalf of consumers. Each year, Waipa Networks returns money to its consumers through six monthly discounts on their power bills. Since 1993, we have returned over \$90 million to consumers.

There are be a number of positive outcomes for the community and region arising from development of the transmission line including:

- Elimination of the Transpower 4-yearly outages
- Increased security and reliability of electricity supply to existing consumers
- Stimulus and support of economic growth in the greater Waipa and Otorohanga districts
- Attracting new businesses and employment to the area
- Temporary employment opportunities and economic stimulus during the project construction

Waipa Networks is committed to being honest and acting with integrity in its relationship with landowners and the wider community, and in all activities relating to the new transmission line.

### Transmission line route, line design and property rights

#### Transmission route and line design selection

The planned transmission line begins at the existing 110 kV Te Awamutu substation behind Factory Road and connects to the existing 110 kV Hangatiki substation at Waitomo Caves Road. A comprehensive assessment process has been undertaken to establish the line route and line design. This process considered a range of factors, including:

- Locations of feasible National Grid connection points
- Engineering design requirements
- Environmental and social impacts
- Soil types for transmission structure foundations
- Areas of special interest
- Regional and district council plans

#### Property rights and easements

The transmission route and design have been selected to reduce, where practically possible, effects to houses, buildings and areas of special interest.

Before constructing the transmission line, Waipa Networks must acquire property rights to land along the transmission line route. These property rights allow access to the land to construct, inspect, maintain and operate the line. Property rights are negotiated with affected landowners and documented in an easement agreement between the landowner and Waipa Networks.

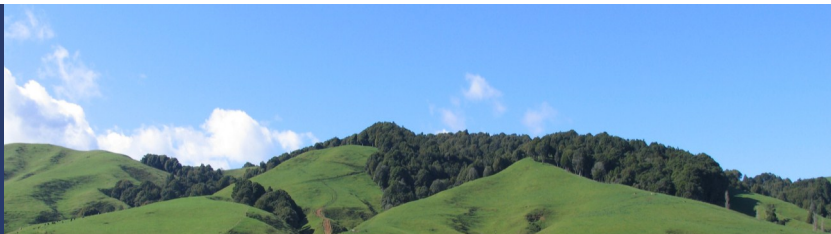
After more than 12 months of property negotiation Waipa Networks has reached agreement with the majority of the directly affected landowners along the line route.

For more information, see the Waipa Networks fact sheet on Property Rights & Easements.

### Resource Management Act (RMA) process

#### RMA approvals

Waipa Networks must seek approval to construct, operate and maintain the proposed transmission line under the Resource Management Act (1991). The corridor of the transmission line occupies land in three districts: Waipa District, Otorohanga District, and Waitomo District.



Waipa Networks will lodge Notices of Requirement with the three district councils to designate the corridor identified for the transmission line. Applications will also be made for any resource consents required to enable the formation of access for construction activities.

See the Ministry for the Environment *Everyday Guide to the Resource Management Act Series* booklet titled, *The Designation Process* for more information on the subject.

### **What process will the requirement notices and consent applications go through?**

Waipa Networks has considered the options available for obtaining the necessary RMA approvals. Alternative pathways include such as direct referral to the Environment Court, lodgement directly to the Environmental Protection Authority or application to the local authorities.

Waipa Networks believes that assessment and determination at a local level is preferable so the community and public are provided with meaningful opportunities to engage with the process.

Accordingly, Waipa Networks will lodge the relevant documents with the three territorial authorities (district councils) for processing. It is likely the councils will arrange for joint processing of the notices which will involve full public notification. The application, along with all submissions received, will then be considered at a joint hearing.

See the Ministry for the Environment *Everyday Guide to the Resource Management Act Series* booklets titled, *The Designation Process* and *National Level Guidance and Processes (December 2009)* for more information on this subject.

For more information about the terms and processes mentioned in this fact sheet, contact the Ministry for the Environment or visit their website [www.mfe.govt.nz](http://www.mfe.govt.nz).

### **Project Information and fact sheets**

For more information about the project, see the fact sheets that are available from Waipa Networks on key topics of interest:

RMA Process

Transmission Line Route and Site Locations

Property Rights & Easements

EMFs & Noise

Frequently Asked Questions

Refer to our website [www.waipanetworks.co.nz](http://www.waipanetworks.co.nz)

**For further information**

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