

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Name	Discussion on preferred provisions for electricity providers		
Meeting Venue	Waikato District Council		
Date Of Meeting	18 November 2016	Time Of Meeting	10.00
Chairperson	Andrew Cumberpatch	Recorder	Andrew Cumberpatch

Project Details

Client Name Waikato District Council
 Project Name District Plan Review - Infrastructure Provisions
 Project Number 80507900

Attendees	Organisation	Initials
Rachel Bilbe	Counties Power	RB
Carmen Yip	Counties Power	CY
Jack Ninnes	WEL Networks	JN
Kirsty Moran	BCD (for WEL Networks)	KM
Wayne Furlong	Waikato District Council (WDC)	WF
Donna Tracey	WDC	DT
Andrew Cumberpatch	MWH	AC

- AC outlined purpose of meeting:
 - Get a better understanding of what the key issues to Counties Power (CP) and WEL Networks (WEL) are currently
 - Establish what CP and WEL would like to see from the District Plan review process
 - Try and come to agreement on matters prior to notification to avoid issues at later stage in process
- DT and AC provided update on some of the project progress since the July external stakeholders workshops:
 - WDC project steering committee have decided to proceed with a standalone chapter for infrastructure – something many of the external stakeholders have wanted to see.
 - Targeted consultation with external stakeholders is occurring (met with telecommunications providers at end of October and NZTA yesterday).
 - Noting set of preferred provisions provided by telecommunications providers.
- AC circulated a hand out of current WDC District Plan rules which were expected to be of particular interest to lines service providers, being:
 - On-site services
 - Network utility
 - Existing electricity and telecommunication lines
 - Appendix A – Table 4: Access and Road Performance Standards
 - Network and Other Utilities and Essential Services (Franklin Section)
- CY clarified that Waipa Networks also operate some electrical network within WDC's jurisdiction (around Tamahere area) and as such should be involved in further discussions.
- JN also suggested Ultra-Fast Broadband should be involved.
- **Action: CY and JN to supply contact details to AC**
- RB noted new overhead lines are not provided for as a permitted activity (PA) within the Waikato Section of the District Plan.
- KM clarified PA within Rural and Coastal zones up to 12m in height.
- RB indicated CP's 110kV poles are around 14.5m in height and queries why 110kV were singled out in the District Plan.
- KM enquired as to whether WDC plan to have a transport corridor zone in the District Plan.

- DT confirmed WDC will retain the current approach of road taking on the adjacent zone and that the intent is to have one living (residential) zone across the whole district, however this work is still to be done.
- RB referred to issues in Pokeno where there were requirements for undergrounding, compounded by uncertainties in voltage/ratings for lines required due to new and previously unforeseen demand (e.g. new pumps for dairy factory were not originally envisaged and required additions).
- WF queried whether master planning in the industrial areas could avoid this, but RB noted in the case of Pokeno there were too many unknowns.
- WF asked if having electrical lines deeper provided a solution. CY confirmed this creates operational issues and also makes it harder to identify any faults.
- RB said it was important for CP to have the appropriate separation distances between their lines and other utilities within the road corridor.
 - Need to be able to maintain and upgrade as required
 - Prefer grassed berm as easier to access and less complicated compared to reinstating concrete
 - JN stated WEL also prefer the back berm and ideally set back from the boundary
- RB said CP often request dedicated lots within subdivision for their infrastructure, as it is easier to utilise this space (if any further works are required) than seek approval to do it on private properties.
- RB unsure why Waikato Section does not allow for lines greater than 110kV as a PA.
- DT suggested this would be because WEL do not have 110kV lines and there were none in the district until merger with former Franklin District. Rule would have been intended to cover Transpower pylons rather than the poles used by CP.
- CY queried whether the type of structure (i.e. pole) could be clarified within the rules.
- **MWH to progress**
- JN queried whether the 10m2 PA standard for above ground structures was for individual structures or a cumulative total if one or more structures was being installed.
- DT/KM indicated it would be one structure.
- AC mentioned discussions took place with NZTA on how electric car charging facilities/kiosks may be managed within the District Plan.
- JN noted that only travelling motorists would be using them given the efficiency of charging at home over a commercial provider.
- WF stated WEL would be providing some usage information to assist WDC in this area.
- RB assumed overhead lines were not a PA within the living zone. KM confirmed that is correct.
- JN stated WEL need the ability to extend existing overhead lines/facilities, including the pole structures
- JN queried whether PA rules would apply to paper roads. DT - rules retain the current approach of road taking on the adjacent zone.
- RB reinforced that it is preferable to use roads/paper roads where possible.
- RB confirmed CP would like to see draft provisions, around likely heights etc., prior to notification.
- AC confirmed further consultation, including workshop of draft provisions, is planned.
- **RB to provide specific feedback on rules and information on CP infrastructure to assist WDC/MWH**
- DT recognised upgrading rules need to allow for increase in voltage/ratings, as in some areas to cater for growth an increase is required.
- RB confirmed this can often be increased without the need for any noticeable physical changes to the facilities/poles (e.g. 12kV to 22kV).

