



**SUBMISSION BY POWERCO LIMITED ON THE RESOURCE CONSENTS SOUGHT BY
OPUNAKE POWER LIMITED RELATING TO THE OPERATION OF THE OPUNAKE
HYDROELECTRIC POWER SCHEME LOCATED ADJACENT TO THE OPUNAKE TOWNSHIP.**

To: Taranaki Regional Council
Private Bag 713
Stratford 4352

E-Mail: consents@trc.govt.nz

Submitter: Powerco Limited
Private Bag 2061
New Plymouth 4342
(note - this is not the address for service)

1. This is a submission by Powerco Limited on the applications from Opunake Power Limited to renew seven resource consents and for one new consent, relating to the operation of the Opunake Hydroelectric Power Scheme located adjacent to the Opunake township (Consent numbers: 1795-5.0, 1796-4.0, 1797-4.0, 5581-2.0, 4744-3.0, 4563-3.0, 5692-2.0, 10826-1.0)
2. The reasons for Powerco's submission are set out in attached Schedule 1. In summary, Powerco supports the scheme insofar as it provides a renewable source of distributed electricity generation, which has benefits to the social and economic well-being of the people living in the local Opunake community.
3. Powerco is not a trade competitor for the purposes of section 308B of the Resource Management Act 1991.
4. Powerco does not wish to be heard in support of this submission.

Signature of person authorised to sign on behalf of Powerco Limited

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Gary Scholfield
Environmental Planner

Dated this 14th day of April 2020

Address for Service:

Powerco Limited
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Tauranga 3141

Attention: Gary Scholfield

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Schedule 1

INTRODUCTION

Powerco Limited (*Powerco*) is New Zealand's second largest gas and electricity distribution company and has experience with energy distribution in New Zealand spanning more than a century. The Powerco network spreads across the upper and lower central North Island servicing over 400,000 consumers. This represents 46% of the gas connections and 16% of the electricity connections in New Zealand. These consumers are served through Powerco assets including over 30,000 kilometres of electricity lines and over 6,200 kilometres of gas pipelines.

Powerco's electricity networks are located in five regions – Taranaki, Manawatu-Whanganui, and Greater Wellington (Wairarapa only), as well as parts of the Bay of Plenty and Waikato. Powerco distributes electricity to residential and commercial customers throughout the Taranaki Region.

The electricity that Powerco distributes over its networks is received from large scale electricity generators via the Transpower Transmission network, as well as directly from smaller embedded (or distributed) generators such as Opunake Power Limited.

As noted in our Asset Management Plan (2019 - section 7.3.10), Powerco is prepared to support and facilitate the appropriate development of distributed generation, provided that all connections meet regulatory, safety, and technical requirements without adversely affecting the safe and reliable operation of the Powerco network.

POWERCO'S SUBMISSION

Powerco is supportive of the operation of the hydroelectric power scheme as it provides a renewable source of distributed electricity generation, which has the potential to increase the reliability and resilience of the electricity supply to people living in the local Opunake community. This has clear social and economic benefits. The scheme will also contribute to the Government's aspirational goal of achieving 100 per cent renewable electricity by 2035 and well as decarbonisation goals.

RELIEF SOUGHT

Subject to any adverse effects of the scheme being adequately avoided, remedied or mitigated, that the consents be granted.

CONCLUDING COMMENT

Powerco appreciates the opportunity to provide input to these resource consents. If you have any queries or require additional information please contact Gary Scholfield on (07) 928 5659 or via email gary.scholfield@powerco.co.nz.