### **Before Hearing Panel – Proposed Waikato District Plan**

Under The Resource Management Act 1991 (the Act)

In the matter of Proposed Waikato District Plan

**Hearing 15 - Designations** 

Between Waikato District Council

Local Authority

And Transpower New Zealand Limited

Submitter and Further Submitter

Second statement of evidence of Pauline Mary Whitney

Dated 14 April 2020

## STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE OF PAULINE MARY WHITNEY ON BEHALF OF TRANSPOWER

### INTRODUCTION

### **Qualifications and Experience**

- 1 My full name is Pauline Mary Whitney.
- 2 For my qualifications and experience and other introductory comments, please refer to paragraphs 1 to 7 of my first statement of evidence for Hearing 15 Designations, dated 31 March 2020.

### Scope of Evidence

- 3 My second statement of evidence addresses the Meremere Switching Station,
  Designation Refere K4, with my first statement (dated 31 March 2020) addressing the
  other Transpower NZ Ltd ("**Transpower**") designations<sup>1</sup> within the Proposed Waikato
  District Plan ("**PWDP**").
- 4 My evidence will address the following:
  - An overview of Transpower's 'rollover' request and the submission points on the PWDP in respect of the existing Meremere Switching Station Designation K4, and
  - My response to the recommendations within the Hearing 15 (Designations)
     Section 42A Report on Transpower's designation K4 and the submission points.
- 5 My evidence should be read together with the evidence of Mr Andrew Renton who

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> • Western Road Substation and Training Facility (Designation K1)

<sup>•</sup> Hamilton to Meremere B Underground Transmission Line Cable (Designation K2)

<sup>•</sup> Huntly Outdoor Switchyard (Designation K3)

Te Kowhai Substation (Designation K5)

<sup>•</sup> Te Kowhai Deviation A 220kV High Voltage Transmission Line (Designation K6)

Ohinewai Switching Station (Designation K7)

<sup>•</sup> Brownhill Road to Whakamaru North Overhead Transmission Line (Designation K8).

provides technical evidence in relation to the Meremere Switching Station (hereafter referred to as the "**Meremere site**").

### THE NATIONAL GRID AND MEREMERE SWITCHING STATION

- For an outline of Transpower's assets in the Waikato District, and the need to provide sufficient recognition of the national importance of the National Grid in the context of higher level planning policy documents, particularly the National Policy Statement on Electricity Transmission 2008 ("NPSET"), please refer to paragraphs 11 27 of my first statement of evidence for Hearing 15 Designations, dated 31 March 2020.
- 7 Of specific relevance and importance to designations is Policy 13 of the NPSET that provides:
  - "Decision-makers must recognise the designation process can facilitate long-term planning for the development, operation and maintenance of electricity transmission infrastructure."
- 8 Specific to Meremere, the site is operational and enables supply to be maintained between the Waikato and South Auckland. A map of the Meremere site is attached as Appendix A of this statement.

### **BACKGROUND**

### Transpower's Rollover Request

- As outlined in my first statement of evidence, pursuant to Schedule 1 (Clause 4) of the Resource Management Act 1991, Transpower gave notice to Council seeking to rollover its existing designations under the Operative Plan into the PWDP without modification (subject to some minor amendments, including updates to street addresses and minor technical clarifications).
- Specific to the Meremere site (Designation K4), Transpower sought the rollover of the designation without modification. The notice included amendment to the location by amending the wording to include reference to "Taniwha Street, Meremere" (instead of the current generic reference to "Power station, Meremere"). The location reference correction is not considered a modification as the nature or extent of the designation is not sought to be amended. The amendment has been included in the PWDP as notified.

