ENA submission to Amendments to the National Environmental Standards for Electricity Transmission Activities

National direction consultation – Package 1: Infrastructure and Development

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1 Introduction

1.1 Electricity Networks Aotearoa

Electricity Networks Aotearoa (ENA) represents the 29 electricity distribution businesses (EDBs) in New Zealand (see Appendix A), which provide local and regional electricity networks. EDBs employ 7,800 people, deliver energy to more than two million homes and businesses, and have spent or invested over $6 billion in the last five years.

EDBs operate in both urban and rural areas and face a diverse and complex range of planning environments. This has made consistent and enabling national direction for electricity distribution a longstanding priority for the sector.

Electricity distribution, alongside generation and transmission, is significantly impacted by the long timeframes and high costs associated with the current planning system. Electrifying Aotearoa requires enormous investment in renewable generation, transmission, and distribution, more than $40 billion by 2030. For Aotearoa to meet its climate change targets, our infrastructure planning system must evolve.

An efficient consenting scheme is critical to keeping the power system reliable, safe, and affordable for customers. In addition to directly powering communities, electricity underpins the operation of many other essential services (e.g. reticulated water supplies, mobile and fixed telecommunications infrastructure). ENA welcomes the opportunity to provide this submission on the proposed amendments to the National Environmental Standards for Electricity Transmission Activities (NES-ETA).

1.2 ENA's interest in the NES-ENA

The proposed regulations, renamed the National Environmental Standards for Electricity Network Activities (NES-ENA), represent a critical milestone in providing a more consistent and enabling planning framework for electricity distribution.

While the current national direction under the National Policy Statement on Electricity Transmission (NPS-ET) and NESETA has provided clarity for transmission activities, it does not extend to electricity distribution. The NES-ENA proposal and accompanying National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks (NPS-EN), begin to address this gap. ENA and its members are supportive of this broader inclusion, particularly in enabling activities essential for network resilience, decarbonisation, and customer connections.

ENA supports the broad objectives of the NES-ENA to simplify and streamline consenting processes for electricity distribution networks (EDNs) across different planning jurisdictions. However, as this submission outlines, there are key areas where the draft NES-ENA requires clarification or amendment to fully realise this goal and ensure it aligns with the objectives of the NPS-EN and broader government decarbonisation goals.

2 Executive overview

Since its inception, the NESETA has supported transmission activities, but left a significant regulatory gap for electricity distribution. The NES-ENA proposal is a necessary step toward regulatory equity between the transmission and distribution sectors and better reflects the reality of modern network operation and infrastructure needs.

The proposed changes, particularly the creation of new rules specific to EDNs and the inclusion of third-party effects on the EDN, are broadly welcomed. However, ENA has identified several areas requiring improvement to better support the implementation of the NES-ENA and avoid unintended consenting burdens.

In summary, ENA seeks that the NES-ENA:

- **Clearly and comprehensively apply to all EDN activities**, including both high and low voltage infrastructure.
- **Use consistent and unambiguous definitions**, especially for terms such as "customer driven projects," "natural area," and "historic heritage place".
- **Provide certainty through permitted activity pathways** for routine and minor activities that are well understood and have minimal effects.
- **Avoid unnecessary overlap with other national instruments**, particularly in relation to contaminated land and vegetation clearance.
- **Include EDNs in regional regulations** such as river crossings, dewatering, and stormwater management.
- **Enable third-party protections** consistent with those for the National Grid, particularly in managing earthworks and excavation near lines.

2.1 Key matters

1. Scope and Coverage
ENA supports applying the NES-ENA to a wide range of EDN activities, both existing and new, and across all voltage classes. Restricting the NES to lines over 110 kV would exclude the majority of EDN infrastructure and defeat the purpose of the reforms.

2. Definitions
Clear and consistent definitions are critical. ENA supports alignment of definitions across the NES-ENA and NPS-EN. In particular:

- **Customer Driven Projects**: The current drafting risks capturing routine urban connections and subdivisions. These should be explicitly excluded to avoid unnecessary consents.
- **Historic Heritage and Natural Areas**: Definitions should only apply to values explicitly mapped and scheduled in plans to avoid ambiguity.
- **Land Transport Corridor**: The NES-ENA should override local zoning practices that trigger consents for minor activities within road corridors. Cabinets within these corridors should be permitted up to an appropriate size threshold.

3. Ancillary EDN Activities
ENA supports applying existing NESETA provisions (e.g., blasting, vegetation trimming, earthworks) to EDNs. However:

- **Management Plans**: While suitable for high-risk activities (e.g., blasting), permitted activity conditions remain preferable for routine works like vegetation clearance.
- **Matters of Control**: References to undefined terms (e.g., "ecologically sensitive receiving environments") should be replaced with defined terms.
- **Contaminated Land**: The NES should only apply to land confirmed as contaminated. The term "potentially contaminated" creates uncertainty and should be amended. A permitted activity

with a management plan is preferable to cross-referencing the National Environmental Standard for Assessing and Managing Contaminants in Soil to Protect Human Health (NES-CS).

4. Regional Regulations

Proposed regional rules (e.g. river crossings, dewatering, stormwater discharges) should apply to both transmission and distribution. There is no justification for excluding EDNs.

5. Part 3 – EDN-Specific Regulations

ENA generally supports the creation of EDN-specific rules but seeks refinement on the following:

- **Existing Assets**: Rule R6 should apply to all legally established assets, including those consented prior to NES-ENA commencement.
- **Temporary Structures**: The 12-month time limit is often too restrictive. ENA recommends a conditional 6-month extension, subject to notification and location conditions.
- **Telecommunications Devices**: Size limits should only apply in urban areas; rural EDNs should be treated like the electricity transmission network (ETN).
- **Alteration and Replacement**: A more enabling pathway is needed where replacement assets exceed the 25% size threshold, especially where the existing asset is small.
- **New Lines and Cabinets**: New EDN lines should be permitted in future urban and special purpose zones. Cabinet size thresholds should be increased and clarified where multiple cabinets are co-located.
- **Electromagnetic Field/Radiofrequency Filed Compliance**: Discretionary (not non-complying) status is more appropriate where standards are exceeded.
- **Third-Party Effects**: New rules managing third-party impacts (e.g. earthworks) are supported, but ENA seeks alignment with National Grid Yard provisions, particularly around routine replacement work.

2.2 Implementation

The NES-ENA represents a pivotal opportunity to improve the planning framework for New Zealand's electricity distribution infrastructure. ENA supports the direction of the reforms but submits that the following amendments are essential:

- Broaden scope to cover all EDN activities and assets
- Refine definitions to avoid ambiguity and inconsistency
- Strengthen permitted activity pathways for routine works
- Apply consistent protections and enablement across both the ETN and EDN
- Ensure clarity and practicality in consent triggers and management plan options

ENA encourages further engagement with officials and stakeholders as the NES-ENA is refined and prepared for gazettal. This includes discussion on the future integration of the NES-ENA into the Phase 3 RMA replacement legislation and how the proposed rules will be lifted and shifted into the new Planning and Natural and Built Environment Acts.

ENA remains available to assist officials in refining the NES-ENA and welcomes the opportunity to work collaboratively toward a more enabling, future-ready regulatory framework for electricity networks.

3 ENA Response to Package 1: Infrastructure and Development: Discussion Document

The following table sets out ENA's responses to the consultation questions on the proposed NES-ENA.

DISCUSSION DOCUMENT QUESTION	ENA SUBMISSION POINTS
33. What activity status is appropriate for electricity transmission network activities when these: a. do not comply with permitted activity standards? b. are located within a natural area or a historic heritage place or area?	a. *Do not comply with permitted activity standards?* ENA supports a *restricted discretionary* or *controlled* activity status (rather than non-complying), especially for exceedances of standards like electromagnetic fields. This allows relevant effects to be considered without unduly burdening essential infrastructure development. b. *Are located within a natural area or a historic heritage place or area?* ENA recommends these areas be clearly mapped in district or regional plans to ensure clarity. Activities in such areas should retain a consenting pathway, such as *restricted discretionary*, if standards aren't met.
34. Do you support the proposed scope of activities and changes to the permitted activity conditions for electricity transmission network activities?	Yes. ENA supports broadening the scope, especially if it includes routine and minor works as permitted activities, provided effects are minor and well understood
35. Do you support the proposed matters of control and discretion for all relevant matters to be considered and managed through consent conditions?	Yes. ENA supports clearly defined matters of control/discretion, but notes that undefined terms (e.g. "ecologically sensitive receiving environments") should be avoided or replaced with defined language.
36. Would the proposed National Grid Yard and Subdivision Corridor rules be effective in restricting inappropriate development and subdivision underneath electricity lines?	Yes. ENA supports these protections for the National Grid and seeks equivalent protections for electricity distribution networks in future iterations.
37. Do you support adding any or all of the five categories of regional activities to the NES-ENA as permitted activities?	Yes. ENA supports extending regional rules (e.g. river crossings, stormwater, dewatering) to EDNs, provided effects are appropriately managed.
38. Do you support the proposed permitted activity conditions and the activity classes if these conditions are not met?	Yes, generally. ENA supports clear, enabling permitted activity conditions. When not met, activity status should be controlled or restricted discretionary, not non-complying, to ensure proportionality.

39. Do you support management plans being used to manage environmental impacts from blasting, vegetation management and earthworks?	Partially. ENA supports management plans for *higher-risk* activities like blasting but prefers *permitted activity standards* for routine works such as vegetation clearance and earthworks.
40. What is an appropriate activity status for electricity distribution activities when the permitted activity conditions are not met, and should this be different for existing versus new assets?	ENA recommends: • *Controlled or restricted discretionary* status if permitted standards are not met. • Existing assets should be treated more leniently e.g. Rule R6 should apply to all lawfully established assets (including pre-NES assets)
41. What is your feedback on the scope and scale of the electricity distribution activities to be covered by the proposed NES-ENA?	ENA supports wide inclusion, both new and existing assets, across all voltage levels. Limiting to 110 kV+ would exclude most EDN infrastructure and undermine the purpose of national direction
42. Do you support the proposed inclusion of safe distance requirements and compliance with some or all of the New Zealand Electrical Code of Practice for Electrical Safe Distances 34:2001?	Yes. ENA strongly supports including NZECP 34:2001 in the NES-ENA, especially Regulation R8B, to provide consistency and safety for both EDBs and third parties.
43. Is the proposed NES-ENA the best vehicle to drive compliance with the New Zealand Electrical Code of Practice for Electrical Safe Distance 34:2001? If not, what other mechanisms would be better?	Yes. ENA considers the NES-ENA is the best tool, more effective than the NPS, for applying NZECP 34:2001. It allows alignment with consenting/building processes and avoids fragmented regulation.
44. Should the NES-ENA allow plan rules to be more lenient for electricity distribution activities proposed to be regulated?	Yes. ENA supports the ability for district plans to be *more enabling* where appropriate to facilitate decarbonisation and resilience upgrades.
45. Should the NES-ENA allow plan rules to be more stringent in relation to electricity distribution activities in specific environments? (eg, when located in a 'natural area').	With caution. ENA accepts this in principle but urges that "natural areas" be clearly mapped to avoid broad, unclear application that could impede routine works.
46. Do you support the proposed provisions to make private electric vehicle charging and associated infrastructure a permitted activity at home or at work?	Yes. ENA supports this as consistent with Electrify NZ goals and efficient use of electricity infrastructure.
47. Have private or at work electric vehicle users been required to obtain a resource consent for the installation, maintenance and use of electric vehicle charging infrastructure?	The submission notes that some EDBs and customers have faced *consenting requirements*, particularly where zoning overlays or local rules conflict with infrastructure works, even within legal roads.
48. Should the construction, operation and maintenance of electric vehicle charging infrastructure be a permitted activity, if it is located in a land transport corridor?	Yes. ENA supports this, especially where infrastructure is within legal road, and recommends overriding underlying zone rules where effects are minor.

49. Should the construction, operation and maintenance of electric vehicle charging infrastructure become a permitted activity, if it is ancillary to the primary activity or outside residential areas?	Yes. ENA supports enablement in such cases, to reduce barriers to low-emissions transport infrastructure.
50. Do you support the proposed provisions for electric vehicle charging for all types of EVs, or are additional requirements needed for heavy vehicles such as large trucks, ferries or aircraft?	ENA supports the current proposals but notes that *specific infrastructure for heavy EVs* may require additional planning consideration and clarification in future regulations.

The table below sets out the ENA submission on the proposed amendments to the NES-ETA, as outlined in Package 1: Infrastructure and Development: Discussion Document.

ENA strongly supports the extension of the national environmental standards to cover electricity distribution networks. It is essential that EDN activities are enabled through a nationally consistent framework in the short term, particularly as New Zealand transitions to a new resource management system. The current planning environment for EDNs is fragmented, and the NES-ENA represents a critical step toward improving certainty, reducing consenting burdens, and enabling the infrastructure necessary for electrification and decarbonisation.

To that end, ENA welcomes the intent of the proposed changes but considers that further refinement is required to ensure they are practical, implementable, and do not inadvertently limit the operation, maintenance or upgrade of existing assets. In particular, greater clarity is needed in areas such as the definition and scope of "customer-driven projects," the application of regional rules to EDNs, and thresholds for permitted activities.

ENA also notes that the integration of EDN provisions into the NES introduces several new elements which warrant further testing, particularly to ensure alignment with the proposed NPS-EN and existing NESETA provisions. To provide certainty and allow for practical input, ENA requests the opportunity to review a complete draft of the revised NES-ENA prior to gazettal. This would support final refinements and ensure that the resulting framework is workable for both EDNs and local authorities.

APPLICATION	PROPOSED PROVISIONS	REASONS	ENA SUBMISSION POINTS
Where will the NES-ENA apply?	The NESETA is proposed to be amended and to apply to both existing electricity transmission infrastructure and electricity distribution assets (new and existing) and include new regulations relating to electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure and be	Meeting New Zealand's climate and electrification targets through the efficient transmission and distribution of electricity is a nationally significant issue. The approach for combining both existing electricity transmission infrastructure and electricity distribution assets into an amended NES, renamed as the NES-ENA, aligns with the proposed changes to the existing National	This provision clarifies the scope of the NESETA is proposed to be broadened to apply to electricity distribution activities and EV charging infrastructure as well as transmission. It also clarifies the National Grid Yard rules do not apply within the Auckland region due to bespoke provisions in the AUP. ENA strongly supports the broadened scope of the NES-ENA.

	a new set of regulations called the NES-ENA. The NES-ENA is proposed to apply nationwide except for the National Grid Yard rules, which are not proposed to apply within the Auckland region.	Policy Statement for Electricity Transmission to be a broader proposed National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks (NPS-EN) covering electricity transmission and distribution activities. Including EV charging infrastructure within the new NES-ENA aligns with the broader objectives of Electrify NZ to electrify the economy. The Auckland Unitary Plan contains a bespoke set of provisions for 'compromised spans' and 'uncompromised spans', which are intended to apply rather than the NES-ENA.	
What electricity assets will be covered by the NES-ENA?	The application of the NES-ENA is proposed to be to activities relating to existing electricity transmission lines that were operational on 14 January 2010 (the same as the NESETA) and activities relating to specified electricity distribution assets (new and existing). It will also apply to certain types of EV charging infrastructure. The proposal is seeking feedback on whether the proposed NES-ENA should apply to either: • electricity distribution network (EDN) lines over 110 kV voltage (existing and new). This would give a similar level of enablement and protection for all lines over 110 kV, regardless of ownership; or • a wider range of EDN activities covering both high and low voltage lines and existing and new assets, as detailed further in Part 3 of this proposal.	The NESETA currently applies to Transpower owned and operated assets that existed on the commencement date of the NESETA, 14 January 2010. The NES-ENA is proposed to continue to apply only to activities relating to electricity transmission lines that existed at this date, due to section 43D of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA), to ensure that transmission lines that are designated are not affected. This may involve retaining the same commencement date as the NESETA 'commencement date' (existing regulation 2) for the set of regulations applying to existing transmission lines.	This change clarifies that the NES will apply to specified new and existing electricity distribution assets, certain types of EV charging infrastructure, and transmission lines that were operational on 14 January 2010. ENA considers the application to both new and existing ED assets is appropriate. In reference to the feedback sought on the application of the NESENA to different voltages, ENA supports the second option – a wide range of EDN activities to support consistency in approach and reducing consenting requirements. The proposal is to apply the NES to lines, supporting structures, and cabinets.

INTERPRETATION (DEFINITIONS)	PROPOSED PROVISIONS	REASONS	ENA SUBMISSION POINTS
D1 Ancillary electricity network activities (ancillary EN activities)	Introduce a new definition for 'ancillary EN activities' that: *means all supporting and subsidiary activities needed to provide the operation, maintenance, and upgrading of the EN, including but not limited to vegetation clearance, tree trimming, earthworks, the construction, maintenance and upgrading of access tracks and accessways, power supply, and telecommunications.*	The intent of this definition is to ensure that all relevant ancillary activities are captured as part of the overall EN activity. This definition is the same as in the NPS-EN.	Consistent with our comments on this definition in the NPS-EN proposal document, this definition does not cover ancillary activities that might be required for development of new infrastructure. **ENA recommends** the following amendment: as follows 'to provide for the operation, maintenance ~~and ,~~ upgrading, and development of the EN…' ENA suggests a minor grammatical amendment to say '…to provide for the operation, maintenance, and upgrading of the EN….'. The definition is inclusive so does not preclude other ancillary activities not listed. However, ENA can see benefit in this definition being less prescriptive than what is proposed, particularly to allow for changes in technology and to trial emerging technologies. This also removes the risk of activities being omitted from the definition which should be included. **ENA recommends** the following drafting amendments: *means all supporting and subsidiary activities needed to provide the operation, maintenance, and upgrading of the EN ~~including but not limited to vegetation clearance, tree trimming, earthworks, the construction, maintenance and upgrading of access tracks and accessways, power supply, and telecommunications.~~*
D2 Cabinet	Introduce a new definition that means: a) *a structure that houses equipment affixed to the ground that is necessary to operate part of the*	The intent of this definition is to provide clarity over electricity distribution infrastructure.	ENA understands that this definition is suitable for ED activities and will assist with interpretation of the provisions. We assume the exclusion of electricity substation facilities or buildings is because the NES does not cover these assets, however as noted

	electricity distribution network, including any casing; but *b) does not include electricity substation facilities or buildings.*		above greater clarity is required about what assets this NES is proposed to cover.
D3 Circuit	Retain and amend the definition that: *means conductors on a transmission line or distribution line that together form a single electrical connection between 2 or more system nodes.* *Existing: means conductors on a transmission line that together form a single electrical connection between 2 or more system nodes.*	Retain the same definition as in the NESETA and expand to cover distribution.	Expands the definition to include electricity distribution. This will aid interpretation of the provisions. ENA supports this definition.
D4 Compromised span	Introduce a new definition that: *means, for the purpose of these regulations, a span identified in the Auckland Unitary Plan as being compromised.*	The definition of compromised span is to recognise that the Auckland Unitary Plan includes different rules in relation to the electricity transmission network (ETN) for compromised and uncompromised spans in the Auckland region. The intent is that the proposed NES-ENA National Grid Subdivision Corridor and National Grid Yard rules will not override or replace those specified in the Auckland Unitary Plan, which will be clarified in the drafting of the regulations.	Applies to transmission lines only and appears to provide for a bespoke rule(s) in the Auckland Unitary Plan.
D5 Conductor	Amend the definition that means: *a) wire or cable used for carrying electric current along a transmission line or distribution line; and* *b) includes any hardware and insulation associated with the wire or cable.* *Existing:*	Retain the same definition as in the NESETA and expand to cover distribution.	Expands the definition to include electricity distribution. This will aid interpretation of the provisions.

