



## New Zealand Kiwifruit Growers Incorporated

Meetings 5 November 2013

Transpower and Whakatane District Plan

### **Meeting to Explain the Memorandum of Understanding between Transpower and HortNZ**

The applicable rules are:

- NZ Electrical Code of Practice for Electrical Safe Distances
- The Electricity (Hazards from Trees) Regulations 2003

These Rules along with the Transpower and HortNZ Memorandum of Understanding are on HortNZ's web site [www.hortnz.co.nz](http://www.hortnz.co.nz) This only applies to the National Grid. Local lines are not covered by the Memorandum of Understanding.

The aim of Memorandum of Understanding between Transpower and HortNZ is:

- To allow the best possible use of the land for growing horticultural crops under the national grid.
- For this to be done safely.
- For Transpower to have reasonable access to the lines and masts for maintenance

The key to making the agreement with Transpower a success is for Transpower to work with growers so that party achieves the best outcome.

The buffer is now 12 metres around the base of each mast / tower / power poles. However, by negotiation and agreement, kiwifruit can be grown within this 12 metre zone. Also in agreement with Transpower, and with adequate notice, growers can arrange times when maintenance can be carried out. Transpower undertook to work with growers to ensure timings of their visits are suitable for both Transpower and Transfield.

The grower view expressed at the meeting was Transpower had to repair the relationship with growers that it had damaged through their District Plan applications for the 60 metre buffer zone around the lines.

It was agreed that industry needs to develop a briefing for Transpower explaining what happens on an orchard and when the reasonable times for line maintenance are. Simple guides are also to be produced for growers by Transpower that can be used in Health and Safety packs for briefings.

Finally, Transpower was asked to proactively meet with growers to discuss the issues.

New lines have to be negotiated directly with the landowner and compensation paid.

Attached is a communications plan - comments please. One vital bit of missing information, which has been requested, is a straight-forward one page

information sheet stating what has been agreed and where there is room for negotiation.

Also attached are two information sheets.

Contact Transpower on 0800 THE GRID / 0800 843 474 with any concerns or issues. The local contacts for Transpower listed on the New Zealand map are also attached.

### **Whakatane District Council Planners 5 November 2013**

The following issues were discussed with the Whakatane District Council Planners:

- Rural sub division with a focus on reverse sensitivity with buffers being put in place between orchards and rural sub divisions. This allows sub division only on soils and in locations that are not good for horticulture and protect good growing locations, including the foothills. Offered to set up a grower reference group to identify areas for growth.
- Cop protection structures and cover being permitted.
- The agreement with Transpower being given similar affect to the deal reached in the Western Bay's District Plan.
- Birdscarers and frost fan noise control raised. There will be issues needing to be dealt with in the plan and these will be controversial.
- The plan needing to cover the rural services better, including the Eastpack pack house in Edgecumbe

Council advised:

- Four councillors and an independent commissioner will hear the plan submissions.
- They are still finalising the summary of submissions and these will be notified by 22 November with further submissions closing on 19 December.
- Hearings to be from April to August 2014 with the Rural and Strategic Chapters early on.