### **PWDP Submissions**

- In October 2018, Transpower lodged a submission on the PWDP. Three specific submission points related to the Transpower designations in Section E of the PWDP. In summary, these submission points sought the following relief:
  - Retain Transpower designations K1 and K3-8
  - Amend designation K7 (Ohinewai Switching Station) to include references to ongoing conditions
  - That designation K2 be listed within Schedule E of the PWDP (to align with the PWDP notified planning maps identification of K2), and
  - Consequential amendments to address the matters raised in the submission.
- An original submission was made by Tainui Group Holdings Limited ("TGHL") (submission 341.9) that sought to reduce the extent of Transpower designation K4 (the Meremere site) as far as practicable. The reasoning provided in the submission was that TGHL wish to maximise the ability to develop their land at Meremere (noting TGHL have an interest in the designation land), which includes the removal of any redundant assets and that TGHL understand from previous correspondence with Transpower that some or all of the transmission assets within the Meremere site and across TGHL's land at Meremere are no longer active.
- As part of its further submission, Transpower opposed the original submission made by Tainui Group Holdings Ltd noting "In response to the concerns raised by the submitter and a subsequent meeting with the submitter, Transpower is investigating whether the footprint of the designation can be modified through the rollover process. Until such time as that investigation is complete and more information is available, Transpower seeks that the relief be disallowed".
- In paragraphs 29 30 of my evidence I outline the options investigated and engagement undertaken with TGHL.

### Section 42A Report Recommendations

15 Specific to the Meremere site, the Section 42A report makes the following

recommendations (at paragraph 166) in relation to the submission points made on the Transpower designation K4:

- d. **Recommend** to Transpower New Zealand Limited that it confirms Designation K4 in the Proposed Waikato District Plan, with modifications to be determined by the hearing panel after hearing evidence.
- f. **Accept** in part the submission from Transpower New Zealand Limited [576.70] noting the recommendation on Designation K4 is dependent on evidence as to whether it is to be retained, modified or withdrawn.
- g. **Reject** the submission from Tainui Group Holdings [341.9] (seeking a reduction in the extent of the Meremere site).
- h. **Accept** the further submission from Transpower New Zealand Limited [FS1350.139] (to retain the existing extent of the Meremere site designation).

### RESPONSE TO THE SECTION 42A REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

As outlined above, the Section 42A report makes a series of recommendations in respect of Transpower's Designations. My summary response to the recommendations are as follows: The reasoning is outlined below in paragraph 17 -30 below.

### Recommendations supported

- I support recommendation 'g' which rejects submission 341.9 (Tainui Group Holdings Ltd) which seeks to reduce the extent of Designation K4 as far as is practicable.
- I also support recommendation 'h' which accepts Transpower's further submission FS1350.139. However, I note that the officer has also invited Transpower provide further evidence to the Hearing Panel to justify the retention of this designation. I have addressed this request in paragraphs 17-31 below.

### Recommendations conditionally supported or supported in part

In relation to recommendation 'd' which concerns Designation K4, I
support in part the recommendation that the Hearing Panel recommend to
Transpower that Designation K4 be confirmed in the PWDP subject to any

modifications determined by the Hearing Panel after hearing evidence. I support the confirmation of the existing K4 Designation in the PWDP on the basis that the designation is retained without modification. I do not support the comment made in paragraph 156 by the officer that should suitable evidence not be provided or an agreement between Tainui and Transpower not be reached, the requirement should be withdrawn. Evidence is provided below (refer paragraphs 17-30) in response to the reporting officer's invitation (in paragraph 156 of the Section 42A report) to provide evidence to the hearing to justify the rollover of the designation in terms of s171 of the RMA.

I conditionally support recommendation 'f' to confirm Designation K4 in the PWDP on the basis that the designation is retained without modification. Evidence is provided from paragraph 17 to further justify the rollover of this designation without modification.

### **Evidence in relation to Designation K4**

### Section 171 RMA

- As outlined above, in terms of Designation K4, the reporting officer has invited (in paragraph 156 of the Section 42A report) Transpower to provide evidence to the hearing to justify the rollover of the designation in terms of s171<sup>2</sup> of the RMA. The following is provided in response. In providing this response, I draw on the evidence of Mr Andrew Renton.
  - The Meremere site is operational and enables supply to be maintained between the Waikato and South Auckland.
  - In relation to adequate consideration of alternatives, it is noted Transpower
    has an interest in the land (in the form of a lease); and given the operational
    status of Designation K4, there are no required works which would have
    significant adverse effects on the environment.
  - Trnaspower's objective in rolling over the designation is to ensure security of supply to Waikato and the upper North Island, authorise the operation, maintenance upgrade and development of the site, including providing long-

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> 18 Section 171(1) requires that when considering requirements and any submissions received the Panel must, subject to Part 2 of the RMA, consider the effects on the environment of allowing the requirements.

term flexibility to respond to future uses of the power station site.