- JN stated maintenance and upgrading rules need to allow for increases and be flexible as it is difficult to anticipate the level of demand.
- JN said raising the heights of existing poles is often required, and DT noted that would likely require resource consent under current rules.
- RB also noted there is often a need to increase clearance heights for existing lines (if new land uses occur in the vicinity) given the requirements of the New Zealand Electrical Codes of Practice (NZECP).
- JN confirmed WEL often need to place transformers on existing poles in towns. RB stated CP's equivalent transformers are in rural areas.
- JN also indicated quite a number of new overhead lines were going into rural areas to allow for various uses such as cell phone towers and milking sheds.
- RB pointed out the increased cost (significant difference) of undergrounding lines in country living areas for example has to ultimately be passed onto the landowners.

- WF road corridor approach trying to align with Regional Integrated Technical Specifications (RITS).
- AC explained RITS is separate process running in parallel. Given the uncertainty of the outcomes sought by WDC, in general existing District Plan content on infrastructure will be retained to ensure element of control is retained by WDC to get the outcomes sought.
- JN stated room already taken up in berms by footpaths, and noted issues already with Temple View development due to choice of trees planted in corridor.
- WF outlined WDC's drive to improve streetscapes through planting etc., but acknowledged the potential conflicts with utilities underground (rootzone growth). Also potentially more spaced needed for low impact design stormwater facilities.
- WF confirmed there is a difficulty with this topic given ideally WDC and utility providers want more width yet developers want corridor smaller in order to maximise lots sizes.
- DT asked WF is RITS gives guidance on planting.
- RB suggested rules for maintenance and upgrading should have provision for associated vegetation management (trimming/removal) and earthworks.
- RB also suggested rules for utilities need to allow for associated earthworks that are not necessarily just a trench (i.e. launch pits for trenchless machinery).
- **MWH to progress**

- AC also ran through that key matters previously raised by CP at external stakeholders workshop:
 - Try not be overly prescriptive on utility dimensions as there are industry standards
 - **RB to provide guidance on provisions sought based on CP's infrastructure**

 - Early consultation in re-zoning, particularly in rural areas
 - DT stated WDC can provide information on growth cells.
 - RB keen to work together with WDC to establish how to best service new areas.

 - Standardise the utility layouts within road corridors
 - DT stated District Plan is likely to include standard road cross section diagram (at present only for roads within certain zones/areas).
 - KM queried whether that would be tied back to a resource consent requirement. DT/WF indicated yes in order to provide the diagram 'teeth'.
 - RB indicated CP would like to provide input on that layout.

 - Increase permitted limits from current 110kV for electricity lines
 - As per comments previously. **RB to provide feedback on provisions sought.**