

Section 31 – National Grid Overlay

31.1 Background

The "National Grid" is owned and operated by Transpower New Zealand. The only electricity transmission line within the District that is part of the "National Grid" is a 110 kV line that runs from Hikutaia to the Warahoe Road (Kopu) substation. This line is critical for ensuring an efficient and secure supply of electricity to the District. Under the [National Policy Statement on Electricity Transmission 2008](#) and the [Waikato Regional Policy Statement](#), the Council is required to manage development to ensure that activities in the National Grid Subdivision Corridor (refer to Section 3 Definitions) do not affect the on-going operation, maintenance, upgrading or development of the line, or result in any incompatibility or reverse sensitivity effects.

There could be significant impact on the reliability of electricity supply for the whole District if the line is damaged or the operation or ability to upgrade it is inappropriately constrained. This would adversely affect the local economy. There are no back-up supply routes for electricity into the District. It is therefore critical that the line is protected from damage and constraint, thus ensuring efficient and secure electricity supply.

Outside the National Grid Subdivision Corridor, the rules in this section do not apply.

Work in close proximity to the line shall also comply with [New Zealand Electrical Code of Practice for Electrical Safe Distances](#) (NZECP 34:2001) for all buildings, earthworks and use of mobile plant. Vegetation planted within the National Grid Subdivision Corridor should be selected and/or managed to ensure that it will not result in a breach of the [Electricity \(Hazards from Trees\) Regulations 2003](#).

Both the NZECP 34:2001 and the [Electricity \(Hazards from Trees\) Regulations 2003](#) include a number of tables and figures that illustrate minimum safe distances for buildings and other works and vegetation in relation to different components of the electricity supply system.

31.2 Activity Table and User Information

The Activity Table in this section identifies activities and provides a rule and section number to go to as a starting point. In the table the following abbreviations are used:

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| R = | Rule |
| S = | Section |

The overlay rules are part of a hierarchy of rules. There may be zone rules, district-wide rules, other overlay rules or special purpose provisions that also apply to the activity and site. Where there is conflict between rules the rule hierarchy applies to the extent of the conflict (see Section 1 Background and How to Use the Plan for more information).

| Activity Table | |
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| Activity | PER (S 31.3) |
| Earthworks | R 1 |
| Activities, structures and buildings within the National Grid Yard | R 2 |

31.3 National Grid Overlay Rules

Rule 1: Earthworks

1. Earthworks within the National Grid Yard that are a permitted activity in the underlying zone and district-wide rules are permitted provided:
 - a) They are no deeper than 300 mm within 12 m of any National Grid support structure foundation excluding:
 - i) Vertical holes not exceeding 500 mm in diameter provided they are:
 - for a rural fence, crop support structure or horticulture structure; and
 - more than 6 m from the visible outer edge of a National Grid support structure foundation.
 - ii) Earthworks that are undertaken by a network utility operator (other than for the reticulation and storage of water for irrigation purposes) as defined by the RMA; and
 - iii) Earthworks undertaken as part of agriculture or domestic cultivation, or the repair, sealing or resealing of a road, footpath, driveway or farm track.
- AND
- b) They comply with NZECP 34:2001, in particular not creating unstable batters and maintaining the ground to conductor clearance distances required by Table 4 of NZECP 34:2001.
2. Earthworks that do not comply with Rule 1.1 a) are a restricted discretionary activity.
3. The Council restricts its discretion to all the matters in Table 1 at the end of Section 31.
4. Earthworks that do not comply with Rule 1.1 b) are a non-complying activity.
5. A resource consent application under Rule 1.2 and Rule 1.4 shall be assessed without public or limited notification under Sections 95, 95A and 95B of the RMA where written approval is obtained from the owner and operator of the National Grid.