The NPSET confirms the national significance of the National Grid and
establishes a clear national policy direction that recognises the benefits of
electricity transmission, the effects of and on the National Grid, and the need
to appropriately manage activities and development under and in close
proximity to it. Policy 13 of the NPSET recognises the designation process is
one way to facilitate the long-term planning for the grid.

### Site and Wider Grid Considerations

- The Meremere site is located immediately south of the decommissioned Meremere Power Station. The designation is 0.6065ha (6,065m²) in area, as shown in the map provided in Appendix B showing the K4 designation extent.
- In terms of the land ownership of the K4 designation site (legal description Section 1 SO Plan 59595), TGH Fixed Income Limited own the underlying freehold title (Title SA53A/100) and Transpower holds a registered 999 year leasehold interest (Leasehold title 228881) in the site. The leasehold commenced on 28 February 1997. Refer to record of title in Appendix C.
- The evidence of Mr Andrew Renton on behalf of Transpower describes the history of the Meremere power station and switching station, the current and future use of the Meremere site and its role and importance as part of the National Grid infrastructure. The existing Meremere site is operational, forms part of the grid network and has no existing environmental or hazard issues. As outlined in the evidence of Mr Renton, while Transpower has dismantled some assets at the site, in order to ensure security of supply, no further assets can be removed without further project work elsewhere on the Grid. Transpower has no imminent plans, need or funding to reduce the extent of the designation or operational arrangement at the Meremere site.
- 21 Mr Renton also references wider grid network influences on the future of the Meremere site including:
  - Re-purposing of the former power station which may require an electricity transmission connection on the existing Meremere site.
  - Work currently in progress in the investigation and delivery phase to reinforce the power supply to Bombay substation (which may result in the

rationalisation of lines and removal of the lines leading into the Meremere site).

22 Consideration of both these wider grid network influences demonstrate the need to provide long term flexibility in the planning for the network, as required by Policy 13 of the NPSET. Policy 13 recognises the designation process is one way to facilitate the long-term planning.

### Response to Submissions

- In its submission on the PWDP, Tainui Group Holdings Limited (submission 341.9) sought to reduce the extent of Transpower designation K4 as far as practicable. In its further submission, Transpower opposed submission 341.9 on the basis that no reduction in the designation extent was necessary due to the operational requirements of the site. In its further submission, Transpower also signalled that in response to the concerns raised by the submitter, and a subsequent meeting held with the submitter, Transpower was investigating whether the footprint of the designation could be modified through the rollover process. The further submission requested that until such time as an investigation is completed and more information is available the submission relief be disallowed.
- 24 Since this time, Transpower has investigated the designation footprint and has been in communications<sup>3</sup> with Tainui Group Holdings Limited in regard to the potential options available to respond to the submission relief and to maximise land usage by Tainui. Two options (in addition to the status quo) have been identified and shared with Tainui Group Holdings Limited for feedback.
- The two options with 'A' an anticipated longer-term plan and 'B' being a possible short to mid-term option, that have been shared with Tainui are summarised for the Panel's reference as follows:

### A. Possible longer-term option

As outlined in the evidence of Mr Rention, work is currently in progress in the investigation and delivery phase to reinforce the power supply to Bombay substation. This may result in the rationalisation of lines and prior to 2030, enable removal of the lines leading into the Meremere site. However, there is no certainty around either the timing or nature of the works and therefore it is appropriate Designation K4 remains as part of the operational

 $<sup>^{\</sup>rm 3}$  A meeting was held on 19 June 2019, and a number of subsequent discussions and emails.

network.

### B. Potential short-term option

- A possible short-term option is the addition of a new transmission line span (see blue line on the Figure 1. Potential bypass line below) to bypass the Meremere site. Transpower could then remove the remaining assets and relinquish the designation and lease.

  Transpower would require an easement for the new alignment (blue line). While technically and operationally possible, this option has a financial cost (advised at <\$1m).
- Given the Meremere site is operational, forms part of the grid network and has no existing environmental or hazard issues, Transpower has no imminent plans, need or funding to undertake the deviation option. However, there is the option for the landowner/developer to fund this option.
- As outlined in the evidence of Mr Renton, given the uncertainty of the use of the former Power Station site, the current investigations for the Bombay project, and the existing workability of the existing Meremere site, Transpower has no imminent plans or need to undertake the deviation option. However, there is the potential option for the landowner, or other party, to fund this deviation option.



