

23 August 2024

Stephen Jones  
Grid Investment Group Manager  
Transpower New Zealand Limited  
PO Box 1021  
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Sent via email: [grid.investments@transpower.co.nz](mailto:grid.investments@transpower.co.nz)

Dear Stephen

## **Cook Strait HVDC Submarine Cable Replacement and Enhancement**

1. This is a brief submission from the Major Electricity Users' Group (MEUG) on Transpower's consultation paper "*Cook Strait HVDC Submarine Cable Replacement and Enhancement – Project Information and Consultation*"<sup>1</sup> published on 6 August 2024.
2. This submission does not contain any confidential information and can be published on Transpower's website unaltered. Members may lodge separate submissions.

### **Recognise important role of HVDC link**

3. MEUG and our 13 members recognise and continue to support the important role that the HVDC link plays in New Zealand's electricity system and within the wholesale electricity market. We agree with the benefits of the HVDC link listed in the paper and recognise that decisions to replace the existing cables must be made ahead of time to reflect long-lead times in the supply chain. In response to the specific questions posed in the consultation paper:
  - We support replacing the existing cables.
  - We support adding additional capacity while replacing the existing cables, given that it would be the most cost-effective and practical time to undertake this work and that the project is forecast to provide additional benefits to New Zealand.
4. We welcome the opportunity to further comment on the detailed evaluation of the project (1200 MW versus 1400 MW) in February 2025, particularly the indicative cost allocations and the impact this will have on transmission charges for consumers.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://static.transpower.co.nz/public/2024-08/HVDC%20Submarine%20Cable%20Replacement%20and%20Enhancement%20Paper\\_Aug%202024.pdf?VersionId=Sx2SnfF5RXr2nH7DsrEhuQ3Dyydmr7WP](https://static.transpower.co.nz/public/2024-08/HVDC%20Submarine%20Cable%20Replacement%20and%20Enhancement%20Paper_Aug%202024.pdf?VersionId=Sx2SnfF5RXr2nH7DsrEhuQ3Dyydmr7WP)

5. As we have raised in prior submissions<sup>2</sup> and discussions with Transpower staff, there are several other factors that we believe need to be considered into order to optimise the use of the HVDC going forward. We welcome continued discussion on these matters.

#### Next steps

6. If you have any questions regarding our submission, please contact MEUG on 027 472 7798 or via email at [karen@meug.co.nz](mailto:karen@meug.co.nz).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K Boyes', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Karen Boyes**  
Major Electricity Users' Group

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.meug.co.nz/node/1365> and <http://www.meug.co.nz/node/1361>