	a) *means wire or cable used for carrying electric current along a transmission line; and* b) *includes any hardware and insulation associated with the wire or cable.*		
D6 Customer driven project	Introduce a new definition for 'customer driven projects' that means: *ETN or EDN activities that a third party other than Transpower New Zealand Limited or an electricity distribution business has requested be carried out, such as new connections to electricity generation or demand, or relocation or undergrounding of assets in order to enable urban or infrastructure development, excluding new connections to electricity generation that are managed under the National Policy Statement for Renewable Electricity Generation.*	The intent is to exclude renewable electricity generation (REG) connections managed under the NPS-REG, which will require assessment of the effects of the full REG project up to the point of connection to the ETN or EDN. The exclusion of new REG connections clarifies the applicability of the NPS, rather than a decision-maker needing to apply both the NPS-REG and NPS-EN. This definition also forms part of the definition of 'EN development activities' and is the same as in the NPS-EN.	**ENA recommends** an exclusion for routine customer-initiated works (e.g. subdivisions in existing urban areas and domestic connections). 'Customer-driven' projects are intended to be considered as a 'development activity' (under D7), which as we understand from MfE's comments, are expected to be larger scale activities with greater effects and therefore not 'routine'. An exclusion for subdivisions in existing urban areas and domestic connections is appropriate. This means the definition will appropriately capture larger scale, greenfield development. ENA also notes that REG connections to the point of connection to the ETN network are to be managed under the NPS-REG. The drafting of the last sentence, which excludes customer connections to electricity generation arguably means REG connections which are owned or used by EDBs, would be processed under the NPS-REG. ENA opposes this approach on the basis that the NPS-EN is the more appropriate national direction to apply where the connections are owned or used by EDBs. **ENA recommends** the following amendments: *ETN or EDN activities that a third party other than Transpower New Zealand Limited or an electricity distribution business has requested be carried out, such as new connections to electricity generation or demand, or relocation or undergrounding of assets in order to enable urban or infrastructure development,*

			excluding new connections to electricity generation that are managed under the National Policy Statement for Renewable Electricity Generation routine customer-initiated works such as subdivision within existing urban areas and new customer connections.
D7 Electricity network development activities (EN development activities)	Introduce a new definition that means: a) *the construction of new EN assets that is not carried out on or related to EN lines, or cables, or at substation sites, that exist at the time of construction; or* b) *customer driven projects.*	The intent of this definition is to help distinguish 'routine activities' and 'non-routine activities', and to clarify that 'development activities' relate to new lines or assets. This definition is the same as in the NPS-EN.	The definition clarifies that development activities are where new assets are to be added to the network, unrelated to existing assets. It also includes customer driven projects. ENA supports this definition.
D8 Dry abrasive blasting	Introduce a definition that: *means abrasive blasting using materials to which no water has been added.* *Existing:* *Means using abrasive material in air and directing it at pressure to wear down or remove the coatings or corrosion on a structure's surface*	This definition is from the National Planning Standards and replaces the existing NESETA definition.	This change provides consistency of defined terms and will aid consistent implementation. ENA supports this definition.
D9 Earthworks	Introduce a new definition that*:* *means the alteration or disturbance of land, including by moving, removing, placing, blading, cutting, contouring, fillings or excavation of earth (or any matter constituting the land including soil, clay, sand and rock); but excludes gardening, cultivation, and disturbance of land for the installation of fence posts.*	This definition is from the National Planning Standards and replaces the existing NESETA definition.	The definition aligns with the National Planning Standards which are already being implemented in many district plans as plans are reviewed or amended. This change is therefore appropriate to ensure consistency across national direction and planning decisions. ENA supports this definition.
D10 Electricity distribution network (EDN)	Introduce a new definition that: *means any part of the electricity network that is controlled by a person or body who is both an electricity distributor and an electricity operator as those terms are*	This definition proposes to introduce the EDN into the NES-ENA, recognising the importance of the EDN for electrification (eg, new lines supporting electrification of industry rather than fossil fuel use). This definition is the same as in the proposed NPS-EN.	This definition is necessary to ensure EDBs, and their operations are sufficiently recognised within the NPS, and distinct from Transpower networks. It would be beneficial to incorporate the same amendments as those we have suggested for the same

	defined in section 2 of the Electricity Act 1992; and does not include the electricity transmission network (as defined below).		definition in the NPS-EN, to list the full range of assets that form part of the EDN. **ENA recommends** the following amendments: *means any part of the electricity network that:* *a) comprises the network of distribution lines, cables (aerial and underground), switching stations, support structures, substations, transformers, kiosks, cabinets, connections to grid exit points, customer connections and works used to distribute electricity from the National Grid to homes and businesses* *b) is controlled by a person or body who is both an electricity distributor and an electricity operator ~~because those terms are~~ as defined in section 2 of the Electricity Act 1992; and does not include the electricity transmission network (as defined below).*
D11 Electricity network (EN)	Introduce a definition that: *means the electricity transmission network and the electricity distribution network.*	The proposed definition is inclusive of both the ETN and EDN and is needed to interpret policy applying to both parts of the electricity network. This definition is the same as in the NPS-EN.	This definition provides clarity of application of the NES. ENA supports this definition.
D12 Electricity network (EN activities)	Introduce a definition that: *means the construction, operation, maintenance, development, upgrade, replacement, decommissioning or removal of electricity network assets and all ancillary activities, unless otherwise specified.*	The proposed definition for electricity network activities will be more specific about the activities and infrastructure it includes than the definition in the current NPS-ET. The intent is to be more inclusive and recognise activities associated with the life cycle of the EN including access associated with routine maintenance activities. This definition is the same as in the NPS-EN.	As per our comments on the NPS-EN, this definition is appropriate as it ensures electricity distribution is covered by this 'umbrella term' which is used throughout the proposed/amended provisions. ENA supports this definition.
D13 Electricity transmission network (ETN)	Introduce a definition that: *means all parts of the National Grid of electricity transmission that:* *a) comprises the network of transmission lines, and cables (aerial, underground, and submarine, including the high-*	The proposed definition of 'National Grid' is more specific than the definition in the current NESETA about the assets and infrastructure it includes, and includes ancillary activities (see definition D1) essential to enabling necessary work on Transpower's assets. This definition is the same as in the NPS-EN.	Relates to National Grid only. ENA has no comments to make.

	voltage direct current link), stations, and substations, facilities and works, and all ancillary activities, and other works used to connect grid injection points and grid exit points to convey electricity in New Zealand; *b) is owned or used by Transpower New Zealand Limited; and is commonly known as the National Grid.*		
D14 Electricity network activities (EN development activities)	Introduce a definition that means: *a) the construction of new EN assets that is not carried out on or related to EN lines, or cables, or at substation sites, that exist at the time of construction; or* *b) customer driven projects.*	The intent of this definition is to help distinguish 'routine activities' and 'non-routine activities', and to clarify that 'development activities' relate to new lines or assets. This definition is the same as in the NPS-EN.	This appears to be a duplicate of the same definition above at D7 and therefore ENA recommends it is deleted. Refer to our comments at D7.
ENA proposed definition Electricity network assets (EN assets)			To align with the proposed NPS-EN, ENA noted the absence of a definition of 'electricity network assets' within the proposed NES. **ENA recommends** including the same definition from the NPS-EN, with the amendments we have recommended to that definition, as follows: *means the physical components of EN and all ancillary activities, such as access tracks, required for the operation of the network.*
D15 Electric vehicle charging infrastructure (EVC infrastructure)	Introduce a definition that: *means the construction, maintenance, operation, upgrade, and replacement of electricity vehicle charging infrastructure:* *a) including all buildings and structures associated with the charging of electric vehicles, the*	The intent of this definition is to clarify which type of charging facilities the proposed NES-ENA will apply to.	Relates to EV charging. ENA has no comments to make.

	sale of electricity for the purpose of charging vehicles, electric vehicle charging car parks and manoeuvring spaces, chargers, cabinetry, batteries, bollards, and wheelstops; b) *it does not include the retail sales of any other goods or services.*		

D16 Existing transmission line	Retain and amend a definition that means: *a) a transmission line that was operational, or was able to be operated, at 14 January 2010 (being the commencement of the original regulations); and* *b) includes a transmission line described in paragraph (a) that is altered or relocated in accordance with these regulations; and* *c) includes a transmission line that, in accordance with these regulations, replaces a transmission line described in paragraph (a).* *Existing:* *a) means a transmission line that was operational, or was able to be operated, at the commencement of these regulations; and* *b) includes a transmission line described in paragraph (a) that is altered or relocated in accordance with these regulations; and* *c) includes a transmission line that, in accordance with these regulations, replaces a transmission line described in paragraph (a).*	Minor amendment to insert the commencement date to clarify the lines that the proposed NES-ENA applies to.	Relates to the National Grid. ENA has no comments to make.
D17 Existing distribution line	Introduce definition that means: *a) a distribution line that was operational, or was able to be*	Definition aligned with corresponding definition for existing transmission lines but amendment to reflect the different commencement dates of the regulations.	This definition provides clarity about what is considered an 'existing distribution line' for the purposes of the NES. While we have recommended deleting this definition for the NPS, we

	operated, at the commencement of the regulations relating to distribution lines; and *b) includes a distribution line described in paragraph (a) that is altered or relocated in accordance with these regulations; and* *c) includes a distribution line that, in accordance with these regulations, replaces a distribution line described in paragraph (a).*		consider it is necessary in the context of the NES to support the implementation of the provisions. ENA supports this definition.
D18 Guy wire	Introduce a definition that: *means a cable or wire designed to add stability to a structure, including any associated pole or anchor block.*	The intent of this definition is to provide clarity that guy wires are provided for in the rules. Guy wires are an existing component of a transmission line.	ENA supports this definition.
D19 Height	Amend the definition of height that: *means the vertical distance between a specified reference point and the highest part of any feature, structure, or building above that point.* *Existing:* *In relation to a transmission line support structure, means the height of the structure measured vertically from the ground level at the centre of the structure to the highest point of the structure (including conductors, but excluding telecommunication devices, earth peaks, and lightning rods).*	Applies the definition of height from the national planning standards. The definition would include conductors, but excludes telecommunication devices, earth peaks and lightning rods.	ENA supports the proposed definition as it aligns with the National Planning Standards, promoting consistency across national direction instruments and aiding in streamlined implementation at the local level. Most devices affixed to poles or support structures within distribution networks are typically positioned below the highest point of the structure, meaning this definition provides clarity and minimises compliance risk for EDBs.

D20 Historic heritage item or setting	Amend the definition for historic heritage that: *means any historic heritage site, building or area protected by a rule in a plan because of its historic heritage value, including sites of significance to Māori.* *Existing:* *(a) means an area that is protected by a rule because of its historic heritage; and* *(b) to avoid doubt, includes an area that is protected by a rule because it is a site of significance to Māori.*	The amendments to the definition of historic heritage area are intended to make it clear it captures any historic heritage building, site or area protected by a plan rule, consistent with section 6(f) of the RMA. This approach is broadly consistent with the existing NESETA definition and the corresponding regulation in the National Environmental Standards for Telecommunication Facilities (NES-TF). An alternative option sought by industry is to limit the definition to historic heritage sites, buildings and areas identified in district plans to provide more certainty in its application.	ENA considers the alternative option of limiting this definition to heritage identified in district plans is more appropriate and provides greater certainty for EDBs. The risk with the proposed definition is that a broad interpretation is taken of historic heritage and the rule is applied to character areas, which may have an element of historic heritage, but have not met the threshold for identification as heritage. Northpower, for example, has experienced situations where maintenance projects were halted, even with crews already on site, after being notified that the work was in an area of significance to Māori. These areas were not identified in the relevant district or regional plan, which led to unexpected delays, increased network risk, and substantial cost impacts. While Northpower welcomes the opportunity to engage with Māori where their interests may be affected, the time and cost associated with engagement processes can be significantly reduced if historic heritage areas are clearly defined and plan-based. **ENA recommends** the following alternative wording: *means any historic heritage site, building or area identified within a district or regional plan and protected by a rule in ~~a~~ that district or regional plan because of its historic heritage value under section 6 of the RMA, including sites of significance to Māori.*
D21 Land transport corridor	Introduce a definition of land transport corridor that: *means land transport corridor means land within the legal boundary of any road, motorway, or railway land.*	This the same definition as in the Land Transport Management Act 2003.	ENA supports the overall intent of the land transport corridor provisions and acknowledges that the proposed NES includes improvements. However, ENA remains concerned that adjoining zones and overlays, particularly those associated with ecologically sensitive or residential areas, continue to spill into the road corridor. This zoning approach does not reflect the functional role of road corridors and continues to create

			consenting barriers for EDBs, especially where basic infrastructure works—such as the installation of new cabinets—remain subject to more restrictive zone-based rules. These constraints undermine the enabling purpose of the NES and add unnecessary complexity to the delivery of essential electricity services. ENA also notes the potential gap in coverage where roads are shown on subdivision plans but have not yet been vested as legal road and seeks clarity on whether such corridors fall within the scope of the NES. ENA considers that the most effective and practical solution is to ensure the NES rules themselves clearly override more restrictive underlying zoning and overlay provisions for infrastructure works within land transport corridors.
D22 LAeq(15min)	Introduce a definition that: *has the same meaning as in NZS 6801:2008 Acoustics – Measurement of environmental sound.*	The intent of this definition is to establish an operational noise standard. NZS 6801 is used to describe the average sound level over a 15-minute timeframe, accounting for variations in sound intensity.	ENA supports this definition.
D23 Mechanical preparation of surface	Introduce a definition that: *means removing impurities or corrosion of part of the surface using hand-held tools with an abrasive surface.*	The intent of this definition is to capture the full range of maintenance activities that are not captured by the defined abrasive blasting activities.	ENA supports this definition in principle.
D24 Modelled conductor noise levels	Introduce a definition that: *means calculated noise levels based on the transmission line and conductor configuration, taking into account new wet conductor characteristics, ignoring the presence of any buildings, and without any adjustments for special audible characteristics (which has the same meaning as in NZS 6802:2008 Acoustics – Environmental noise (NZS 6802).*	The intent of this definition is to establish an operational noise standard.	ENA has no comments to make.
D25 National Grid Subdivision Corridor	Introduce a new definition that:	The definition of National Grid Subdivision Corridor determines the application of the associated rules to	ENA has no comments to make.

	means the area measured either side of the centreline of above ground National Grid transmission lines as follows (and illustrated in the darker green below): • *14 metres for 66 kV and 110 kV transmission lines on single poles;* • *16 metres for 66 kV and 110 kV transmission lines on pi poles;* • *32 metres for 66 kV and 110 kV transmission lines on towers (including tubular steel monopoles towers where these replace steel lattice towers);* • *37 metres for 220 kV transmission lines;* • *39 metres for 350 kV transmission lines.* *The National Grid Subdivision Corridor does not apply to designated assets.* *See attachment 1.4.1 for a diagram of the National Grid Subdivision Corridor.*	protect the ETN from the adverse effects of third parties. This definition defines the distance from the centreline of transmission lines in which controls on subdivision apply and are based on the voltage of the lines and the type of support structure. These definitions have been developed to give effect to existing policy 10 and policy 11 of the NPS-ET, have been subject to extensive refinement with Transpower and other stakeholder, and are commonly included in district plans across New Zealand.	
D26 National Grid Yard	Introduce a new definition that means: • *the area located 10 metres either side of the centreline of an overhead 110 kV National Grid transmission line on single poles;* • *the area located 10 metres either side of the centreline of an overhead 66 kV National Grid transmission line on single poles, pi poles or towers;* • *the area located 12 metres either side of the centreline of any overhead 110 kV, 220 kV, or 350 kV National Grid transmission line on pi poles or towers (including tubular steel monopoles*	The definition of National Grid Yard determines the application of the associated rules to protect the ETN from the adverse effects of third parties. This definition relates to the area where controls apply to buildings and structures and earthworks. It is measured from the centreline of transmission lines and varies based on the voltage of the lines and the type of support structure. This definition was developed to give effect to existing policy 10 and policy 11 of the NPS-ET and was subject to extensive refinement with Transpower and other stakeholders and is commonly included in district plans across New Zealand.	ENA has no comments to make.

	towers where these replace steel lattice towers); • *the area located 12 metres in any direction from the outer visible edge of a National Grid support structure.* *The National Grid Yard does not apply to designated assets.* *See attachment 1.4.1 for a diagram of the National Grid Yard.*		
D27 Natural area	Amend the existing definition of natural area that: *means an area that is protected by a rule because it is an outstanding natural feature or landscape, an area of significant indigenous vegetation, or a significant habitat of indigenous fauna.* *Existing:* *Means an area that is protected by a rule because it has outstanding natural features or landscapes, significant indigenous vegetation, or significant habitats of indigenous fauna.*	The minor amendment proposed is simply to clarify the areas covered by the definition.	Similar to our comments in relation to the historic heritage definition (D20), we consider this definition of natural area should be amended to provide greater certainty to EDBs that these areas are those specifically identified within a district or regional plan. **ENA recommends** the following amendments: *means an area that is identified within a district or regional plan and is protected by a rule in ~~a~~ that district or regional plan because it is an outstanding natural feature or landscape, an area of significant indigenous vegetation, or a significant habitat of indigenous fauna.*
D28 Non-routine electricity network activity (non-routine EN activity)	Introduce a definition that: *means the upgrade, rebuilding or replacement of, or changes to, EN assets, or other EN activities, where the upgrade, rebuilding, replacement or change, or activity is not defined as a routine EN activity.*	This definition reflects the policy intent to distinguish between activities carried out regularly as part of the life cycle of the EN, which usually have less than minor effects, and activities that may result in more substantial effects and changes to the EN. This definition is the same as the NPS-EN. The intent is that: • 'non-routine' EN activities cover larger upgrades with more than minor adverse effects, and policy 7 NPS-EN applies.	ENA has concerns about this definition, and related definitions (e.g. routine activities, development activities, upgrading) and the complexity this will likely create in applying the NES. This definition appears to cover activities that are not new assets (which are covered by the EN development activities definition) but are substantial changes to the existing network/assets. We are unclear what upgrades might be considered 'non-routine'. The definition works in tandem with the definition of D32 'routine activities' which we have commented on further below.

		• 'routine' covers more minor and/or common upgrade activities, and these are subject to more enabling policy direction in policy 6 of the NPS-EN.	This definition is suitable provided the amendments suggested to 'routine activities' are made to more clearly distinguish between upgrades that are routine vs non-routine. Without this clear threshold, routine status may unnecessarily be escalated to non-routine, increasing consent applications and administrative cost for EDBs. The phrase 'changes to assets' is vague without any qualifier around the extent of changes i.e. there is no threshold or similar measure of these changes so a strict interpretation could be any change, thereby triggering an unnecessarily onerous regulatory process. We have made a similar comment in relation to routine activities below. We suggest a simpler definition could be provided by removing the ambiguous reference to 'changes to assets' and aligning with our suggested amendments to the 'routine activities' definition below. Similarly, we consider the reference to 'other EN activities' is vague and potentially confusing as EN activities would cover upgrades and new assets, but there is no clarity about what the extent of 'new' is. The reference will make it difficult for EDBs to confidently plan and deliver routine maintenance and upgrades. We suggest deletion of this reference. **ENA recommends** the following amendments: means the upgrade, rebuilding or replacement of~~, or changes to~~, EN assets~~, or other EN activities~~, where the upgrade, rebuilding, replacement ~~or change~~, or activity is not defined as a routine EN activity.

D29 NZECP 34:2001	Introduce a definition that: *means the New Zealand Electrical Code of Practice for Electrical Safe Distances (2001).*	This definition would introduce a hook for electrical safety standards. We are seeking feedback on whether the NES-ENA is the best means to enforce these provisions and the appropriateness of referring to compliance with all or some of this third party code in the NES-ENA.	ENA supports the inclusion of the definition of NZECP 34:2001 in the NES-ENA, as it plays an important role in supporting the application of key regulatory provisions that apply both to EDBs and third parties. ENA considers that including NZECP 34:2001 in the NES-ENA is the correct and more effective regulatory approach than including it in the NPS-EN. It ensures consistent application of critical safety distances and performance standards, supports efficient implementation through existing consenting and building processes, and avoids the fragmentation and uncertainty that could arise through sole reliance on the NPS. **ENA recommends** that councils be supported in implementing these provisions through the development of guidance or implementation notes that clarify how NZECP 34:2001 interacts with building consent processes. ENA considers the points raised in Vector's submission on NZECP 34:2001 to be a constructive starting point for discussions on the implementation of its provisions now that it is referenced in national direction.
D30 Operation	Amend the definition to: *means the use of a transmission line or distribution line to convey electricity.* *Existing:* *Means the use of a transmission line to convey electricity.*	Retain the NESETA definition and expand it to cover distribution.	Amends the definition to include electricity distribution. ENA supports this definition.
D31 Pole	Amend the definition that means: *a) a structure that supports conductors as part of a transmission line or distribution line and that—*	This amendment to the definition of a pole clarifies that poles can be made from a variety of materials and that poles that form part of a guy wire are excluded from the definition.	The definition expands the definition to include poles for distribution and a new clause to clarify that a pole may be made of wood, reinforced concrete, steel, or other material. ENA is concerned that the provisions are unclear about the status of pole-mounted transformers (e.g. are these intended to be

	i. *has no more than 3 vertical supports, not including a pole that forms part of a guy wire; and* ii. *is not a steel lattice structure; and* b) *includes the hardware associated with the structure (such as insulators, cross-arms, and guy wires) and the structure's foundations; and* c) *can be made of wood, reinforced concrete, steel, or other material.* *Existing:* *a) means a structure that supports conductors as part of a transmission line and that –* *(i) has no more than 3 vertical supports; and* *(ii) is not a steel-lattice structure; and* *b) includes the hardware associated with the structure (such as insulators, cross-arms, and guy-wires) and the structure's foundations.*		considered as part of a pole when considering the 25% increase envelope for replacement of assets in Rule R9). **ENA recommends** the following clause be added to the definition. *d) or other pole-mounted assets*
D32 Routine electricity network activity (Routine EN activity)	Introduce a definition that: *means* a) *activities required for, or associated with, the operation or maintenance of existing EN assets; or* b) *implements the modern equivalent, substitute, or replacement of the existing EN assets, which may not be 'like for like'; or*	The policy intent is to enable routine ETN activities on existing assets to occur in a timely and efficient way without restriction, while still ensuring Transpower and electricity distribution businesses take appropriate steps to avoid or mitigate adverse environmental effects to the extent practicable. Transpower and electricity distribution businesses have well-established industry standards and operating procedures for routine operation, maintenance and upgrade activities developed with input from ecologists and other environmental experts.	ENA notes this definition refers to 'upgrade', which has no corresponding definition as proposed (see our comments at D28). The existing NES has a definition of 'upgrading' which means 'increasing the carrying capacity, efficiency, security, or safety of a transmission line'. This definition is proposed to be deleted because the term is not used in the amended provisions. We consider this to be a risk, as the definition would appear to be useful in determining whether or not an activity is 'routine' or 'non-routine' (although we note our general concerns with those terms as well).

	c) *maintenance and upgrades of existing EN assets necessary to continue to deliver the same or similar level of service or to improve resilience; or* d) *other upgrades of existing EN assets where the upgrade or other change will, once the activity is complete, have no more than minor adverse effects on the environment; or* e) *the removal, decommissioning, or dismantling of EN assets; and* f) *all relevant ancillary activities, such as vegetation clearance, tree trimming, and creating, maintaining, and improving access tracks and accessways to EN assets; and* g) *includes all activities regulated by the NES-ENA, including replacing structures, reconductoring, earthworks, altering or relocating of structures, undergrounding.*	Provides a link to make it clear that the definition includes all activities regulated under the NES-ENA, the amended NESETA. This definition is the same as in the NPS-EN.	**ENA recommends** the following drafting amendments: *means that:* *a) activities required for, or associated with, the operation or maintenance of existing EN assets or;* *b) implements the modern equivalent, substitute, or replacement of the existing EN assets that may not be 'like for like'; or* *c) maintenance and upgrades of existing EN assets necessary to continue to deliver the same or a similar level of service or to improve resilience; or* *d) other upgrades of existing EN assets where the upgrade ~~or other change~~ does not result in a change to the scale of the activity, other than that provided for in clauses b) and c) ~~will, once the activity is complete, have no more than minor adverse effects on the environment~~; or* *e) the removal, decommissioning or dismantling of EN assets; and* *f) all relevant ancillary activities, such as vegetation clearance, tree trimming, and creating, maintaining and improving access tracks and accessways to EN assets; and* *g) includes all activities regulated by the National Environmental Standards for Electricity Network Activities ~~NES-ENA~~, including replacing structures, reconductoring, earthworks, altering or relocating of structures and undergrounding.*
D33 Sensitive activities	Introduce a definition that: *includes residential unit (including visitor accommodation and retirement accommodation), care facilities, childcare facilities, schools, hospitals, custodial or supervised accommodation where residents are detained on site, marae, or place of worship.* *Existing (sensitive land use):*	This definition replaces the existing NESETA definition 'sensitive land use' and assists with interpretation of policy 10 of the NPS-EN, seeking to manage the effects of third parties on the EN. The existing NPS-ET definition has been expanded to make it clear what the definition includes and align it with terms used in the National Planning Standards. This definition is the same as in the NPS-EN.	ENA considers the definition is suitable given it aligns with the National Planning Standards, which is already being implemented in many planning documents. This promotes consistency across plans and in implementation. ENA supports this definition.