C. Figure 1. Potential bypass line

The above two options have been conveyed to Tainui Group Holdings Limited but given the associated costs and uncertainties and wider grid network issues, no agreement has been reached between Transpower and Tainui on the matter. Transpower has confirmed

with Tainui that in the interim, it will seek the rollover of the designation. However, discussions will continue and Transpower continue to review the options for the Meremere site and designation as wider Grid reconfiguration projects and needs evolve.

### Transpower's Position

- As outlined, Transpower considers the existing Meremere site designation and its current extent as necessary for achieving Transpower's objectives of ensuring security of supply to Waikato and the upper North Island, and authorising the operation, maintenance upgrade and development of the site, including providing long-term flexibility to respond to future uses of the power station site. The designation gives effect to the NPSET, in particular Policy 13.
- I therefore support Transpower's requests that Designation K4, being a designation that has not lapsed, be rolled over without modification in the PWDP.

### CONCLUSION

- The National Grid is recognised as a matter of national significance through the NPSET, which seeks to ensure a nationally consistent approach to managing this important national resource.
- As the Hearing Panel will be aware, Section 75(3) of the RMA obliges Councils to 'give effect' to the NPSET in their plans and proposed plans. The requirement to 'give effect' is a strong directive to Councils and requires positive, demonstrable implementation.
- I therefore consider it important and appropriate to ensure that the PWDP makes appropriate allowance for the development of new transmission assets as well as the operation, maintenance and upgrade of existing in line with the policy direction provided in the NPSET. The designation provisions relating to Transpower's activities are therefore of key importance, and consideration is required as to the specific effect of the PWDP provisions on the National Grid, identified as a matter of national significance through a national policy statement.
- Transpower requests that the designation for the Meremere Switching Station, being a designation that has not lapsed, <u>be rolled over without modification</u>. There are no conditions attached this designation, and no conditions are proposed. The Meremere site is operational and required to maintain electricity supply between the Waikato and South Auckland. I understand that formatting as part of the National Planning Standards would

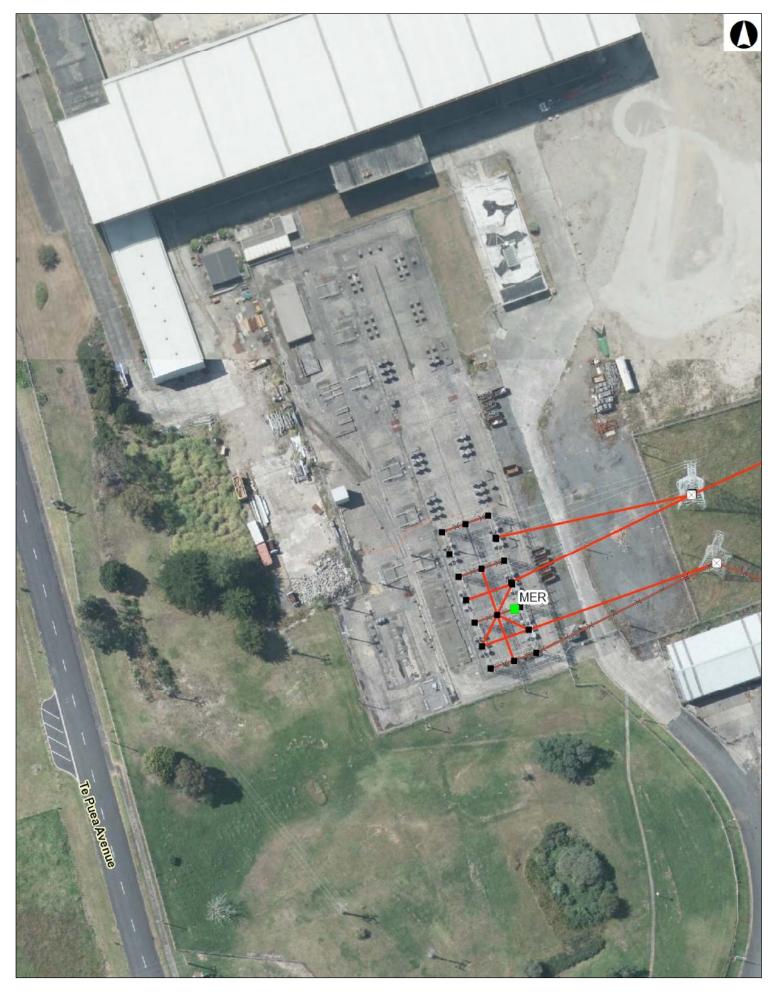
see the unique identifier of the designation amended (to TPR4).

