

Traffic Volumes

*“ a significant proportion of the normally dimensioned HCVs (heavy commercial vehicles) will access the site via the Northern Motorway and **Kahikatea Flat Road**, thus avoiding travel through Helensville.”*

There will be increased heavy traffic during the two year construction period for the power station. Genesis Energy have estimated that over 15,000 truck movements will be required to and from the site, during different construction stages. Add to that the hundreds of construction staff travelling to and from the site each day.

The traffic volume data used by Genesis Energy is from 2002-2005, is now out of date and inaccurate. The 2007 figures are available. Their transport assessment states that Inland Road has *“very low traffic flows”* and *“There has been no noticeable development on the road in recent years that would lead to significant or unexpected increases in traffic volumes. An ADT of about **150** vehicles is expected to fairly represent current traffic flows in 2007.”*

In 2007 the ADT (Average Daily Traffic) for Inland Road was recorded as **350** vehicles.

More information on pages 51-53, 111-133 and 244-246 of the Assessment of Environmental Effects, and in the separate Technical Report ‘Transport Assessment’

Job Opportunities

There’s a misconception in the community that the power station will provide many job opportunities for locals. Genesis Energy says *“Once the power station is fully commissioned to a capacity of a nominal 480 MW, it will have an onsite full time staff of approximately **20 – 25 people**, working in two shifts per day.”*

Contracting firms from around the country will be tendering for the construction projects so local contractors and labourers can’t be assured of picking any of this work up.

Significant Natural Areas

The proximity of potentially sensitive natural habitats has been misrepresented in Genesis Energy’s application. Their air quality report by URS NZ Ltd states *“There is a Department of Conservation reserve located a few kilometres north of the site, along the eastern edge of the Kaipara harbour. However, due to the separation distance, it will not be affected by construction activity, and is unlikely to be sensitive to operational emissions from the site.”*

In actual fact, only 200 metres separates the proposed “Rodney District Thermal Energy Generation Rural Zone” from the 210 hectare Department of Conservation Scientific Reserve. The proposed site of the power station building is less than 1km away from the reserve. Genesis has since corrected their AEE document but the fact remains that the modelling undertaken by URS for their air quality report was completed on the assumption that the reserve was “a few kilometres” away.

The reserve area is identified as **Outstanding Natural Landscape Area 8** in Proposed Change 8 to the Auckland Regional Policy Statement.

In its **Proposed District Plan 2000**, the Rodney District Council has designated parts of Kaukapakapa as Significant Natural Areas (SNAs). The majority of the Department of Conservation Scientific Reserve is deemed to be a “High” value SNA. Adjoining the reserve, and a similar distance from the power station site, is a substantial parcel of privately owned land, approximately 100 hectares in size, and designated as a “Moderate to High” SNA.

A Coal-fired Powered Station?

Genesis Energy is proposing to build this gas-fired power station in National Party Leader John Key's Helensville electorate.

In late September 2007, National's Energy Spokesman Gerry Brownlee released one of his regular video newsletters in which he discussed the release of the Government's NZ Climate Change Solutions Policy.

Under the title "Sexy Coal" Mr Brownlee stated on the video that *"The future for coal in New Zealand looks reasonably rosy under this particular proposal."*

In summing up, the Energy Spokesman said *"The future for thermal energy seems to be set. As long as those producing it can pay for the carbon emissions that come from it, then that sort of generation can continue."*

The North Auckland rail line passes through the middle of the proposed "Rodney District Thermal Energy Generation Rural Zone." A designated rail siding is already in place so it's conceivable that coal could be transported by rail to the power station site.

Note that the title of the proposed new zone specifically refers to "Thermal Energy Generation". Genesis Energy's website describes thermal generation:

*"Thermal generation refers to the process of generating electricity from heat. There are four thermal energy fuels: **coal**, natural gas, wood-waste and geo-thermal. Strictly speaking, nuclear power is also thermal energy fuel but it is set aside in a class of its own because of its unique traits."*

Can we look forward to a coal-fired plant in Kaukapakapa under a different Government?

Peaking Plant or Baseload?

Although notified on 3 April 2008, the applications for the proposed Rodney Power Station were originally filed with Auckland Regional Council and Rodney District Council in July 2007.

In the intervening months, the councils have been requesting further information from Genesis Energy, the Climate Change (Emission Trading and Renewable Preference) Bill was introduced to Parliament, and the New Zealand Energy Strategy was released.

Under the NZ Energy Strategy, the Government imposed a ten year ban on thermal **baseload** (operating continuously) plants. The Minister of State Owned Enterprises wrote to Genesis Energy to advise that *"shareholding Minister(s) would not agree to any new thermal baseload generation investment over the next ten years."* In late October Trevor Mallard advised that *"any decisions taken with respect to Rodney will comply fully with Government policy around the recently released Energy Strategy... I would like to reiterate that Genesis has indicated that all decisions that it takes around its generation capacity will be in full compliance with the Government's energy policy."*

The configuration of the Rodney Power Station has remained unaltered.

The amount of documentation for the proposed Rodney Power Station is rather daunting! I hope these information sheets are of some help when writing your submissions. If anyone needs assistance with their submissions, there are people like myself who are only too happy to help. Every submission will count!

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