

**Our Ref: R8202**

18 June 2012

**PROPOSED MARLBOROUGH ENVIRONMENT PLAN  
MARLBOROUGH LINES LIMITED  
REPLY TO HEARING PANEL: MINUTE 29**

Point 7 of Minute 29 asks three specific questions of Marlborough Lines Limited (MLL). These questions have been set out below with MLL responses.

- i) **Is it likely that MLL will increase voltage in lines under its control during the 10 year life of the MEP, and if so, where are the areas where that is likely to occur, and what is the likely purpose of the increase in voltage?**

Yes, it is likely that MLL will increase carrying capacity of specific lines within the next ten years. However, the actual voltage carried may not increase within the same 10-year timeframe. The purpose of any capacity increase is to future proof vital district infrastructure.

Section 9.12.1.2.6 of the MLL Asset Management Plan 2018-2028 regarding 33kV renewals states:

*Generally speaking, the 33kV overhead lines are high criticality assets, distributing electricity between ML's zone substations. Many sections of the 33kV network are aged, some are original late 1920s and 1940s reinforced concrete poles, with original components and conductor. Naturally these assets are showing the signs of aging and some deterioration, with some concrete spalling evident on poles. During the planning period, between years 2 to 5 [2020 – 2023] and 6 to 10 [2024-2028], the following sections of line will be considered for renewal, and prioritised on the basis of condition and network criticality: Seddon to Ward, Alabama Road to Riverlands, Murphy's Road and Old Renwick Road. Where appropriate the sections will be split out into smaller sub-sections which may be split over multiple years. The Seddon to Ward and Alabama Road to Riverlands sections are example of this.*

A full copy of the MLL Asset Management Plan is available via the following link:

<https://www.marlbroughlines.co.nz/About-us/Disclosures/Asset-Management.aspx>

Sections 9.12.1.1.5, 9.12.1.1.10, 9.12.1.2.2 and 9.12.1.2.9 of the Asset Management Plan provide details on specific sections of line considered for renewal.

ii) **If the answer to 7(i) is 'Yes', then would MLL lift the height of the lines in a similar manner to that described by Transpower, meaning there was no practical effect on land users below in terms of any increase in required separation distances?**

Yes, MLL will lift the height of the lines in a similar manner to that described by Transpower. MLL notes that with regard to the upgrade of any lines infrastructure, Transpower and MLL must comply with the following legislation:

- The Electricity Act 1992. Section 23(3) of this Act defines what 'maintenance' of existing works includes. Notably, Section 23(3)(b) states:  
*'the carrying out of any replacement or upgrade of existing works as long as the land will not be injuriously affected as a result of the replacement or upgrade'*.
- The New Zealand Electrical Code of Practice for Electrical Safe Distances (NZECP 34:2001). This code of practice sets minimum safe electrical distance requirements for overhead electric line installations and other works associated with the supply of electricity from generating stations to end users.

MLL also notes that the relevant legislation applies regardless of whether the lines to be maintained are contained within an easement or not.

iii) **If the answer to 7(ii) is 'Yes', then provide a description of how that lifting of lines would occur, and confirmation it could precede the increase of voltage.**

If voltage was to be increased the requirement to use heavier conductors would necessitate the use of taller poles and lifting of lines. As per the response for question ii above, any increase in voltage / infrastructure upgrade would be undertaken in accordance with relevant legislation that protects landowner rights.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any other questions.

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