



Transpower leads the way with safety and asset protection

TRANSPOWER



12,000 km of transmission lines

170+ sub-stations

550+ monthly beforeUdig requests

700+ staff members

Transpower is the State Owned Enterprise that owns and operates the National Grid – or high voltage transmission network – that carries electricity around New Zealand.

The National Grid is made up of over 12,000 km of transmission lines and more than 170 substations. Electricity is transmitted over the grid at high voltages (up to 220,000 volts) from power stations to local lines companies and major industries.

Challenge

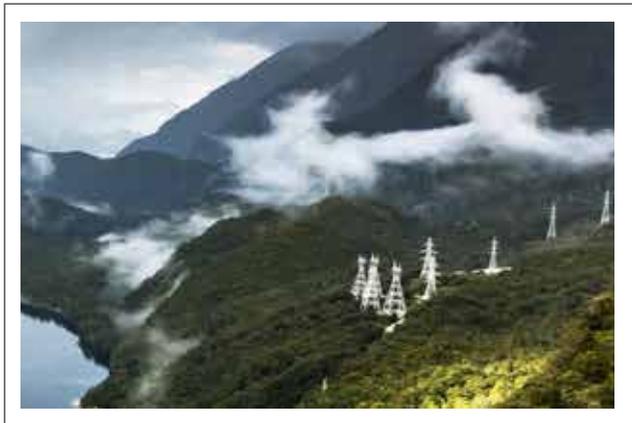
Transpower was operating a radio network for all internal information back from their power grid, however in 2009 they upgraded to a fibre network and became the 4th largest fibre asset owner in NZ. This created multiple challenges for Transpower including how they would safely protect their underground assets and those working around them; and how they would respond to enquiries with utility plans.

Solution

Transpower signed up as members of the beforeUdig service to help ensure their contractors could work safely and protect their underground assets. They also leveraged the information provided by beforeUdig and extended this coverage to include cables and overhead assets. In addition Transpower automated their response process through the use of PelicanCorp's TicketAccess asset location plan response solution.

Outcome

By combining their membership with the beforeUdig service and PelicanCorp's automated response engine TicketAccess, Transpower have standardised their asset protection and operational health and safety processes. With faster response turnaround times and more accurate data, Transpower can focus on continuing to providing a safe work environment.



“Providing fast responses that are now standardised and accurate has resulted in a greater opportunity for Transpower to mitigate the risk of damage to our assets and of potential injury to contractors.”

Wayne Bird, Geospatial and Drawings Manager

Transpower has achieved a fully automated and standardised asset protection and operational health and safety process through membership of the beforeUdig service and the use of PelicanCorp’s TicketAccess solution.

Transpower is the State Owned Enterprise that owns and operates the National Grid – or high voltage transmission network – that carries electricity around the country. The continuous operation of the network is essential to the people and economy of New Zealand.

In 2009 Transpower underwent a major upgrade to a fibre network, placing the organisation as the fourth largest fibre asset owner in New Zealand. As part of this process Transpower began evaluating how they could protect these underground assets.

“Becoming members of the beforeUdig service has helped our contractors work safely around our power and fibre networks” explains Wayne Bird, Geospatial and Drawings Manager for Transpower.

Transpower joined beforeUdig and immediately saw an increase in the number of enquires for plans. “We were receiving around 400 enquires per month and responding to them manually via the efforts of 1 FTE,” said Wayne.

“Responses were not being provided outside of business hours or during periods of uncovered leave, therefore at times we could not deliver information as quickly as we wanted”.

In addition to this Transpower found the responses were variable depending on which team member had provided them.

Automation of responses became the only option, allowing Transpower to focus on their main objective of providing a safe work environment for all operating around their assets. At this point Transpower decided it best to widen their area of coverage and included above ground assets and OH&S safety guides for work practices.

Wayne explained that, “It was important to ensure a ‘Look Up and Live’ safety information pack was delivered when any works were in the vicinity of our overhead assets. Not only does this provide a focus on safety, but also helps ensure contractors have the appropriate machinery to work underneath our overhead infrastructure”.

PelicanCorp tailored the TicketAccess solution to meet the needs of Transpower’s specific business requirements which included rules around providing regional specific, environmental (land rights) and asset type responses.

Although Transpower’s main focus is providing the appropriate safety message, other benefits from the combined beforeUdig service and TicketAccess automation include a reduction in power outages, helping to ensure continuity of their services and a lower cost of repairs.

“Transpower is focused on working safer and being a leader in the industry” said Wayne, going on to further explain that by “providing fast responses that are standardised and accurate has resulted in a greater opportunity for Transpower to mitigate the risk of damage to our assets and of potential injury to contractors”.

About beforeUdig

beforeUdig is a referral service for information on locating underground utilities anywhere in New Zealand. The service is designed for all members of the public from home owners to excavators, drainlayers, plumbers, planners, developers, landscapers and a host of other professions where workers need to be aware of the location and risk of associated assets. Launched in 2007, beforeUdig are the guardians of asset information for 145 different utilities and asset owners throughout New Zealand. The beforeUdig interactive website allows you to lodge your enquiries online either on your desktop computer or onsite on your smartphone or mobile device. beforeUdig NZ use the most up to date OneCall program available which enables you to view the excavation site onscreen. beforeUdig NZ is owned and operated by PelicanCorp (NZ) Ltd. PelicanCorp are the only global One Call solution dedicated to the protection of essential infrastructure and provide beforeUdig solutions in Australia, United States, UK, Singapore, Ireland and Canada.

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