



STATEMENT OF INTENT

of

NEW ZEALAND UTILITIES

ADVISORY GROUP



Electricity Networks Association . Gas Association of New Zealand . Ingenium . Telecom . TelstraClear
New Zealand Water and Waste Association . Transit New Zealand . Local Government New Zealand
Electricity Engineers' Association of New Zealand

working together

Background

A New Zealand Utilities Advisory Group has been established to:

- identify and discuss issues related to roads, community interests and utility network operations within the road corridor
- address those issues that can be resolved mutually and formulate recommendations to others about how other issues may be progressed.

The New Zealand Utilities Advisory Group has agreed upon and seeks the support of the executive, elected officials, utility companies and membership of participating organisations for the principles, outcomes and key initiatives as outlined below.

The membership of the New Zealand Utilities Advisory Group includes representatives from:

- Electricity Networks Association
- Gas Association of New Zealand
- Ingenium (the Association of Local Government Engineers)
- New Zealand Water and Waste Association
- Telecom
- Telstra - Clear
- Transit New Zealand
- Local Government New Zealand.

In addition, observer status on the group is currently being negotiated with the Ministry of Transport, the Ministry of Economic Development and the Department of Internal Affairs.



Electricity Networks Association . Gas Association of New Zealand . Ingenium . Telecom . TelstraClear
New Zealand Water and Waste Association . Transit New Zealand . Local Government New Zealand
Electricity Engineers' Association of New Zealand

working together

Purpose of Statement

This statement records the commitment of representatives of the participating organisations to work together to achieve a robust legal, policy and operating framework for:

- utility network service providers (gas, electricity, telecommunications, water, waste water, storm water and road controlling authorities) who make use of the roading corridor
- road users, pedestrian and amenity requirements, adjacent land owners, utility service consumers, the community and road owners.

Desired Framework for Utilities Operating Within the Roothing Corridor

The desired framework will be fair, equitable and have a high level of national consistency while recognising the impracticality of designing a 'one size fits all' regime.

The desired framework will build on work already undertaken cooperatively by local authorities and utilities in the Auckland region, and on similar work undertaken in Christchurch and certain smaller centres, and will recognise the legislation, regulations and national codes that already exist for roads and utilities.

Operating Principles

The principles to be followed by representatives of participating organisations include:

- representatives of participating organisations are committed to achieving consensus in their deliberations
- these representatives have the responsibility to report back to their constituent groups and to use their best endeavours to gain the agreement of those constituent groups
- all papers will be made available to members of participating organisations and other stakeholders for information and comment as appropriate, including – government departments and agencies (Department of Labour, Ministry of Transport, Transfund New Zealand, Land Transport Safety Authority, Department of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Economic Development), contractors, road users - including cyclists and pedestrians, interested land owners, utility consumers, emergency management services, industry training organisations and local authorities.



Electricity Networks Association . Gas Association of New Zealand . Ingenium . Telecom . TelstraClear
New Zealand Water and Waste Association . Transit New Zealand . Local Government New Zealand
Electricity Engineers' Association of New Zealand

working together

Key Issues to be Addressed

The priority issues to be discussed by the New Zealand Utilities Advisory Group relate to:

- managing constraints in road corridors where these exist, including the availability of (limited) road corridor space
- notification of works and the availability of records on locations and currency of utilities in the road corridor
- disruption to road users, utility service consumers, adjacent occupiers and other utilities
- quality of the road asset
- funding and costs
- rights, responsibilities and accountabilities
- safety issues and emergency procedures
- workforce competency and skills criteria
- measurable performance criteria and continuous improvement.

Outcomes

The outcomes sought by the New Zealand Utility Advisory Group are:

- clarification of the rights and responsibilities of all parties using the road corridor
- recognition of the transport, amenity and public space value of the roading corridor and the importance of providing optimal community access to utility services
- minimisation of the costs for end use consumers (utility consumers, rate payers, tax payers and road users), and minimisation of the costs of compliance (administration and transaction) of utility operators
- optimal levels of coordination of utilities when undertaking network construction and maintenance
- enhancement of the safety of third parties and the public and minimisation of disruption to the activities of those parties
- full identification and fair allocation of costs
- optimal levels of consistency across all road controlling authorities and utility operators
- optimal levels of self-regulation, performance based legislation, quality service delivery, and equity for and by utility operators.



Electricity Networks Association . Gas Association of New Zealand . Ingenium . Telecom . TelstraClear
New Zealand Water and Waste Association . Transit New Zealand . Local Government New Zealand
Electricity Engineers' Association of New Zealand

working together

Utilities Advisory Group

Module 1

- Development of a Code of Practice for site construction and restoration within the roading corridor

Module 2

- Development of a model agreement (co-ordination Agreement, Partnership Agreement, corridor agreement) between a local authority and the utilities in the city/district. Will cover co-ordination meetings, planning of work and the modules that are agreed should apply.

Module 3

- consideration of the training, education, competence and capacity initiatives that may be undertaken to promote safer and more efficient use of the roading corridor during utility network construction operations and the development of recommendations to training organisations

Module 4

- consideration of the methods through which better access may be provided to records about the location of utilities in the roading corridor and recommendations about the potential of an integrated GIS based system

Module 5

- exploration of the costs and charges incurred by users of the roading corridor and the development of good practice guidelines

Module 6

- development of guidelines that ensure consistency of application of valuation methodology such that common definitions are agreed and areas of misunderstanding are resolved. (Note – the group recognises that it is not mandatory for local authorities to rate utility assets, but it is mandatory for utilities to be on rates registers (previously called District Valuation Rolls). The Group provides a forum for discussion of related issues, including rating proposals.)

Module 7

- consideration of methods to enhance the continuity of utility service operation subsequent to a major emergency or disaster and the development of recommendations

Module 8

- development of best practice models that reflect the interests of utility operators and assist local authorities in their application of the Resource Management Act

Module 9

- exploration of the strengths and weaknesses of current legislative provisions which impact upon utility use of the roading corridor and the development of recommendations for amendment, with a view to achieving greater consistency and higher levels of co-ordination



Electricity Networks Association . Gas Association of New Zealand . Ingenium . Telecom . TelstraClear
New Zealand Water and Waste Association . Transit New Zealand . Local Government New Zealand
Electricity Engineers' Association of New Zealand

working together

Module 10

- Identification of the potential value of a “corridor management planning instrument” to secure the interests of communities and coordinate future planning intentions of utility operators and road controlling authorities

Module 11

- development and application of a communication strategy designed to promote a better understanding of costs and benefits of efficient and co-operative use of the roading corridor
- other initiatives arising from time to time that will contribute to the achievement of a robust, legal, policy and operating framework for utility operation within the roading corridor.



Electricity Networks Association . Gas Association of New Zealand . Ingenium . Telecom . TelstraClear
New Zealand Water and Waste Association . Transit New Zealand . Local Government New Zealand
Electricity Engineers' Association of New Zealand

working together