In my opinion, the relief sought through this evidence would appropriately recognise and provide for the significance of the National Grid for both the Waikato District and for New Zealand as a whole.

Pauline Mary Whitney

14 April 2020

Appendix A: Meremere Switching Stat	tion site map
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## TRANSPOWER

05-Apr-2020 Scale: 1,000 Plan Size: A4P

# Transpower NZ Ltd - Meremere Switching Station

25 0 25 Meters

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## TRANSPOWER

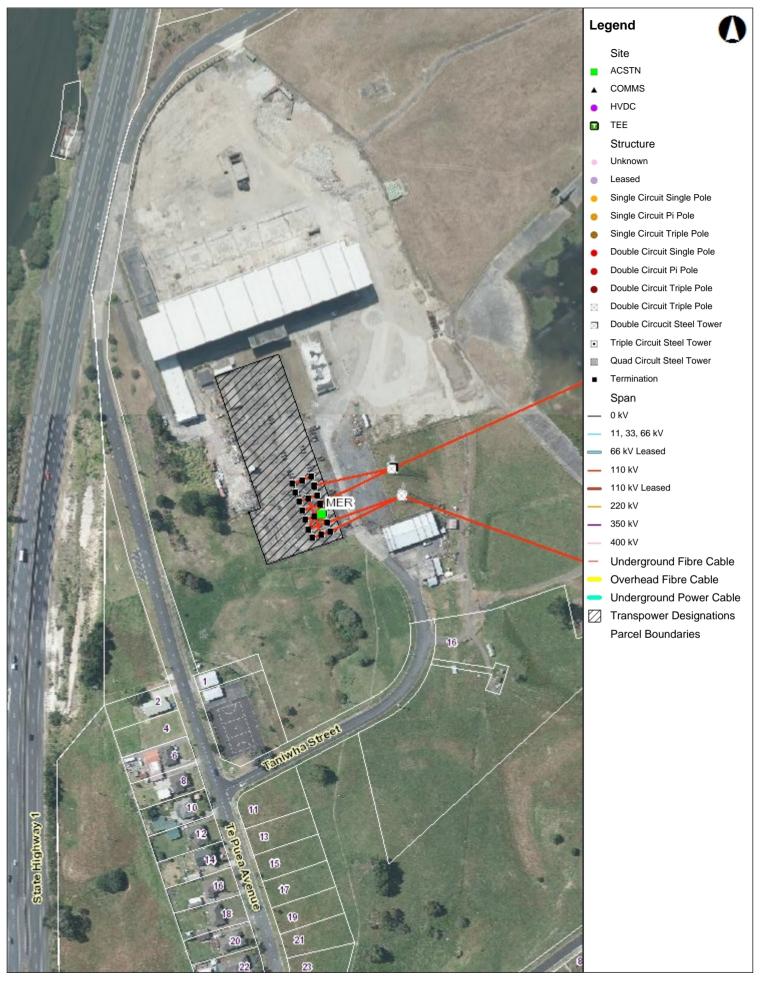
05-Apr-2020 Scale: 5,000 Plan Size: A4P

# Transpower NZ Ltd - Meremere Assets

125 0 125 Meters

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### Appendix B: Meremere Switching Station Designation



TRANSPOWER

17-Mar-2020 Scale: 2,500 Plan Size: A4P

# Transpower NZ Ltd - Meremere Switching Station

63 0 63 Meters

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### Appendix C: Record of Title – Meremere Switching Station site



### **View Instrument Details**

Instrument No.
Status
Date & Time Lodged
Lodged By
Instrument Type

9899101.3 Registered 10 Dec 2015 09:40 Smith, Julian Christopher Easement Instrument



Affected Computer Registers Land District
228881 South Auckland
SA60A/398 South Auckland

Annexure Schedule: Contains 4 Pages.