	Includes the use of land for a childcare facility, school, residential building, or hospital.		
D34 Telecommunication device	Retain and amend a definition that: *means telecommunication device—* *a) means a device (for example, an antenna) that—* *(i) facilitates the operation of a transmission line or distribution line; and* *(ii) receives or transmits telecommunication signals; and* *b) includes any hardware associated with the device; but* *c) does not include a telecommunication cable.* *Existing:* *a) means a device (for example, an antenna) that-* *(i) facilitates the operation of a transmission line; and* *(ii) receives or transmits telecommunication signals; and* *b) includes any hardware associated with the device; but* *c) does not include a telecommunication table.*	Retain the same definition as in the NESETA and expand for distribution.	This definition covers telecommunication devices that may be included on a line. The definition is proposed to be expanded to include electricity distribution which ensures these necessary devices are covered in the NES. ENA supports this definition.
D35 Temporary line deviation	Introduce a definition that: *means the construction and use of a temporary section of transmission line or distribution line.* *Existing:*	This amends the existing definition to remove during maintenance and upgrade, simplifying the definition and enabling a temporary deviation under any circumstance as required and to capture distribution.	ENA supports this definition.

	means the construction and use of a temporary section of transmission line to divert electricity transmission during the maintenance or upgrading of an existing section of transmission line.		
D36 Termination structure	Retain and amend the definition that: *means a tower, or pole, and/or gantry used for the transition between an overhead and an underground transmission line or distribution line.* *Existing:* *means a tower or pole used for the transition between an overhead and an underground transmission line.*	Amendment to existing definition to include 'gantry' in the definition, reflecting existing operating practice where connections between an overhead line and underground cable requires the use of a gantry, and expand for distribution.	ENA sees the inclusion of 'gantry' is appropriate as it aligns with current practice and ensures these structures are included in consideration of these transition points between overhead and underground lines. The amendment also expands the definition to include distribution. ENA supports this definition.

D37 Tower	Introduce a definition that means: a) *a steel lattice structure that supports conductors as part of a transmission line or distribution line; and* b) *includes the hardware associated with the structure (such as insulators, cross-arms, and guy wires) and the structure's foundations.* *Existing:* *a) means a steel-lattice structure that supports conductors as part of a transmission line; and* *b) includes the hardware associated with the structure (such as insulators, cross-arms, and guy-wires) and the structure's foundations*	Retain the same definition as in the NESETA and expand for distribution.	This definition is expanded to include distribution which ensures appropriate application of the definition in subsequent provisions. ENA supports this definition.
D38 Transmission line or distribution line	Amend the definition of transmission line as follows: a) *means the facilities and structures used for, or associated with, the overhead and/or underground transmission or distribution of electricity within the ETN or EDN, including the transition from overhead to underground; and* b) *includes conductors, transmission line and distribution line support structures, telecommunication cables, and telecommunication devices to which paragraph (a) applies; and* c) *for the avoidance of doubt includes cables located over land, within*	The proposal will amend the definition of 'transmission line' to give greater specificity to the types of infrastructure included, including cables located on land, the beds of lakes and rivers, and the coastal marine area (ie, submarine cables). It also expands the definition to include distribution lines.	The amendments are suitable to provide greater clarity in the application of the definition and appropriately includes distribution. ENA supports this definition.

	waterbodies (including the coastal marine area), on the bed of lakes and rivers, on the bed and foreshore of the coastal marine area and on bridges and other waterway crossings; but *d) does not include an electricity substation.* *Existing:* *a) means the facilities and structures used for, or associated with, the overhead or underground transmission of electricity in the national grid; and* *b) includes transmission line support structures, telecommunication cables, and telecommunication devices to which paragraph (a) applies; but* *c) does not include an electricity substation*		
D39 Transmission line or distribution line support structure	Retain and amend a definition that: *means a tower or pole.*	Retain the same definition as in the NESETA and expand to cover the EDN.	The amendment provides for line support structures for the distribution network. ENA supports this definition.
D40 Undergrounding	Retain and amend a definition that: *a) means replacing overhead transmission lines or distribution lines with underground transmission lines or distribution lines; and* *b) includes altering, relocating, or replacing a tower or pole at 1 or both ends of the underground transmission lines or distribution lines so that the tower or pole becomes a termination structure.* Existing:	Retain the same definition as in the NESETA and expand to cover the EDN.	The amendment is to include the distribution network within the definition. ENA supports this definition.

	a) means replacing overhead transmission lines with underground transmission lines; and b) includes altering, relocating, or replacing a tower or pole at 1 or both ends of the underground transmission lines so that the tower or pole becomes a termination structure		
D41 Wet abrasive blasting	Introduce a definition that: *means abrasive blasting using material to which water has been added, and includes air assisted wet abrasive blasting.* *Existing:* *means using abrasive material in water and directing it at pressure to wear down or remove the coatings or corrosion on a structure's surface.*	This definition is based on the National Planning Standards definition and is expanded to clarify that air assisted blasting is included.	This definition is appropriate, providing consistency with the national planning standards and therefore consistency across national direction and in implementation. ENA supports this definition.
Delete definitions	Delete the following existing definitions in the NESETA: • base height • base position • base footprint • base width • envelope for controlled activities • envelope for permitted activities • National Grid • overland flow path • upgrading.	The definitions proposed to be deleted are terms no longer used in the regulations and/or are inappropriate due to inconsistency with the NPS-EN. Specifically: • structure details (base footprint, base width, base height, base position) are terms proposed to no longer be used in the NES-EN as part of the proposal to simplify the regulations relating to replacing and relocating support structures (existing regulations 14 to 16) • envelope for permitted activities and envelope for controlled activities are terms proposed to no longer be used in the NES-EN as part of the proposal to simplify the regulations relating to replacing and relocating support structures (existing regulations 14 to 16) • the definition of National Grid is proposed to be deleted because this is being replaced by a more	ENA supports the deleting of these definitions for the terms that will no longer be used in the NES.

		specific definition of the ETN, which is set out in the NPS-EN • overland flow path is no longer proposed to be used in existing regulation 33 because it is proposed that this is replaced with a condition more focused on not increasing risk in identified hazard areas • upgrading because the definition is no longer necessary.	

PART 2: PROPOSED REGULATIONS FOR EXISTING TRANSMISSION LINES				ENA SUBMISSION POINTS
Clause	**Existing provisions**	**Proposed provisions**	**Reasons**	
Regulation 4 – Regulations apply only to certain activities in relation to existing transmission lines	(1) These regulations apply only to an activity that relates to the operation, maintenance, upgrading, relocation, or removal of an existing transmission line, including any of the following activities that relate to those things: A) A construction activity B) A use of land or occupation of the coastal marine area (within the meanings of use and occupy given by section 2(1) of the Act): C) An activity relating to an access track to an existing transmission line:	Replace this regulation with a new regulation that clarifies: • the range of ETN and EDN activities regulated under the NES-ENA, including routine activities, non-routine activities, work on existing new lines, activities on land and within the coastal marine area • the roles and responsibilities of regional councils and territorial authorities for implementing certain regulations (similar to the approach taken in the National Environmental Standards for Commercial Forestry 2017) • certain ETN and EDN activities the regulations do not apply to (eg, substations,	Consequential amendments to clarify the scope of the regulations in terms of the activities, ETN and EDN assets and activities the regulations apply to, activities not regulated, and responsibilities for implementing certain regulations between regional councils and territorial authorities. This is intended to provide clarity and assist with effective and consistent interpretation and implementation of the proposed NES-ENA.	This new regulation would clarify the scope of the regulations as they apply to the EDN assets and activities, and what is not regulated by the NES. ENA supports this regulation in principle. We consider the inclusion of provisions clarifying the roles and responsibilities of regional councils and territorial authorities is useful to support efficient implementation of the NES. **ENA recommends** this regulation is located after the interpretation section but before 'part 2' (if this is how the amended NES is to be structured) as part 2 applies to transmission lines only. **ENA recommends** amendment of Regulation 4 so that the NES-ENA is a 'one-stop-shop' and there is no need to also comply with (and obtain consents under) other NES, and to include regional rules within the NES-ENA to avoid the need to refer to regional plans in addition to this NES.

	D) Undergrounding an existing transmission line. (2) However, these regulations do not apply to- a) The construction or use of a bridge or culvert to access an existing transmission line; or b) the control of the use of land for the purpose of the prevention or mitigation of any adverse effects of the storage, use, disposal, or transportation of hazardous substances; or c) the refuelling of a vehicle or equipment; or d) the use of land as a landing area for helicopters; or e) an activity carried out in relation to an electricity substation; or f) earthworks to the extent that they are	refuelling, storage of hazardous substances).		

	subject to a regional rule.			

OPERATION OF TRANSMISSION LINES OR USE OF ACCESS TRACK				ENA SUBMISSION POINTS
Clause	**Existing provisions**	**Proposed provisions**	**Reasons**	
Regulation 5 – Operation of transmission line or use of access track	(1) The operation of an existing transmission line is a permitted activity. (2) The use of an access track to an existing transmission line is a permitted activity.	Amend regulation 5 of the NESETA to add a new clause 3 as follows: *3) The occupation of land for an existing transmission line is a permitted activity.*	This amendment would clarify that the occupation of land for an existing transmission line is also a permitted activity with no conditions. Under the status quo, there is a degree of uncertainty that occupation of land for existing transmission lines is a permitted activity. This is because the NESETA applies to a range of activities associated with existing transmission lines (including works on existing assets, access tracks and vegetation trimming and activities and so on) but is silent on the occupation of land by existing transmission lines.[1] While the RMA does not expressly restrict the occupation of land (unlike the coastal marine area), this proposal would make it clear "for the avoidance of doubt" that occupation of land by existing transmission lines (ie, lines that were operational on 14 January 2010) is a permitted activity.	Relates to transmission lines only. ENA has no comments to make.

OVERHEAD CONDUCTORS, EARTH-WIRES, OVERHEAD TELECOMMUNICATION CABLES, AND ADDING OVERHEAD CIRCUITS				ENA SUBMISSION POINTS
Clause	**Existing provisions**	**Proposed provisions**	**Reasons**	
Regulation 6 – Overhead	Regulation 6:	The proposed changes are to:	This proposal aligns with the intended policy direction in the proposed NPS-EN to	Applies to transmission lines only. ENA has no comments to make.

[1] Regulation 4 refers to the use of land and occupation of the costal marine area associated with existing transmission lines.

conductors, earth-wires, overhead telecommunication cables, and adding overhead circuits **Regulation 8 – Permitted activities: adding overhead circuits**	(1) Adding an overhead conductor, or part of an overhead conductor, to an existing transmission line (except as part of adding an overhead circuit) is a permitted activity if— (a)both of the conditions in subclauses (4) and (5) are complied with; and (b)all of the applicable conditions in regulation 10(2) to (8) are complied with. (2) Replacing an overhead conductor, or part of an overhead conductor, on an existing transmission line is a permitted activity if the condition in subclause (6) is complied with. (3) Maintaining an overhead conductor on an	• delete regulation 8 and amend the scope of regulation 6 so that the addition of overhead conductors and overhead circuits is regulated together in amended regulation 6. • Remove the condition in regulation 6(4) that there may be no more than two conductors (duplex configuration). • Include a new condition in regulation 6 that operational noise from transmission lines operating at or above 220 kV shall not exceed the following noise limits: – 48 dB LAeq (15min) in residential zones; or – 45 dB LAeq (15min) in all other zones.	better enable routine activities in all environments. The proposed changes will remove the limitation on the number and configuration of the conductors, enabling Transpower to undertake routine activities more efficiently without unnecessary restriction. The proposed changes will also combine the regulations and conditions relating to overhead conductors and overhead circuits in one regulation. Operational noise standards The proposal also includes new operational noise standards for overhead conductors and circuits. This ensures that the operational noise from conductors on existing transmission lines are regulated through the proposed NES-ENA rather than district plan noise standards. The proposed noise standards in amended regulation 6 have also been informed by industry feedback, including recommendations for their noise experts. An alternative, more flexible and enabling option sought by Transpower is to require the best practicable option to be adopted to minimise noise where this will exceed the proposed noise standards (ie, 48 dB LAeq (15min) in residential zones, 45 dB LAeq (15min) in all other zones).	

	existing transmission line is a permitted activity. Regulation 8: (1) Adding an overhead circuit to an existing transmission line is a permitted activity if- (a) the condition in subclause (2) is complied with; and (b) both of the conditions in regulation 6(4) and (5) are complied with; and (c) all of the applicable conditions in regulation 10(2) to (8) are complied with.			
Regulation 7 – Permitted activities: earth-wires and overhead telecommunication cables	Regulation 7: (1) Adding an earth-wire or overhead telecommunication cable, or part of an earth-wire or overhead telecommunication	The proposed changes are to: • remove the conditions limiting the number of wires and cables on existing transmission lines in regulation 7(4) • increase the permitted diameter limit on new wires	The proposed amendments will help remove the potential for unnecessary consent requirements for low risk, routine ETN activities. More specifically, earth-wires and telecommunications cables are an essential part of operating the network safely and they are currently located in a range of environments. There are no clear	Applies to transmission lines only. ENA has no comments to make.

Regulation 9 – Restricted discretionary activities	cable, to an existing transmission line is a permitted activity if both of the conditions in subclauses (4) and (5) are complied with. (2) Replacing an earth-wire or overhead telecommunication cable, or part of an earth-wire or overhead telecommunication cable, on an existing transmission line is a permitted activity if the condition in subclause (6) is complied with. (3) Maintaining an earth-wire or overhead telecommunication cable on an existing transmission line is a permitted activity. Regulation 9: (1) Adding an overhead conductor, or part of an overhead conductor, to an existing	or cables from 25 mm to 28 mm in regulation 7(5) • change the activity status in regulation 9 when conditions are not complied with from a restricted discretionary to a controlled activity • change matters of discretion to matters of control and expand matters of control in regulation 9 to include the following considerations: – frequency, intensity, duration and offensiveness of noise generated (to capture the new operational noise standards) – the operational and functional need of ETN activities and technical requirements of ETN activities – benefits to and of the ETN.	effects-based reasons for limiting the number of earth-wires and telecommunication cables on transmission lines. The proposal also recognises that 28 mm wires are used by Transpower in some circumstances for technical reasons and an increase from 25 mm to 28 mm will have negligible visual effects. Activity status and matters of control and discretion The reasons for the general changes proposed in activity status to be more permissive, and the general changes in the matters of control and discretion, have been outlined above. In addition, the matters of control have been expanded to include consideration of noise effects as a result of the new operational noise standards outlined above.	

	transmission line (except as part of adding an overhead circuit) is a restricted discretionary activity if— (a)1 or both of the conditions in regulation 6(4) and (5) are breached; but (b)all of the applicable conditions in regulation 10(2) to (8) are complied with. (2) Replacing an overhead conductor, or part of an overhead conductor, on an existing transmission line is a restricted discretionary activity if the condition in regulation 6(6) is breached. (3) Adding an earth-wire or overhead telecommunication cable, or part of an earth-wire or			

	overhead telecommunication cable, to an existing transmission line is a restricted discretionary activity if 1 or both of the conditions in regulation 7(4) and (5) are breached. (4) Replacing an earth-wire or overhead telecommunication cable, or part of an earth-wire or overhead telecommunication cable, on an existing transmission line is a restricted discretionary activity if the condition in regulation 7(6) is breached. (5) Adding an overhead circuit to an existing transmission line is a restricted discretionary activity if— (a)first,—			

	(i)the condition in regulation 8(2) is breached; or (ii)1 or both of the conditions in regulation 6(4) and (5) are breached; and (b)second, all of the applicable conditions in regulation 10(2) to (8) are complied with.			

INCREASING VOLTAGE OR CURRENT RATING, UNDERGROUND CONDUCTORS, AND UNDERGROUNDING TRANSMISSION LINES				ENA SUBMISSION POINTS
Clause	**Existing provisions**	**Proposed provisions**	**Reasons**	
Regulation 10 – Permitted activities: increasing voltage or current rating	(1) Increasing the voltage or current rating of an existing transmission line is a permitted activity if all of the applicable conditions in subclauses (2) to (9) are complied with. *Conditions:* (2) The electric and magnetic fields produced by the transmission of electricity at 50 Hz through overhead	The proposed changes are to: • increase the magnetic flux density reference threshold from 100 microteslas to 200 microteslas in regulation 10(2), to be consistent with the proposed NPS-EN • alter the modelling methodology of electric field strength in regulation 10(6) to be based on *conservative* climatic conditions, rather than using specified conditions • include new operational noise conditions in regulation 10 for transmission lines	The existing magnetic flux density threshold is inconsistent between the NPS-ET and NESETA. The proposed change aligns the threshold between the NPS-EN and NESETA for consistency and to reduce potential for uncertainty. This amendment recognises the need for consistency in regulations that aim to protect human health. Operational noise conditions The reasons for the new operational noise standards are outlined above, in relation to existing regulation 6 and regulation 8 in the NESETA.	Applies to transmission lines only. ENA has no comments to make.

	or underground alternating current transmission lines must, after being modelled in accordance with subclauses (4) to (7), be demonstrated to either— (a)not exceed the following reference levels for public exposure: (i)electric field strength of 5 kV/m; and (ii)magnetic flux density of 100 microteslas; or (b)not exceed the basic restriction level of 2 mA/m² for the density of electric current induced in the body. (3) The static electric field strength produced by the transmission of electricity through overhead direct current transmission lines must be	operating at or above 200 kV to not exceed the following noise limits: – 48 dB LAeq (15min) in residential zones – 45 dB LAeq (15min) in all other zones.		

	demonstrated to have no likely adverse human health effects after— (a)modelling the field strength in accordance with subclauses (4) to (6) as if references to electric field strength were references to static electric field strength; and (b)including the likely contribution to the field strength from the space charge around the transmission line caused by corona discharge. (4) The electric field strength and magnetic flux density of a transmission line must be modelled at whichever of the following locations is closest to the line: (a)1 metre above the ground in an area above, below,			

	or next to the line that is reasonably accessible to the public; or (b)1 metre above the highest floor level of an occupied building. (5) The electric field strength and magnetic flux density of a transmission line may be modelled to take account of any shielding effect from buildings. (6) The electric field strength and magnetic flux density of an overhead transmission line must be modelled to result in the highest electric and magnetic fields likely under normal operating conditions using the following climatic conditions to determine conductor position: (a)ambient temperature of			

	20°C in winter and 30°C in summer: (b)maximum solar radiation of 1 000 W/m²: (c)dry conditions: (d)wind speed of 0.6 m/s. (7) The magnetic flux density of an underground transmission line must be modelled to result in the highest magnetic field likely under normal operating conditions. (8) The results of modelling the electric field strength, magnetic flux density, density of electric current induced in the body, or static electric field strength under this regulation must be provided to the relevant territorial authority if requested by the territorial authority. (9) In subclauses (6) and (7), **normal**			

	operating conditions— (a)means the conditions associated with the highest load current; but (b)does not include conditions in which a short-term increase in voltage or current is caused by a fault such as switching, a lightning strike, a short circuit, or an abnormal operating state of a direct current transmission line.			
Regulation 11 – Permitted activities: underground conductors		No changes are proposed.	N/A – no changes are proposed.	Applies to transmission lines only. ENA has no comments to make.
Regulation 12 – Controlled activities: undergrounding transmission lines	(1) Undergrounding an existing transmission line is a controlled activity if all of the applicable conditions in regulation 10(2) to (8) are complied with.	The only proposed changes relate to the matters of control including: • adding additional matters of control relating to (i) the operational need and functional need of ETN activities, (ii) technical requirements of ETN	The proposed NPS-EN definition of routine EN activities includes undergrounding and the intent is that this is generally enabled in all locations and environments. Undergrounding a transmission line may be appropriate in certain circumstances, particularly urban environments and in road corridors where overhead lines constrain development and can have more adverse visual effects on surrounding properties. However, there can also be	Applies to transmission lines only. ENA has no comments to make.

