

**BEFORE THE HEARING COMMISSIONERS
IN WAIKATO DISTRICT**

IN THE MATTER of the Resource Management Act 1991 (“**the Act**”)

AND

IN THE MATTER of the Proposed Waikato District Plan (Stage
1) Hearing 22 Infrastructure

**REBUTTAL STATEMENT BY LYNETTE PEARL WHARFE
FOR HORTICULTURE NEW ZEALAND
6 OCTOBER 2020**

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 I have filed Evidence in Chief (EIC) for Horticulture New Zealand (HortNZ) on Topic 22 Infrastructure
- 1.2 My experience is detailed in Appendix 1 of my EIC.
- 1.3 The primary evidence that is supported in part and opposed in part:
 - (a) Pauline Whitney for Transpower
 - (b) Dougal Campbell for Transpower
- 1.4 Key topics raised include:
 - NPSET
 - NZECP34:2001
 - Provisions in the PWDP

2. NPSET

- 2.1 Ms Whitney (21-36) sets out the direction of the NPSET. I concur with her understanding of the NPSET.
- 2.2 Ms Whitney (Para 95.4) has sought changes to NC9 to refer to PSA structures. My EIC has sought that the reference be to 'protective canopies' as being the appropriate industry description for the types of structures that Transpower seeks to restrict within the National Grid Yard.

3. NZECP34:2001

- 3.1 Mr Campbell considers that NZECP34:2001 is not adequate to address matters relating to the National Grid and the NPSET.
- 3.2 In my experience in discussions with Transpower regarding managing third party effects on the network NZECP34:2001 has been used as a base document. However not all parts of NZECP34:2001 are relevant to a district plan. For instance, regulation of mobile machinery is not a matter for control in a district plan.
- 3.3 NZECP provides setbacks and clearances for machinery near all lines. Therefore, I consider that this matter is already addressed through regulations and does not need to be duplicated in district plans. While there have been instances of machinery hitting lines and causing outages it is the NZECP regulations that should manage this risk.
- 3.4 The provisions in NZECP34:2001 set out regulations regarding earthworks that are relevant to rural activities, such a vertical holes. It is acknowledged

that there have been instances where earthworks have led to issues for Transpower but these examples related mainly to subdivision development.

- 3.5 In my opinion the regulations relevant to rural activities such as vertical holes and cultivation should rely on NZECP and the setbacks provided within the regulations. This is consistent with the approach set out by Ms Whitney in Para 90 to allow reasonable use of land inside the National Grid Yard.

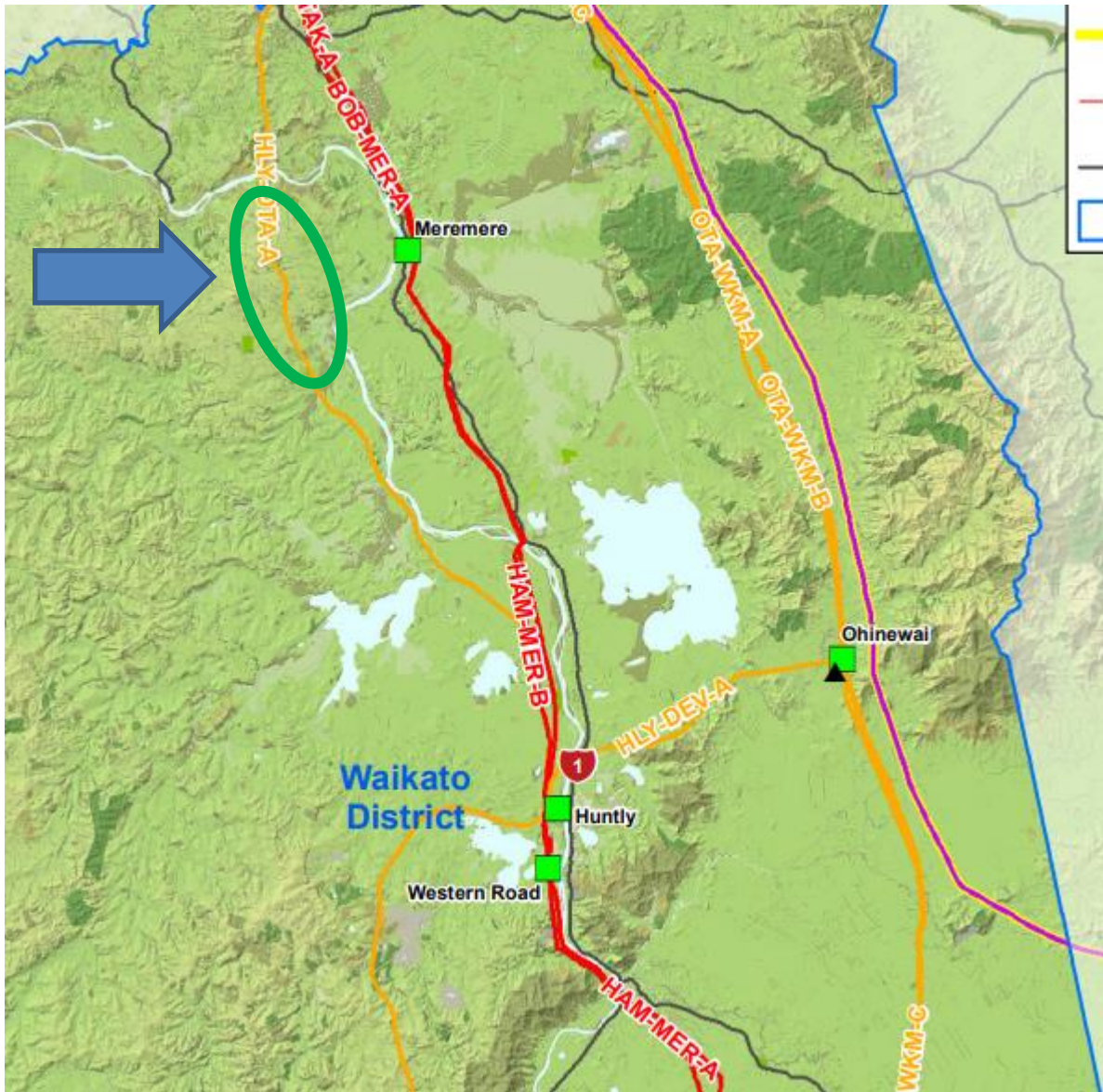
4. PROVISIONS IN THE PWDP

- 4.1 I agree with Ms Whitney (59 -63) that the plan structure would be preferable for the provisions for the National Grid to be standalone.
- 4.2 Ms Whitney (Para 105) dismisses the submission of Horticulture New Zealand by stating that the amendments sought by Transpower give effect to the NPSET and are appropriate.
- 4.3 In my EIC I sought amendments which would also give effect to the NPSET but also provide for a balance with the needs of landowners to be able to continue rural activities while not compromising the National Grid. I consider such an approach as appropriate.
- 4.4 In particular there needs to be the ability to provide for growers activities given that a portion of the National Grid line near Tuakau and Cambridge passes over existing operations and high class soils which are recognised in the PWDP, the RPS and the Draft NPS Highly Productive Land. Inability or limitation on the use of such land for productive purposes does not give effect to the RPS.

Lynette Wharfe

6 October 2020

Map 1: National Grid Line traversing horticultural operations near Tuakau



Map 2: National Grid Line traversing horticultural operations near Cambridge

