



Ōpōtiki District Council

Section 32 Evaluation Report

17. Network Utilities

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1. Introduction

Most residents in the Ōpōtiki District are dependent on network utilities for their day to day activities. Network utilities include communications, electricity, water and gas supply, sewerage and stormwater systems, roads, navigation and airport facilities, together with the buildings, lines, pipes, towers and other structures associated with them. Network utilities are defined and given special priority in the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA). They are physical resources that must be sustainably managed to support the community of the district.

In most of the district, network utilities are allowed as permitted activities where the activity complies with zone standards. There are functional requirements on the design and location of some network utilities to enable and maintain a reliable service. In some cases, resource consent is required, such as in the Coastal Zone and the Coastal Residential Zone, where there is a special character to be protected. Network utilities can be authorised by a designation.

Network utilities may have adverse effects on surrounding environments. These effects can include visual intrusion on landscapes, noise, vibration, and glare effects, and effects on natural habitats. Other activities can impact on the safe and efficient operation of network utilities

Often it is necessary for network utility operators to remove or trim trees and vegetation that compromise the function of the network utility. Problems with trees can arise from interference with overhead lines, wires and cables, or from tree roots blocking, breaking, or rupturing underground pipes. The roots of trees and vegetation can lift road surfaces and pavements making them uneven and compromising the safe use of roads and footpaths. Trees are also a concern on the banks of roadways. They can assist in binding and consolidation of banks, and can also weaken bank stability.

The objectives, policies, and rules in the Plan are intended to enable the efficient operation of network utilities while maintaining the quality and integrity of the zones in which they are located.

2. Legislative Framework

2.1. Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA)

Section 5 of the RMA sets out the purpose of the RMA as follows:

- (1) *The purpose of this Act is to promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources.*
- (2) *In this Act, sustainable management means managing the use, development, and protection of natural and physical resources in a way, or at a rate, which enables people and communities to provide for their social, economic, and cultural well-being and for their health and safety while—*
 - (a) *sustaining the potential of natural and physical resources (excluding minerals) to meet the reasonably foreseeable needs of future generations; and*

- (b) *safeguarding the life-supporting capacity of air, water, soil, and ecosystems; and*
- (c) *avoiding, remedying, or mitigating any adverse effects of activities on the environment.*

Network utilities are a physical resource that must be sustainably managed under the RMA. The Council is required to develop objectives, policies and rules for their management.

Network utilities are defined in section 166 of the RMA in relation to network utility operator, which in turn is defined as follows:

“network utility operator means a person who—

- (a) *undertakes or proposes to undertake the distribution or transmission by pipeline of natural or manufactured gas, petroleum, biofuel, or geothermal energy; or*
- (b) *operates or proposes to operate a network for the purpose of—*
 - (i) *telecommunication as defined in [section 5](#) of the Telecommunications Act 2001; or*
 - (ii) *radiocommunication as defined in [section 2\(1\)](#) of the Radiocommunications Act 1989; or*
- (c) *is an electricity operator or electricity distributor as defined in [section 2](#) of the Electricity Act 1992 for the purpose of line function services as defined in that section; or*
- (d) *undertakes or proposes to undertake the distribution of water for supply (including irrigation); or*
- (e) *undertakes or proposes to undertake a drainage or sewerage system; or*
- (f) *constructs, operates, or proposes to construct or operate, a road or railway line; or*
- (g) *is an airport authority as defined by the [Airport Authorities Act 1966](#) for the purposes of operating an airport as defined by that Act; or*
- (h) *is a provider of any approach control service within the meaning of the [Civil Aviation Act 1990](#); or*
- (i) *undertakes or proposes to undertake a project or work prescribed as a network utility operation for the purposes of this definition by regulations made under this Act,—*

*and the words **network utility operation** have a corresponding meaning”*

The RMA provides for network utility operators to apply for designating authority and this provides an alternative mechanism for authorisations otherwise required under the District plan. Designations are explained in part 1 of this Plan and are separately listed.