	Matters over which control reserved (2) Control is reserved over the following matters in relation to a controlled activity under this regulation: (a)the location of termination structures, and the route of underground cables, in relation to— (i)visual, landscape, and ecological effects; and (ii)the effects on historic heritage; and (b)the extent and nature of earthworks and control of sediment; and (c)the effects and timing of construction works; and (d)the effects on services and infrastructure.	activities, and (iii) benefits to and of the ETN • updating the reference to historic heritage area to refer to historic heritage item or setting. We are also seeking feedback on options to better enable the undergrounding of existing transmission lines by: • allowing for this to occur as a permitted activity, which is a common approach for the undergrounding of distribution lines in district plans and is proposed below for EDN in Part 3 • narrowing the matters of control to remove general references to visual and landscape effects (given that undergrounding of lines does not typically result in any adverse visual or landscape effects).	technical and financial reasons, which mean that undergrounding is not practicable. Amendments to the matters of control in existing regulation 12 are proposed to align with the general changes outlined above.	
Regulation 13 – Non-		No changes are proposed.	N/A – no changes are proposed.	Relates to transmission lines only. ENA has no comments to make.

complying activities				

TRANSMISSION LINE SUPPORT STRUCTURES: ALTERATION RELOCATION AND REPLACEMENT				ENA SUBMISSION POINTS
Clause	**Existing provisions**	**Proposed provisions**	**Reasons**	
Regulation 14 – Permitted activities **Regulation 15 – Controlled activities** **Regulation 16 – Restricted discretionary activities**	Regulation 14: (3) If a transmission line support structure is increased in height (including by being replaced with another structure),— (a)the structure may be made no more than 15% higher than its base height; and (b)the additional height must comply with any height restrictions for airport purposes, or any public view shafts, specified in a rule. (4) A transmission line support structure must not be relocated, or replaced with another transmission line support structure, so that any part of the structure at ground level is—	The main changes proposed to these regulations are as follows. • **Height** – increasing the permitted threshold for increasing the height of existing structures in regulation 14(3)(a) from 15% to 25%. • **Public view shafts** – removing the requirement in regulation 14(3)(b) for additional height of existing structures to comply with any plan rules relating to public view shafts (the requirement to comply with height restrictions near airports would be retained for safety reasons). • **Occupied buildings** – retaining the requirement in regulation 14(4) for support structures to be set back from occupied buildings while clarifying that the setback distance is to be measured at the closest point (not horizontally).	The amendments proposed to existing regulations 14 to 16 are intended to better align with the NPS-EN policy direction to enable routine activities in all locations, to align with the revised definitions above, and make the regulations more enabling and workable by removing problematic tests relating to base height and footprint. Overall, this will enable Transpower to undertake routine work on existing transmission line support structures more effectively and efficiently and will help avoid unnecessary consent requirements for routine EN activities. More specifically, the rationale for the proposed changes is as follows. • **Height** – an increase in the height limit from 15% to 25% of the existing height is considered reasonable to provide greater flexibility for new technology and, in some circumstances, can reduce visual effects (eg, removing cross-arms from view). Feedback from Transpower is that 15% is too restrictive when undertaking routine	Applies to transmission lines only. ENA has no comments to make.

	(a)within 12 metres of an occupied building (measured horizontally); or (b)any closer to an occupied building, if the existing structure is within 12 metres of the building (measured horizontally). (5) If a tower is widened (including by being replaced with another tower), each side of the tower's footprint may be made no longer than the total of— (a)the length of that side of the tower's base footprint; and (b)25% of the tower's base width. (6) A tower must not be relocated, or replaced with another tower, so that any part of the tower at ground level falls outside	• **Tower footprint** – amending regulation 14(5) to enable an increase in tower footprint to be up to 25% greater in length than the existing length of each side. • **Tower's envelope for permitted and controlled activities** – removing the condition in regulation 14(6) relating to the 'envelope for permitted activity' and 'envelope for controlled activities' for the tower base width. • **Replacing pole with tower** – removing the condition in regulation 14(7) that a pole cannot be replaced with a tower. • **Relocating or replacing poles** – amending the condition in regulation 14(8) so that a pole must not be replaced or removed more than 10 m (rather than 5 m) from the existing pole. It is proposed that the activity status for non-compliance with the permitted activity conditions be a controlled activity, rather	activities such as thermal up-ratings and correcting mid-span clearances.[2] • **Public view shafts** – where existing transmission lines are located within view shafts, it is often not possible to comply with the height restrictions in the plan when altering, relocating or replacing transmission line support structures. Transpower has provided evidence to demonstrate its existing assets within Auckland's viewshafts and therefore why it is not practicable to avoid public viewshafts.[3] Removing this condition will better recognise the existing nature of these assets and help avoid unnecessary consent requirements for routine activities. The alternative to upgrading existing transmission lines in viewshafts would be to completely relocate the line with much greater adverse effects and at a greater economic cost. • **Occupied buildings** – minor amendments to improve clarity and assist in interpretation of the regulations. • **Tower footprint** – amendments simplify the condition while still controlling increases in the width of towers. This will make the condition easier to interpret and comply with.	

[2] As detailed in Transpower's submission on the 2023 NPS-ET and NESETA consultation, thermal up-ratings are changes made at substations that allow more electricity to flow through the line, causing the conductors to heat up and sag lower to the ground. Under-clearance (of the minimum ground to conductor distance) can be addressed by either raising the structure, and therefore conductor, or potentially carrying out mid-span earthworks. If the site is in an area with archaeological risk, it may be preferable to raise the structure.

[3] As detailed in figure 3 of Transpower's submission on the 2023 NPS-ET and NESETA consultation.

	the tower's envelope for permitted activities. (7) A pole must not be replaced with a tower. (8) A pole must not be relocated, or replaced with another pole, more than 5 metres from the pole's base position (measured horizontally). Regulation 15: *Matters over which control reserved* (4)Control is reserved over the following matters in relation to a controlled activity under this regulation: (a)visual, landscape, and ecological effects; and (b)the effects on historic heritage; and (c)the effects and timing of construction works; and (d)the effects on services and infrastructure. Regulation 16: (1) Altering, relocating, or replacing a tower of an existing transmission line (other than as part of a temporary line deviation or	than a cascade of controlled and restricted discretionary activity (ie, regulation 16 is to be deleted). Amendments to the matters of control in regulation 15(4) are also proposed to: • add additional matters of control relating to the technical requirements of ETN activities, operational need and functional need of ETN activities, and benefits to and of the ETN • update the reference to historic heritage area to refer to a historic heritage area or place • add an additional matter relating to effects on any sensitive activities.	Transpower would prefer that the permitted increase in tower width be increased to 40%. • **Tower's envelope for permitted and controlled activities** – removing this condition will remove problematic tests and allow Transpower to better respond to technical and operational requirements. Controls on tower width are still retained in the condition above (ie, up to 25% increase). • **Replacing pole with tower** – removing this condition will allow Transpower to choose the more appropriate technical solution, which may in some situations involve replacing a pole with a tower (controls on the increase in height and width of the support structure). • **Relocating or replacing poles** – amendments will provide greater flexibility in the location of relocated or replaced poles while still ensuring these are in reasonably close proximity to the existing pole.	

	undergrounding) is a restricted discretionary activity if— (a)1 or more of the conditions in regulation 14(3) to (5) are breached; or (b)both of the following apply: (i)the requirement described in regulation 15(1)(c) is breached; but (ii)all of the applicable conditions in regulation 10(2) to (8) are complied with. (2)Altering, relocating, or replacing a pole of an existing transmission line (other than as part of a temporary line deviation or undergrounding) is a restricted discretionary activity if— (a)1 or more of the conditions in regulation 14(3), (4), and (7) are breached; or (b)both of the following apply: (i)the requirement described in regulation 15(2)(c) is breached; but (ii)all of the applicable conditions in regulation			

	10(2) to (8) are complied with. (3)Altering, relocating, or replacing a tower or pole of an existing transmission line as part of undergrounding, so that the tower or pole becomes a termination structure, is a restricted discretionary activity if 1 or more of the conditions in regulation 14(3), (4), and (7) are breached.			

TEMPORARY STRUCTURES AND TEMPORARY LINE DEVIATION				ENA SUBMISSION POINTS
Clause	**Existing provision**	**Proposed provisions**	**Reasons**	
Regulation 17 – Permitted activities **Regulation 18 – Controlled activities**	Regulation 17: (1) Erecting or using a temporary structure in relation to an existing transmission line (other than as part of a temporary line deviation) is a permitted activity if the condition in subclause (3) is complied with. (2) Carrying out a temporary line deviation of an existing transmission line is a permitted activity if the condition in subclause (4) is complied with.	Amend the regulations to be more concise and enabling by: • including all temporary structures (including as part of a temporary deviation) within one permitted activity regulation (regulation 17) • revising the existing conditions in regulation 17(3) and 17(4) to enable temporary structures to be in place for 12 months rather than setting specific timeframes for the erection and removal of these structures (20 days to 60 days).	The proposed changes are intended to better enable temporary structures and temporary line deviations. The duration of temporary structures and temporary line deviations are determined by the operational needs of the transmission line, and requiring a consent for these activities because they are not erected or removed within set timeframes (20 days to 60 days) would result in unnecessary consent cost and delay necessary work. Accordingly, the proposal is intended to be more enabling and flexible by enabling any temporary structure (including temporary line deviations) associated with the maintenance or upgrading of an existing transmission line to be undertaken as a permitted activity, provided it is place for no longer than	Applies to transmission lines only. ENA has no comments to make.

	Conditions (3)Any temporary structures must be— (a)erected no earlier than 20 working days before the start of the relevant maintenance or upgrading; and (b)removed no later than 20 working days after the end of the maintenance or upgrading. (4)Any structures involved in a temporary line deviation must be— (a)erected no earlier than 60 working days before the start of the relevant maintenance or upgrading; and (b)removed no later than 60 working days after the end of the maintenance or upgrading. Regulation 18: (1) Erecting or using a temporary structure in relation to an existing transmission line (other than as part of a temporary line deviation) is a controlled activity if the condition in regulation 17(3) is breached. (2) Carrying out a temporary line deviation of an		12 months. This 12-month timeframe is consistent with existing plan provisions for temporary infrastructure (eg, Auckland Unitary Plan) and provides flexibility for operational requirements while ensuring the structure is temporary. Alternatively, industry has requested that there be no timeframe requirements or controlled activity rule (regulation 18) for temporary structures, because there is no purpose in requiring consent for these activities (ie, consent conditions cannot shorten the actual timeframe for construction), and due to concerns that this existing regulation can result in consent conditions that are impracticable and disproportionate.	

	existing transmission line is a controlled activity if the condition in regulation 17(4) is breached. *Matters over which control reserved* (3)Control is reserved over the following matters in relation to a controlled activity under this regulation: (a)the duration of any works; and (b)the effects and timing of construction works.			

TRANSMISSION LINES: REMOVAL				ENA SUBMISSION POINTS
Clause	**Existing provisions**	**Proposed provisions**	**Reasons**	
Regulation 19 – Permitted activities **Regulation 20 – Controlled activities**	Regulation 19: (1) Removing an existing transmission line, or part of an existing transmission line, is a permitted activity if both of the conditions in subclauses (2) and (3) are complied with. *Conditions* (2)The transmission line, or the part of the transmission line, and any associated construction or demolition	Retain the permitted activity conditions but amend the matters of control in regulation 20(2) to: • delete matters of control relating to earthworks and vegetation clearance • include reference to removal works • include new matters relating to the operational and functional needs of ETN activities, and benefits to and of the ETN.	The intent is to continue to enable the removal of an existing transmission line as a routine activity in all locations and environments, subject to standard conditions relating to removal of materials and ground restoration. The matters of control relating to earthworks and vegetation clearance are also proposed to be removed because these activities are regulated separately.	Applies to transmission lines only. ENA has no comments to make.

	material must be removed from the land. (3)Any ground that is disturbed from the removal must be restored in a way that minimises the risk of soil erosion, sediment run-off, and weed invasion. Regulation 20: (1) Removing an existing transmission line, or part of an existing transmission line, is a controlled activity if 1 or both of the conditions in regulation 19(2) and (3) are breached. *Matters over which control reserved* (2)Control is reserved over the following matters in relation to a controlled activity under this regulation: (a)earthworks, clearance of trees and vegetation, and restoration of the land; and (b)the effects and timing of construction works.			

TELECOMMUNICATION DEVICES				ENA SUBMISSION POINTS
Clause	**Existing provisions**	**Proposed provisions**	**Reasons**	

Regulation 21 – Permitted activities **Regulation 22 – Restricted discretionary activities**	Regulation 21: (1) Installing or modifying a telecommunication device on a transmission line support structure of an existing transmission line is a permitted activity if both of the conditions in subclauses (3) and (4) are complied with. (2) Maintaining a telecommunication device on a transmission line support structure of an existing transmission line is a permitted activity. *Conditions* (3)The width of the telecommunication device must not exceed 1.8 metres. (4)The telecommunication device must extend no more than 2.5 metres above the height of the structure. Regulation 22: (1) Installing or modifying a telecommunication device on a transmission line support structure of an existing transmission line is a restricted discretionary activity if 1 or both of the conditions	Amend regulation 21(1) to permit installing or modifying a telecommunications device on an existing transmission line support structure and remove the conditions in regulation 21(3) and 21(4) relating to the width and height of the device. Delete regulation 22 because a restricted discretionary rule is not needed if there are no permitted activity conditions to comply with for telecommunication devices.	The intent of the proposal is to better enable telecommunication devices on support structures for existing transmission lines to recognise the technical need for these devices and that any adverse visual effects from these devices are generally minor compared with the existing support structure. This will be achieved by removing the conditions controlling the width and height of telecommunication devices. These devices are a necessary part of ETN activities, and the size is determined by operational requirements. Therefore, there is no purpose in requiring a consent for these activities because any consent conditions would not be able to change the size or location of the telecommunication device.	Applies to transmission lines only. ENA has no comments to make.

	in regulation 21(3) and (4) are breached. *Matters to which discretion restricted* (2) Discretion is restricted to the following matters in relation to a restricted discretionary activity under this regulation: (a)the size, height, and number of telecommunication devices and associated telecommunication cables; and (b)visual and landscape effects.			

SIGNS				ENA SUBMISSION POINTS
Clause	**Existing provisions**	**Proposed provisions**	**Reasons**	
Regulation 23 – Permitted activities **Regulation 24 – Signs**	Regulation 23: (1) Installing or modifying a sign on a transmission line support structure of an existing transmission line that is intended to identify the structure or its owner, or is intended to help with safety or navigation, is a permitted activity if the applicable condition in subclause (2) or (3) is complied with. *Conditions*	The proposed changes are to: • simplify regulation 23 and regulation 24 by combining them and providing for signs on or next to a transmission line support structure as a permitted activity and removing the controls on size of the sign in regulation 23(2) and 23(3) • expand regulation 23 to permit signage within the bed of a lake, river, stream or coastal marine area and associated	This proposal is intended to provide more flexibility for signage on, and next to, existing transmission lines to be undertaken as a permitted activity in all environments without unnecessary restrictions. This will reduce unnecessary consenting barriers and enable Transpower to use appropriate signage as required for operational, safety and compliance reasons. This recognises that Transpower (and distributors) uses signs to prevent harm to employees, public and property, correctly identify assets and	The proposal is to apply Reg 23 and Reg 24 to the EDN. This change would make signs on a distribution support structure of an existing distribution line a permitted activity where the sign identifies the structure or its owner or is intended to help with safety and navigation. The proposal also removes the existing conditions in Reg 23 about the size of signs and enable signage in the beds of lakes, rivers, streams and in the coastal marine area and associated occupation without conditions. ENA supports this regulation.

	(2)The signs on a transmission line support structure that are intended to identify the structure or its owner must together cover an area of no more than 1 m². (3)The signs on a transmission line support structure that are intended to help with safety or navigation must together cover an area of no more than 6 m². Regulation 24: (1) Installing or modifying a sign on a transmission line support structure of an existing transmission line that is intended to identify the structure or its owner, or is intended to help with safety or navigation, is a restricted discretionary activity if the applicable condition in regulation 23(2) or (3) is breached. (2) Installing or modifying a sign next to a transmission line support structure of an existing transmission line that is intended to identify the	occupation without any conditions • delete the restricted discretionary activity rule for signage where the permitted activity standards are not complied with (regulation 25) because there would be no permitted activity conditions.	hazards, ensure no adverse effects on the power system, and to comply with the relevant legislation, industry rules, codes of practice and Transpower Service Specifications. Removing conditions on the size of signs on, and next to, existing transmission lines is considered appropriate because: • these will generally have minor visual effects compared with the existing transmission support structure they are located on, or next to • signs are only used when needed for operational, safety and compliance reasons and the size of the sign will generally be no larger than it needs to be for economic and practical reasons. However, signs in waterways and in the coastal marine area have a greater potential for adverse effects and there are generally existing regional plan rules to manage the effects of signs in these more sensitive environments. As such, we are seeking feedback on whether additional controls on signs may be needed in these environments or whether existing standards and Transpower's procedures in these environments are sufficient.[4]	

[4] For example, Transpower has advised that it complies with the following standards and procedures for signs in waterways: AS/NZS 2416.1:2010 Water safety signs and beach safety flags – Specifications for water safety signs used in workplaces and public areas.

	structure or its owner, or is intended to help with safety or navigation, is a restricted discretionary activity. *Matters to which discretion restricted* (3) Discretion is restricted to the following matters in relation to a restricted discretionary activity under this regulation: (a)visual effects; and (b)the effects on services and infrastructure.			

TRANSMISSION LINE SUPPORT STRUCTURES: DISCHARGES FROM BLASTING AND APPLYING PROTECTIVE COATINGS				ENA SUBMISSION POINTS
Clause	**Existing provisions**	**Proposed provisions**	**Reasons**	
Regulation 25 – Permitted activities **Permitted 26 – Controlled activities** **Permitted 27 – Restricted discretionary activities**	Regulation 25: (1)Blasting a transmission line support structure of an existing transmission line, or preparing the structure to receive protective coatings, is a permitted activity if all of the applicable conditions in subclauses (3) to (9) are complied with. (2)Applying protective coatings to a transmission line support structure of an existing transmission line is a permitted activity if the	Amend the regulations as follows. **Regulation 25 (permitted activities)** • Broadening of the regulation to: – cover the mechanical preparation of support structure surfaces – the discharge to air from the use of diesel-fired compressors associated with the blasting of a transmission line (however, only if the regional rules further down the document are not incorporated).	Blasting of existing line support structures is a critical routine activity that Transpower needs to undertake to manage corrosion. This ensures the safe operation of existing assets, while also extending their operational life. Amendments to regulations 25 to 27 are proposed to reduce the consenting burden for these essential routine activities, while ensuring the environmental effects are appropriately managed. Transpower already provides blasting management plans to regional councils as part of global resource consents, which have been deemed acceptable	Regulations 25 and 26 will be applicable to the EDN as well as ET. This is appropriate for these necessary works and avoids duplicating these regulations in Part 3. Specific drafting must ensure EDN and/or ETN activities are referenced rather than just ET. ENA supports this change but with the amendment noted to specifically refer to the EDN. ENA supports the broadening of Regulation 25 as this will make this more enabling and reduce consenting requirements. ENA supports the changes that provide clarity and more enabling conditions, as follows: o Distinguishing between the requirements for wet vs dry abrasive blasting.

	condition in subclause (10) is complied with. *Conditions* (3)Blasting must not be done within 50 metres of a water body or the coastal marine area. (4)Blasting must not be done— • (a)within 50 metres of a public road; or • (b)within 100 metres of an occupied building. (5)Abrasive material used in abrasive blasting must contain no more than 5% free silica by dry weight. (6)Waste and debris resulting from abrasive blasting must be removed from the site of the blasting to the extent practicable. (7)Dry abrasive blasting— (a)must be done no more than 1 metre above ground level; and (b)may be done only if covers or screens are used to mitigate the effects of any contaminants discharged by the blasting. (8)If abrasive blasting is done on a tower coated with lead-	• Amendments to the wet abrasive blasting conditions in regulation 25(3) and regulation 25(4): – clarification that these regulations will only apply to wet abrasive blasting – changes to the permitted activity conditions so wet abrasive blasting must not be within 20 m of a water body, the coastal marine area (CMA), a public road, or an occupied building unless in accordance with submitted management plans (see new condition below). • Amendment to the dry abrasive blasting conditions in regulation 25(7). • Increase in permitted height above ground level where dry abrasive blasting can be undertaken (up to 2 m, from 1 m previously permitted). • New conditions that dry abrasive blasting must not be undertaken within 10 m of a water body, the CMA, and a public road, and 20 m of an occupied building, unless in accordance with submitted management plans (see new condition below).	to manage the associated environmental effects of blasting activities. The proposal adopts this approach in regulation 25, through requirements for overarching EMPs for a wider range of permitted blasting activities, and site-specific management plan (SSMP) to ensure appropriate management of permitted activities based on site-specific considerations. It is noted that other national direction instruments utilise management plans to ensure the effects of routine activities are appropriately managed. For example, the National Environmental Standards for Telecommunications Facilities (regulation 53) and National Environmental Standards for Commercial Forestry (regulation 27, Schedule 4) both include earthwork management plans that specify notifications requirements to local authorities and land owners as well as the details these plans must contain. Resource consent (controlled activity) will be required where management plans have not been provided under regulation 25(4) and 25(7). New matters of control under regulation 26 are proposed to ensure effects on natural areas, historic heritage, public roads, as well as the benefits, operational needs and functional needs of the National Gird, can also be appropriately managed by local	○ Reducing setbacks for wet abrasive blasting from a waterbody, the CMA, a public road, or an occupied building from 50m (from a waterbody, the CMA or road) or 100m (from an occupied building) to 20m, unless there is a management plan in place. ○ Increase to the permitted height within which dry abrasive blasting can occur from 1m to 2m above ground level ENA supports the new requirements that dry abrasive blasting not be undertaken within 10 m of a water body, the CMA, and a public road, and 20 m of an occupied building, unless in accordance with submitted management plans. We consider these requirements to be reasonable to manage effects. ENA sees that the need to prepare an overarching environmental management plan (EMP) will enable works within the stated setbacks as a permitted activity. This supports a more enabling framework for distribution. While there may be work required upfront to develop the EMPs, this will provide for a more efficient process and reduced consenting requirements in future. We consider the list of matters to include in the EMP and SSMP is reasonable and aligns with our understanding of the content of similar management plans (e.g. for earthworks and sediment management). ENA is encouraged by the amendments to Reg 26 in that they would have the effect of broadening the controlled activity status to cover blasting carried out on structures within water bodies and the CMA when a management plan has not been provided.

