



Greater East Tamaki
Business Association Inc.

Submission on an Application for Resource Consent

Manager Resource Consents
Manukau City Council
Private Bag 76917
Manukau City

Attention: Resource Consents, Level Four, Kotuku House

Name of persons making submission:

Elspeth Mount
Chair
Greater East Tamaki Business Association Inc. (GETBA)
PO Box 58 260
Botany
Auckland 2163

This is a submission on an application from Transpower NZ Ltd for underground transmission lines (Proposal No. 35983) - Pakuranga to Penrose 22kV Underground Cable Project

The Greater East Tamaki Business Association Inc (GETBA) supports the application. In particular, the association welcomes the construction of a second power transmission route into the Auckland and Northern areas as well as the undergrounding of the route. The association does, however, have serious reservations about the routing of the Underground Cable Project along Ti Rakau Drive.

We have been pleased to have had good communication with Transpower staff to date and have been reliably assured that this communication will be maintained throughout the consultation and construction period.

We have undertaken an information dissemination programme with businesses along the northern side of Ti Rakau Drive to give them a clear picture of the plans so that they can themselves consider how they might best ensure business continuity throughout the construction period.

The reasons for making the submission are summarised below:

TRAFFIC:

Ti Rakau Drive is designated as an oversize vehicle route. While assurances have been given that this will be taken into account, it is of concern that not only would any oversize vehicle movements be seriously restricted during the construction period but the constant heavy traffic using Ti Rakau Drive as a route to and from the industrial area needs also to be kept moving. The intention to designate some of the pinch-points for work only at night and/or during school holidays is noted with appreciation as traffic volumes are often lighter at these times.

The tailbacks around the Trugood Drive intersection are already unacceptable in the morning and afternoon when staff are arriving at or leaving their workplaces: extension of the right-turn slip lane for traffic turning right into Trugood is critical.

BUSINESS ACCESS:

General: All businesses along the northern side of Ti Rakau Drive will be seriously inconvenienced during the period of construction. Customers and business people will suffer from the restriction of lanes and from uncertainty as to access to businesses. All traffic that uses Ti Rakau Drive will need to be clearly informed of the planned programme of works so that, where possible, they choose alternative routes during the construction period.

Specific concerns are as follows:

- a. ***Total blocking of access:*** There are a number of businesses on the northern side of Ti Rakau Drive which have no access other than from the lane of Ti Rakau Drive that is designated as the route for the underground cabling. We note that there are a number of places, notably intersections, which are designated as night time work sites. It would be appropriate to add these businesses to that schedule along with the provision of significant signage and leaflet handouts for businesses to notify regular customers, suppliers and staff, and reassure passing traffic of their availability to do business.
- b. ***Restricted access:*** other businesses will need to ensure that customers and staff are clearly informed prior to and throughout the construction period to access these businesses via an alternative entry (generally via a side or back entrance on an adjacent road). A number of these businesses are retail outlets, professional and business services and, particularly, food and drink outlets: it is critical that, at a time when there is already a fragile economy, such businesses are not further compromised by this construction programme. Clear signage of a size and clarity for drivers to read as they pass is critical. The provision of printed and email-ready notification for each affected business to distribute to their staff, to known customers and to their suppliers is vital.

We wish the consent authority to make the following decision:

The association wishes the consent authority to grant the consent, subject to continued consultation with the association and the affected businesses it represents. It also seeks the confirmation of the commitment of Transpower NZ Ltd. to provide the signage and information leaflets it has indicated that it is willing to fund. Further, the association will be pleased to work with Transpower on other mitigating actions it has suggested, including budgeting for local employment initiatives associated with the construction.

GETBA wish to be heard on this submission.

Address of service for GETBA:

Greater East Tamaki Business Association Inc
PO Box 58260
Auckland 2163

Phone Bus: 09 273 6274
Phone Home: 09 575 7373
Fax Bus: 09 274 4452
Mobile: 021 537 114

Signature of person authorised to make submission:

Date: 7th May 2010

cc: Transpower NZ Ltd,
c/- Beca Planning,
PO Box 6345,
Auckland 1141
(Attention Jamie Swan)