Section 6 of the RMA lists matters of national importance and these include: preservation of the natural character of the coastal environment, lakes and rivers and their margins and their protection from inappropriate subdivision, development and use; maintenance and enhancement of public access; protection of significant habitats of indigenous fauna; and relationship of Maori and their culture and traditions with ancestral water, waahi tapu and other taonga.

Section 7 requires that regard is given to a number of matters relevant to activities in the rural environment: kaitiakitanga, the ethic of stewardship, the efficient use and development of natural and physical resources, the maintenance and enhancement of amenity values, intrinsic

values of ecosystems, maintenance and enhancement of the quality of the environment, and the protection of the habitat of trout and salmon.

Section 31 of the RMA gives Council the responsibility for:

“The establishment, implementation and review of objectives, policies and methods to achieve integrated management of the effects of the use, development, or protection of land and associated natural and physical resources of the district:”

and

“the control of any actual or potential effects of the use, development, or protection of land”.

2.2. National Policy Statements

The Council must give effect to National Policy Statements in the District Plan under sections 55 and 75(3)(a) of the RMA.

New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement (NZCPS)

The NZCPS provides guidance for addressing issues in the coastal environment. The Council must give effect to the provisions of the NZCPS under section 75(3)(b). The NZCPS contains seven objectives and 29 policies, of which the following are most relevant:

- Objective 2, which relates to preserving the natural character of the coastal environment and protect natural features and landscape values.
- Objective 5, which relates to coastal hazard risks and managing existing and new development
- Objective 6, which relates to enabling people and communities to provide for their social, economic and cultural wellbeing and their health and safety, especially some uses which are functionally required to locate in the coastal environment.

The NZCPS acknowledges that the coastal environment will vary from locality to locality. In the Ōpōtiki District, the coastal environment has been mapped in the Operative BOP Regional Policy Statement (RPS). It has been adopted for this plan.

National Policy Statement on Electricity Transmission 2008 (NPSET)

The NPSET provides objectives and policies to recognise the national importance of the national grid and to guide the effects on and from the national grid in relation to other activities. The NPSET recognises that the National Grid is a physical resource of national significance and that it plays a vital role in the wellbeing of New Zealand, its people and the environment. The NPSET helps to ensure that there is a nationally consistent approach to the National Grid.

National Policy Statement on Renewable Electricity Generation 2011 (NPSREG)

The NPSREG sets an objective and policies to enable the sustainable management of renewable electricity generation as a matter of national significance and to recognise the benefits of renewable electricity generation to the country. The NPSREG provides a consistent approach to planning for renewable electricity generation in New Zealand and requires the Council to make provision for it in the district plan. The NPSREG states that “*Renewable energy is not adequately provided for locally and nationally*”. The NPSREG has set a renewable

electricity target of 90% by 2025 and a 50% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. The NPSREG works alongside other Government initiatives as part of New Zealand's wider response to tackling climate change

National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2011 (NPSFW)

The NPSFW requires regional councils to consider the effects of water takes and discharges in relation to freshwater quality and protecting the quality of outstanding freshwater bodies and the significant values of wetlands.

2.3. National Environmental Standards

Section 44A of the RMA requires the Council to ensure that a rule in the district plan does not duplicate, or be in conflict with, a national environmental standard. There are five National Environmental Standards (NES):

- National Environmental Standards for Air Quality (NESAQ)
- National Environmental Standards for Sources of Drinking Water (NESWQ)
- National Environmental Standards for Assessing and Managing Contaminants in Soil to Protect Human Health (NESCSC)
- National Environmental Standards for Electricity Transmission Activities 2009 (NESETA)
- National Environmental Standard for Telecommunications Facilities 2008 (NESTF)

The **NESAQ** and **NESWQ** relate to functions of regional councils.

The **NESCSC** provides a nationally consistent set of planning controls and soil contaminant values to ensure that land affected by contaminants in soil is appropriately identified and assessed before it is developed. If necessary, the land must be remediated or the contaminants contained to make the land safe for human use. It requires district councils to assess proposals for subdivision or land use change in accordance with the level of risk.

