



# Western Bay of Plenty Short-list Consultation Summary

July 2024

## Powering a growing region

The Western Bay of Plenty region is growing. Its electricity infrastructure needs to grow too, to ensure power is available when and where people and businesses need it.

Transpower and Powerco are working together to plan and deliver the essential upgrades on the electricity network that are needed to enable this region to continue to flourish, now and in the future.

In 2023, we consulted on a long-list of potential options for how to meet the region's growing electricity needs. Your feedback said that we need to ensure our plans support a high level of

long-term growth in the region and consider the changing future electricity needs of industry, businesses and communities.

Since then, we've carefully studied the costs and economic impacts of these options. Our goal was to find solutions that meet the region's future needs and are still cost efficient.

Now, we are presenting our short-list of options for your feedback. These are described in our short-list consultation documents and we believe our preferred option will provide the best value and strong outcomes for the region, and we want to get your thoughts on them.

# Detail about the preferred option

After analysing the different potential options, our preferred option is to:

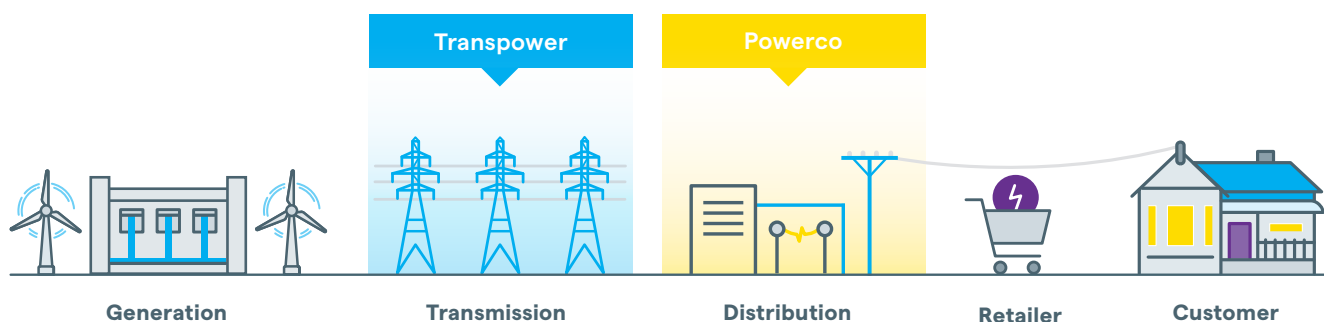
Project (see numbers in yellow circles on map)	Organisation	Indicative costs <sup>1</sup> (\$m)	Approximate completion <sup>2</sup>
1 Replace the conductor (wires) on the 110 kV lines in the region with a larger conductor	Transpower	55	2032
2 Install an additional high voltage transformer at Kaitemako	Transpower	15	2029
3 Upgrade the distribution network out of the Te Matai substation	Powerco	105	2033-2035
4 Upgrade the distribution network out of the Tauranga substation	Powerco	118	2035
5 Construct a new Grid Exit Point (GXP) south of Tauranga <sup>3</sup>	Powerco/ Transpower	51	2035

If we proceed with our preferred option, Transpower would submit a Major Capex Proposal to the Commerce Commission seeking approval to recover costs of \$71.6<sup>4</sup> million through Transpower transmission charges. The remaining cost would be funded through Powerco distribution charges.

## Who we are

**Transpower** owns and operates the high-voltage, national electricity transmission network. We bring electricity from where it is generated to grid substations across New Zealand.

**Powerco's** lower-voltage, local electricity distribution network connects to these grid substations (GXP), bringing power to homes, workplaces and community facilities across the region.

