



**Media release
18 April 2011**

Power outage in Northland required for essential maintenance

Transpower advises that a full day power outage will be required next week in the Far North in order to install a range of new equipment as well as to undertake essential maintenance work on the 110 kV transmission line that supplies the area. This work is critical to ensuring a reliable supply of electricity to Kaitaia and the surrounding districts.

Unfortunately the work required cannot be undertaken while the line is in service. Therefore a power outage is required and planned for **Sunday 1 May 2011, from 8:00am – 5:00pm.**

The new equipment to be installed is in preparation for the construction by Top Energy of a second transmission line between Kaikohe and Kaitaia. The five year project, to design and construct the second line, will remove the need for the bi-annual maintenance outages that the Far North experiences.

The areas affected by the power outage include:

- All districts north of the Mangamuka Ranges
- The Far North East Coast
- The Kaitaia district
- The Far North area; and
- North Hokianga.

Transpower's General Manager Grid Performance, Garth Dibley said that while there is no ideal time for the power to be switched off, this is currently the only transmission line that supplies the Far North, and it is important to keep it properly maintained.

"However, when the second line is constructed and commissioned by Top Energy in the future, the need for this outage will be eliminated. We apologise for the disruption this outage may cause, and are doing everything possible to limit any inconvenience to residents and businesses," he said.

Mr Dibley cautioned that all lines must be treated as live at all times, as supply could be restored early.

Top Energy General Networks Manager Keith Gilby said that the additional 110 kV line from Kaikohe to Kaitaia was approved by the Electricity Commission last year and the first stage of construction work is well underway.

"The new line will provide a more secure supply of electricity and provide additional capacity for load growth and new connections in the Far North region," he said.

If there are businesses in the area who wish to hire generators, and need assistance with sourcing these, please contact Transpower on 04 495 7000 or Top Energy on 0800 TOP ENERGY.

For further information, please contact:

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