The **NESETA** applies to existing National Grid transmission lines owned and operated by Transpower. It recognises and provides for the operation, maintenance, upgrading, relocation and removal of the existing transmission network, having considered operational constraints and technical requirements.

The **NESTF** was developed to provide a nationally consistent planning framework for radiofrequency fields of all telecommunication facilities and low impact telecommunications infrastructure on road reserves to:

- assist in network and equipment design and equipment sourcing for roll outs
- create a reduction in compliance costs and timeframes for service providers
- reduce the timeframe and lower costs for the availability of new services to consumers
- contribute to a reduced workload to councils in processing and determining consent applications
- set an appropriate balance between local participation in community planning and cost effective national infrastructure investment

2.4. Regional Policy Statement

Section 74 of the RMA requires that the District Plan must give effect to the Operative RPS. The RPS has a strong emphasis on energy and infrastructure, identifying the priority given to renewable electricity generation and the requirement and the requirement for integrated resource management.

The RPS identifies regionally significant issues as including:

- Reverse sensitivity effects on infrastructure;
- Ineffective integration of land use, regionally significant infrastructure and transportation networks;
- Improving security of electricity supply;
- Increasing the use of renewable energy sources and improving energy efficiency and conservation.
- Effects of infrastructure.

The RPS defines regionally significant infrastructure as including:

- *The regional strategic transport network as defined in the Bay of Plenty Regional Land Transport Plan or state highways as defined in the National State Highway Classification System;*
- *The national electricity grid, as defined by the Electricity Governance Rules 20*
- *Facilities for the generation and/or transmission of electricity where it is supplied to the national electricity grid and/or the local distribution network.*
- *Broadband and strategic telecommunications facilities, as defined in section 5 of the Telecommunications Act 2001;*
- *Strategic radio communications facilities, as defined in section 2(1) of the Radio Communications Act 1989;*
- *Local authority water supply network and water treatment plants;*
- *Local authority wastewater and stormwater networks, systems and wastewater treatment plants;*
- *Pipelines for the distribution or transmission of natural or manufactured gas or petroleum and other energy sources;*
- *Regional parks;*

The RPS contains objectives and policies directing that regionally significant infrastructure is protected from adverse effects of development and subdivision.

Objective	RPS Objective	Policies	Relevance
6	Provide for the social, economic, cultural and environmental benefits of, and the use and development of nationally and regionally significant infrastructure and renewable energy	EI 3B EI 4B	Protecting nationally and regionally significant infrastructure Recognising the benefits from nationally and regionally significant infrastructure and the use and development of renewable energy
7	Provide for the appropriate management of: (a) any adverse environmental effects (including effects on	EI 7B	Managing the effects of infrastructure development and use

	existing lawfully established land uses) created by the development and use of infrastructure and associated resources; (b) any reverse sensitivity effects on established, consented or designated infrastructure.		
10	Cumulative effects of existing and new activities are appropriately managed	IR3B IR5B	Adopting an integrated approach Assessing cumulative effects
23	A compact, well designed and sustainable urban form that effectively and efficiently accommodates the region's urban growth	UG 9B UG 11B	Co-ordinating new urban development with infrastructure Managing the effects of subdivision, use and development on infrastructure
24	An efficient, sustainable, safe and affordable transport network, integrated with the region's land use patterns	UG 1A UG2A	Protecting the national and regional strategic transport network Identifying a consistent road hierarchy
26	The productive potential of the region's rural land resource is sustained and the growth and efficient operation of rural production activities are provided for	UG 20B	Managing reverse sensitivity effects on rural production activities and infrastructure in rural areas

