

**Updated Submission to Commerce Commission: Support for Transpower HVDC Stage 1
MCP Draft Decision**

Submitted by: Philip D'Ath, domestic electricity consumer, Auckland

Date: 4 April 2026

I strongly support approval of Transpower's \$1,138.6 million funding request for HVDC Stage 1, including the addition of a fourth cable.

As a household bill-payer, I rely on stable, affordable power. Replacing the three ageing Cook Strait cables with four new ones, plus new termination stations, raises inter-island capacity from 1,200 MW to 1,400 MW. This improves reliability, reduces blackout and price spike risks, and delivers \$66.3 million net market benefit.

The extra cable enables better sharing of renewable generation between islands, keeping long-term prices down for domestic consumers.

I urge approval, including the \$140.1 million contingency as exempt major capex and 15% incentive rate.

Please approve this essential investment for New Zealand households.

Yours sincerely,

Philip D'Ath

Auckland domestic consumer