Note:

1. *Kauri dieback disease is a significant threat to the kauri trees in the district. Refer to www.kauridieback.co.nz for more information. To protect against this disease, the Department of Conservation recommends using the following procedures for earthworks within three times the radius of the canopy dripline of a kauri tree (the potential contamination area):*
 - a) *Define the potential contamination areas for individual trees or a stand of trees.*
 - b) *Establish an entry/exit point by each potential contamination area where vehicles and equipment are cleaned of all soil and organic material when moving into, out of, and between contamination areas.*
 - c) *Do not transport soil or organic material from within a potential contamination area to outside a potential contamination area or vice versa, unless disposing to landfill.*

- d) *Earthworks in potential contamination areas should be done during dry soil conditions. This reduces equipment contamination and makes cleaning easier.*

Rule 2: Activities, structures and buildings within the National Grid Yard

1. An activity, structure or building within the National Grid Yard that is a permitted activity in the underlying zone and district-wide rules is a permitted activity provided it complies with NZECP 34:2001 and:
 - a) Within the National Grid Yard but beyond 12 m from the outer edge of a National Grid Support Structure (see the non-hatched area in the National Grid Yard diagram in Section 3 of the Plan):
 - i) Alterations and additions to an existing building or structure, including a National Grid Sensitive Activity, do not involve an increase in the building height or its site coverage; or
 - ii) It is a fence no greater than 2.5 m in height; or
 - iii) It is a network utility (other than for the reticulation and storage of water for irrigation purposes) undertaken by a network utility operator; or
 - iv) It is an uninhabitable building or structure for farming or horticultural activities but does not include:
 - a milking/dairy shed (ancillary structures and yards are permitted); or
 - intensive farming building (ancillary structures and yards are permitted); or
 - commercial greenhouse or immovable protective canopy.
 - b) Within the National Grid Yard and within 12 m from the outer edge of a National Grid Support Structure (see the hatched area in the National Grid Yard diagram in Section 3 of the Plan):
 - i) It is a network utility (other than for the reticulation and storage of water for irrigation purposes) undertaken by a network utility operator; or
 - ii) It is a fence less than 2.5 m in height and more than 5 m from a National Grid Support Structure; or
 - iii) It is a horticulture structure permitted in accordance with clause 2.4.1 of NZECP 34:2001.
2. An activity, structure or building within the National Grid Yard is a non-complying activity if it is:
 - a) Not permitted under Rule 2.1; or
 - b) A change of use to a National Grid Sensitive Activity or the establishment of a new National Grid Sensitive Activity; or
 - c) A new building for a National Grid Sensitive Activity, or external alterations or additions to a building for a National Grid Sensitive Activity that increases the building height or its site coverage; or
 - d) Dairy/milking sheds (excluding ancillary structures and yards) or buildings for intensive farming or commercial greenhouses and immovable protective canopies; or
 - e) Any buildings and structures that fail to comply with the safe separation distances in NZECP 34:2001
3. A resource consent application under Rule 2.2 shall be assessed without public or limited notification under Sections 95, 95A and 95B of the RMA where written approval is obtained from the owner and operator of the National Grid.

31.4 Assessment Matters and Criteria

| Table 1 – Restricted Discretionary Activity Matters | |
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| 1. Effects of not meeting the standards | |
| a) Whether actions, if any, taken to avoid, remedy, or mitigate the effects of not meeting the standard(s) are effective. | |
| 2. Earthworks | |
| a) Whether the <u>National Grid</u> owner/operator has provided written approval to the application subject to any conditions, and if no written approval has been provided, any technical advice provided by the <u>National Grid</u> owner/operator relating to any one of the following matters: | |
| i) The extent to which the <u>earthworks</u> affect the ability of the <u>National Grid</u> owner and/or operator to operate, maintain, upgrade, and develop the <u>National Grid</u> , including access to the line. | |
| ii) The extent to which the <u>earthworks</u> comply with NZECP 34:2001; | |
| iii) The extent of any risk to the structural integrity of the <u>National Grid</u> ; | |
| iv) The extent of any risk of electrical hazards adversely affecting public or individual safety, and the risk of property damage. | |