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**24 October 2006**

## **Media release**

### **Consultation starts on Transpower's revised transmission upgrade proposal**

The Electricity Commission has received a revised North Island grid upgrade proposal from Transpower to construct a 400kV-capable overhead transmission line between Whakamaru and South Auckland. It is proposed that the line would be operated initially at 220kV then converted to operate at 400kV at a future date. The proposed line includes connection into Pakuranga via 220kV underground cables.

Today, the commission published Transpower's proposal on its website to start the first of two consultation periods about the proposal. The commission's first consultation period, over the next four weeks, gives interested parties the opportunity to make initial written comments on the proposal, including consideration of the possible alternatives. This consultation period closes at 5.00pm, 22 November 2006. Written comments can be posted to: Electricity Commission, PO Box 10041, Wellington 6143; or emailed to: [info@electricitycommission.govt.nz](mailto:info@electricitycommission.govt.nz).

The second consultation period will follow the commission's announcement of its draft decision about whether to approve or to decline the proposal. The commission hopes to announce its draft decision either in late December this year or early in the New Year. The commission plans to conduct a full public consultation process about its draft decision during February and March 2007.

More information is available on the commission's website at:

<http://www.electricitycommission.govt.nz/opdev/transmis/auckgridinvest/index.html/view>.

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**For more information:**

Roy Hemmingway, Chair  
Electricity Commission  
Tel: 04 460 8860

**Key facts**

- Transpower has presented the commission with a revised grid upgrade proposal for supply into Auckland.
- The commission has no opinions or views on the proposal until it has assessed it and made a draft decision.
- The commission's process to consider Transpower's proposal includes the following steps (dates indicative):

24 Oct 2006	Receipt and start of assessment of proposal
24 Oct–22 Nov 2006	Opportunity for interested parties to comment on the proposal and to request the commission to consider alternatives
23 Nov–19 Dec 2006	Assessment of comments and alternatives
Dec 2006 or Jan 2007	Commission's draft decision reached
Feb–Mar 2007	Consultation and a public conference
May 2007	Commission's final decision reached