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Tararua Project Team
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Tēnā koe,

Tararua Enabling Renewables: Major Capex Proposal — Long List Consultation

Powerco Limited (Powerco) welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the Tararua *Enabling Renewables Major Capex Proposal Long List Consultation*. As the electricity distribution network operator (EDB) serving the Wairarapa and Tararua regions, Powerco operates the sub-transmission and distribution networks into which a significant number of the generation projects identified in this consultation connect or propose to connect.

This submission provides information relevant to Questions 7, 11, and 13 of the consultation. Our focus is on the distribution-connected generation pipeline that sits behind Transpower's grid exit points (GXPs), and on load growth information that may supplement Transpower's regional demand forecasts.

Question 7: Are you aware of any new industrial, commercial, residential or other developments that will significantly impact demand?

The following table provides Powerco's assessment of step load increases (in MVA) at the relevant GXPs based on committed, highly likely, and possible demand developments in our network area.

GXP	Sum of 2026 MVA	Sum of 2027 MVA	Sum of 2028 MVA	Sum of 2029 MVA	Sum of 2030 MVA	Sum of 2031 MVA
Greytown	**-**	**0.1**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**
Possible	**-**	**0.1**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**
Industrial	-	0.1	-	-	-	-
Mangamaire	**-**	**0.6**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**
Possible	**-**	**0.6**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**
Construction & operation	-	0.2	-	-	-	-
Industrial	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transport	-	0.4	-	-	-	-
Masterton	**1.7**	**1.5**	**3.9**	**0.5**	**2.1**	**0.5**
Committed	**1.3**	**0.5**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**
Industrial	1.3	0.5	-	-	-	-
Highly Likely	**0.3**	**0.3**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**
Industrial	0.3	0.3	-	-	-	-

GXP	Sum of 2026 MVA	Sum of 2027 MVA	Sum of 2028 MVA	Sum of 2029 MVA	Sum of 2030 MVA	Sum of 2031 MVA
Possible	**-**	**0.6**	**3.9**	**0.5**	**2.1**	**0.5**
Commercial	-	-	0.6	-	-	-
Industrial	-	0.3	1.3	-	-	-
Residential	-	-	0.5	0.5	0.5	-
Transport	-	0.3	1.5	-	1.6	0.5
Grand Total	**1.7**	**2.2**	**3.9**	**0.5**	**2.1**	**0.5**

Certainty Category	Definition
Committed	Signed up — firm contractual commitment in place.
Highly likely	Not yet signed up, but there are positive indications to proceed.
Possible	Based on available information, indications, discussions, reports, or other sources suggesting it may occur, but without firm confirmation or certainty.

Question 11: Are you aware of any additional generation projects in or near the region that could materially affect your modelling?

Powerco has several committed distributed generation (DG) projects connecting to its 33 kV and 11 kV networks in the Tararua and Wairarapa region. These projects are not visible in Transpower's direct connection pipeline, but their output will flow through the relevant GXPs and will affect reverse power flow, voltage profiles, and export capacity on the transmission network.

Masterton

Project	Capacity	Connection Voltage	Target Commissioning
Solar farm	11.5 MW	33 kV	Early 2027
Solar farm	9 MW	11 kV	Late 2027
Solar farm	3.75 MW	11 kV	Commissioned Feb 2025

Bunnythorpe

Project	Capacity	Connection Voltage	Target Commissioning
Solar farm	23.5 MW	33 kV	Late 2027
Solar farm	23.5 MW	33 kV	Early 2028
Solar farm	23.5 MW	33 kV	Early 2028

The two Powerco-connected projects at Mangamaire are already accounted for in Transpower's generation pipeline (Table 1 of the Overview document) and are listed here for completeness:

Mangamaire

Project	Capacity	Connection Voltage	Status
Solar farm	40 MW	33 kV	In Transpower pipeline
Wind farm	40 MW	33 kV	In Transpower pipeline

Question 13: What aspects of the regional transmission development plan would be most important for your generation projects?

As a distribution network operator facilitating both load growth and distribution-connected generation, the following aspects of the regional transmission development plan are particularly important:

- **Timely resolution of transmission constraints and increased export capability:** The ability of distribution-connected generation to export energy is increasingly influenced by transmission network constraints. For example, the committed solar generation connected to Powerco's network at Bunnythorpe is expected to be constrained during periods of high generation and low local demand due to the Bunnythorpe–Woodville transmission corridor limitations. Certainty regarding the timing, scope and staging of transmission upgrades is important to support efficient investment decisions for developers.
- **Recognition of distribution-connected generation in regional planning:** As increasing volumes of renewable generation connect at distribution level, it is important that transmission planning considers the cumulative impact and contribution of embedded and distribution-connected generation. This includes ensuring that future transmission capacity is planned in a manner that supports both transmission-connected and distribution-connected renewable developments.
- **Collaborating on non-transmission solutions:** A regional approach to non-network solutions provides opportunity for coordinated procurement of flexibility that could benefit consumers through both increasing network utilisation and to rationalising or deferring investment across the sector. An example of this is the collaboration between Transpower and Powerco to optimise the use of non-transmission solutions for the major capital project in the Western Bay of Plenty.
- **Voltage and reactive power management:** The interaction between growing distributed generation, demand growth and transmission network performance is becoming increasingly significant. In areas such as Masterton, transmission investment decisions, including any reactive power compensation or voltage support measures, will influence Powerco's ability to maintain voltage within statutory limits and efficiently manage power quality across the distribution network.
- **Protection and control requirements:** Where transmission development plans result in changes to fault levels, protection settings, intertripping arrangements, or operational requirements for distribution-connected generation, early engagement is essential. This will allow Powerco and connected generators to efficiently assess impacts, implement any required network changes, and minimise delays to generation connections.
- **Future flexibility and scalability:** Given the uncertainty associated with the timing and scale of renewable generation developments, Powerco supports transmission solutions that can be staged and expanded over time. Development pathways that provide flexibility for future distribution-connected generation and electrification demand growth will help reduce the risk of stranded assets while supporting New Zealand's decarbonisation objectives.

Powerco considers that a coordinated transmission and distribution planning approach will be increasingly important to maximise the value of renewable generation investments and ensure efficient planning and development of the wider electricity system.

This submission does not contain any confidential information. We would be pleased to discuss our submission as Transpower develops the proposals for the Wairarapa and Tararua regions. If you have any questions or would like to talk further on the points we have raised, please contact Mandeep Kaur (Mandeep.Kaur@powerco.co.nz) or Gabriel Lim (gabriel.lim@powerco.co.nz).

Nāku noa, nā,

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