3. Key Issues

3.1 The key issues to be addressed in relation to network utilities are as follows:

#	Issue	Commentary
1	Regionally significant infrastructure and network utilities are physical resources that need to be sustainably managed to provide reliable and efficient services to the district.	This is the leading issue at a national, regional and local level
2	The location and appearance of some network utilities can affect amenity values of the environment through the generation of glare, noise, vibration, and visual effects	The requirement for overhead lines can detract from the visual amenity of sensitive environments, such as coastal areas. Other network utilities can elad to noise, vibration or lighting that adversely affects nearby activities
3	Regionally significant infrastructure and network utilities have a functional and locational requirement to locate in residential areas and other sensitive	Network utilities and infrastructure do not generally have flexibility in where they can locate if a safe, reliable and efficient service is to be provided. This can lead to detracton from amenity

	environments which can result in adverse effects such as noise, vibration, and glare effects.	values for nearby sites.
4	The location and growth of trees near overhead lines and reticulation systems can compromise the function of the network utilities, and pose safety issues.	There is a risk of disruption to power supplies or loss of other services if trees or branches fall on services or roots impact on pipelines. Maintenance is required to prevent loss of services.
5	Network utilities in some parts of the district are susceptible to natural hazards, including flooding and erosion which can disrupt service delivery and can adversely affect the surrounding environment	Infrastructure can be undermined or fail due to erosion, slips or flooding.
6.	Renewable electricity generation and supply needs to be provided for to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and ensure security of supply	While there is no significant renewable energy generation in the district, small scale generation from streams or solar power needs to be supported
7	The operation, maintenance, development, and upgrade of regionally significant infrastructure including the National Grid can be constrained by adverse effects from other activities	Development can intrude on setbacks required for maintenance and upgrade of infrastructure and threaten the provision of services.
8	New subdivision, use and development could adversely affect the safe, efficient, and effective functioning of regionally significant infrastructure	Subdivision can intrude on setbacks required for maintenance and upgrade of infrastructure and threaten the provision of services.
9.	Regionally significant infrastructure is essential for the economic and social wellbeing of the District	The district is reliant on safe, efficient and reliable infrastructure to support day to day activities and future growth.

4. Summary of Plan Provisions

The issues, objectives, policies, rules and other provisions and their relationship in the PDP are set out in the following table.

Issue	Objective	Policies	Rules	Other Methods
1	17.2.1, 17.2.3	17.2.1.1, 17.2.3.2	17.3.1, 17.3.4	17.6.1
2	17.2.1, 17.2.2	17.2.1.2, 17.2.1.2, 17.2.1.1, 17.2.2.1, 17.2.2.3	17.3.1, 17.3.4	17.6.1
3	17.2.1, 17.2.3	17.2.1.1, 17.2.1.4	17.3.1, 17.3.4, 17.4, 17.5	17.6.1
4	17.2.1, 17.2.3	17.2.3.1, 17.2.3.3, 17.2.3.4		17.6.1
5	17.2.3	17.2.1.3	17.3.1, 17.3.3.2	17.6.1
6	17.2.1, 17.2.3	17.2.3.2	17.3.1	
7	17.2.1, 17.2.3	17.2.1.4, 17.2.3.1, 17.2.3.3, 17.2.3.4		17.6.1

8	17.2.3	17.2.3.1, 17.2.3.3, 17.2.3.4		Chapter 15
9	17.2.1, 17.2.3	17.2.1.1, 17.2.1.4, 17.2.3.2	17.3.1	

The following standards or regulations apply in addition to the provisions of this Plan:

- NZ Electrical Code of Practice of Electrical Safety Distances (NZECP: 34 1993)
- National Environmental Standard for Electricity Transmission Activities 2009
- National Environmental Standard for Telecommunications Facilities 2008.

