

20 February 2009

Media release

## Electricity Commission intends to approve \$4.1m grid upgrade in Northland

The Electricity Commission has announced it intends to approve a \$4.1 million grid upgrade application from Transpower for Maungatapere substation in Northland, in a decision that will provide a template for fast review of similar projects in the future.

The proposal, which was submitted by Transpower in December 2008, consists of the installation of a bus coupler and associated upgrade to the protection equipment at the Maungatapere bus\*. Transpower said the Northland region and Rodney district are vulnerable to a loss of supply if the current 110 kV Maungatapere substation bus trips.

The approval is intended to provide a template for similar bus coupler projects Transpower has planned, allowing the Commission to review and approve multiple coupler projects as one proposal.

Transpower expects to complete the Maungatapere work by mid 2010.

If requested, the Commission may hold a public conference to hear further submissions on its decision. If no conference is requested within 10 days, the decision will become final.

Details on the proposal and the Commission's reasons for its intention to approve can be found at: <http://www.electricitycommission.govt.nz/opdev/transmis/gup/2008GUP/maungatapere>

— ends —

\* A bus is an electrical device (in this case within a substation) that allows multiple incoming and outgoing lines to be organised and interconnected.

For more information:

Peter Thornbury  
**Senior Adviser Communications**  
+64 4 462 0617