

Media Release

Kaikohe, Monday 2 February, 2004



New era for Top Energy Contracting Services

Last evening, in front of some 190 invited guests, Far North District Council Mayor, Yvonne Sharp officially opened Top Energy's new \$1.2 million Contracting Services facility at Puketona Junction, on State Highway 10.

Guests including MP John Carter, Northland Regional Council Chairman, Mark Farnsworth, Top Energy Trustees, Directors, and staff.

According to Top Energy Chairman, Jack Poutsma, the new facility brings together Contracting Services staff from two different locations - workshops in Station Road, Kaikohe and the old works depot at Kerikeri. "The company identified some time ago that this was the ideal location for us to be in, to take advantage of growth in the area and we are delighted with the result." said Mr Poutsma.

The depot complex includes a 1,300 square metre building, a covered concrete apron, vehicle wash bay and outdoor yard area and was recently completed by contractor, Kerikeri Construction Ltd. Administration offices are also located on the building's Puketona Road frontage, along with adjoining customer and staff car-parking areas.

Top Energy's Southern Area Manager, Geoff Smith says the new facility will be home base for up to 55 employees, including contracting and network maintenance teams and administration support. Geoff's team services the region's coast-to-coast Southern area, from Hukerenui through to the Mangamukas. (Top Energy's Contracting Services depot in Kaitaia, looks after the area North of the Mangamukas, through to Cape Reinga.)

At the time Top Energy applied for resource and building consents to develop the site, the company decided to include the development of a public reserve on 4,000 square metres of adjoining land. The reserve, now vested in the Far North District Council for public use, was fenced and landscaped as part of Top Energy's overall site

development. It provides public access to the Waitangi River and a popular swimming hole, as well as a carpark area, well away from the busy Puketona Road shoulder.

Said Mayor, Yvonne Sharp, "It's interesting when you trace the organisation's beginnings back to the Bay of Islands Electric Power Board in 1938 and to see it today, investing in this type of infrastructure. The company's growth and success is a real asset to the region. I congratulate Trustees, Directors and staff on such an excellent development." END

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Pic: (Left to right) John Carter, Yvonne Sharp, Jack Poutsma in front of Top Energy's new Contracting Services depot at Puketona.



