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**28 November 2006**

## **Media Release**

### **Initial consultation closes on proposed North Island grid upgrade**

The Electricity Commission has completed its first consultation step to consider Transpower's proposal to upgrade transmission services between Whakamaru and South Auckland.

The commission has received more than 140 submissions from members of the public, industry, landowners, iwi and other interested parties.

"The commission will now review these submissions as part of the analysis of Transpower's proposal," said commission deputy chair Peter Harris today.

"When we have assessed the submissions and completed our analysis we will make a draft decision."

After the commission has formally made and announced its draft decision it will conduct a further consultation step.

"Whether we make the draft decision in late December or early next year, we plan to consult on the draft decision during February/March 2007," said Commissioner Harris.

The commission expects to make a final decision on Transpower's grid upgrade application during May 2007.

The submissions are on the web at:

<http://www.electricitycommission.govt.nz/submissions/subtransmission/20oct06proposal>

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For further information:

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### More information

- The commission's process for considering Transpower's proposal (dates indicative):

24 Oct 2006	Receipt and start of assessment of proposal (step commenced—Commission analysis of proposal continues through late Dec, in parallel with consideration of submission comments and alternatives)
24 Oct–22 Nov 2006	Opportunity for parties to comment on the proposal and to request the commission to consider alternatives (step completed)
23 Nov–19 Dec 2006	Assessment of comments and alternatives
Late Dec 2006 or Jan 2007	Commission's draft decision made and announced. (Notice of intention published)
Feb–Mar 2007	Consultation on draft decision
May 2007	Commission's final decision