	based paint, the waste and debris (including abrasive material) resulting from the blasting must be captured and removed by using geotextile material of a filter quality or by any equivalent method. (9)The following substances must not be used for surface preparation: paint strippers (unless used on a solvent rag to degrease a surface), fungicides, acids, alkalis, sodium hypochlorite, or any other oxidising agent. (10)Protective coatings must be applied— (a)by hand; or (b)by pressurised spray used no more than 1 metre above ground level. **Regulation 26:** (1)Blasting a transmission line support structure of an existing transmission line, or preparing the structure to receive protective coatings, is a controlled activity if— (a)it is not done over a water body or the coastal marine area; and	• A new condition requiring an 'overarching environmental management plan (EMP)', as well as a 'site-specific management plan (SSMP)' when works are undertaken as a permitted activity within the above setbacks from water bodies, wetlands, the CMA, public roads and occupied buildings. The overarching EMP could be applied nationally and submitted to each regional council. The overarching EMP and SSMP must be provided to the regional council at least 10 days before work is due to commence. The proposal is that the overarching EMP must include: a) activities covered by the EMP b) effects to be managed associated with these activities c) specific controls to ensure compliance with the permitted activity standards d) mitigation measures and when to deploy these e) procedures covering incident management, complaints, spill management and management of compressors f) notification protocols (eg, to roading authorities, land owners and the public)	authorities (in addition to the existing matters of control). The term 'ecologically sensitive receiving environment' is replaced with '*natural areas*', which captures all RMA section 6(c) matters (*areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna*).	However, no change is proposed to condition 26(1)(c) which currently applies if blasting is undertaken within 50 m of a water body or the CMA. This does not align with the proposed change to the permitted activity conditions which provides for blasting 20m from these locations as a permitted activity i.e. if the blasting is more than 20m from the water body or CMA, it is a permitted activity or is permitted where the works are within the 20m setback and a management plan is provided. **ENA recommends** that condition 26(c)(i) of the existing regulation should be deleted, as this requires a controlled activity consent where blasting occurs within 50m of a water body or the CMA, but this is a greater setback than what is proposed as a permitted activity i.e. the permitted rule is works must be setback 20m (for wet blasting) or 10m (for dry blasting) from a waterbody or CMA. The proposed amendments to 26(b) will cover instances where the setbacks for wet and dry abrasive blasting works are not met, including where a management plan has not been provided. The change to the matters of control in Regulation 26(3)(a) (i.e. replacing 'ecologically sensitive areas' with 'natural area' or 'historic heritage place or area') would result in a broader assessment of effects than is necessary for this activity. **ENA recommends** that the matters of control are confined to the effects on ecological values within waterbodies and the CMA. The current NES also does not reserve control over effects on historic heritage, so this is a new consideration. Blasting within natural areas and historic heritage places and areas is also a permitted activity in both the existing and proposed

	(b)the applicable conditions in regulation 25(4) and (7) are complied with; and (c)1 or both of the following apply: (i)it is done within 50 metres of a water body or the coastal marine area: (ii)1 or more of the conditions in regulation 25(5), (6), (8), and (9) are breached. (2)Applying protective coatings to a transmission line support structure of an existing transmission line is a controlled activity if the condition in regulation 25(10) is breached. *Matters over which control reserved* (3)Control is reserved over the following matters in relation to a controlled activity under this regulation: (a)the effects on water quality and ecologically-sensitive receiving environments; and (b)the effects on occupied buildings; and (c)the risk of contamination of soil; and (d)the effects on health.	g) opportunities for technologies that will allow for continuous environmental improvement h) review of the EMP and a process for providing to and updating regional councils i) blasting information sheets and any other relevant information. The proposal is that the SSMP must include: a) the tower name and location (including address and coordinates) b) identification of the proximity of the tower to water bodies (including natural inland wetlands), CMA (can note any significance and special features of the water bodies), public roads and occupied buildings – show on map c) identification if the structure has previously been painted with lead, and, if so, details on the method and mitigation d) proposed methodology (eg, mechanical preparation, wet blasting, dry blasting) e) timing and duration of work f) mitigation measures proposed from mitigation		NES. We question the relevance of this matter of control to blasting activities, particularly given there are no specific setback requirements relating to heritage in the permitted activity or controlled activity regulations. Making "historic heritage" a matter of control unnecessarily complicates otherwise minor maintenance or upgrade work. Marlborough Lines has experienced this at the Otukakau Pā site on the Kaikōura Coast, where a leaning pole could not be re-seated due to iwi objections, despite the structure posing a risk to supply for 57 downstream customers. The site, farmed for over 120 years, is already degraded due to bulldozing and grazing. The line was installed in 1958 under a signed wayleave, and the area has been archaeologically surveyed multiple times — most recently in 2012 by Marlborough Lines to preserve remaining features. Although initial iwi approval was obtained in 2020, Heritage New Zealand declined it in 2021, citing broader concerns with the presence of the line. Rerouting has been suggested, but alternative alignments would still traverse archaeological areas. As a result, Marlborough Lines is effectively blocked from carrying out safety-critical work and may be forced to wait for the pole to fail to justify emergency intervention. This case demonstrates how heritage protections can create regulatory deadlock, even for essential maintenance. **ENA recommends** removing "historic heritage place or area" as a matter of control under Regulation 26(3) to avoid unnecessary risk to supply. We consider proposed new matters of control in Reg 26 relating to effects on use of public roads, functional and operational needs, and the benefits of the ETN are appropriate. ENA supports these matters.

	Regulation 27: (1)Blasting a transmission line support structure of an existing transmission line, or preparing the structure to receive protective coatings, is a restricted discretionary activity if— (a)it is done over a water body or the coastal marine area; or (b)1 or both of the conditions in regulation 25(4) and (7) are breached. *Matters to which discretion restricted* (2)Discretion is restricted to the following matters in relation to a restricted discretionary activity under this regulation: (a)the effects on water quality and ecologically-sensitive receiving environments; and (b)the effects on occupied buildings and use of public roads; and (c)the risk of contamination of soil; and (d)the effects on health.	toolbox (including reasons for not deploying mitigation if it is not practicable to do so), and include covering of the ground, houses, stormwater catchpits and so on g) proposed monitoring, for example, wind speed and placement of whiteboard markers for drift towards water bodies h) how waste (including solvent rags) and debris will be managed and disposed of i) notification, for example, could be notifying road authority and households within a certain radius of the structure j) location of plant and machinery, containment area of paints and spill kits available k) complaints management and recording procedure l) roles and responsibilities and quality assurance for environmental controls. **Regulation 26 (controlled activities)** • Deletion of regulation 26(1)(a), expanding the controlled activity status to apply to blasting carried out on structures located within water		The deletion of Reg 27 reflects the proposed change to address all blasting as either a permitted or controlled activity. This provides certainty for EDBs as the works will either be permitted or if consent is required it must be granted (with conditions). ENA supports this.

		bodies and the CMA (when a management plan has not been provided under regulation 25). • Amending regulation 26(b) so that this regulation applies only when a permitted activity setback in regulations 25(4) and 25(7) cannot be complied with and a management plan has not been prepared and submitted to the regional council. • Amendments to the matters of control in regulation 26(3), including: – replacing 'ecological sensitive receiving environments' with 'natural areas' and 'historic heritage place or area' – new matters of control, including effects on the use of public roads, the functional and operational need of ET activities, and benefits of the ETN. **Regulation 27 (restricted discretionary activities)** The proposal is to delete regulation 27 so that blasting activities are either managed through permitted activity conditions or a controlled activity consent process when these conditions are not complied with (regulation 25 and regulation 26).		

DISCHARGES TO WATER				GHD INITIAL RESPONSE/COMMENT
Clause	**Existing provisions**	**Proposed provisions**	**Reasons**	
Regulation 28 – Permitted activities **Regulation 29 – Controlled activities**	Regulation 28: (1)Discharging contaminants into water, in relation to an existing transmission line, is a permitted activity if, after the water and contaminants are reasonably mixed together, all of the conditions in subclauses (2) to (6) are complied with. *Conditions* (2)The discharge must not produce conspicuous— (a)films of oil or grease; or (b)scums or foams; or (c)floatable or suspended materials. (3)The discharge must not create a conspicuous change in colour or visual clarity. (4)The discharge must not emit an objectionable odour. (5)The discharge must not make fresh water unsuitable for farm animals to drink.	The proposal is a minor amendment to regulation 28 and regulation 29 so that they also regulate the discharge of contaminants onto land where this may enter water. The proposal would also amend the matters of control in regulation 29(2) to refer to the functional and operational need of ETN activities, the technical requirements of ETN activities, and the benefits of the ETN.	The proposal is a minor amendment to capture discharges to water 'or discharges onto land where they may enter water'. This would make the regulation more complete and capture discharges restricted under section 15(1)(b) of the RMA but not currently regulated under the NESETA. The additions to the matters of control are intended to align with policy direction in the NPS-EN to ensure the more enabling policy direction can be considered when appropriate.	This regulation is proposed to apply to both transmission and distribution activities. ENA sees this amendment is appropriate to ensure discharges regulated by s15 of the Act are authorised and will be a more efficient way of regulating these discharges i.e. all regulated under the NES. The addition of conditions in the controlled activity rule to technical requirements of ETN activities, and the benefits of the ETN are appropriate and necessary to provide a more enabling framework. ENA supports this amendment.

	(6)The discharge must not have adverse effects on aquatic life that are more than minor. Regulation 29: (1)Discharging contaminants into water, in relation to an existing transmission line, is a controlled activity if, after the water and contaminants are reasonably mixed together, 1 or more of the conditions in regulation 28(2) to (6) are breached. *Matters over which control reserved* (2)Control is reserved over the following matters in relation to a controlled activity under this regulation: (a)the effects on water quality; and (b)the effects on aquatic life.			

TRIMMING, FELLING, AND REMOVING TREES AND VEGETATION				GHD INITIAL RESPONSE/COMMENT
Clause	**Existing provisions**	**Proposed provisions**	**Reasons**	
Regulations 30 – Permitted activities	Regulation 30: (1)Trimming, felling, or removing any tree or vegetation, in relation to an existing transmission line, is a	The proposal is to replace regulations 30 to 32 with a new approach that only controls vegetation clearance and tree trimming when this affects the following:	The proposal is intended to align with and implement the policy direction in the NPS-EN to enable routine ET activities in all environments, because vegetation clearance is a routine	Regulation 30 is proposed to apply to distribution, as well as transmission. The effect of this change is to permit vegetation clearance and tree trimming in natural areas and where it affects a

Regulation 31 – Controlled activities **Restricted 32 – Restricted discretionary activities**	permitted activity if all of the applicable conditions in subclauses (2) to (6) are complied with. *Conditions* (2)Any tree or vegetation must not be trimmed, felled, or removed if— (a)a rule prohibits or restricts its trimming, felling, or removal (as the case may be); or (b)it is in a natural area. (3)Any tree or vegetation located on any land must not be felled or removed if a regional plan controls the use of the land for the purpose of— (a)soil conservation; or (b)avoiding or mitigating flooding. (4)Any tree or vegetation must not be trimmed, felled, or removed if it is on land administered by the Department of Conservation under the Conservation Act 1987 or an Act specified in Schedule 1 of that Act. (5)The felling or removal of any tree or vegetation must not create or contribute to— (a)instability of a slope or another land surface; or	• natural areas (which include areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna) • notable trees identified in district plans with a plan rule that restricts their trimming, felling, or clearance and removal. For these higher value and sensitive vegetation and areas, vegetation clearance or tree trimming would only be permitted when it is required for specific operational or safety reasons as follows: • to comply with the Electricity (Hazards from Trees) Regulations 2003; or • to provide for the operation, maintenance or repair of existing access tracks; or • to prevent damage, or the threat of damage, to the ETN and: – it is carried out by an ecologist, arborist or other suitably qualified professional; and – written notice is provided to the relevant local authority 5 working days before the clearance or trimming occurs, or as soon as practicable where it relates to imminent safety concerns. This written notice must include a description of the vegetation and tree affected, the	ancillary activity that Transpower regularly undertakes as part of its day-to-day operations. The proposed amendments are intended to be more enabling of vegetation clearance and tree trimming associated with existing transmission lines, while ensuring that clearance and trimming of higher value and sensitive vegetation is limited to when this is necessary for safety and operational reasons. The main difference in this approach is that it provides a permitted activity pathway for vegetation clearance in all environments, whereas the existing NESETA requires a controlled or restricted discretionary consent where vegetation clearance relates to a natural area. The proposal will enable Transpower to more efficiently undertake routine clearance and trimming of vegetation around existing transmission lines that can create significant operational and safety risks. Those risks include loss of electricity supply, damage to assets and fire risks. Feedback from Transpower also indicates it is incurring significant and unreasonable consent costs to undertake routine vegetation clearance (eg, $6,000 to $19,000 in consent costs) with limited benefits. An important part of the proposal is written notice to the local authority of the proposed clearance or trimming and how that work will be undertaken to avoid or mitigate adverse effects	notable tree where it is required for safety or operational reasons, with specific requirements relating to an ecologist or arborist (or other suitably qualified professional) undertaking the works and notice is provided to the local authority 5 days prior to works occurring or as soon as practicable if there are particular safety concerns that require the work. **ENA recommends** the following changes to Regulations 30, 31 and 32. *30. Permitted activities* *(1) Trimming, felling or removing any tree or vegetation, in relation to an existing electricity network asset or access to an existing electricity network asset, not subject to subclauses (3) or (4) below, is a permitted activity if all the applicable standards (a) to (c) below are complied with.* *(a) Debris resulting from the trimming, felling or removal must not enter a water body or the coastal marine area.* *(b) The felling or removal of any tree or vegetation must not create or contribute to:* *(i) instability of a slope or another land surface; or* *(ii) erosion of the bed or bank of a water body or the coastal marine area.* *(c) Any tree or vegetation to be trimmed, felled, or removed on land administered by the Department of Conservation, must be carried out in consultation with the Department of Conservation.* *(2) Trimming, felling, or removing any tree or vegetation, in relation to an existing electricity network line or access to an existing electricity network line, subject to subclauses (3) or (4) below, is a permitted activity.* *Natural areas* *(3) Within a Natural Area identified and mapped in a district or regional plan, the trimming, felling or removal of indigenous trees or vegetation:* *1) (a) Is required by statute or regulations including the Electricity (Hazards from Trees) Regulations 2003 and any amendments, or where a tree or vegetation is damaging,*

	(b)erosion of the bed or bank of a water body or the coastal marine area. (6)Debris resulting from the trimming, felling, or removal must not enter a water body or the coastal marine area. **Regulation 31:** (1) Trimming, felling, or removing any tree or vegetation, in relation to an existing transmission line, is a controlled activity if— (a)first,— (i)the condition in regulation 30(2) is breached because the tree or vegetation is in a natural area ; but (ii)the trimming, felling, or removal is done to reduce the risk to a transmission line; and (b)second, all of the applicable conditions in regulation 30(3) to (6) are complied with. *Matters over which control reserved* (2)Control is reserved over the following matters in	measures that will be taken to mitigate adverse effects and limit clearance and trimming to what is necessary to address the threat of damage, and the timing and duration of the works. Outside natural areas and notable trees, vegetation clearance would be permitted with no conditions (eg, trimming and clearing grass, pest weeds, exotic vegetation). Remove the existing conditions in regulation 30(3) and 30(4) that require that vegetation clearance: • is not undertaken on land controlled by a regional rule for the purposes of soil conservation or avoiding or mitigating natural hazards • is not undertaken on land administered by the Department of Conservation. However, it is proposed that the conditions in regulation 30(3) and 30(4) are retained. As with other NESETA regulations, it is proposed that the activity status for non-compliance with the permitted activity standards is a controlled activity, rather than a restricted discretionary activity. It is also proposed that the matters of control in regulation 31(2) are amended to:	and limit clearance to what is necessary to address the threat of damage. This ensures that there are appropriate steps in place to manage adverse effects and enables a local authority to undertake targeted compliance monitoring while helping to avoiding unnecessary consent requirements and associated costs. Feedback is sought on the appropriateness of this proposed approach and whether additional requirements may be needed to ensure section 43A(3) of the RMA is complied with to ensure the NES-ENA does not permit an activity with significant adverse effects. Options for additional controls include: • retaining all of the existing permitted activity conditions in regulation 30(3) to 30(6) of the NES--ETA • limiting the amount of clearance that can be undertaken as a permitted activity (area thresholds, limiting clearance to within 2m of an existing access track etc.) • requiring the preparation and submitting of a management plan to the relevant local authority (as described) • establishing protocols for managing adverse effects on any identified ecological values, habitat, fauna (bird nesting, bats, lizards and so on)	*or threatening to damage an existing electricity network asset; or* *(b) Is required for routine EN activities for the operation, maintenance of repair of existing electricity network assets, an existing access track, or is required for the creation of a new access track to an existing electricity network asset; or* *(c) For non-routine EN activities, vegetation clearance up to 1,000 m2 per discrete project location; or* *(d) .* *2) Works are carried out in accordance with the applicable standards below:* *(a) Debris resulting from the trimming, felling or removal must not enter a water body or the coastal marine area.* *(b) The felling or removal of any tree or vegetation must not create or contribute to:* *(i) instability of a slope or another land surface; or* *(ii) erosion of the bed or bank of a water body or the coastal marine area.* *(c) Any tree or vegetation to be trimmed, felled, or removed on land administered by the Department of Conservation, must be carried out in consultation with the Department of Conservation.* *Notable Trees* *(4) The trimming, felling or removal of a tree or vegetation identified in a district plan as a notable tree where the trimming, felling or removal is limited to:* *1) (a) Works required by statute or regulations including the Electricity (Hazards from Trees) Regulations 2003, or where a tree or vegetation is damaging, or threatening to damage an electricity network asset; or* *(b) Trimming branches that do not exceed a diameter of 50mm at the point of severance; or* *(c) The removal of less than 10% of live growth of the tree in any one calendar year.* *2) Works are carried out in accordance with the applicable standards below:* *(a) Debris resulting from the trimming, felling or removal must not enter a water body or the coastal marine area.*

	relation to a controlled activity under this regulation: (a)replanting; and (b)disposal of trees and vegetation; and (c)visual, landscape, and ecological effects. **Regulation 32:** (1)Trimming, felling, or removing any tree or vegetation, in relation to an existing transmission line, is a restricted discretionary activity if 1 or both of the following paragraphs apply: (a)first,— (i)the condition in regulation 30(2) is breached; and (ii)it does not satisfy the exception in regulation 31(1)(a)(ii): (b)second, 1 or more of the conditions in regulation 30(3) to (6) are breached. *Matters to which discretion restricted* (2)Discretion is restricted to the following matters in relation to a restricted discretionary activity under this regulation: (a)replanting; and	• add additional matters of control relating to the operational need and functional need of ETN activities, technical requirements of ETN activities, and benefits to and of the ETN • add the additional matter of control relating to effects on any natural area or notable tree. **Alternative option – management plan requirements** Feedback is also being sought on whether management plan requirements can be implemented through the NES-ENA more broadly, including for vegetation clearance. This could involve a permitted activity condition that requires a management plan to be prepared and provided to the local authority when vegetation clearance relates to a natural area or notable tree. The requirements in the management plan could include: • a requirement for it to be prepared by an ecologist, arborist or other suitably qualified expert • a description of the ecological or other values (notable trees) present and potential risks to those values from the proposed clearance or trimming • mitigation measures that must be implemented to avoid or mitigate adverse effects on identified	• establishing additional controls for notable trees.	*(b) The felling or removal of any tree or vegetation must not create or contribute to:* *(i) instability of a slope or another land surface; or* *(ii) erosion of the bed or bank of a water body or the coastal marine area.* *(c) Any tree or vegetation to be trimmed, felled, or removed on land administered by the Department of Conservation, must be carried out in consultation with the Department of Conservation.* *(d) The trimming, felling or removal of mature trees shall be carried out by a suitably qualified arborist* *(e) Notification to the relevant district council, no less than ten (10) working days before the works are scheduled to take place. Notification will include, but not necessarily be limited to, the following:* *(i) Identification of the notable tree to be trimmed, felled or removed and the nature and extent of the works to be undertaken;* *(ii) Proposed works methodology and mitigation measures;* *(iii) Timing and duration of the works; and* *(iv) Replacement planting plan (if required).* *31. Controlled activities* *(1) Trimming, felling, or removing any tree or vegetation, in relation to an existing electricity network line or access to an existing electricity network line, not permitted by Regulation 30, is a controlled activity.* *Matters over which control reserved* *(2) Control is reserved over the following matters under this regulation:* *(a) The extent to which the vegetation trimming, felling and removal is needed to meet the operational needs or technical requirements of electricity network activities;* *(b) The benefits to and of the electricity network activities;* *(c) Ecological effects;* *(d) Effects on the values of the Natural Area or notable tree;* *(e) Disposal of trees and vegetation;* *(f) Replanting; and* *(g) Control of erosion and sediment*

	(b)disposal of trees and vegetation; and (c)control of erosion and sediment; and (d)visual, landscape, and ecological effects; and (e)the effects on drainage, flooding, and overland flow paths.	ecological or other values (notable trees) • protocols to manage adverse effects on any indigenous fauna present in the areas that clearance will occur • a description of timing and duration of works • any proposed measures to replant, manage debris or reinstate the area following completion of the clearance.		In relation to the feedback sought on whether additional requirements may be needed to satisfy s43A(3) of the RMA, we note the following: • Existing conditions (3) to (6) (relating to soil conservation, flooding, conservation areas, slope stability etc) are appropriate for broader community safety, conservation, and environmental protection purposes. However, any works within/affecting areas in (3) and (4) (assuming the proposal is to retain (5) and (6) in any case) would currently trigger a restricted discretionary consent, and we consider this could be onerous if there are appropriate management controls in place and/or the works are necessary for safety or operational purposes. We suggest that this option would need to be framed in a similar way to the proposed approach to high value areas, where there are specific controls on works in these areas, engagement with the relevant regional council and DOC, and potentially a management plan prepared. Or apply a controlled activity to these works, where it is necessary for safety or operational requirements. • We consider the suggested alternative approach of limiting the amount of clearance that can be undertaken should not apply on a general basis i.e. if it is applied at all this might be suitable for the areas noted in the bullet point above, but not outside of these areas where there are no particular values or risks requiring management. • Additional controls for notable trees – this is difficult to comment on as there is insufficient detail about what these controls might be. However, we consider the proposed controls are suitable and reasonable.

