

SUBMISSION BY POWERCO LIMITED ON PROPOSED PLAN CHANGE 25 TO THE WAIPĀ DISTRICT PLAN

To: Waipā District Council
Private Bag 2402
Te Awamutu 3840

Lodged via: districtplan@waipadc.govt.nz

Name of submitter: Powerco Limited

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

(Note that this is not the address for service.)

1. This is a submission by Powerco Limited (**Powerco**) on Proposed Plan Change 25 (**PC25**) to the Waipā District Plan - Shelterbelts and Artificial Crop Structures.
2. Powerco could not gain an advantage in trade competition through this submission.
3. The specific provisions of PC25 that the submission relates to, the submission points, reasons and decisions sought are detailed in **Appendix A**. Powerco seeks that the decisions sought as set out in the attached table are adopted, or any other such relief and/or consequential amendments that achieves an equivalent outcome.
4. In summary, this submission seeks to ensure recognition, protection and continued operation of Powerco's electricity distribution network within Waipa.
5. Powerco wishes to be heard in support of this submission.
6. If others make a similar submission, Powerco would be prepared to consider presenting a joint case at any hearing.

Signature of person authorised to sign on behalf of Powerco Limited:



Gary Scholfield
Senior Environmental Planner
POWERCO

Dated at Tauranga this 20th day of February 2026.

Address for Service: Powerco Limited
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Attention: Gary Scholfield

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

About Powerco

Powerco is Aotearoa New Zealand's largest dual electricity and gas distributor by network length. We keep the energy flowing to more than one million Kiwis across the North Island. We deliver electricity and gas to our customers through a total of approximately 476,000 connections. 29,300 kilometres of lines and cables make up our electricity network, and 6,300 kilometres of pipes make up our gas network.

A reliable and constant energy supply is critical to sustaining the economy, communities, and our way of life. Demand for energy is constantly increasing. Powerco faces an increasing number of constraints on its ability to provide secure and reliable energy supplies to meet increasing demand resulting from both population growth and the transition to a low carbon economy.

Powerco owns and operates some (but not all) electricity infrastructure within Waipa District as shown in **Appendix B**. The distribution network needs to be operated, maintained, repaired, replaced, and upgraded to maintain or improve capacity or security of supply; regardless of where those assets may exist. Powerco seeks to ensure access to its existing electricity assets is not compromised by the establishment of Shelterbelts and Artificial Crop Structures, and that safe separation distances are maintained from overhead electricity assets.

Appendix A - Powerco submission points on the Proposed Plan Change 25 – Shelterbelts and Artificial Crop Structures

Specific provision / matter	Submitter Position	Reason for Submission	Requested decision (additions underlined and deletions strikethrough)
Rule – Height of Buildings 4.4.2.9A	Support	Powerco supports the addition of the advice note relative to the New Zealand Electrical Code of Practice for Electrical Safe Distances (NZECP:34 2001). This will raise awareness of the need to maintain safe separation distances between artificial crop protection structures and overhead electricity lines. This provision is consistent with the National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks 2008 (NPS-EN) which now applies to Powerco's networks (as an electricity distribution network). Policy 11 and 12(1)(d) seek to manage the effects of third parties on electricity networks and are applicable in this instance.	Retain as drafted.
Rule – Shelterbelts 4.4.2.57 A (d) (ii.) Notes 1 & 2 Matters of Discretion	Support	Powerco supports no shelterbelts being located within 10m of the outer conductor for an overhead powerline, the notes that refer to NZECP:34 2001 and the Electricity (Hazards from Trees)	Retain as drafted.

Specific provision / matter	Submitter Position	Reason for Submission	Requested decision (additions underlined and deletions strikethrough)
		Regulations 2003, and the matters of discretion that refer to effects on infrastructure and / or network utilities. This will raise awareness of the need to maintain safe separation distances between shelter belts and overhead electricity lines and will also be consistent with the NPS-EN Policies 11 and 12(1)(d).	
Rules - Artificial Crop Protection Structures and Crop Support Structures 4.4.2.88 (b)(i) Note 1 Matters of Discretion	Support	Powerco supports all artificial crop protection and support structures being setback a minimum of 10m of the outer conductor for an overhead powerline, the note that refers to NZECP:34 2001, and the matter of discretion that refers to effects on infrastructure and network utilities. This will raise awareness of the need to maintain safe separation distances between artificial crop protection and support structures and overhead electricity lines and will also be	Retain as drafted.

Specific provision / matter	Submitter Position	Reason for Submission	Requested decision (additions underlined and deletions strikethrough)
		consistent with the NPS-EN Policies 11 and 12(1)(d).	
Assessment Criteria for Discretionary Activities Shelterbelts (Rule 4.4.2.57A) 21.1.4.13A (c)	Support	Powerco supports the addition of 'effects on infrastructure and/or other network utilities' as a matter of discretion. This is consistent with NPS-EN Policies 11 and 12(1)(d).	Retain as drafted
Assessment Criteria for Discretionary Activities Artificial Crop Protection Structures and Crop Support Structures (Rule 4.4.2.88) 21.1.4.29A (e)	Support	Powerco supports the addition of 'effects on infrastructure and/or other network utilities' as a matter of discretion. This is consistent with NPS-EN Policies 11 and 12(1)(d).	Retain as drafted

Appendix B - Map of Powerco Electricity Distribution Networks within the Waipa District