5. Changes Made to ODP Approach

- 5.1 Chapter 9 of the ODP provides rules for the day to day management of network utilities in the District. Network utilities have functional requirements that restrict where they can locate so some adverse effects may have to be tolerated to have a well serviced community. In sensitive areas, such as along the coast or in ONFLs more stringent controls may be justified. Many services are able to be placed underground so the most visible components are overhead lines and roads.
- 5.2 Network utilities are defined in the RMA by reference to network utility operators. Network utility operators are responsible for services including:
- Gas, petroleum, biofuel or geothermal energy
 - Telecommunications
 - Electricity
 - Water, wastewater or stormwater
 - Roads and railways
 - Airports.
- 5.3 The ODP provides objectives, policies and rules to enable utilities to function efficiently while at the same time maintaining the quality and integrity of the zones in which they are located (9.2.6). The permitted activity rules allow transmission lines up to 110kV, masts, poles, pylons, aerials, antenna and similar structures up to specific height and diameter in accordance with each zone, generally located more than 50m from MHWS.
- 5.4 Chapter 9 provides mainly for the management of overhead lines and telecommunications facilities but it is silent about roads and network utilities other than those listed as permitted. As the plan pre-dated the introduction of the National Policy Statements for Renewable Electricity Generation and Electricity Transmission, there is a need to provide for the national grid and renewable electricity generation in accordance with the two NPs's. This requires new issues to be identified and consequently, new objectives and policies. Otherwise no significant changes are proposed to the issues, objectives and policies. As a consequence, only minor clarification and re-wording is proposed to the rules in the Chapter.

- 5.5 A number of minor amendments have been made to the objectives, policies, rules and other methods to clarify provisions where unclear, delete unnecessary text and update references.

6. Evaluation – Appropriateness of Objectives

- 6.1 Objectives are to be assessed as to whether they are the most appropriate to achieve the purpose of the RMA. ‘Most appropriate’ has been interpreted to mean ‘suitable’.

	Objectives	Appropriateness
1	The benefits of the safe, efficient and effective operation (including maintenance, upgrade, replacement and development) of regionally significant infrastructure including network utilities within the District are recognised, where significant adverse effects on the environment are avoided, remedied, or mitigated	<p>Addresses Issues 1, 2, 3, 7, and 9.</p> <p>Section 5: The objective will achieve the purpose of the RMA by enabling the sustainable management of physical resources, to enable people and communities to provide for their social, economic and cultural wellbeing and for their health and safety, and managing adverse effects.</p> <p>Section 6: There are no matters of national importance addressed through this objective. The electricity transmission network is a matter of national significance under the NPSET.</p> <p>Section 7: The objective provides for the efficient use and development of physical resources in accordance with section 7(b).</p> <p>Section 8: The objective is consistent with the principles of the Treaty.</p> <p>RPS: It gives effect to Objectives 6, 7 and 24 of the RPS and associated policies.</p>
2	Management of the potential adverse effects of network utilities on sensitive environments, particularly in areas of high landscape value such as in the District's coastal areas.	<p>Addresses Issues 2 and 3.</p> <p>Section 5: The objective will promote the purpose of the RMA, including managing adverse effects on outstanding natural features and landscapes.</p> <p>Section 6: The objective recognises the matters of national importance identified in section 6(a) and 6(b).</p> <p>Section 7: The objective provides for the maintenance and enhancement of amenity values and the maintenance and enhancement of the quality of the environment in accordance with section 7(c) and (f).</p> <p>Section 8: The objective is consistent with the principles of the Treaty.</p> <p>RPS: It gives effect to Objectives 7 and 10 of the RPS and associated policies</p>

3	To enable the safe and efficient maintenance, upgrade, replacement and development, and operation of existing network utilities by ensuring that, as far as practicable, other activities do not constrain those operations.	Addresses Issues 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8. Section 5: The objective will achieve the purpose of the RMA by enabling the sustainable management of physical resources, to enable people and communities to provide for their social, economic and cultural wellbeing and for their health and safety, and managing adverse effects. Section 6: There are no matters of national importance addressed through this objective. The electricity transmission network is a matter of national significance under the NPSET. Section 7: The objective provides for the efficient use and development of physical resources in accordance with section 7(b). Section 8: The objective is consistent with the principles of the Treaty. RPS: It gives effect to Objectives 6, 7 and 24 of the RPS and associated policies.
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6.2 These objectives are considered to be the most appropriate methods of achieving the purpose of the RMA as they recognise the matters set out in Part 2, they give effect to the relevant objectives and policies in the RPS, and they will guide the appropriate management of network utilities and regionally significant infrastructure.