				• In relation to MfE's suggested alternative option of a management plan approach for vegetation removal, ENA notes this will require careful drafting and a template approach to these management plans is required to provide certainty and efficiency, similar to requirements in other NES such as the NES for Commercial Forestry which provides a template for harvest management plans in Schedule 6 and requires the operator. In addition, ENA has concern about the requirement for management plans to be *prepared* by an ecologist or arborist due to the significant cost involved. In ENA's view, the requirement should be for these experts have *input* into the development of the management plan but that the EDB leads the drafting of the plan. ENA considers having clear parameters for vegetation clearance within the regulations is preferable to the management plan approach.

EARTHWORKS				**ENA SUBMISSION POINTS**
Clause	**Existing provisions**	**Proposed provisions**	**Reasons**	
Regulation 33 – Permitted activities **Regulation 34 – Controlled activities** **Regulation 35 – Restricted discretionary activities: historic heritage areas**	(1)Earthworks relating to an existing transmission line are a permitted activity if all of the conditions in subclauses (2) to (9) are complied with. *Conditions* (2)Earthworks in a natural area must not, in a calendar year, exceed— (a)50 m³ per transmission line	Amend the regulations for earthworks to be a permitted activity in regulation 33 (except for contaminated land) by: • replacing the area thresholds for earthworks undertaken within a natural area in regulation 33(2) with a requirement for earthworks to not be located within a natural area or historic heritage area or place otherwise a controlled activity consent would be required	The proposal is intended to align with and implement the policy direction in the NPS-EN to enable routine ETN activities in all environments, because earthworks are a routine ancillary activity that Transpower regularly undertakes as part of its day-to-day operations. The proposal is therefore to make the existing earthworks regulations more enabling and workable for Transpower while also ensuring that the adverse effects of earthworks in natural areas and	The amendments delete the existing volume thresholds for earthworks within natural areas and instead require earthworks not be undertaken within natural areas or a historic heritage area or place. This means earthworks in these locations require consent, as a controlled activity (must be granted and may have conditions applied). **ENA recommends** the retention of the volume thresholds for distribution activities. This is highly preferable to requiring resource consent.

	support structure; or (b)100 m³ per access track. (3)Erosion sediment control must be applied and maintained at the site of earthworks, during and after the earthworks, to avoid the adverse effects of sediment on water bodies and the coastal marine area. (4)All areas of soil exposed by the earthworks must be stabilised against erosion as soon as practicable after the earthworks end to avoid the adverse effects of sediment on water bodies and the coastal marine area. (5)The earthworks must not create or contribute to— (a)instability or subsidence of a slope or another land surface; or (b)erosion of the bed or bank of a water body or the coastal marine area; or (c)drainage problems or flooding of overland flow paths. (6)Soil or debris from the earthworks must not be placed where it can enter a	• amending existing regulation 33(3) to require sediment control measures to be implemented when the earthworks are located within 50 m of water bodies and the coastal marine area • replacing the requirement in regulation 33(5)(c) for earthworks to not create or contribute to drainage problems or flooding of overland flow paths with a requirement to not increase flood risk in identified flood hazard areas. Where any of the permitted activity conditions are not complied with, a controlled activity resource consent would be required that is consistent with existing regulation 34 but a change for regulation 35 that relates to historic heritage areas. Amendments to the matters of control in regulation 34(2) are proposed to: • add matters of control relating to the timing and duration or earthworks and any effects on water quality or the coastal marine area • amend the existing matter of control in regulation 34(2)(e) to refer to effects on any historic heritage place or area • add a matter of control relating to effects on instability, erosion and flood risk to replace the	historic heritage places and areas can be appropriately managed through a controlled activity resource consent process. For example, Transpower has provided feedback that area thresholds for earthworks within natural areas in regulation 33(2) that are calculated per transmission line support structure or access track are difficult to apply in practice. The proposal is to remove this existing condition and simply require a controlled activity resource consent when earthworks are proposed in any natural area. The reasons for the change in activity status and general changes to the matters of control are outlined above. **Alternative option – management plan requirements** Feedback is also being sought on whether management plan requirements should be implemented through the NES-ENA for earthworks. This is an approach that is adopted for earthworks in the NES-TF and National Environmental Standards for Commercial Forestry (NES-CF) and could provide a permitted activity pathway for earthworks generally or within a natural area or historic heritage place and area. The management plan requirements could include standard requirements to manage the adverse effects of earthworks (sediment control,	Amendments to Reg 33(3) will mean erosion sediment control will need to be applied where the earthworks are within 50m of water bodies and the CMA. This setback also aligns with the setback from waterbodies and the CMA for abrasive blasting, but we note this appears to be a larger setback than is required by some regional plans (e.g. Horizons One Plan) for earthworks generally. Similarly, the replacement regulation 33(5)(c) will reduce the scope of the existing clause so that it instead requires the earthworks do not increase flood risk in identified flood hazard areas. This provides more certainty for EDBs about the extent to which effects on flood hazard risk need to be managed. The proposal to add matters of control to Regulation 34(2) (controlled activity) relating to the timing and duration of earthworks is considered by ENA to be reasonable. Amendment to matter of control 34(2)(e) is a consequential change as a result of a change in terminology from 'historic heritage' to 'historic heritage place or area'. ENA agrees with this change, provided the change to the definition (see D20) we have suggested (or similar wording) is adopted so the scope of this term is clear (i.e that it only relates to heritage identified in the district or regional plan). ENA considers the proposed addition of matters of control relating to operational and functional need, and technical requirements of ETN activities are appropriate. This ensures these matters are considered alongside the environmental effects in other matters of control. Similar to Transpower, **ENA recommends** the following amendments for these regulations:

	water body or the coastal marine area. (7)Earthworks must not be carried out on the bed of a lake or river or in the coastal marine area. (8)Earthworks must not be carried out in a historic heritage area unless they are carried out on an archaeological site in accordance with the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014. (9)Earthworks must not be carried out on land that a local authority has identified as containing, or possibly containing, contaminants that pose a risk to the environment. Regulation 34: (1)Earthworks relating to an existing transmission line are a controlled activity if— (a)1 or more of the conditions in regulation 33(2) to (7) are breached; but (b)both of the conditions in regulation 33(8) and (9) are complied with. *Matters over which control reserved*	existing matter of control in regulation 34(2)(f) relating to drainage, flooding and overland flow paths • add matters of control relating to the operational need and functional need of ETN activities, technical requirements of ETN activities, and benefits to and of the ETN • add a matter of control relating to effects on any natural area. **Alternative option – management plan requirements** Feedback is also being sought on whether management plan requirements can be implemented through the NES-ENA more broadly, including for earthworks. This could involve a permitted activity condition that requires a management plan to be prepared and provided to the local authority when earthworks will occur in a natural area or a historic heritage place or area, or a notable tree. The requirements in the management plan could include: • a description of the ecological or historic heritage values present and potential risks to those values from the proposed earthworks • mitigation measures that must be implemented throughout the duration of the earthworks to avoid or mitigate adverse effects	reinstating the site and so on) and would help avoid the need for resource consent for routine earthworks associated with existing transmission lines while ensuring there are processes in place to manage potential adverse effects.	***33. Permitted activities*** *1. Earthworks relating to an existing electricity network line or access to an existing electricity network line, including new access to an existing network line, not subject to subclause (2) or (4) below, is a permitted activity if the applicable standards in subclause (a) to (d) below are complied with:* *a) Erosion and sediment control must be applied and maintained at the site of earthworks, during and after the earthworks, to avoid the adverse effects of sediment on water bodies and the coastal marine area.* *b) On areas identified as erosion prone land, all areas of soil exposed by the earthworks must be stabilised against erosion as soon as practicable after the earthworks are completed.* *c) The earthworks must not create or contribute to—* *i. instability or subsidence of a slope or another land surface; or* *ii. erosion of the bed or bank of a water body or the coastal marine area; or* *iii. drainage problems or flooding of overland flow paths.* *iv. Soil or debris from the earthworks must not be placed where it can enter a water body or the coastal marine area.* ***Natural areas*** *1. Within a Natural Area, the earthworks:* *a) Must not exceed an area greater than 1,000m2 per discrete project location (including works at or around a structure, mid span, wiring site, laydown site next to structure, crane pad, or new or existing access track), and not precluding the allowance set out in this condition, the earthworks shall be limited to the area required for the works at the project location, or* *b) For existing access tracks, must not exceed a width of 2 metres in either direction along the length of an existing access track; and*

	(2)Control is reserved over the following matters in relation to a controlled activity under this regulation: (a)the extent and nature of any disturbance; and (b)management of the earthworks and the methods used to carry out the earthworks; and (c)control of erosion and sediment and restoration of the land; and (d)visual, landscape, and ecological effects; and (e)the effects on historic heritage; and (f)the effects on drainage, flooding, and overland flow paths. Regulation 35: (1)Earthworks relating to an existing transmission line are a restricted discretionary activity if the condition in regulation 33(8) is breached. *Matters to which discretion restricted* (2)Discretion is restricted to the following matters in relation to a restricted discretionary activity under this regulation:	on identified ecological or other values (notable trees) • measures that will be undertaken to manage sediment runoff, to avoid debris entering water bodies and the coastal marine area, to avoid land instability, erosion or increase in flood risk and so on • a description of the timing and duration of earthworks • measures to reinstate and stabilise the site following the completion of the earthworks • a requirement for the level of detail in the management plan to correspond to the scale and significance of the potential adverse effects of the earthworks.		*2. The applicable standards in subclause (a) to (d) below are complied with:* *a) Erosion and sediment control must be applied and maintained at the site of earthworks, during and after the earthworks, to avoid the adverse effects of sediment on water bodies and the coastal marine area.* *b) On areas identified as erosion prone land, all areas of soil exposed by the earthworks must be stabilised against erosion as soon as practicable after the earthworks are completed.* *c) The earthworks must not create or contribute to—* *i. instability or subsidence of a slope or another land surface; or* *ii. erosion of the bed or bank of a water body or the coastal marine area; or* *iii. drainage problems or flooding of overland flow paths.* *iv. Soil or debris from the earthworks must not be placed where it can enter a water body or the coastal marine area.* ***Historic Heritage Areas and Archaeological Sites*** *1. Earthworks must not be carried out in a historic heritage area unless they are carried out on an archaeological site in accordance with the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014.* ***34. Controlled activities*** *1. Earthworks relating to an existing electricity network line or access track to an existing network line, including new access track to an existing network line, are a controlled activity if 1 or more of the conditions in regulation 33 (1) to (4) are breached.* *Matters over which control reserved* *1. Control is reserved over the following matters in relation to a controlled activity under this regulation: a) the extent, timing, duration and nature of any disturbance; and* *b) management of the earthworks and the methods used to carry out the earthworks; and*

	(a)the extent and nature of any disturbance; and (b)management of the earthworks and the methods used to carry out the earthworks; and (c)control of erosion and sediment and restoration of the land; and (d)visual, landscape, and ecological effects; and (e)the effects on historic heritage; and (f)the effects on drainage, flooding, and overland flow paths.			*c) control of erosion and sediment and restoration of the land; and* *d) effects on the Natural Area values, or historic area, or archaeological sites, and* *e) effects on instability, erosion or flood risk drainage, flooding, and overland flow paths,* *f) the extent to which the earthworks are needed to meet the operational need or technical requirements of EN activities; and* In terms of the alternative option of including management plan requirements for earthworks generally, or for earthworks within a natural area, historic heritage place or area, or on a notable tree, ENA's preference is for the volume and area metrics to be specified through a permitted activity rule, rather than using a management plan approach via a permitted activity rule. This approach provides greater certainty for EDBs and is more efficient than developing multiple management plans for different activities, particularly where those activities are routine activities undertaken by EDBs.
Regulation 36 – Earthworks on potentially comminated land		No changes proposed.	N/A – no changes are proposed.	ENA notes that the contaminated land regulations are proposed to apply to both distribution and transmission activities. While no changes are currently proposed to Regulation 36 of the NESETA, this may present an issue for EDBs, as the NES for Contaminated Soils (NESCS) currently applies in full to all EDN activities, unlike for transmission, where specific exclusions apply. ENA prefers a permitted activity pathway with clear conditions, rather than a management plan-based approach, as this provides greater certainty and avoids unnecessary complexity. **ENA recommends** replacing Regulation 36 to clarify that the rule applies only to land confirmed as contaminated (not 'potentially contaminated'). EDBs regularly undertakes work on contaminated land around their

				assets and access to them. Powerco has advised that their substations are typically procured at a footprint of around 1,600m² (40m x 40m). Under the current NES-CS permitted activity thresholds, they are limited to disturbing 80m³ and removing 16m³ of soil. In practice, this threshold is quickly exceeded through routine activities such as cable trenching and transformer pad foundation works. Where substations include internalised switchgear (i.e., housed within a building), the soil disturbance threshold is almost always breached. A higher permitted threshold of 200m³ would significantly reduce the need to seek consent for routine works involving contaminated soil and better reflect the spatial scale and nature of modern substation construction. In several recent projects, Counties Energy either (a) undertook sampling to confirm and isolate contaminated soils, or (b) treated all soils as contaminated and sent them to managed fill. Both approaches added approximately 10% to project costs, but the confirmatory sampling option (a) introduced significant delays due to uncertainty and administrative burden. ENA supports Transpower's proposed 200m³ limit for both soil disturbance and removal, as it would better accommodate more substantial upgrades —for example, where thermal or engineered fill is required for complex sites, or where site remediation is necessary. **ENA recommends** the following amendments: ***36 Permitted Activities*** *1) Earthworks and soil sampling on land identified by a local authority as being contaminated is a permitted activity if both the conditions in subclauses (1) and (2) are complied with*

				Conditions *2) Earthworks do not exceed 200 m3 (200m3 for disturbance and 200m3 for removal) per discrete project location, and* *3) The earthworks are carried out in accordance with a Contaminated Soil Management Plan prepared by a Suitably Qualified and Experienced Practitioner.* *36 B Controlled Activities* *1) Earthworks and soil sampling on land identified by a local authority as being contaminated is a controlled activity if any of the conditions in regulation 36 are breached.* *Matters over which control are reserved:* *a) the approach to managing the disturbance and disposal of contaminated soil, including soil testing requirements, disposal location, transport method, and monitoring and reporting of disposal, and* *b) the extent and nature of any disturbance in relation to ecological and health effects.* *36 C Permitted activities: Soil disposal on land identified by a local authority as being contaminated* *1) Soil disposal relating to existing electricity network asset on land identified by a local authority as being contaminated (including offsite disposal), is a permitted activity if the condition in subclause (2) is complied with.* *Conditions* *2) The disposal is to a facility authorised to receive soil of the kind.*
Regulation 37 – Permitted activities **Regulation 38 – Controlled activities**	Regulation 37: (1)A construction activity relating to an existing transmission line is a permitted activity if both of the conditions in subclauses (2) and (3) are complied with. *Conditions* (2)The noise from the construction activity must	Amend regulation 37(2) conditions for permitted activities to require that: 1) the noise from the construction activity must be in accordance with (instead of comply with) New Zealand Standard NZS 6803:1999 Acoustics—Construction Noise	The amendments to regulation 37 and regulation 38 better reflect the intent of the standards and how these standards are applied in practice.	These amendments generally provide greater clarity of intent and reflect how they are actually applied i.e. there is no standard or maximum level prescribed in the NES, and instead if a threshold is exceeded in the NZS consultation and adoption of the best practicable option is required. ENA supports these amendments.

	comply with New Zealand Standard NZS 6803:1999 Acoustics—Construction Noise. (3)The vibrations from the construction activity must comply with the peak particle velocity limits in table 1 of German Standard DIN 4150–3:1999 Structural Vibration—Effects of Vibration on Structures. Regulation 38: (1)A construction activity relating to an existing transmission line is a controlled activity if 1 or both of the conditions in regulation 37(2) and (3) are breached. *Matters over which control reserved* (2)Control is reserved over the following matters in relation to a controlled activity under this regulation: (a)the timing of the works; and (b)the effects on sensitive land uses; and (c)the giving of notice of the works to parties who may be affected.	2) the vibrations from the construction activity must be in accordance with (instead of comply with) the peak particle velocity limits in table 1 of German Standard DIN 4150–3:1999 Structural Vibration—Effects of Vibration on Structures. Amendments are also proposed to the matters of control in regulation 38(2) to: • replace 'sensitive land uses' with 'sensitive activities' • add additional matters of control relating to the functional and operational need of ETN activities, technical requirements of ETN activities, and the benefits of the ETN.		

OTHER TRANSMISSION ACTIVITIES		
Clause	Proposed provisions	Reasons
Regulation 39 – Other transmission activities	No changes proposed.	N/A – no changes are proposed.

POTENTIAL NEW REGIONAL REGULATIONST			**ENA SUBMISSION POINTS**
Clause	**Proposed provisions**	**Reasons**	
Regional rules	We are seeking feedback on a range of new regional regulations that would better enable transmission activities and make the NES-ENA function as more of a one-stop-shop (ie, these are not proposals at this stage). The additional regional regulations we are seeking feedback on for potential inclusion in the NES-ENA are as follows. • **R1: River crossings** – a new permitted activity rule for the construction, use, maintenance, upgrade and removal of river crossings for an existing transmission line subject to conditions relating to flows, discharges, cleaning and fuelling, use of machinery, fish passage, and erosion. A controlled activity consent would be required when the permitted activity conditions are not met. • **R2: Groundwater take and use, dewatering** – a new permitted activity rule to take and use water for the purposes of dewatering when undertaking routine ETN activities. This would include permitted activity	Many unavoidable activities, required to facilitate the ongoing operation and efficiency of National Grid infrastructure, trigger regional rules and are not within the current scope of the NESETA. Incorporating these routine activities would ensure a nationally consistent approach, better enable transmission activities and make the NESETA a more complete set of regulations for Transpower. However, there is also a need to carefully consider the relationship with other NES (in particular the National Environmental Standards for Freshwater) and existing regional rules, particularly when these are more stringent to protect significant ecological, freshwater and coastal values. Transpower has identified five different regional activities that it regularly undertakes to facilitate the ongoing operation and maintenance of the National Grid. Each regulation includes targeted permitted activity conditions to ensure relevant adverse effects are appropriately managed, and many of these are drawn from existing plan rules and consent conditions. When the permitted activity conditions are not complied with, the matters of control or discretion have been designed to ensure all relevant effects can be managed. It is recognised that further work on these regional rules is required, therefore, this consultation is seeking feedback on the general intent of these provisions. Expanding the NES-ENA to cover these additional regional rules would be subject to further consultation and potentially incorporated into wider work on an integrated package of infrastructure standards.	Although not currently proposed, **ENA recommends** that any new regional regulations introduced for transmission activities, such as those relating to river crossings, groundwater take and use, stormwater discharges, structures in the coastal marine area, and works within the bed of lakes or rivers, should also apply to electricity distribution network activities. Extending these regulations to distribution assets would create a more consistent consenting framework and reduce reliance on varying regional plan rules, thereby simplifying and streamlining the consenting process for distribution activities.

	conditions relating to duration, location, ground subsidence, flooding, discharges, discharge of TSS near sensitive receiving environments, compliance with the Australian and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council guidelines (ANZECC guidelines), and drinking water source protection areas. A controlled activity consent would be required when the permitted activity conditions are not met. • **R3: Stormwater discharges** – a new permitted activity rule for discharges of stormwater subject to conditions relating to natural inland wetlands, Hazardous Activities and Industries List (HAIL) sites, erosion, flooding, discharge of TSS near sensitive receiving environments, compliance with ANZECC guidelines, and drinking water source protection areas. A controlled activity consent would be required when the permitted activity conditions are not met. • **R4: Structures in the coastal marine area (CMA)** – a new permitted activity rule for structures in the CMA subject to conditions relating to increasing the size of the structure, not being located in port, navigation or protected areas, discharges, cleaning and refuelling, and use of machinery. A controlled activity consent would be required when the		

	permitted activity conditions are not met. • **R5: Works within the bed of a lake or river** – a new permitted activity rule enabling works to be undertaken within the beds of lakes and rivers subject to conditions relating to access to lawfully established structures, fish passage, not be located in natural areas or historic heritage areas, and the works being undertaken in accordance with a plan submitted to the relevant regional council hydrologic engineer. A restricted discretionary activity consent is proposed when the permitted activity conditions are not met.		