### **Grantor Certifications**

I certify that I have the authority to act for the Grantor and that the party has the legal capacity to authorise me to lodge this instrument

I certify that I have taken reasonable steps to confirm the identity of the person who gave me authority to lodge this instrument

I certify that any statutory provisions specified by the Registrar for this class of instrument have been complied with or do not apply

I certify that I hold evidence showing the truth of the certifications I have given and will retain that evidence for the prescribed period

### Signature

Signed by Dale Fredric Theo Thomas as Grantor Representative on 27/10/2015 09:07 AM

### **Grantee Certifications**

I certify that I have the authority to act for the Grantee and that the party has the legal capacity to authorise me to lodge this instrument

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I certify that I have taken reasonable steps to confirm the identity of the person who gave me authority to lodge this instrument

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I certify that any statutory provisions specified by the Registrar for this class of instrument have been complied with or do not apply

...

I certify that I hold evidence showing the truth of the certifications I have given and will retain that evidence for the prescribed period

V

### Signature

Signed by Julian Christopher Smith as Grantee Representative on 17/09/2015 04:36 PM

\*\*\* End of Report \*\*\*

Annexure Schedule: Page:1 of 4

### Form B

### Easement instrument to grant easement or *profit á prendre,* or create land covenant Sections 90A and 90F, Land Transfer Act 1952

### Grantor

### **TGH FIXED INCOME LIMITED**

### Grantee

### TRANSPOWER NEW ZEALAND LIMITED

### Grant of easement or profit á prendre or creation or covenant

**The Grantor,** being the registered proprietor of the servient tenement(s) set out in Schedule A, **grants to the Grantee** (and, if so stated, in gross) the easement(s) or *profits á prendre* set out in Schedule A, **or creates** the covenant(s) **set out** in Schedule A, with the rights and powers or provisions set out in the Annexure Schedule(s).

### Schedule A

Continue in additional Annexure Schedule if required.

Schedule A	·,	Conunue in addition	Conunue in additional Annexure Schedule ir required.		
Purpose (nature and extent) of easement, profit, or covenant	Shown (plan reference)	Servient tenement (Computer Register)	Dominant tenement (Computer Register) <i>or</i> in gross		
Right to maintain and operate an earthmat	" A " on DP 356023	Lot 5 DPS 74631 (SA60A/398)	Section 1 SO 59595 (228881)		

### Easements or profit á prendre rights and powers (including terms, covenants, and conditions)

Delete phrases in [] and insert memorandum number as required. Continue in additional Annexure Schedule if required.

Unless otherwise provided below, the rights and powers implied in specific classes of easement are those prescribed by the Land Transfer Regulations 2002 and/or the Fifth Schedule of the Property Law Act 2007.

The implied rights and powers are [varied] [negatived] [added to] or [substituted] by:

Memorandum number , registered under section 155A of the Land Transfer Act 1952].

the provisions set out in Annexure Schedule 2.

### **Covenant provisions**

Delete phrases in [ ] and insert memorandum number as required. Continue in additional Annexure Schedule if required.

The provisions applying to the specified covenants are those set out in:

[Memorandum number , registered under section 155A of the Land Transfer Act 1952]

[Annexure Schedule 2].

Annexure Schedule: Page: 2 of 4

Form L			
		***************************************	
Annexure Schedule	Page	of	Pages
Insert instrument type			
Easement			

Continue in additional Annexure Schedule, if required.

Continuation of "Estate or Interest or Easement to be created"

### **WHEREAS**

- A. The Grantor is the registered proprietor of the land in SA60A/398 (hereinafter referred to as the "Land").
- B. The Grantee is the registered lessee of an estate in leasehold in the land in CIR 228881 pursuant to a Lease B441846.1 (hereinafter referred to as the "Grantee's Land").
- C. The Grantor has agreed to grant to the Grantee an easement to maintain an earthmat under part of the Grantor's Land marked "A" on DP 356023 (the "Easement Land") on the terms and conditions set out in the Easement Instrument.

### THIS EASEMENT INSTRUMENT WITNESSES THAT:

Pursuant to a Deed relating to grant of easements dated 28.2.1997 between the Grantor and the Grantee and Electricity Corporation of New Zealand Limited and in consideration of the premises the Grantee shall have as an easement appurtenant to the Grantee's Land the right to maintain and operate an earthmat under the Easement Land together with and subject to the covenants, rights and powers set out in this Easement Instrument.