7. Evaluation – Achieving the Objectives

7.1 Section 32(1)(b) Requirements

Section 32(1)(b) of the RMA requires examination of whether the provisions (being policies, rules and other methods) in the Proposed Plan are the most appropriate way to achieve the objectives. The appropriateness must be considered in relation to:

- “(i) identifying other reasonably practicable options for achieving the objectives; and*
- (ii) assessing the efficiency and effectiveness of the provisions in achieving the objectives; and*
- (iii) summarising the reasons for deciding on the provisions”.*

These are set out below.

The assessment must be at a level of detail that corresponds to the scale and significance of the environmental, economic, social and cultural effects of the Proposed Plan. The Operative District Plan contains an existing chapter, Chapter 9, to manage network utilities. As set out in section 5 above, the approach taken in the Proposed District Plan is to amend the provisions only where necessary to:

- Clarify the provisions;
- Improve consistency across the Plan;
- Respond to new statutory requirements, such as through a national or regional policy statement;
- Delete unnecessary text;
- Update references.

Only where there are new statutory requirements through a national policy statement or regional policy statement have new provisions been introduced. A change in activities or the way they are managed requires examination of the provisions in more detail.

Therefore, as the plan provisions, being policies and rules, have not materially changed and are generally well understood and accepted as appropriate mechanisms to achieve environmental outcomes sought through the district plan, a detailed re-examination of the plan provisions is not considered to be necessary.

7.2 Reasonably Practicable Options

In terms of reasonably practicable options, as discussed above, the plan provisions have been generally carried forward. The reasonably practicable options are therefore considered to be:

Options	Response
Do nothing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No policy or rule in the plan. ▪ Rely on other non-statutory methods as set out in the chapter ▪ BOPRC plan provisions address the issue and duplication is unnecessary
Status Quo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Carry forward the policy or rule without change or with only minor amendment
New policy or provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Address an issue that is not addressed or is ineffective in the operative plan ▪ Give effect to a new requirement in a NPS or RPS ▪ Align with plans or other statutory documents

7.1.5 The plan provisions have been generally carried forward with amendments to clarify and improve consistency across the plan and with other documents. the status of activities and standards to be applied are well known to the community and well understood.

7.1.6 The “Do Nothing” option has not been selected as it is not acceptable where a policy or rule is required to achieve the purpose of the RMA and the objectives set out above. Either the status quo (with or without minor amendments for clarification) or a new provision have been assessed as reasonably practicable options. The proposals are concluded to be the only reasonably practicable options to evaluate.

7.3 Policies and Methods

7.3.1 Efficiency and Effectiveness

In assessing the efficiency and effectiveness of the proposed provisions, the RMA requires the Council to “*identify and assess the benefits and costs of the environmental, economic, social, and cultural effects that are anticipated from the implementation of the provisions, including the opportunities for:*

- (i) *economic growth that are anticipated to be provided or reduced; and*
- (ii) *employment that are anticipated to be provided or reduced”.*

If practicable, the benefits and costs referred should be quantified.

7.3.2 Efficiency

The proposed policies will be efficient in achieving the objectives as they give clear direction for potential activities on the surface of the water and guidance for decision makers.

