

## **Media release**

**9 September 2005**

### **Commission progresses grid upgrade consultation**

The Electricity Commission is hosting a second series of public meetings in Waikato and South Auckland regions from 20 to 27 September 2005. The meetings are part of the Commission's consultation process for considering alternatives to Transpower's proposed transmission grid upgrade between Whakamaru and Otahuhu.

The commission wants to ensure a reliable electricity supply to Auckland and North Auckland and is in the process of considering alternatives to a transmission upgrade, before making a decision on whether to approve Transpower's proposals.

Commission chair Roy Hemmingway said part of the commission's consultation programme over the next nine months is to keep the public regularly informed of its progress on considering Transpower's grid upgrade proposal.

"More than 600 people attended our first series of meetings in Waikato and South Auckland in June, when we explained our process and invited submissions on our consultation paper to consider transmission alternatives.

"We received over 130 submissions by the July closing date to our paper *Alternatives to Transpower's Proposed Whakamaru-Otahuhu Transmission Upgrade*. It is our job to act impartially throughout this process and we are inviting people to attend the meetings later this month to hear about our progress on assessing the submissions," said Mr Hemmingway.

The submissions and a summary of the Commission's next steps in its consultation and review process are available on:

<http://www.electricitycommission.govt.nz/opdev/transmis/transalternatives>

**Meeting venues, dates and times are as follows:**

**Tuesday, September 20:**

*South Waikato and Taupo*, Council Chambers, Tokoroa, 12 noon

**Wednesday, September 21:**

*Waipa*, Cambridge Town Hall, Cambridge, 12 noon

*Matamata-Piako and Hauraki*, Senior Citizens' Association Hall, Morrinsville, 7pm

**Thursday, September 22:**

*Waikato*, Matahuru Hall, Storey Rd, Matahuru, 7pm

**Monday, September 26:**

*Franklin*, Hunua Hall, Hunua, 7pm

**Tuesday, September 27:**

*Manukau*, All Souls Anglican Church Hall, North Road, Clevedon, 7pm

The Electricity Commission is a Crown entity set up in 2003 under the Electricity Act to oversee New Zealand's electricity industry and markets.

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For more information:

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