PART 3: REGULATIONS FOR ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION NETWORK ACTIVITIES			ENA SUBMISSION POINTS
Clause	**Proposed provisions**	**Reasons**	
Application	The regulations apply to 'high voltage' and 'low voltage' EDN activities.	This is to recognise the national significance of the entire EDN network and to help achieve the NPS-EN objective to increase the capacity and resilience of the entire electricity network (transmission and distribution). Further, there are practical difficulties and issues in distinguishing between high voltage and low voltage EDN activities for the purpose of these regulations, given the voltage of the infrastructure does not directly correspond to the scale and significance of the environmental effect of that infrastructure.	High and low voltage activities are not defined, and this is supported as there is no environmental reason or effects identified to justify a different approach. ENA supports this.
Ancillary EDN activities	The following regulations proposed in Part 2 for 'ancillary activities' are proposed to apply to EDN activities: • regulation 23 and regulation 24: Signs	Provides clarification on which regulations described in Part 2 are proposed to be applied to EDN 'ancillary activities'.	See our comments on these regulations above.

	• regulation 25 and regulation 26: Blasting and applying protective coatings • regulation 28: Discharges to water • regulation 30: Trimming, felling, and removing trees and vegetation • regulations 33, 34 and 35: Earthworks (outside potentially contaminated land) • regulation 36: Earthworks on contaminated land • regulation 37 and regulation 38: Noise and vibration from construction activities.		
R6: Operation of existing EDN assets – permitted activities	Introduce new permitted activity rules for the following: • the operation of an existing EDN line or cabinet • the use of an access track to an existing EDN line or cabinet • occupation of land for existing EDN lines and cabinets.	The proposal would clarify that the operation of EDN lines and cabinets and use of access tracks are permitted under the NES-ENA consistent with the ETN (eg, which may be through an expanded regulation 5). The reference to '*existing*' would be tied to the EDN lines and cabinets that were operational at the commencement of the EDN regulations and could also potentially include EDN assets that are subsequently legally established and operational.	This proposal will provide for the operation of existing EDN lines, use of access tracks to existing EDN lines or cabinets, and occupation of land for existing EDN lines and cabinets as of right. This provides clarity of the status of these existing assets, bringing this into line with transmission assets. ENA supports this. **ENA recommends** that EDN assets for which consents are currently being processed and subsequently approved after the commencement date of the regulations be explicitly included within the scope of the NES-ENA. This approach acknowledges that any timing discrepancies should not hinder compliance, and if these assets meet existing regulatory requirements, they should be deemed to comply with the NES-ENA, which generally provides a more enabling framework than current district plan rules.
R7: Temporary structures and line deviations associated with existing EDN assets	Introduce new permitted activity rules for the maintenance or upgrade of an existing EDN line or cabinet subject to a permitted activity condition that the structures are installed and removed within one calendar year (12 months).	The proposal recognises the need to enable temporary structures and temporary line deviations to provide for timely upgrades and construction activities on the EDN, including for emergency works and to improve resilience of the EDN. This proposal is consistent with that proposed for ETN (refer regulation 17 and regulation 18 above).	We understand this timeframe for temporary structures etc. is consistent with the current approach in some district plans and this regulation appears to be the outcome of engagement with EDBs.

	A controlled activity is proposed for temporary structures and deviations that cannot comply with the permitted activity condition (ie, where the structure is in place for more than 12 months), with the matters of control limited to the duration of any works and the effects and timing of construction works.	The EDN industry has consistently raised the need for a more enabling and consistent pathway for temporary activities associated with maintenance, repair and upgrades, particularly given experience with the recent rebuild in the aftermath of Cyclone Gabrielle. It is also recognised that the emergency works provisions in section 330 of the RMA have limitations and are insufficient because they do not apply to all temporary activities. A 12-month timeframe for temporary structures is consistent with the proposal for the ETN under regulation 17 and regulation 18 as outlined. A 12-month timeframe for temporary structures associated with network utilities has also been adopted in a number of district plans, including the Auckland Unitary Plan.	ENA is concerned that some EDBs may not know the duration of the activity at the outset and the need to obtain consent as a controlled activity where the 12-month timeframe is exceeded. EDBs have provided examples illustrating how this could affect operations. Powerco, for instance, responded to a slip during Cyclone Gabrielle that compromised a roadside pole. To restore supply quickly, the pole was temporarily relocated onto neighbouring private land with the landowner's agreement, as the road controlling authority could not confirm how long it would take to stabilise the slip. Eventually, Powerco was able to negotiate an easement and implement a permanent solution—but the timeframe for doing so was uncertain and could have easily extended beyond 12 months. Under the proposed NES, this would have required consent even though the deviation was essential to maintain supply and the permanent fix was outside Powerco's control. MainPower similarly reported experiences where major flood events or windstorms required the emergency rebuild of lines under urgent conditions. In some cases, assets remained in a "temporary" location for more than 12 months because the original site was no longer suitable due to erosion, landslides, or riverbank realignment. MainPower noted that while it is open to engaging in a consenting process, requiring consent for assets that have already been installed to maintain continuity of supply—and where it is clear they will eventually be moved—offers limited planning value. In their experience, permanent solutions often require more than 18 months to design, secure funding, obtain land access, and meet modern engineering and safety standards. They also noted that weather-related access challenges during major projects can cause further delays. **ENA recommends** an additional condition within the permitted activity rule that provides scope for an exceedance in certain circumstances such as where the temporary structures are not

			located within a natural area or historic heritage place or area, the activity is necessary for ongoing resilience of the network, notification is provided to the relevant consenting authority of the need to exceed the 12 month timeframe and limiting the exceedance to 6 months (ie. enabling a temporary activity for 18 months before consent is required).
R8: Additions to existing EDN assets	**A**: Introduce new regulations that would enable the following additions to existing EDN lines and support structures to be undertaken as permitted activities subject to the following conditions: • conductors with a diameter no greater than existing conductor or 50 mm • earth-wires and telecommunication cables with a diameter no greater than existing or 28 mm • telecommunication devices on EDN support structure with a width of no greater than 1.8 m and height no greater than 2.5 m above the height of the EDN support structure (ie, pole or tower). Where the permitted activity standards are not complied with, the activity would be a controlled activity with the matters of control limited to the visual and landscape effects associated with the additional infrastructure, and the technical requirements, operational need and functional need of EDN activities, and the benefits of the EDN.	This proposal would support upgrades and additions to existing EDN lines. Maximising the use of existing infrastructure through upgrades and modernisation is an important component of electrification of the economy and required to meet increased demand. It would provide an equivalent set of regulations and performance standards for the operation of the EDN as that proposed for the ETN (see regulations 6, 7, 9 and 21 above in Part 2 of this document). Applying equivalent standards will manage the potential visual effects associated with upgrade additions to existing EDN lines while also removing the potential for unnecessary consent requirements for low risk, routine EDN activities. We are seeking feedback on whether the controls on the height and width of telecommunication devices should be different for EDN assets compared with ETN, given that EDN assets are often located in urban environments where this infrastructure is more visible. We are also seeking feedback on whether the NES-ENA regulations for telecommunication devices should be better aligned with the NES-TF regulations controlling antenna height and width.	This regulation will provide for upgrades and additions to existing lines as a permitted activity, including telecommunication devices. We note the specific feedback sought about whether controls on height and width of telecommunication devices should be different for EDN assets compared with ETN, because EDN assets are typically located with the urban environment where the infrastructure is more visible. As proposed, the existing maximum width and height standards for telecommunication devices on transmission assets are to be deleted i.e. there will be no limit on the size of these devices, yet the proposal imposes these limits where they are attached to distribution assets. We consider that telecommunication devices on distribution assets should not be treated differently from those on transmission assets, as doing so risks imposing unnecessary resource consent requirements and could hinder efficient integration of infrastructure in urban environments. ENA recommends an alternative approach that differentiates between urban and rural settings, providing a more permissive regulatory framework in rural areas. This reflects the higher concentration of distribution assets in urban areas and the generally greater amenity concerns there. This approach appropriately addresses the key concerns related to urban amenity while allowing more flexibility in rural environments. **ENA recommends** an amendment to this proposed new rule as follows:

			• Apply the proposed permitted activity condition for telecommunications devices no greater than 1.8 m in height no greater than 2.5 m above the height of the EDN support structure (ie, pole or tower) to urban environments • Apply the same approach as proposed for telecommunications devices on transmission assets as proposed in Regulation 21 for telecommunications devices on ED assets in rural environments.
	B: Introduce new regulations that would enable the installation of mid-span poles on existing EDN lines. The regulations would provide for these poles as a permitted activity subject to compliance with the following conditions: • the pole is not greater than 30 m in height above ground level • the pole is required to ensure compliance with NZECP 34:2001 • the pole not located within a natural area or a historic heritage place or area (except where the existing line is located in one of these areas). Mid-span poles on existing EDN lines that do not comply with the permitted activity standards would be a controlled activity. The proposed matters of control would be limited to visual and landscape effects, ecological effects, effects on any natural area or historic heritage place or area, proposed methods to mitigate adverse effects, technical requirements and the functional and operational need of the EDN, benefits to and of the EDN, and effects on health and safety.	It is important that the electrical safe distances in NZECP 34:2001 are complied with to provide for the safe operation of the EDN and to protect public health and safety. Part 4 of this document includes proposed regulations to control buildings and structures near EDN lines to ensure compliance with the relevant parts of NZECP 34:2001. However, there are also situations where EDN operators need to undertake works to comply with the code due to changing conditions. This includes raising lines to address sag of the lines over time or responding to new third party development near to existing lines. The proposal is intended to reduce the consenting burden associated with undertaking work on existing EDN lines to comply with NZECP 34:2001 in such circumstances. While this could involve a developer funding upgrades to the EDN to accommodate a new development, it does not anticipate that mid-span poles must be agreed to or funded by EDN operators if new developments have not been designed in compliance with NZECP 34:2001.	ENA considers this proposal is appropriate as it provides for works that may be required for safe operation of the network without the need for resource consent, subject to conditions. Where these conditions are not met, consent would be required as a controlled activity (must be granted but conditions may be imposed). We consider the matters of control listed (visual and landscape effects, ecological effects, effects on any natural area or historic heritage place or area, proposed methods to mitigate adverse effects, technical requirements and the functional and operational need of the EDN, benefits to and of the EDN, and effects on health and safety) are generally suitable, however we consider the language of these conditions should be tightened up to refer to 'effects on natural areas' rather than 'landscape' and 'ecological effects' as this suggests that landscape and ecological effects beyond those in identified natural areas (as proposed to be defined in the NESENA) should be considered. Visual effects are considered appropriate, particularly in the context of an urban environment.

	C: Introduce new regulations to enable the maintenance of underground conductors, replacement of underground conductors, and additional underground conductors on existing EDN lines as a permitted activity without conditions (except the radio frequency fields and electric and magnetic fields standards outlined below). This is consistent with the regulations in the NESETA (regulation 11), which are proposed to be retained in the NES-ENA.	This proposal would support upgrades to the existing EN. The proposal would provide equivalent permitted activity status for underground conductors as the ETN in regulation 11. This enabling pathway for additional underground conductors recognises that these have less potential adverse effects than overhead conductors so should generally be enabled. It is noted that EDN operators would need to reach agreement with land transport corridor land owners prior to installation of any EDN underground infrastructure, which would ensure unimpeded provision of other infrastructure within these corridors.	This regulation will enable undergrounding. ENA considers this is appropriate and it provides consistency with the existing Regulation 11 in the NES-ETA.
R9: Alteration, relocation and replacement of existing EDN assets	**A:** Introduce a new regulation that would enable the alternation, relocation and replacement of existing ED lines, support structures and cabinets to be undertaken as a permitted activity subject to conditions on the size and location of those assets. The proposed permitted activity standards are as follows. • The EDN asset must be located: – within a land transport corridor; or – outside a natural area or historic heritage place or area (ie, except where the existing ED line is located within one of these areas). • The altered, relocated or replaced EDN assets must not increase the height or width of the existing EDN asset by more than 25%. • The replaced or relocated EDN asset must be within 10 m of the existing location. • Poles must not be replaced with towers.	The proposal would enable the routine alteration, replacement and relocation of EDN lines, support structures, and cabinets, supporting the maintenance, upgrade and efficient use of the existing EDN. Industry has indicated that significant upgrades are required to the EDN to meet increased demand and achieve the aims of Electrify NZ. This proposal responds to industry feedback and is aligned with the corresponding regulations for alternating, replacing and relocating ETN support structures above (regulations 14, 15 and 16 above), as well as being aligned with regulations within the NES-TF (cabinet noise in road reserve) and the proposed NES-ENA rules.	ENA believes that like-for-like replacement of existing assets should be provided for as a permitted activity, with scope for the replacement asset to be larger in scale under certain circumstances. We understand the percentage threshold included here is what has been traditionally applied in district plans, but this could be restrictive for some replacement activities. An alternative would be to amend the proposed permitted activity condition requiring that the altered, relocated or replaced EDN assets do not increase the height or width by 25% to instead require that the altered, relocated or replaced asset does not exceed the standards in Rule R10 (for new assets) by more than 25%. This would allow a sufficiently large envelope for replacement activities as a permitted activity and where this is exceeded a controlled activity status applies, rather than being considered a new asset under Rule R10 (where a restricted discretionary status applies for exceedance of the conditions). **ENA recommends** the following amendments: *The altered, relocated or replaced EDN assets must not ~~increase~~ exceed the height and bulk conditions ~~or width~~ of Rule R10A and Rule R10B ~~of the existing EDN asset~~ by more than 25%.* We note the proposal is unclear as to whether R9 is intended to apply to access tracks, as well as lines and support structures as it refers to EDN assets but appears to only apply to lines and

	• Restoration and stabilisation of land must be undertaken when existing EDN assets are relocated. • Cabinets must comply with the corresponding permitted noise standards in regulation 24 of the NES-TF if located within road reserve, and otherwise with the noise standards of the underlying zone. Proposed exceptions to these permitted activity conditions being complied with are for specific operational and safety reasons including: • where relocation is required at the instruction of the relevant road controlling authority and/or for the purposes of road safety • where the relocation is required to accommodate a third party activity on the adjacent site and the structure remains adjacent to the original site frontage. Where the permitted activity standards are not complied with, a resource consent would be required for a controlled activity. The proposed matters of control would be visual and landscape effects, ecological effects, effects on any natural area or historic heritage place or area, proposed methods to mitigate adverse effects, technical requirements of EDN activities, functional and operational need of EDN activities, and benefits to and of the EDN.		support structures. ENA seeks clarification that this rule would also capture access tracks (via the definition of EDN assets) so that EDBs are not precluded from widening existing access tracks as a permitted activity. We note the proposal to apply the NES-Telecommunication Facilities (NES-TF) noise standards to electricity distribution cabinets. We consider it is appropriate to align with noise standards for similar infrastructure, provided the standards can reasonably be applied to the asset. We note some district plans currently require compliance with the relevant zone standard, which may be more restrictive than the NES-TF standards particularly in more sensitive zones such as residential. We would suggest rather than cross-referencing to the NES-TF, the noise standards should be duplicated within the NESENA. We note our comments in relation to Rule R10B where we recommend some drafting amendments to the NES-TF noise standard. Where the permitted activity conditions are not met, consent would be required as a controlled activity (consent required but must be granted). We consider the matters of control listed (being visual and landscape effects, ecological effects, effects on any natural area or historic heritage place or area, proposed methods to mitigate adverse effects, technical requirements of EDN activities, functional and operational need of EDN activities, and benefits to and of the EDN) are generally appropriate. **ENA recommends** the landscape and ecological effects are removed, as these matters should only apply where the asset is within an identified natural area, which is listed in a plan. The risk being that the processing planner applies the matters broadly, beyond identified high value areas which we consider is inappropriate in the context of routine activities on the distribution network.
	B: Introduce a new regulation to enable the undergrounding of existing ETN lines and replacement of existing underground lines as a permitted activity where these are located:	The intent is that this would provide an enabling pathway for undergrounding existing EDN lines and replacing existing underground EDN lines. This proposal also recognises that the undergrounding of EDN lines generally has much less visual amenity, character and landscape effects than overhead EDN	This new regulation enables underground of existing lines as a permitted activity, so long as the underground lines are located within a land transport corridor or in any other location except where the undergrounding is required in a natural area where it is not currently located within a natural area. A controlled

	• within a land transport corridor • within all other zones provided that any relocated ED line or cabinet is not located within any new natural area or historic heritage place or area (ie, this would not apply where the existing ED line is located within one of these areas) • where these conditions are not complied with, a resource consent would be required for a controlled activity. The matters of control would be aligned with the corresponding regulation for undergrounding ETN lines (regulation 12) being the location of termination structures and the route of underground cables in relation to effects on any natural area, historic heritage place or area, visual effects, extent of earthworks, effects and timing of construction, technical requirements, functional and operational need of the EDN and benefits to and of the EDN.	lines. As such, it is appropriate than these routine EDN activities are enabled without unnecessary restriction.	activity applies where these conditions are not met (consent required but must be granted). The matters of control are appropriate in our view.
R10: The construction of new EDN assets	**A**: Introduce a new regulation to enable the development of new EDN lines as a permitted activity subject to conditions controlling the height and location of the lines. The proposed permitted activities are that: • new lines are located: – within a land transport corridor; or – within a rural or industrial zone (based on the categories of zones in the National Planning Standards 2019); or – within one of the following special purpose zones: airport, correction, hospital, Māori purpose, port,	This regulation would support the expansion and upgrade of the EDN by enabling new lines to be developed as a permitted activity subject to compliance with permitted activity conditions. Industry has indicated that significant expansion and upgrade of the EDN is required to meet increased demand and achieve the aims of Electrify NZ. This proposed regulation will help achieve the NPS-EN objective. Where resource consent is required due to non-compliance with the permitted activity conditions, the NPS-EN policy direction relating to managing the effects of EN activities within urban and rural areas would apply. Together, these are expected to enable the development of EDN lines both as a permitted activity and through a restricted discretionary consent process	This regulation provides for new lines in the transport corridor, non-residential zones, and outside of natural areas and historic heritage places or areas as a permitted activity. Outside of these areas, consent would be required as a restricted discretionary activity. ENA notes the following concerns with this rule: • it only permits new lines in certain zones (rural, industrial, certain 'special purpose zones') and would require a restricted discretionary activity consent for zones not mentioned (e.g. residential and commercial zones). We are concerned this may not be sufficiently enabling where the development of new lines to support necessary electricity upgrades (i.e. to increase capacity in an existing urban environment) are

	stadiums, or tertiary education (based on the categories of zones in the National Planning Standards 2019); • the new lines are not located within a natural area or a historic heritage place or area (except where located within a land transport corridor); • new poles do not exceed 30 m in height above ground level; • new towers do not exceed 15 m in height above ground level. Where new lines do not comply with these conditions, resource consent would be required for a restricted discretionary activity. The matters of discretion would be consistent with other regulations outlined above, being visual and landscape effects, ecological effects, effects on any natural area or historic heritage place or area, proposed methods to mitigate adverse effects, technical requirements, functional and operational need of the EDN, benefits to and of the EDN, and effects on health and safety.	where there is a need for more oversight to manage potential adverse environment effects.	required. It also does not reference future urban zones which should be one of the listed special purpose zones, to support the establishment of new lines for greenfield development. • This rule would not provide for a new service connection requiring a new pole in an urban area and as this is a core function of for EDBs, this should be provided for as a permitted activity. • It is unclear what constitutes 'rural' and 'industrial' and how other zones such as open space are to be considered, and this should be clarified. • The rule should clarify that new lines can be developed within roads surrounded by residential zones (if that is the intention). • A more stepped approach should be applied to provide a more enabling consenting pathway, where a controlled activity is applied for new lines within existing urban environments (based on the planning standards zones), and the restricted discretionary rule applies in high value areas. **ENA recommends** amendments to the matters of control for situations where the permitted activity conditions are not met to tighten the language. The references to ecological and landscape effects should be deleted as these matters are covered by 'natural area'. The risk is that additional ecological and landscape effects are identified beyond mapped natural areas, which creates uncertainty for EDBs. • We understand some plans (e.g. the AUP) do not differentiate between poles and towers and instead refer to 'support structures'. **ENA recommends** taking the same approach and providing for a 30m height limit for all support structures.

	B: Introduce a new regulation to enable new cabinets associated with the EDN to be installed and operated as a permitted activity provided that: • the cabinet is located within a land transport corridor; and – the cabinet(s) are no larger than 1.8 m tall and 6 m^2 in area; – the cabinets comply with the noise limits in regulation 24 of the NES-TF (noise limits for cabinets in road reserve); or • the cabinet complies with rules for buildings and structures within the underlying zone; and • the cabinets are not located within a natural area or a historic heritage place or area. Cabinets that do not comply with the permitted activity standards would require a resource consent for a restricted discretionary activity. The matters of discretion would be limited to visual and landscape effects, ecological effects, effects on any natural area or historic heritage place or area, proposed methods to mitigate adverse effects, functional and operational need of the EDN, benefits to and of the EDN, and effects on health and safety.	This regulation would support the expansion and upgrade of the EDN by enabling new cabinets to be established as a permitted activity subject to compliance with permitted activity conditions. Industry requested more permissive thresholds for cabinets and above ground assets of 5 m high and 10 m^2 in the land transport corridor, or otherwise compliance with the height and bulk provisions of the zone. This is very large for a permitted activity and much more enabling than the corresponding regulations for the NES-TF. As such, we are seeking feedback on appropriate height and area thresholds for EDN cabinets both within and outside the land transport corridor.	ENA considers it is appropriate to align with noise standards for similar infrastructure, as these standards are easily met by EDBs. We note some district plans currently require compliance with the relevant zone standard, which may be similar to the above standards particularly in more sensitive zones such as residential. **ENA recommends** that rather than cross-referencing to the NES-TF, the noise standards should be duplicated within the NESENA. We also note that the standard would need to be clear that it applies at the boundary of the adjoining residentially zoned property in the receiving zone. The proposed height and area limits are significantly smaller than those sought by industry, and we are aware of at least one plan (Christchurch) which includes the metrics sought by industry. **ENA strongly recommends** more permissive thresholds for cabinets and above ground assets of 5 m high and 10 m^2 in the land transport corridor, or otherwise compliance with the height and bulk provisions of the zone. We also consider the additional requirement to comply with the district plan rules for building and structures, in addition to the stated height and area requirement is onerous and likely to create unnecessary consenting requirements. **ENA recommends** these be deleted. The rule is unclear as to whether it applies to standalone cabinets, or to a group of cabinets. This is due to the reference to 'cabinet(s)'. We note Regulations 22(1)(a)(i) and 22(1)(b)(i) of the NES-TF apply to groups of cabinets in addition to requirements relating to a single cabinet. ENA requests clarification about how groups of cabinets will be considered under the NES.