7.3.3 Effectiveness

Objective 1

Issue relationship	
Objective 1	The benefits of the safe, efficient and effective operation (including maintenance, upgrade, replacement and development) of regionally significant infrastructure including network utilities within the District are recognised, where significant adverse effects on the environment are avoided, remedied, or mitigated
Policies 17.2.1.1 17.2.1.2 17.2.1.3 17.2.1.4	Management of significant adverse effects of structures associated with network utilities while recognising their functional requirements through appropriate location, design and landscaping to maintain the quality of the surrounding environment. Encourage network utility operators and developers to place equipment underground where practicable and where technically and economically feasible, when servicing new areas. Where network utility operators propose to locate within areas susceptible to natural hazards to meet a functional requirement, to require a natural hazard assessment so that the risks to and from the network utility can be appropriately managed. Recognise the benefits of the National Grid in the District.
Methods	Methods to give effect to the policies relate to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identifying as permitted activities a range of services that need to be maintained, upgrade and replaced on a day to day basis. ▪ Setting a scale of development appropriate to each zone for permitted activities. ▪ Controlling services within 50m of MHWS to manage potential coastal hazard risks. ▪ Setting standards for service connections to Council water, stormwater and wastewater reticulation.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Enabling controls to be imposed through the consent process for infrastructure that may adversely affect the character and amenity of the zone it is located in
Benefits	
Environmental benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identifies that network utilities and infrastructure need to be provided for throughout the District. ▪ Recognises the desirability to place services underground where possible, to reduce visual effects. ▪ Activities with higher levels of effects will be allowed subject to controls in appropriate locations ▪ Clear benefits to the environment through supporting the provision of infrastructure subject to appropriate standards ▪ Well used approach that will be understood by plan users
Economic Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Greater certainty about the relevant standards and scale of structures for providers and the community ▪ Allows infrastructure as a permitted activity, limiting costs of consent processes for more significant projects ▪ Enables safe and efficient use and development of network utilities and infrastructure
Social Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Supports the provision of network utilities and infrastructure that is essential for communities to function
Cultural Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Allows permitted activities but will enable cultural effects to be considered in consent processes. ▪ Provides for management of relevant effects which may include cultural values
Costs	
Environmental Costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Network utilities and infrastructure have a functional requirement to locate in potentially sensitive areas and this may detract from the significant values of those areas.
Economic Costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ May be increased application costs associated with management of activities ▪ The policy may result in higher costs for operators ▪ Some activities may be limited where they would compromise important values ▪ Economic costs may be incurred in achieving the outcome sought by the policy
Social Costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Some activities may be limited
Cultural Costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Not all cultural values may be able to be considered
Risk of Acting or Not Acting	
(Risk is a factor of potential consequences and the likelihood of a consequence occurring).	The risk of not acting may lead to conflicts where activities on the rivers are incompatible due to the extent of the activity, the speed of boats, noise or other effects and reasonable access is not available to all groups. There is sufficient information known about the consequences
Overall Assessment	The inclusion of the provisions above is supported as enabling the purpose of the RMA to be achieved including sections 6 and 7 matters.

Objective 2

Issue relationship	
Objective 2	Management of the potential adverse effects of network utilities on sensitive environments, particularly in areas of high landscape value such as in the District's coastal areas.
Policies	
17.2.2.1	Encourage the co-location of network utilities in service corridors and common sites where this is practicable and appropriate.
17.2.2.2	Ensure that network utilities including overhead lines, structures, and buildings are designed and located to seek to avoid or minimise adverse effects, particularly visual effects.
Methods	<p>Methods to give effect to the policies relate to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Setting a scale of development appropriate to each zone for permitted activities. ▪ Controlling services within 50m of MHWS to manage potential coastal hazard risks. ▪ Enabling controls to be imposed through the consent process for infrastructure that may adversely affect the character and amenity of the zone it is located in, subject also to Chapter 13.
Benefits	
Environmental benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Recognises the desirability to place services underground where possible, to reduce visual effects. ▪ Activities with higher levels of effects will be allowed subject to controls in appropriate locations ▪ Clear benefits to the environment through supporting the provision of infrastructure subject to appropriate standards ▪ Well used approach that will be understood by plan users
Economic Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Greater certainty about the relevant standards and scale of structures for providers and the community ▪ Allows infrastructure as a permitted activity, limiting costs of consent processes for more significant projects ▪ Enables safe and efficient use and development of network utilities and infrastructure
Social Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Supports the provision of network utilities and infrastructure that is essential for communities to function
Cultural Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Allows permitted activities but will enable cultural effects to be considered in consent processes. ▪ Provides for management of relevant effects which may include cultural values
Costs	
Environmental Costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Network utilities and infrastructure have a functional requirement to locate in potentially sensitive areas and this may detract from the significant values of those areas.
Economic Costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ May be increased application costs associated with management of activities ▪ The policy may result in higher costs for operators ▪ Some activities may be limited where they would compromise important values ▪ Economic costs may be incurred in achieving the outcome sought by the policy

