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20 August 2020

The District Plan Hearings Administrator
Waikato District Council
Private Bag 544
Ngaruawahia 3742

Email: districtplan@waidc.govt.nz

Attention: Sandra Kelly

Proposed Waikato District Plan – Stage 1 – Hearing 21b, Landscapes

Powerco Limited (Powerco) will not be attending Stage 1 – Hearing 21b, Landscapes. However, Powerco would like the following letter tabled with the Hearing Commissioners.

Submission 836.33

Powerco has one submission in this hearing (submission 836.33). Powerco sought to amend 3.4.3 Policy – Maintaining and Enhancing Significant Amenity Landscapes by the addition of the underlined words:

3.4.3 Policy – Maintaining and enhancing Significant Amenity Landscapes

(a) Maintain and enhance identified Significant Amenity Landscapes, during subdivision, land use and development, in particular by:

(i) requiring buildings and structures (excluding support structures) to be integrated into the Significant Amenity Landscape to minimise any visual impacts;

...

Waikato District Council's s42 hearing report has rejected Powerco's submission.

In the Waikato District, Powerco has mainly overhead electricity distribution network in the areas it operates. Some of its existing overhead network is located within mapped Significant Amenity Landscapes in the Proposed Waikato District Plan Maps (see Proposed Planning Map 16). It is Powerco's position that maintenance and minor upgrading of its existing assets (including its existing overhead network) should not require consent.

Powerco is concerned with Policy 3.4.3 as drafted requiring structures to be integrated into a Significant Amenity Landscape. As power poles are normally around 12m in height, this requirement will be hard to meet.

Further, the National Policy Statement on Renewable Energy Generation 2011 does not apply to the particular Powerco assets located in the Waikato District as they do not connect renewable

electricity generation activities to the grid, nor are they of themselves a renewable electricity generation activity.

In its submission, Powerco used the term “support structures” which refer to its power poles holding its overhead network up. The s42A hearing report stated that introducing the term “support structures” could lead to a misuse of the policy.

Accordingly, Powerco now seeks the following amendment shown in underline which refers to excluding power poles rather than support structures:

3.4.3 Policy – Maintaining and enhancing Significant Amenity Landscapes

(a) Maintain and enhance identified Significant Amenity Landscapes, during subdivision, land use and development, in particular by:

(i) requiring buildings and structures (excluding power poles) to be integrated into the Significant Amenity Landscape to minimise any visual impacts;

...

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gary Scholfield". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'G'.

Gary Scholfield

Environmental Planner

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Email: planning@powerco.co.nz