			We also note this rule differs from proposed Rule R10A, which provides for lines within the land transport corridor and where located within high value areas as a permitted activity. This rule requires resource consent for cabinets within high value areas even where located within the land transport corridor. We expect this may be due to the varying size of cabinets, in which case **ENA recommends** an amendment so that cabinets within the land transport corridor, and within these high value areas are permitted up to a certain area and height (potentially the metrics that MfE are proposing here) and only requiring consent where the cabinets exceed these thresholds in these high value areas.
R11: Managing radio frequency and electric and magnetic fields from EDN infrastructure	Introduce a new regulation for all relevant EDN assets outlined above to comply with national and international accepted standards for radio frequency fields and electric and magnetic fields, to ensure there are no adverse effects on public health. This would be achieved through an additional permitted activity condition for relevant EDN activities that require that: • any EDN asset generating radio frequency fields, including telecommunications infrastructure (owned and operated by the EDN and required for the operation of the EDN), must comply with NZS 2772.1:1999 Radiofrequency fields—Maximum exposure levels—3 kHz to 300 GHz • any EDN infrastructure generating electric and magnetic field emissions must comply with the International Commission on Non-ionizing Radiation Protection 'Guidelines for limiting exposure to time varying electric and magnetic fields (1 Hz to 100 kHz)' (*Health Physics*, 99(6): 818–836;	Proposed permitted activity conditions are important for ensuring that there are no adverse health effects resulting from radio frequency fields and electric and magnetic fields generated by EDN activities. The standards are consistent with the NES-TF in relation to the management of radio frequency fields (regulation 55) and are aligned with the NPS-EN in terms of electric and magnetic fields. These standards are also commonly applied in district plans across New Zealand and are accepted as standard practice to manage potential adverse effects on public health. A non-complying status when these standards are not complied with sends a clear signal that the activity is inappropriate and should generally be avoided.	This regulation requires EDN assets to comply with the relevant NZS standards. Where assets comply, the activity is permitted; otherwise, resource consent is required as a non-complying activity, with a demonstration that adverse effects are minor or not contrary to relevant objectives and policies. ENA notes that MfE's commentary indicates the proposed permitted standard for radiofrequency and electromagnetic field limits reflects the current approach in some district plans, and that non-complying activity status is similarly adopted in others, such as the Wellington and Christchurch District Plans. ENA sees that EDBs will, in practice, apply these standards as part of routine operations. However, ENA is concerned that assigning a non-complying activity status for any non-compliance with Rule R11 is unnecessarily onerous, given the limited and generally low-risk nature of such exceedances in the electricity network context. Following engagement with EDBs, ENA understands there is a preference to align the activity status for non-compliance with Rule R11 with the treatment of third-party non-compliance with

	2010) and recommendations from the World Health Organization monograph *Environmental Health Criteria* (No 238, June 2007). Where any of the standards are not complied with, a resource consent would be required for a non-complying activity.		NZECP 34, which is proposed to be a discretionary activity under new Rule R15. On this basis, **ENA recommends** that non-compliance with the radiofrequency and electromagnetic field requirements under Rule R11 be assigned a discretionary activity status, rather than non-complying, to ensure consistency, proportionality, and a more practical consenting pathway.

PART 4: RULES FOR THE NATIONAL GRID YARD AND CORRIDOR			ENA SUBMISSION POINTS
	Proposed provisions	**Reasons**	
R12: National Grid Yard – Buildings and structures	Introduce a new regulation to provide for certain buildings and structures within the National Grid Yard as permitted activities where these are a size, nature and scale that do not present a risk to the National Grid and these comply with permitted activity conditions (including NZECP 34:2001). The new regulation would also make specific activities non-complying activities within the National Grid Yard where these present a risk to the National Grid and should generally be avoided. The following activities are proposed to be permitted activities within the National Grid Yard: • alterations and additions to an existing building or structure for a sensitive activity that does not involve an increase in the building height or footprint • accessory buildings for sensitive activities located more than 12 m from a National Grid support structure, and that are no more than 2.5 m in height and no more than 10 m^2 in area	The National Grid Yard rules have been developed over a number of years by Transpower, in collaboration with stakeholders such as Federated Farmers of New Zealand and Horticulture New Zealand, and these are now generally accepted as standard and best practice in district plans. The National Grid Yard rules have been developed to give effect to policy 10 and policy 11 of the existing NPS-ET. Transpower has worked in a piecemeal fashion to include standardised and consistent buffer rules along the National Grid across all 70-plus local authorities through district plan reviews. While many territorial authorities have included National Grid Yard rules in their district plans, there are around 24 territorial authorities that have yet to do so. Including the National Grid Yard rules in NES-ENA would therefore: • ensure a nationally consistent approach to protect the National Grid from the adverse effects of third parties based on an approach that has been extensively tested throughout New Zealand • reduce the need for individual plans to implement National Grid Yard rules • help implement the policy direction in the NPS-EN in an efficient and consistent way.	This change brings the National Grid Yard (largely well-established in planning documents) provisions into the NES. These provisions apply to activities within the specified distances of the National Grid to support the safe and efficient operation and maintenance of the National Grid. We note the provisions provide for electricity distribution (as a 'network utility') that connects to the National Grid as a permitted activity within the National Grid yard. ENA may seek inclusion of similar corridor provisions for electricity distribution networks as part of further resource management reform work.

	• network utilities, as defined in section 166 of the RMA, and electricity generation that connects to the National Grid • fences located at least 5 m from a National Grid pole support structure and at least 6 m from a National Grid tower • ancillary stockyards and platforms, including those associated with milking sheds (relates to rural activities) located more than 12 m from a National Grid support structure • uninhabited farm and horticultural buildings and structures located more than 12 m from a National Grid support structure and alterations to these buildings and structures • artificial crop protection structures or crop support structures not exceeding 2.5 m in height and located at least 8 m from a National Grid transmission line pole that: – are removable or temporary to allow a clear working space of 12 m from the pole for maintenance; and – allow all-weather access to the pole and a sufficient area for maintenance equipment, including a crane; or – meet the requirements of clause 2.4.1 of the New Zealand Electrical Code of Practice for Electrical Safe Distances (NZECP 34:2001). The above activities must also comply with the following permitted activity standards: • all buildings and structures must comply with the safe distance standards in NZECP 34:2001	This approach ensures that low-risk, common activities (eg, uninhabited farm buildings) can be located within the National Grid Yard. It also provides clear direction that new activities that are sensitive to transmission lines and the electrical risks associated with its operations and occupation) should generally be avoided within the National Grid Yard. See attachment 1.4.1 for a diagram of the National Grid Yard.	

	• all buildings and structures must not permanently physically impede vehicle access to a National Grid support structure. The proposed rule would also make the following activities non-complying activities within the *National Grid Yard*: • establishing sensitive activities in an existing building or a new building • alterations and additions to an existing building or structure for a sensitive activity that involves an increase in the building height or footprint • wintering barns • commercial greenhouses • immoveable protective canopies • produce packing facilities • milking sheds • buildings or structures for the handling or storage of hazardous substances with explosive or flammable intrinsic properties (except that this does not apply to the accessory use and storage of hazardous substances in domestic scale quantities) • any building or structure permitted under this rule that does not meet the permitted activity standards.		
R12: National Grid Yard – Earthworks, land disturbance and vertical holes	Introduce a new rule that would control earthworks, land disturbance and vertical holes within the National Grid Yard. This would enable earthworks, land disturbance and vertical holes to be undertaken as a permitted activity subject to the following conditions: 1) are no deeper than 300 mm within 6 m of the outer visible edge of a	As with the National Grid Yard rules for buildings and structures, outlined above, this rule has been developed over a number of years by Transpower engaging with councils and stakeholders to give effect to policy 10 and policy 11 in the existing NPS-ET. It recognises that earthworks and land disturbance can compromise the operation and safety of the National Grid. More specifically, earthworks have the potential to undermine transmission line structures, generate dust, and reduce the	This change brings the National Grid Yard (largely well-established in planning documents) provisions into the NES. This new regulation introduces controls on earthworks, land disturbance and vertical holes within the National Grid Yard. These activities are permitted, subject to controls on depth of the works and distance from National Grid assets. Where these conditions are not met, a non-complying activity consent is required.

	foundation of a National Grid transmission line tower or pole; and 2) are no deeper than 3 m between 6 m and 12 m of the outer visible edge of a foundation of a National Grid transmission line tower or pole; or 3) are no deeper than 300 mm depth within 2.2 m of the outer visible edge of a National Grid pole; and 4) are no deeper than 750 mm depth between 2.2 m and 5 m of the outer visible edge of a National Grid pole support structure; except that vertical holes not exceeding 500 mm in diameter beyond 1.5 m from the outer visible edge of the pole support structure or stay wire are exempt; and 5) do not compromise the stability of a National Grid transmission line tower or pole; and 6) do not result in a reduction in the ground to conductor clearance distances as required in table 4 of NZECP 34:2001; and 7) do not permanently physically impede access to a National Grid support structure. The following activities are proposed to be exempt from clauses 1 to 4 above: a) earthworks and land disturbance undertaken for the repair or resealing of a road, footpath, driveway or farm track; and	clearances between the ground and conductors. Earthworks also have the potential to restrict Transpower's ability to access the line and locate the heavy machinery required to maintain support structures around the lines, and may lead to potential tower failure and constraints on the operation of the line. The reference to earthworks and land disturbance aligns with the definitions in the National Planning Standards 2019. It also recognises that land disturbance as temporary works can adversely affect the National Grid. The proposed non-complying status for earthworks, land disturbance and vertical holes that do not meet the permitted activity conditions sends a strong signal that these should generally be avoided in the National Grid Yard. However, there is the option of applying for a dispensation from Transpower under NZECP 34:2001 to avoid the need to obtain a non-complying activity resource consent for the works.	As noted above, if similar corridor provisions are developed for EDB assets in future, these earthworks requirements are likely to be a useful starting point.

	b) earthworks, land disturbance and vertical holes that are subject to a dispensation from Transpower under NZECP 34:2001. Earthworks, land disturbance and vertical holes that do not meet the permitted activity conditions above are proposed to be a non-complying activity.		
R13: National Grid Subdivision Corridor	Introduce a new rule for subdivision within the National Grid Subdivision Corridor as a restricted discretionary activity if two conditions can be met, otherwise it would be a non-complying activity. The two proposed restricted discretionary activity conditions are: • a building platform for a new dwelling or principal building can be accommodated outside of the National Grid Yard • vehicle access to National Grid assets is maintained. If these two conditions are met, the proposed matters of discretion are: 1) the extent to which the subdivision allows for earthworks, buildings and structures to comply with the safe distance requirements of NZECP 34:2001 2) the provision for the ongoing efficient operation, maintenance, upgrading and development and ETN activities, including the ability for continued reasonable access to existing transmission lines 3) the extent to which potential adverse effects (including visual and reverse sensitivity effects) are mitigated	As with the National Grid Yard rules for buildings and structures outlined above, this rule has been developed over a number of years by Transpower engaging with councils and stakeholders to give effect to policy 10 and policy 11 in the existing NPS-ET. It recognises that, while subdivision itself does not affect the National Grid, the purpose of subdivision is generally to provide for or intensify development and, therefore, presents a good opportunity to ensure that activities subject to electrical risks are no more intense than before the subdivision. This can be achieved by designing subdivision layouts to properly accommodate transmission corridors (including, for example, through the creation of reserves and/or open space where buffer corridors are located). A restricted discretionary activity status for subdivision provides an appropriate incentive and opportunity to design subdivision layouts that avoid building platforms within the National Grid Yard (which is generally narrower that the National Grid Subdivision Corridor). See attachment 1.4.1 for a diagram of the National Grid Subdivision Corridor.	ENA has no comment to make.

	through the location of building platforms 4) the extent to which the design and construction of the subdivision allows for activities to be set back from the National Grid to ensure adverse effects on, and from, the National Grid and on public safety and property are appropriately avoided, remedied or mitigated, for example, through the location of roads and reserves under the transmission lines 5) the nature and location of any proposed vegetation to be planted 6) the outcome of any consultation with, and technical advice from, Transpower.		

ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION LINES AND ADVERSE EFFECTS FROM THIRD PARTIES			ENA SUBMISSION POINTS
	Proposed provisions	**Reasons**	
R14: Subdivision of site containing overhead EDN lines (Controlled)	Introduce a new rule for subdivision of a site containing an existing overhead EDN line that would provide for this activity as a controlled activity if any proposed building, structure or building platform complies with the minimum safe distance requirements for poles and towers in NZECP 34:2001, otherwise resource consent would be required as a discretionary activity. If the condition above is complied with, the proposed matters of control are: a) the extent to which the subdivision allows for earthworks, buildings, and	The reasons for the proposal are similar to that proposed for the National Grid Subdivision Corridor above, to protect the EDN from the adverse effects of third parties by ensuring the subdivision does not enable development that would not comply with the safe distance requirements for poles and towers in NZECP 34:2001. It will help ensure that subdivisions are designed in a way that accommodates existing EDN lines by ensuring the buildings and building platforms are set back from these lines. This rule has been adapted from proposed rules for electricity distribution lines in the National Planning Framework and the network utility rules commonly adopted and adapted in district plans across New Zealand. Some councils apply this approach to	This rule will apply to third party subdivision of a site containing an existing distribution line. Consent is required as a controlled activity (must be granted) provided any proposed building, structure, or building platform complies with the minimum safe distance requirements for poles and towers in NZECP34. Where this requirement is not met, a discretionary activity resource consent is required. We note this controlled activity approach differs from the approach taken for the National Grid Yard in Rule R13 above, where a restricted discretionary activity consent is required, subject to conditions, otherwise a non-complying activity

	structures to comply with the safe distance requirements provided in NZECP 34:2001 b) provision for the ongoing efficient operation, maintenance, and minor upgrading of EDN line infrastructure, including for continued reasonable access for maintenance, inspections, and minor upgrading c) the location of site access and any proposed building platform, and the design and use of any future building as it relates to EDN line infrastructure d) measures necessary to avoid or sufficiently minimise the adverse effects, including health and safety risks, of the overhead EDN lines on future owners and occupiers of the sites that result from the subdivision.	a subset of 'significant' or 'critical' EDN lines. An alternative approach to achieve the same intent is to provide for subdivision of a site containing an existing overhead EDN line as a restricted discretionary activity and allow for compliance with some or all of NZECP 34:2001 to be assessed as a matter of discretion.	consent is required. We expect this is in recognition of the higher voltage and large scale of the National Grid lines. MfE also notes the alternative approach of a restricted discretionary for subdivision on sites with EDN lines which would include a requirement to comply with some or all of NZECP 34 as a matter of discretion. The benefit of this alternative approach would be that the Council has the ability to assess the proposal on a case-by-case basis and decline the consent if NZECP 34 is not met. ENA understands that this may be too onerous for third parties and EDBs are generally comfortable with the proposed approach. We note the absence of requirements relating to earthworks, land disturbance or vertical holes and we recommend seeking the inclusion of similar requirements to those for the National Grid above. Similarly, there are no requirements proposed relating to maintaining vehicle access to distribution assets. **ENA recommends** that these matters are also be included, either through new rules or incorporated into these proposed rules. The risk is that these third-party activities can be undertaken as of right with no consideration of effects on the ability to maintain or operate the distribution asset ENA notes that 'replacement' is missing from clause b) of the proposed matters of control. This is an activity that is not always clearly understood as maintenance or upgrading are, and therefore it is useful to specifically include this to avoid doubt. **ENA recommends** that 'replacement' be included in clause b).
R15: Construction of buildings or structures near	Introduce a new rule to manage buildings and structures within 30 m of EDN lines to ensure these comply with NZECP 34:2001. The rule would provide for the construction of a new building or structure, or alterations or	The reasons for the proposal are similar to that proposed for the National Grid Yard rule outlined above, to protect the EDN from the adverse effects of third parties by new buildings and structures, and that extensions to existing buildings and structures comply with the safe distance requirements for poles	This rule will control buildings and structures within 30 metres of distribution lines to ensure they comply with NZECP34. New buildings or structures within 30m of the centre line of an overhead line would be a permitted activity (no consent

overhead EDN lines (Discretionary)	extensions to an existing building or structure within 30 m of the centre line of an overhead EDN line as a permitted activity, provided the construction or alteration complies with the safe distance requirements for poles and towers in NZECP 34:2001.	and towers in NZECP 34:2001. While compliance with NZECP 34:2001 is mandatory, regardless of what the NES-ENA says, including a nationally consistent rule requiring buildings and structures to comply with some or all of NZECP 34:2001 is expected to improve visibility and increase compliance.	required) provided it complies with safe distance requirements of NZECP34. We note MfE's comment that this approach enables a nationally consistent rule, improves visibility and will increase compliance. We agree that this approach provides for greater consistency and will likely increase compliance. ENA considers this rule is appropriate.

ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STANDARD			**ENA SUBMISSION POINTS**
	Proposed provisions	**Reasons**	
R16: Installing new EV charging infrastructure is a permitted activity	Introduce a new regulation for EV charging infrastructure. This would provide for any of the following types of EV charging infrastructure as permitted activities. **Private use** 1) EV infrastructure that is not available for public use and complies with the relevant zone rules relating to the construction of buildings and structures, and alterations and additions to existing buildings and structures. **Land transport corridor** 2) EV infrastructure located in the land transport corridor. **Ancillary to primary activity** 3) EV infrastructure that is ancillary to the primary activity on site and complies with the following conditions: a) it does not exceed 3 m in height if located within 1 m of any front boundary or 1 m of any boundary adjoining a residential zone	The reasons for introducing new regulations to enable EV charging infrastructure is set out in the discussion document. In summary: • Consent applications – while often straightforward – create extra costs and delay to obtain permission for an activity that often creates minimal environmental effects, and receives broad public support. • Variability in district plan provisions – where these exist - force national charging providers to understand and comply with different rules and standards across different districts. • Voluntary adoption of plan provisions is slow, so the obligation to obtain a consent is likely to remain in many districts for some time, and even then, planning provisions will remain a patchwork across New Zealand.	This is a new rule that applies to the installation of EV charging infrastructure, and provides for this as a permitted activity, subject to conditions. ENA has no comment to make.

	b) it complies with the noise and earthworks standards (see below). **Stand-alone EV charging facility** 4) EV infrastructure that is the primary activity on site and complies with the following conditions: a) it is not located in a residential zone, natural area, or historic heritage item or setting b) does not exceed 3 m in height if located within 1 m of any front boundary or 1 m of any boundary adjoining a residential zone c) complies with the noise and earthworks standards (see below) d) does not generate more than 10 vehicles per hour (averaged across 24 hours). The proposed noise standards are as follows. **a) Residential zone** i. Noise must not exceed the following limits measured at the boundary of another site: • 7 am to 10 pm: 50 dB LAeq (15min) • 10 pm to 7 am: – 40 dB LAeq (15min) – 65 dB LAFmax. **b) Non-residential zone** i. Noise must not exceed the following limits measured at the boundary of any site zoned residential:		

	• 7 am to 10 pm: 55 dB LAeq (15min) • 10 pm to 7 am: – 45 dB LAeq (15min) – 65 dB LAFmax. ii. Noise must not exceed the following limits measured at the boundary of any site that is not zoned residential: • Any time: 60 dB LAeq (15min) • 10 pm to 7 am: 65 dB LAFmax. The proposed earthworks standards are that earthworks must: a) not result in a permanent cut height of more than 1.5 m or fill depth of more than 1.5 m; b) be carried out with controls to minimise the mobilisation of silt or sediment beyond the boundary of the site where the earthworks occur; c) not result in any instability of land at or beyond the boundary of the site where the earthworks occur; d) be reinstated to stabilise the site from further erosion within 1 month after the earthworks are complete. Where permitted activity conditions are not complied with, the proposal is that resource consent would be required for a restricted discretionary activity, with the matters of discretion restricted to: • the effects on the safe and efficient operation of transport networks;		

	• the effects of the operation of the activity, including noise; • the effects on the amenity and character of adjacent properties and environment; • the design and appearance of buildings and structures; • the extent to which a non-compliance is due to evolving technology; and • the measures to avoid, mitigate or remedy any adverse environmental effects.		

4 Appendix A

Electricity Networks Aotearoa makes this submission along with the support of its members, listed below.

- Alpine Energy
- Aurora Energy
- Buller Electricity
- Centralines
- Counties Energy
- Firstlight Network
- Electra
- EA Networks
- Horizon Networks
- Mainpower
- Marlborough Lines
- Nelson Electricity
- Network Tasman
- Network Waitaki
- Northpower
- Orion New Zealand
- Powerco
- PowerNet (which manages The Power Company, Electricity Invercargill, OtagoNet and Lakeland Network)
- Scanpower
- Top Energy
- The Lines Company
- Unison Networks
- Vector
- Waipa Networks
- WEL Networks
- Wellington Electricity
- Westpower