Social Costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Some activities may be limited
Cultural Costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Not all cultural values may be able to be considered
Risk of Acting or Not Acting	
(Risk is a factor of potential consequences and the likelihood of a consequence occurring).	The risk of not acting may lead to conflicts where activities on the rivers are incompatible due to the extent of the activity, the speed of boats, noise or other effects and reasonable access is not available to all groups. There is sufficient information known about the consequences
Overall Assessment	The inclusion of the provisions above is supported as enabling the purpose of the RMA to be achieved including sections 6 and 7 matters.

Objective 3

Issue relationship	
Objective 3	To enable the safe and efficient maintenance, upgrade, replacement and development, and operation of existing network utilities by ensuring that, as far as practicable, other activities do not constrain those operations.
Policies	
17.3.2.1	To ensure that new subdivision, buildings and activities do not compromise the maintenance, upgrade, replacement, development and operation of existing network utilities, including the National Grid.
17.3.2.2	To recognise the significance of regionally significant infrastructure and renewable electricity generation and associated structures.
17.2.3.3	To manage subdivision, land use activities and vegetation within the electricity transmission corridors, including the National Grid.
17.2.3.4	Sensitive activities and inappropriate buildings, structures and activities are not allowed within National Grid Yards.
Methods	<p>Methods to give effect to the policies relate to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The NPESETS and NESTF contain provisions that apply to the national Grid and telecommunications facilities outside the controls in this plan. ▪ Identifying as permitted activities a range of services that need to be maintained, upgrade and replaced on a day to day basis. ▪ Setting a scale of development appropriate to each zone for permitted activities. ▪ Controlling services within 50m of MHWS to manage potential coastal hazard risks. ▪ Setting standards for service connections to Council water, stormwater and wastewater reticulation. ▪ Enabling controls to be imposed through the consent process for infrastructure that may adversely affect the character and amenity of the zone it is located in
Benefits	
Environmental benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identifies that network utilities and infrastructure need to be provided for throughout the District.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Recognises the desirability to place services underground where possible, to reduce visual effects. ▪ Activities with higher levels of effects will be allowed subject to controls in appropriate locations ▪ Clear benefits to the environment through supporting the provision of infrastructure subject to appropriate standards ▪ Well used approach that will be understood by plan users
Economic Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Greater certainty about the relevant standards and scale of structures for providers and the community ▪ Allows infrastructure as a permitted activity, limiting costs of consent processes for more significant projects ▪ Enables safe and efficient use and development of network utilities and infrastructure
Social Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Supports the provision of network utilities and infrastructure that is essential for communities to function
Cultural Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Allows permitted activities but will enable cultural effects to be considered in consent processes. ▪ Provides for management of relevant effects which may include cultural values
Costs	
Environmental Costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Network utilities and infrastructure have a functional requirement to locate in potentially sensitive areas and this may detract from the significant values of those areas.
Economic Costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ May be increased application costs associated with management of activities ▪ The policy may result in higher costs for operators ▪ Some activities may be limited where they would compromise important values ▪ Economic costs may be incurred in achieving the outcome sought by the policy
Social Costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Some activities may be limited
Cultural Costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Not all cultural values may be able to be considered
Risk of Acting or Not Acting	
(Risk is a factor of potential consequences and the likelihood of a consequence occurring).	The risk of not acting may lead to conflicts where activities on the rivers are incompatible due to the extent of the activity, the speed of boats, noise or other effects and reasonable access is not available to all groups. There is sufficient information known about the consequences
Overall Assessment	The inclusion of the provisions above is supported as enabling the purpose of the RMA to be achieved including sections 6 and 7 matters.