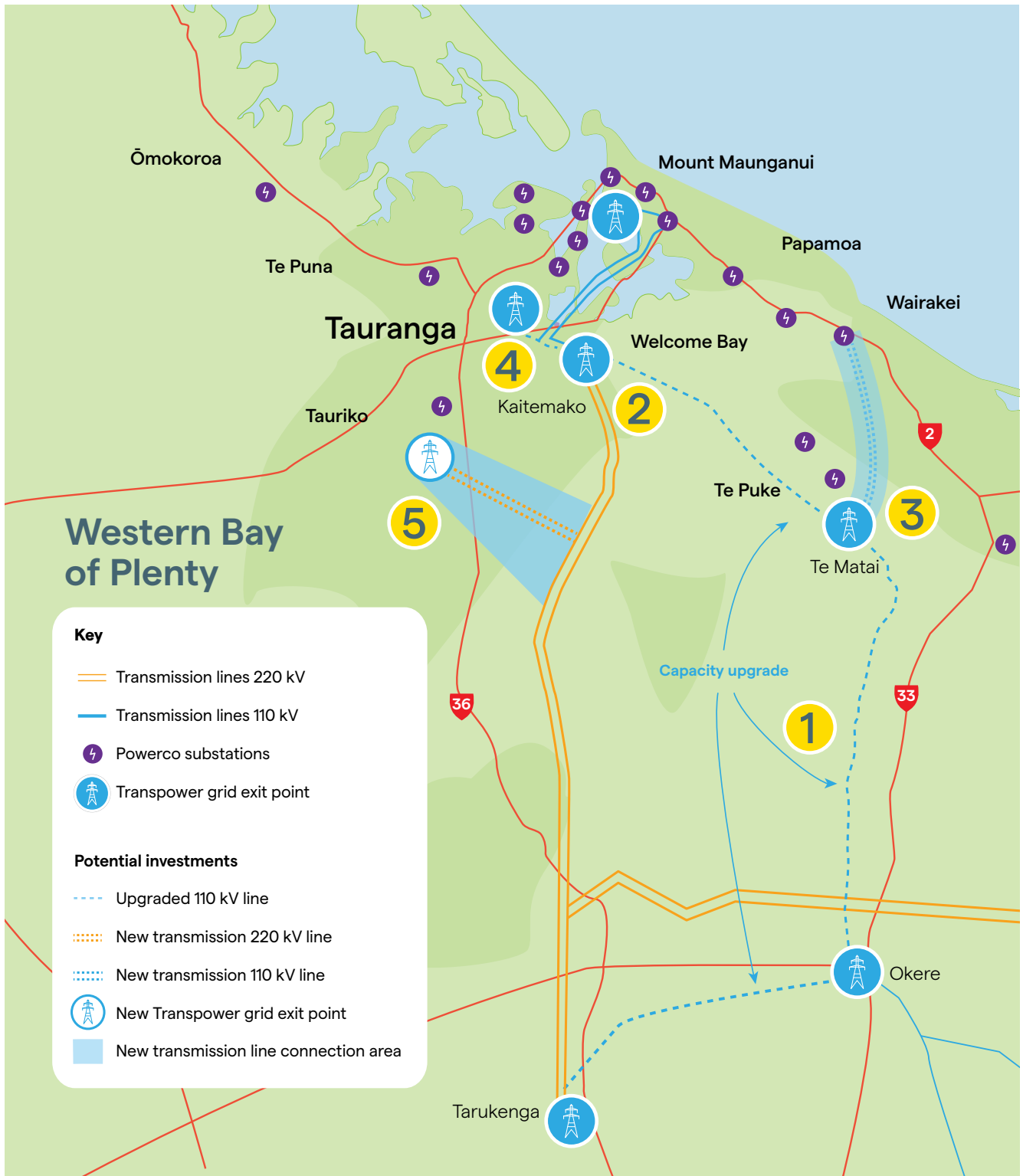


1 Costs are not discounted

2 For more detail on completion dates and option combinations, please see the main consultation

3 Cost includes 220 kV line to connect the GXP to the grid

4 This number includes things like interest during construction.



Please note that the map is for illustrative purposes only and that we have not begun the investigations for potential new asset locations.

## Your feedback

We are keen to get your thoughts on this option and whether you agree it will best meet the region's electricity needs. Please email us at [wbop@transpower.co.nz](mailto:wbop@transpower.co.nz) by 10 September 2024.

# What happens next?

After this consultation, we will consider all feedback and include any new information in our thinking and plans. We will then refine our pricing for the different options.

Transpower will complete a final economic assessment and lodge a Major Capex Proposal (MCP) with the Commerce Commission, which covers parts of the preferred option. The Commerce Commission will undertake its own public consultation and make a final decision on approval for the project, expected in early 2025.

Our detailed design and delivery plan will follow after this Commerce Commission approval process.

In the meantime, Transpower and Powerco will keep working on parts of the project that are funded separately to the MCP.

We will continue to update you on our progress.

For more information on this project check out the Transpower website:

<https://www.transpower.co.nz/projects/wbop>

## Contact us

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