### 1 Definitions

In this easement, unless the context requires otherwise:

"Earthmat" means a bonded assembly of conductors buried beneath a switchyard to provide a low impedance connection with the general mass of earth;

"Equipment" includes equipment, tools, machinery and all materials and items required for the purposes of exercising any of the rights given by this Easement Instrument;

"Machinery" includes cranes, drilling rigs, plant, pile drivers, excavators and other similar tools and machinery;

Annexure Schedule: Page:3 of 4

Form L			
Annexure Schedule	Page	of	Pages
Insert instrument type			
Easement			

Continue in additional Annexure Schedule, if required.

### 2 Grantee's Rights

- 2.1 **Grantee's Rights**: The Grantee shall have the full, uninterrupted and unrestricted right, liberty and privilege for the Grantee, its employees, contractors, tenants, licensees, invitees and agents to:
  - 2.1.1 maintain and operate an earthmat under the Easement Land and from time to time and at all times to discharge electricity into the Easement Land; and
  - 2.1.2 use any earthmat already laid on the Easement Land or any earthmat in replacement or in substitution for that earthmat or where no such earthmat exists, to lay, place and maintain or to have laid, placed or maintained, an earthmat of suitable material for the purposes under the surface of the Easement Land; and
  - 2.1.3 enter and remain on the Land with or without any tools, implements, machinery or equipment upon the Land or such part thereof as is reasonably necessary in the circumstances and then remain on the Land for any reasonable time for the purposes of laying, inspecting, repairing, renewing and maintaining the earthmat provided that the Grantee shall ensure that all such works are carried out as expeditiously as possible; and
  - 2.1.4 remove cultivated or natural vegetation, including trees or shrubs, and to open up the soil of the Easement Land to such extent as may be necessary and reasonable for the laying, inspecting, repairing, renewing and/or maintaining the earthmat but the Grantee shall cause as little disturbance as is possible to the surface of the Easement Land and that surface shall be restored as nearly as reasonably possible to its original condition and any other damage done by reason of such operations shall be repaired by the Grantee.
- 2.2 **Term**: The term of this easement is nine hundred and ninety –nine (999) years.
- 2.3 Termination: This easement is collateral with Memorandum of Lease B441846.1 to the intent that in the event that the Memorandum of Lease is surrendered or terminated, whether by effluxion of time or otherwise, this easement shall be extinguished.

Annexure Schedule: Page:4 of 4

Form L			
Annexure Schedule	Page	of	Pages
Insert instrument type			
Easement			

Continue in additional Annexure Schedule, if required.

### 3 No Interference

- 3.1 No interference by Grantee: The Grantee shall when exercising any of its rights herein contained, make all reasonable steps to ensure that it does not interfere with the Grantor's activities on the Land or the use of the Easement Land by the Grantor or with any existing services already laid in or under the Easement Land or any part of the Land.
- 3.2 **No interference by Grantor**: The Grantor shall not do anything whereby the rights, powers, licences and liberties granted to the Grantee pursuant to this Easement Instrument may be interfered with or affected in any way. If the Grantor consents to or causes or permits any breach of this clause, the Grantee shall be entitled to take all reasonable steps to abate or remedy the particular breach and any other steps necessary for the protection of the Grantee's rights and the Grantee shall not be liable to the Grantor, whether in contract, tort or otherwise, for any loss, compensation, damage or expenses thereby incurred or suffered by the Grantor.

### 4 Assignment

4.1 Grantee may assign: The Grantee may transfer, assign or sublet all or any part of its estate or interest in the Easement Land and/or the rights in this Easement Instrument or any parts of those rights without the consent of the Grantor, but only in conjunction with a transfer, assignment or sublease (as the case may be) of the Grantee's estate or interest in the Grantee's Land or the

### 5 Indemnity

5.1 **Indemnity**: The Grantee shall indemnify the Grantor against all actions, suits, proceedings, claims and demand which may be brought or made against the Grantor as a direct result of the exercise by the Grantee of any of the rights granted by this Easement Instrument.

### 6 Notices

6.1 **Notices**: Any advice required to be given by one party to the other hereunder shall be deemed sufficiently served if delivered personally or sent by prepaid post to the addressee's last known address in New Zealand or in the case of a body corporate, its registered office. Any notice personally delivered or posted shall be valid if served or given under the hand of any authorised representative of the notifying party.

### 7 Use of rights

7.1 **Use of rights**: Nothing contained or implied in this Easement Instrument shall compel the Grantee to avail itself of rights granted in this Easement Instrument.

